

Central Minnesota
Community Foundation

Engaging People, Building Community

NEWS RELEASE

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Bernick Family Foundation Awards \$70,000 in Grants

St. Cloud, Minn. – The Bernick Family Foundation and the Central Minnesota Community Foundation announce the recipients of the second annual round of Bernick's Beverages & Vending Fund grants.

Five grants totaling \$70,000 have been awarded to the following organizations:

- \$10,000 to Great Theatre, St. Cloud, for their Community Connections Program
- \$6,000 to Central Minnesota Boys and Girls Club, St. Cloud, for their Triple Play Program
- \$12,000 to United Way of West Central Minnesota, Willmar for their Imagination Library
- \$17,000 to Boys and Girls Club of the Northland, Duluth, for the Computer Lab at the Lincoln Park Branch
- \$25,000 to Cuyuna Range Youth Center, Crosby, for the construction of a new youth facility

Organizations from Bernick's six markets in Minnesota and Wisconsin, including; Brainerd, Bemidji, Duluth, St. Cloud, Willmar, MN and Dresser, WI were eligible to apply, and the Community Foundation received 68 Letters of Inquiry. Thirteen were then asked to submit full applications addressing one of two key focus areas: youth and education or health and fitness. Funding could go toward capital projects, strategic investments in operations, and programmatic support.

The Bernick Family Foundation also awards a total of \$20,000 in scholarships each year to 10 students pursuing two or four year college educations.

The Bernick Family Foundation was established as a component fund of the Central Minnesota Community Foundation in 1989 to help Bernick's Beverages & Vending and the Bernick Family accomplish their philanthropic goals. In addition to the aforementioned grants and scholarships, the Bernick Family Foundation also provided significant ongoing support this year to several nonprofits including the Central Minnesota Council of the Boy Scouts, CentraCare Health Foundation, the SCTC Foundation, United Way of Central Minnesota and the Community

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Foundation in St. Cloud, as well as the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth.

Founded in 1916, Bernick's Beverages and Vending, Inc. is a fourth-generation family-owned business, providing beverage, food and vending services. The Waite Park-based company has a long tradition of investing in its local communities to improve quality of life. In addition to their support through the Foundation, Bernick's Beverages and Vending continues as a longtime philanthropic leader through direct financial and in-kind donations to over 100 causes each year. In total, Bernick's supports the communities it serves with contributions equaling 5% of net profit each year.

"The Foundation is honored to work with Bernick's as they continue their generosity in our communities and beyond," said Steve Joul, President of the Community Foundation. "They are outstanding corporate citizens."

CMCF, based in St. Cloud, is a public charity that attracts and administers charitable funds for the benefit of the residents of various Central Minnesota counties. It is one of more than 700 community foundations nationwide.