



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

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May 2017

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

Dear Mr. Martig and City Council Members;

The McKnight Foundation created Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) 30 years ago to make a difference. To fulfill this responsibility we continue to work every day to keep our communities vibrant and prosperous. Whether it's partnering on a loan to support a fledgling business endeavor, supporting a community group about to launch a community foundation, preparing our youngest residents through literary grants, or providing training for childcare providers, we know with your support we will have a greater impact.

I know you see the value in SMIF's work in Rice County. Recently, we supported the Northfield Healthy Community Initiative with a grant of \$14,740 to pilot a program focused on bringing literacy and art resources and services to childcare providers. This collaboration between the Northfield Early Childhood Initiative Coalition, Northfield Arts Guild, and Northfield Public Library will impact 125 young children. This is just one of the many ways SMIF has contributed to your community. Please see the enclosed factsheet for more examples.

Together, we are making a difference right here at home. But there is still a lot of work that needs to be done.

Your last gift of **\$5,000** on **February 27, 2017** impacted members of your community. Please consider continued support in 2018 at the same level to impact this essential work. With your help we will make southern Minnesota a vibrant and prosperous place to live.

Will you join us?

Tim Penny
President & CEO

cc: Jennifer Sawyer, Board Member

Collaborating for Regional Vitality

