



Northland Foundation awarded \$6 million by The McKnight Foundation
Provided over five years, \$5 million targeted for grantmaking to nonprofits serving
northeastern Minnesota and \$1 million for KIDS PLUS and other special initiatives

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The Northland Foundation is pleased to announce the approval of \$6 million in funding support from The McKnight Foundation. McKnight will distribute the grant over a five-year period from July 2011 through June 2016. Northland intends to apply the vast majority of the award directly to its grant-making to nonprofit organizations serving the seven counties of northeastern Minnesota. \$1 million is targeted for other initiatives such as Northland's KIDS PLUS Program, which helps communities and coalitions throughout the region to enhance the well-being of children and youth.

This is the seventh such multi-year grant Northland has received from McKnight, which launched the Northland Foundation along with the five other "Minnesota Initiative Foundations" in 1986. A quarter century later, these six regional foundations have each evolved in unique ways to serve the individual needs of their rural regions.

"The work of the Northland Foundation is something the entire region should take pride in and feel a part of," said Neal Cuthbert, McKnight's vice president of program. "Pursuing long-term outcomes, Northland has always emphasized the power of strong relationships in the communities they serve as their secret to success. We at McKnight are pleased to continue our investment in the Northland Foundation and the communities of northeastern Minnesota."

Annually, the Northland Foundation makes approximately \$1 million in grants to nonprofits that address the priority areas of Connecting Kids and Community/ Strengthening Families, Aging with Independence, and Opportunities for Self-Reliance. Northland's Business Finance Program supports job creation in the region through flexible financing options for businesses and nonprofits. The KIDS PLUS Program is a family of eight different programs promoting healthy development for children, from birth to adulthood. The Foundation also has developed assisted living facilities in the underserved rural communities of McGregor, Buhl, and soon to open in Hoyt Lakes.

"The McKnight Foundation has been absolutely instrumental to our growth, and their continued confidence is especially meaningful now in light of the recent recession and long, slow recovery," said Tom Renier, Northland Foundation President. "The flexibility and significance of this grant is a great gift as we focus on increasing our impact in the region. Every dollar will be reinvested directly back into the community."



Building a Strong Foundation for the Future of Our Region

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