

Supply and Demand

Morrison County takes innovative approach to childcare

About a decade ago, when Nicole Rhode's children were young, she knew she'd have a hard time finding childcare in her hometown of Little Falls. "It's just tough to find daycare here, especially for infants and toddlers," Rhode said. To make matters worse, her family had a particularly tricky schedule: "With my kids, their dad worked 12-hour shifts and weekends. That made it all even harder to find childcare."

In Morrison County, where Rhodes lives and works, three models are emerging that show promise, thanks to support from the city of Little Falls, the Little Falls School District, Morrison County, CHI St. Gabriel's Hospital, and the Army National Guard's training center at Camp Ripley.

With help from a special agreement created by the team at 'SOURCEWELL' a Minnesota service cooperative, Morrison County was able to expand the number of special child care provider opportunities.

Read the spring edition of **IQ Magazine** to learn more about the progress being made to enhance childcare options for working families.

Read IQ Magazine Online



Tracy Bertram remembers the day she learned that her hometown, the city of Becker, would change forever. It was the fall of 2014, and Bertram was serving her second City Council term. There was no hint of disturbance when she learned Xcel Energy management team members wanted to talk. Their message: Sherco was shutting down. Now, more than 10 years later, the outlook is brighter for Becker.

[Read more ...](#)

Transition Triumph



Across Central Minnesota, community funds serve an essential role by investing in hometown projects and programs that create a richer sense of place. "Creating a community fund is like planting an apple tree," said Amy Gray, community philanthropy manager at the Initiative Foundation. "You don't eat the whole tree. You nurture it, harvest the apples year after year and use them to make good things." [Read more ...](#)

Growing & Sowing

Also in this edition:

- **Community Man**—Don Hickman moves into semi-retirement after 25 years of high-impact economic and community development work.
- **The Mission: Collaboration**—New Vice President Amy Trombley embarks on a people-centered approach to community-building.
- **Building a Future**—The Leech Lake community needs housing and a skilled workforce. An innovative program is helping build both.
- **Bear Paws Cultural Art**—Students connect with community, culture as they make jingle dresses, moccasins—and do beadwork.
- **Regional Highlights**—Read highlights from Central Minnesota's 14 counties and two Native nations.

Receive Complimentary IQ Magazine by Mail

Thank you for reading IQ Magazine, and thank you for supporting the Initiative Foundation!

Bob McClintick

Marketing & Communications Director

P.S.--If you like what we do, I invite you to **share it in a review**.

Support the Foundation

A **gift to the Initiative Foundation** or one of its **Partner Funds** goes a long way to support regionwide community-building efforts. Support our work to help regional nonprofits and small businesses grow and prosper, to bring support to those who are underserved, to be part of Central Minnesota's childcare solution, and to create access and opportunity for local students.

Give Today!

Act Today: Advertise in IQ Magazine

IQ Magazine is an intelligent, affordable advertising choice to reach a regional marketplace and enhance your brand reputation as a community-focused organization. Posting a 40 percent increase in circulation since 2019, IQ Magazine is a

go-to source for solutions and insights for Central Minnesota readers and leaders.

Advertise Now

Contact:



Brian Lehman

Advertising Director

Brainerd Area

lehmanconsulting2@nisswa.net

(218) 838-4158

(877) 632-9255 | **info@ifound.org** | **ifound.org**

Follow Us

