

October 2025

Ben Martig
City of Northfield
801 Washington St
Northfield, MN 55057

Dear Mr. Martig and City Council Members,

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) has been working with our region since 1986 to vitalize both economies and community vitality. Through partnering and collaboration, SMIF focuses on three key areas: entrepreneurship, community vitality and Early Childhood development.

SMIF's Prosperity Initiative (PI) program gives entrepreneurs from traditionally underserved populations extra coaching, and technical assistance, as well as access to a supportive peer group. One of PI's new members, Wren Writing, is an all-in-one software for authors that provides tools from formatting to writing and everything in between. The support they received through the PI program positioned Wren Writing to become one of Ignite Cup's 2025 finalists, as well as winning the Busy Baby First Step Award. SMIF is proud to partner with IgniteMN on the Ignite Cup, a regional pitch competition that was created to elevate entrepreneurs and emerging startups as a feeder to the statewide MN Cup competition. In winning, Wren Writing received prize money and regional recognition that will help them take their business to the next level.



To give these kinds of opportunities to entrepreneurs, SMIF relies on funding from donors, including a large portion of funding from cities and counties. The Prosperity Initiative is just one of many ways we put donor gifts to good use. Enclosed you will find a fact sheet that illustrates what SMIF has been doing in your area. You will notice that for every dollar donated, SMIF invest \$34 back into your county.

Would you consider making a donation to SMIF in 2026?

We would be enormously thankful for your support.

Sincerely,

Benya Krause
President and CEO