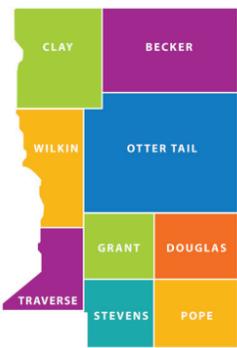


# West Central Initiative

## 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



### Meet your regional community foundation for west central Minnesota.

**W**est Central Initiative is a regional community foundation that serves nine counties in west central Minnesota: Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse and Wilkin.

We invest and help leverage resources in our communities for regional success; and success for us means thriving families, communities and businesses—it's all inter-related!

We work with many partners, using the tools of economic development, community development and promoting philanthropy to help people and communities create a better tomorrow for west central Minnesota.



## highlights



WCI became a sponsor of the Minnesota Cup, a statewide competition to recognize new and innovative business ideas.

Read more stories about WCI and our region at [blog.wcif.org](http://blog.wcif.org)

## 2014 by the numbers

**28** LOANS closed, totaling \$1,965,198.

**153** GRANTS approved, totaling \$3,583,179.

**366** COMPONENT FUND GRANTS distributed, totaling \$3,496,107.

**126** DONORS contributed to our endowment. (Thank you, donors!)

**99** PEOPLE GRADUATED from one of the WCI-supported leadership programs in our region.

**696** WORKERS TRAINED through Workforce 2020 grant program.

WCI introduced its Heart-Land Giving farmland donation program, which provides donor tax benefits, retains local farming and a county tax base, and produces revenue for charitable organizations. [heartlandgiving.wcif.org](http://heartlandgiving.wcif.org)



WCI celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Minnesota Early Childhood Initiative (ECI), a statewide program that works to give our children the best possible start toward a healthy life of learning, achieving and succeeding.



WCI received Minnesota Department of Transportation grants to help five communities develop Safe Routes to School plans. That will make a total of 13 plans in our area communities.



WCI is part of a group of foundations working on disaster preparedness called PPREP (Philanthropic Preparedness, Resiliency and Emergency Partnership).



A follow-up study shows WCI's Workforce 2020 training program is still making a positive impact in our region in helping develop and retain a quality workforce. [library.wcif.org](http://library.wcif.org)



WCI is named a Silver "Bike Friendly Business" by the League of American Bicyclists.



WCI was a partner of a regional Nonprofit Essentials workshop on using storytelling to help share nonprofits' mission and vision.



The Bush Foundation invited WCI to become a partner for BushCONNECT, a regional networking event designed to build stronger and more meaningful connections.

## learn more online

VISIT US ONLINE for complete lists of fiscal year 2014 grants, loans and donors. [annualreport.wcif.org](http://annualreport.wcif.org)

## Thank you!

for your faith in us, for your collaboration, and for your support.

Visit us at: [wcif.org](http://wcif.org)