



## ***BREMER Update for Nonprofits***

**August/September 2005**

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### **Why Civic Engagement**

When working at their best, nonprofit organizations are continually looking out for their consumers and participants, not only in the here-and-now aspect of their mission, but in the above-and-beyond of creating a system in which their consumers thrive. Recognizing this, the Otto Bremer Foundation includes in its priorities a focus on “civic engagement.” If you haven’t visited the Otto Bremer Foundation website lately, take a look at Bremer’s information on this topic. An excerpt from the page is included here; the webpage link is listed at the end of this article.

#### **Public Policy**

Some of the most extraordinary achievements in recent decades have come because nonprofits were willing to take their rightful place at the policymaking table. Whether defending civil liberties, or promoting just and equitable economic policies, the nonprofit sector has played a vital role in shaping agendas – from the United States Capitol to local block clubs.

Whether proposing new legislation or defending one's own interests, most nonprofits have a stake in shaping public policy. Why?

- Nonprofits have the ability to provide timely and credible information to policy makers;
- Nonprofits, like businesses, academia, and think tanks, should play a role in shaping the agenda of public policy priorities;
- An effective partnership with government funders requires nonprofits to have capacity to articulate needs, priorities, and trends of its clients;

[http://fdncenter.org/grantmaker/bremer/ce\\_why.htm](http://fdncenter.org/grantmaker/bremer/ce_why.htm)

(See also in the calendar notices below: “*Follow the Dollars ... A Guided Tour Through the State’s Budget*” workshop opportunity on October 12 in Redwood Falls. Delivered by Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and sponsored by Bremer Banks.)

## **United Ways Bring Imagination Library to Preschool Children**

United Way of Kandiyohi County, headquartered in Willmar, and United Way of Southwest Minnesota, headquartered in Marshall, are sponsoring Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. The program will provide access to books in the United Way's respective service areas, and will inspire parents to read to their children as much as possible. Educators emphasize that reading with a preschool child is the single most important activity to prepare a child for school, according to information provided by United Way. Babies learn rapidly from the moment of birth. It is never too early for children to start learning.

For every child enrolled in the program from the day the child is born until his or her 5<sup>th</sup> birthday, a carefully selected book arrives in the mail to the child's home. The books are age-appropriate and free for each child in the family.

For more information, to sign up a child, or to make a contribution to sponsor a child's books for one year, contact:

United Way of Southwest Minnesota  
PO Box 41  
Marshall, MN 56258  
507-929-2273  
[unitedwaylc@iw.net](mailto:unitedwaylc@iw.net)

United Way of Kandiyohi County  
PO Box 895  
Willmar, MN 56201  
320-235-1050  
[stacey@unitedwaykc.org](mailto:stacey@unitedwaykc.org)

### *Also Coming Up...*

#### **Big Buddies Anniversary Event**

**Wednesday, August 24**

**5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

**Independence Park**

**Marshall**

Potluck picnic; cake & punch provided, plus cups, plates, etc.. Bid farewell to Diane Gunvalson, coordinator for the past 6 years; and say hello to new coordinator Marcy Heemeyer.

For more information, call 507-537-1416 or email [bigbuddies@wcainc.org](mailto:bigbuddies@wcainc.org)

#### **United Way of Kandiyohi County 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

**Saturday, August 27**

**4:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

**BBQ Dinner 4:30- 6:30 p.m.**

**Willmar Civic Center**

**2707 Arena Drive NE, Willmar**

Featuring The Rockin' Cadillacs, Classic Car Show, Agency Activity Fair, BBQ Pork Dinner, Door Prize Drawing at 7:30 p.m. Grand Prize - \$10,000; Many Door Prizes. For more information & raffle tickets, contact United Way of Kandiyohi County; 322 4<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Willmar; 320-235-1050

<http://unitedwaykc.org/>

**Marshall Celebration: "Sounds of Summer"**

**Open Air Concerts & Festivities**

**August 25 – 28**

Activity Schedule: [www.marshallsoundsofsummer.com](http://www.marshallsoundsofsummer.com) or call Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce 507-532-4484

**"Sounds of Somalia"**

**Saturday, August 27**

**1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Justice Park (soccer park)**

**Marshall**

Iftiin is inviting the community to come and enjoy a taste of Somali foods and a bit of Somali music. Family fun day, with games and activities for children.

