

May 2016

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

Dear Mr. Martig and City Council Members:

A vibrant rural Minnesota requires profitable businesses and an opportunity for new businesses to grow. It also requires support for our youngest children, allowing them to enter kindergarten ready to learn and succeed. And finally, it relies on communities being able to access support for innovative initiatives. Thanks to your support Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) is able to focus on these priorities.

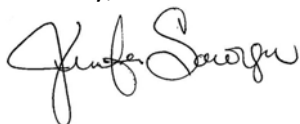
Your generous support over the past 30 years totaling \$82,100 has leveraged \$821,000 in investments into Rice County! Below are a few highlights you made possible.

- Caves of Faribault ~ Swiss Valley Farms received a loan from SMIF in 2003. In 2015, Caves of Faribault received three first place awards for their Amablu cheese. This local favorite continues to grow their national presence!
- The Northfield Early Childhood Coalition received a second year of grant support in 2016 to expand the Early Childhood Dental Network, which is working collaboratively to increase oral health awareness and education and to improve care access for our youngest and most at-risk youth.
- The Northfield Union of Youth received a Paint-The-Town grant in 2016 to create a community mural.

I know my contributions to SMIF are changing lives. See the enclosed factsheet for more examples of how our investments are making a difference.

Thank you for your last gift of **\$5,000** on **June 9, 2015**. Our investments stay local and deliver results for our neighbors, communities and region. Please consider an increased gift of **\$5,800** to help the Foundation make an even larger impact and launch us into the next 30 years. I look forward to continuing my support of SMIF as we embark on the next 30 years. I hope you will consider increasing your support in 2017!

Sincerely,



Jennifer Sawyer
Board Member

cc: Tim Penny, President & CEO