

Brainerd Lakes Area  
Community Foundation  
*Engaging People, Building Community*

# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release  
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## Community Foundation Awards over \$95,000 in Grants

Brainerd, Minn. – The Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation (BLACF) announced Friday, it has awarded \$96,500 in grants to 14 area nonprofit organizations.

“The generosity and planned giving of people in this community have allowed the Foundation to make a substantial impact in the region,” says Mike Burton, coordinator of the Brainerd Lakes Area Foundation. “This really demonstrates our collective power to change lives and build a stronger community.”

The Foundation has provided about \$1.2 million in grants since it started in 1998. It is a public charity that attracts and administers charitable funds for the benefit of the residents of Crow Wing and Southern Cass counties. Nonprofit organizations, particularly those with programs focusing on youth, community progress, human services, assistance to nonprofits, and building social capital, are encouraged to apply for BLACF’s general grants.

The latest round of grants support a variety of community needs ranging from financial resources programs, families in need and a venture philanthropy project to help open a thrift store.

“These grant dollars are supporting programs and services that help strengthen our community and make our area such a great place to live, work and play,” Burton says.

The local grant recipients are:

- Junior Achievement of Brainerd, \$2,500, to support school-based programs for Brainerd Lakes Area students
- Salem Lutheran Church/Salem WEST, \$5,000, to support families in need and children’s activities
- Kinship Partners, \$3,500, for the summer “Blueprint” Program
- Central Lakes College Foundation, \$5,000 to support the “Random Acts of Kindness” Program

- Brainerd Lakes Timber Bay, \$4,000 for the 2009 Summer Program for troubled youth
- Nisswa Community Children's Library, \$3,500, Brainerd Lakes Area Library Programs
- New Pathways, Inc., \$10,000, support for activities at the Family Day Center
- Crow Wing County Coalition to End Poverty, \$8,000, to hire a part-time staff person and complete a community assessment
- Lakes Area Restorative Justice Project, \$2,000, partial funding for 5<sup>th</sup> year of Restorative Justice Project
- Bridges of Hope, \$48,000, support for Financial Resources Program (\$8,000) and Venture Philanthropy Thrift Store Project (\$40,000)
- Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity, \$2,500, to upgrade computer technology
- Jessie F. Hallett Memorial Library, \$1,000, funds for the Wanted Readers Program
- Pequot Lakes Community Library, \$1,000, to purchase books for young adults and juveniles
- Pillager Senior Citizens Center, \$500, funds to maintain activities for seniors

For more information about any of the individual grants, contact Susan Lorenz, program officer, at (877) 253-4380. The next deadline for grant applications is Aug. 1, 2009.

BLACF is one of more than 500 community foundations nationwide and an affiliate of the Central Minnesota Community Foundation. To learn more about the BLACF check out our website at [www.communitygiving.org](http://www.communitygiving.org)