For more information, contact Abdullahi or Nikki at: 507-929-1030 or

[iftiininc@hotmail.com](mailto:iftiininc@hotmail.com) "Sounds of Somalia" is an official "Sounds of Summer" event.

Iftiin is a nonprofit organization working with East African refugees in Marshall to reach self-sufficiency and integration, to build strong families and encourage cultural retention. Iftiin provides interpreting, gives presentations, and encourages those in Southwest Minnesota to consider Iftiin as a resource available to them for any needs that should arise.

**Lyon & Lincoln County American Red Cross Benefit:**

**Rock 'n Walk**

**Saturday, August 27**

**Pre-registration by August 20 to qualify for awards & kits**

**9:00 a.m. Registration**

**10:00 – 11:30 a.m. - 2.5 Mile Walk**

**11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Door Prizes, Awards, Music, Food, Fun**

**Independence Park**

**Marshall**

Slide into the "Sounds of Summer" with this first annual "Rock 'n Walk" event. Costume contest for all ages. Participate in this event by raising donations to earn rewards, or pay entry fee.

Proceeds used for local chapter and local disaster response activities. For more information or to get involved, contact Red Cross at 507-532-5565, visit the chapter office at 215 West College Drive, Marshall or website: [www.lyoncountyredcross.org](http://www.lyoncountyredcross.org)

Also on the Red Cross Calendar:

1. Volunteer Information Nights: 6-8PM for anyone interested in getting involved in any area of the Red Cross as a volunteer, disaster worker, committee or board member. Held on 8/31, 9/28, 10/26, 11/30 and 12/28 in 2005. Refreshments provided.
2. Disaster Training for Volunteers: three initial training classes: all held at the Chapter office (215 W. College Dr., Marshall) from 6-10PM "Intro to Disaster" 9/7, 10/5, 11/9 and 12/7. "Mass Care" 9/14, 10/12, 11/23 and 12/14. "Family Services" is a two part class 9/21 and 9/22, 10/18 and 10/19, 11/16 and 11/17 and 12/21 and 12/22. Pre-registration is required through the Chapter (507-532-5565). There is no cost.
3. General classes in CPR, First Aid, Babysitting Training and Pet First Aid: Registration through Marshall Community Services: 507-537-6767.

### **Southwest MN State University Senior College**

**1501 State Street, Marshall**

**Registrations due August 26**

**Fall Session begins September 19**

Providing opportunities for lifelong learning to adults 50 years and older. New this year: Evening Classes. Senior College is an educational adventure for adults 50 years and older to explore new interests, continue learning and make new friends. Two sessions of Senior College are held each year at Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU), Marshall. Qualifications:

- ❑ Anyone 50 years and older, no matter if you ended your formal education early in life, or whether you have acquired advanced degrees.
- ❑ Anyone from Southwest Minnesota who has paid the \$75.00 term fee.

For more information call: Betty Roers at 507-537-7363 or email at [roers@southwest.msus.edu](mailto:roers@southwest.msus.edu) or write Senior College, SMSU, 1501 State Street, Marshall MN 56258.

### **Marshall Police Citizens Academy**

**Register now for sessions to begin August 30.**

Eight sessions are held every other Tuesday through late summer and fall seasons.

Graduation/Completion set for Tuesday, December 13.

Pre-registration fee - \$42; at or after first session - \$47

The intent of the Citizens' Police Academy is to establish and maintain a course of instruction for citizens to familiarize them with the operations of the Marshall Police Department and the profession of Policing. For more information, or to register, contact the Marshall Police Department at 537-7000, or email [ryant@marshallmn.com](mailto:ryant@marshallmn.com). A registration form and program outline are also available at [www.marshallmn.com](http://www.marshallmn.com). Select City of Marshall/City Divisions/Public Safety/Special Events/Citizen Academy – Fall Session.

