



A stable trust to enhance your community!

Fall 2007



Litchfield Area Community Foundation

<http://litchareacommfound.org/>

Box 624, Litchfield, MN 55355

320-693-0165

Special points of interest:

- * Our endowment fund is now near \$100,000
- * This year we will make our first grants. Over \$2600 is available for grants
- * Our goals include further education of the area residents in the value of contributing to the LACF
- * We hope to exceed \$100,000 during the next year

Litchfield Area Community Foundation (LACF) Begins New Year

The LACF began a new year on September 1st. This year begins our 5th year as a formal organization although we have been a component fund of the Southwest Minnesota Foundation, now the Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF), since April 23, 2002.

As in any new organization we have had some disappointments which we will not dwell on and many accomplishments which we will share with our readers.

HISTORY: Our first planning session was October 16, 2002 so we now have 5 years of history to look back on. We believe it is good to look back to see how we arrived at the point we are now at. We invite you to take that journey with us.

PEOPLE: It has taken the efforts of many folks to get us to where we are today. We will introduce you to the board of your community foundation. Equally important are the contributors that have made our first years successful. We will recognize some of those folks and acknowledge all of the contributors to the community foundation.

SUCCESES: We have been successful in our first years. We will look at the successes and see what they mean to the Litchfield Area community. By recognizing the success it is hoped that it will be an encouragement to participate in the future activities of the foundation.

GOALS: Everyone must set their eyes

on the future in order to have an idea of what direction they want to take. While the LACF board will set the goals for the future we invite all members of the area community to help us identify destinations to set our sights on.

Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the flu.

When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin

When he smiled I realized I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile then I realized its worth.

A single smile, just like mine could travel round the earth.

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LACF is looking for a new project

The LACF is looking for a new project in the area. The community foundation can have one project fund working at any one time.

In the past we have assisted the Pleasant View Park Project and the

East Highway 12 Beautification Project in the solicitation of tax exempt donations for their projects.

Any non profit organization with a project or any group that can partner with a governmental agency can apply

to the LACF for a tax exempt status for their project. Typically a project fund can be established for one year.

Give us a call if you think we can help you with your project.

We have established a strong board with broad experience in the community

Board Members

**Leland Fredman,
Chairman**

**Wes Edwards
Secretary**

**Jason Tibbits
Treasurer**

Larry Dahl

David Detert

Jim Ellingson

Randy Reinke

Jeannie Wegner

Brenda Rick

Rick Johnson

Laura Hultstrum

"Some people give time, some money, some their skills and connections, some literally give their life's blood. But everyone has something to give."

Barbara Bush

Our History

Early in 2002 the Litchfield City Council invited representatives from the Southwest Minnesota Foundation (SWMF) to talk to the council and the community about starting a community foundation.

The community was well represented at the meeting and about 23 folks volunteered to work on the formation of the LACF.

On April 23, 2002 the SWMF established the Litchfield Area Community Foundation.

One of the first things to come out of the planning sessions was a mission statement that guides us today: The Litchfield Area Community Foundation promotes and facilitates charitable giving for the enrichment of our area.

Planning sessions helped us establish goals and objectives. By early 2004 the board was down to 4 members so additional members were recruited. The board grew to 9 members and is currently set at 12 and represents a broad cross section of the area.

On June 23, 2003 the Pleasant View Park Project was endorsed as our first project fund. By May 16, 2005 the

park project had received nearly \$12,000 in tax exempt donations.

From June 1, 2005 to June 1, 2006 the East Highway 12 Beautification Project received about \$19,000 in donations toward the enhancement of the east Highway 12 gateway to Litchfield.

As of September 30, 2007 the LACF Permanent Endowment Fund had grown to \$99,528.39 which will continue to work for you many, many years into the future

Earnings from the endowment fund will allow us to grant \$2600 in the next 12 months.

People Are Our Most Important Assets.

It has taken hard work to get where we are today. 4 residents of the community stayed together to finish the administrative activities necessary to establish a working foundation. Mike Zylstra, Marcia Provencher, Barb Altringer and Wes Edwards worked to accomplish the establishment of the foundation.

In 2004 Jim Ellingson, Leland Fredman, Dean Ohland, Randy Reinke, Jason Tibbits and Jeannie Wegner

provided new direction for the board and we began community education and fund raising.

Larry Dahl represents the city council on the board and Dr. Dave Detert represents the Litchfield School Foundation. Jonathan Fredman was the first high school representative on the board. Today Laura Hultstrum is our high school representative. Other representatives have been Kelly Schmit and Lisa Mergen.

Most importantly, the folks of the Litchfield area that have contributed \$131,000 to the projects and endowment fund are the ones that have made the foundation a success.

Numerous companies and individuals have made in kind donations to the foundation and have been invaluable to our accomplishments.

Thanks to all that have gotten us to this point.

Our Successes

The first success was to establish the Litchfield Area Community Foundation. We are now in a position to serve the Litchfield area "For Good, Forever".

