

Group awards community grants

\$165,275 given in total

Times staff report

LITTLE FALLS — The Initiative Foundation has awarded community grants totaling \$165,275 to the following organizations working in the area:

■ **Accountability Minnesota**, St. Paul, \$5,000 for the St. Cloud Area Low Income Tax Assistance program to help expand a volunteer tax preparation service that serves more than 1,200 low-income people.

■ **Anderson Center**, St. Cloud, \$10,000 for the Emerging Companies Forum to develop advisory boards intended to help position Central Minnesota entrepreneurs for the future.

■ **Child Care Choices Inc.**, St. Cloud, \$500 to Caring for a Lifetime Conference to help offset speaker and facility expenses for

an early care and education conference.

■ **City of Avon**, A Vision of Neighbors II, \$5,000 to conduct a follow-up visioning session to set new goals, recruit volunteers and establish task forces to begin community-based projects.

■ **Helping Hands Outreach to Elders Inc.**, Holdingford, \$2,300 to improve a donor-management system for senior services and activities.

■ **HOME Line**, Minneapolis, \$5,000 for a statewide tenant hotline and renter education outreach to provide professional legal support to people facing rental and foreclosure issues.

■ **Housing & Redevelopment Authority of St. Cloud**, \$10,000 for St. Cloud's Downtown Business Recruitment Initiative to identify potential retail stores, develop marketing materials and compile

company contact information.

■ **Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Early Education**, Onamia, \$5,000 for the Band's Early Childhood Mental Health Coalition to create a team to build opportunities for the healthy development of children. ✨

■ **St. Cloud State University Foundation**, \$5,000 for the 47th Annual Economic Education Winter Institute's regional economic summit.

■ **St. Gabriel's Hospital**, Little Falls, \$7,500 for Youth as Resources, an intergenerational leadership program that funds youth community service projects.

■ **Tri-County Community Action Program Inc.**, Little Falls, \$11,000 for the Little Falls Area Early Childhood Coalition for early childhood coalition projects.

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