The relationship with the Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF) has certainly been a success and is critical to a strong future.

We have established a strong board with broad experience in the community to guide us into the future. The

board has offset terms which will ensure the needed continuity to maintain effective leadership.

We have partnered with two community groups in successful fund raising projects. Both of these projects have enhanced the Litchfield community.

The Litchfield School Foundation has entered into an agreement with the LACF and the SWIF to become a component fund of the LACF. This will

allow both organizations to engage in more effective fund raising and provides alternatives to donors that want to give back to the area.

We have received \$75,000 in direct donations to the endowment fund which in turn allowed us to receive an additional \$25,000 in matching funds from the SWIF.

Donors Are The Key To Success

If our numbers are correct there have been over 136 individuals and companies that have donated in some way to the LACF or the project funds. Without these donors there would be no success, just hopes.

All donors that contributed to the endowment fund before January 1, 2006 are and will be recognized as LACF Founding Donors. In addition we have established donor levels as additional recognition for larger donations to the endowment fund.

Donations larger than \$25,000 are the Platinum Level. We have not received any contributions at this level.

Eric and Heidi Olson made a donation at the platinum level which is over \$25,000.

Custom Products of Litchfield, Inc. Systems West & Agri Systems have contributed at the silver level which is between \$5,000 and \$9,999.

The bronze level has been set at \$1,000 to \$4,999. The following donors have contributed at the Bronze level; Anderson Chemical, Arvid Reinke, Bobcat Company, Center Insurance Agency, Christopher Hansen, Dr. Daniel Johnson, Dr. Dave and Sharon Detert, Henry and Orpheo Mattsfield, Jean S. Schnell, Jeannie Wegner in

Memory of Hugh Wegner, P.N.E. Inc, the Independent Review and Randy Reinke .

Complete lists of donors may be seen on our web site:
<http://litchareacommfound.org/>

Thanks to these donors. It is their contributions that will continue to work for you for years and years to come. They are the gifts that truly keep giving.

This year we are able to grant over \$2600 to eligible applicants because of their generosity. This can only continue to grow!

**"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."
--Winston Churchill**

We Are Looking For Grant Applicants

Each June the SWIF closes their books and informs the community foundations what they have available for grants. Between now and June 30, 2008 we have \$2600 to grant to eligible non profit organizations or governmental units.

Unlike other foundations with specific objectives the community foundation is free to make grants in any area of interest as long as the applicant is a non profit organization. Grants will be made on the merits of the application and the overall benefit to the Litchfield area.

We have established grant application procedures and selection criteria can be found on our web site.

Typical criteria necessary of consideration includes: Proposals have clearly stated goals and measurable outcomes;

Proposals must exhibit evidence of appropriate partnerships. Final applications need to include letters of support from involved agencies, organizations, and individuals clearly outlining both their support and contributions to the project;

Proposals must be submitted by a 501 (c)(3) organization, a unit of government, or by a public agency. Organizations that are not tax exempt must apply through a suitable fiscal agent willing to accept responsibility for the project.

Churches and religious organizations may apply for support for activities that benefit the larger community but not for activities that have a sectarian religious purpose.

Specific details are posted on our web site.

"There is a wonderful mythical law of nature that the three things we crave most in life - happiness, freedom, and peace of mind--are always attained by giving them to someone else."

Our Goals

The LACF has accepted specific goals that we try to accomplish in all of our activities.

We have developed the local advisory board into an organization that clearly supports the Litchfield Area Community Foundation.

We continue to educate the area's key

target groups about what the Foundation is and what it has to offer. Formal meetings have been held with financial advisors, informational brochures are available and have been distributed within the community. We hope to instill the concept of philanthropy in our youth by encouraging participation in the LACF

We continue to build the LACF financial base by working to make it a charity of your choice. Please remember us when you are making your giving decisions

We will earn your trust by investing foundation resources in projects that improve the quality of life in the Litchfield area

**Mission Statement:
The Litchfield Area Community Foundation promotes and facilitates charitable giving for the enrichment of our area.**

Litchfield Area Community

P.O. Box 624,
Litchfield, MN 55355

Phone: 320-693-0165
E-mail: westonfe@gmail.com

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The Litchfield Area Community Foundation cites ten reasons people find it fulfilling to contribute through community foundations:

- 1. Community foundations build endowment funds that grow and benefit their communities forever.**
- 2. They help create an individual or family legacy.**
- 3. They offer donor involvement in selecting charities.**
- 4. They are local organizations meeting a broad range of changing local needs.**
- 5. They provide a simple way to fulfill multiple charitable interests, with low-cost administration.**
- 6. They deliver personalized donor service.**
- 7. They accept a wide variety of assets.**
- 8. They offer maximum tax advantages.**
- 9. They preserve donor intent even when community needs and organizations change.**
- 10. They are known for prudent stewardship and investment practices.**