### **2005 Taste of Italy Spaghetti Dinner**

**Wednesday, September 7**

**4:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

**SMSU Student Center,**

**1501 State St., Marshall**

US Bank is sponsoring the 4th Annual Spaghetti Dinner with all donations going to New Horizons Crisis Center. Tickets are \$6 in advance; \$8 at door; \$3 children 4-10 yrs old; Free 3 yrs & under. Raffle tickets and prizes also available at Hy-Vee, County Fair, New Horizons Crisis Center & US Bancorp. New Horizons is a nonprofit organization providing community education and services to victims of sexual assault and crime in Lyon, Redwood & Murray Counties. For more information contact New Horizons at 507-532-5764 or visit:

<http://www.swmnmall.com/swmnmall/newhorizons/>

### **Lyon County Alliance for Youth and Families**

**Wednesday, September 7**

**8:15 – 9:15 a.m.**

**Lyon County Government Center**

**607 West Main Street**

**Marshall**

Regular Alliance Meeting. Open to all. Continued Red Ribbon Campaign updates & planning. For more information, contact Eve DeBaere 507-537-6918 [edebaere@doc.state.mn.us](mailto:edebaere@doc.state.mn.us)

**Red Ribbon Campaign** builds toward **Red Ribbon Week, October 22-30, 2005**. What is this all about? Red Ribbon Week is the most far-reaching and well-known drug prevention event in America. The National Family Partnership, which coordinates Red Ribbon activities nationally, estimates that more than 80 million Americans participate in Red Ribbon events, evidencing support for citizens

throughout the United States who strengthen efforts to keep communities free from the ravages of drug trafficking and drug abuse. Local Alliance members have developed a theme for each month, along with activities and information leading up to Red Ribbon Week.. You can keep updated on the monthly theme and activities by visiting the local Red Ribbon Campaign website, created by Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce staff with input from Alliance members: <http://www.marshall-mn.org/RR/Events&Activities.htm>. Or contact Eve DeBaere for more information: 507-537-6918 [edebaere@doc.state.mn.us](mailto:edebaere@doc.state.mn.us)

**Willmar Early Childhood Expo – “Connecting Families to Early Childhood Opportunities in Kandiyohi County”**

**Saturday, September 10**

**Willmar Civic Center Arena**

**2707 Arena Drive NE**

**Willmar**

Activities! Vendors! Entertainment! The Expo is a collaboration of the Willmar Early Childhood Coalition members and agencies. To participate in the Coalition or for more information on the Expo, contact Jennifer Huisinga, Coordinator, Willmar Community Education & Recreation, 320-231-8492, ext. 7209; [huisingaj@willmar.k12.mn.us](mailto:huisingaj@willmar.k12.mn.us) or Sara Carlson [sarac@swmnfoundation.org](mailto:sarac@swmnfoundation.org)

**Tracy Area Medical Services Foundation 2nd Annual Fall Classic Fundraiser**

**Saturday, September 10**

**Tracy Country Club**

**Hwy 14, Tracy**

Three-person best ball golf event; All interested golfers are encouraged to participate and support the Foundation’s efforts on behalf of Tracy Area Medical Services. To sign up or for more information, contact Cookie Cooreman at Tracy Area Medical Services: 507-212-4179.

**The Arc Southwest Regional People First Conference**

**Saturday, September 10**

**12:30 – 9:00 p.m. (including dinner 5:30 p.m.; dance 7:00 p.m.)**

**Holiday Inn**

**New Ulm**

The conference provides self-advocates with disabilities the opportunity to attend workshops, network with other self-advocates, tour historic New Ulm, and enjoy a picnic dinner and dance in German Park. Registration fee: \$45 Arc SW members; \$55 non- members; \$15 staff/parents. Send registration to: The Arc Southwest, 929 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Mankato, MN 56001. For registration information, contact Pat Mellenthin at (507) 532-2220.

Also mark your calendars for The Arc of Minnesota annual statewide conference November 11-13 in St. Cloud. Conference information will be available within a few weeks on The Arc of Minnesota website at [www.thearcofminnesota.org](http://www.thearcofminnesota.org). The conference is open to individuals with disabilities, their families, staff, disability organizations, service agency personnel, disability professionals and others interested in disability issues.

**Big Stone Health Care Foundation Oak Tree Classic Golf Tournament,**

**Raffle & Silent Auction**

**Saturday, September 10**

**Ortonville Golf Course**

The Big Stone Health Care Foundation was established in 1990 when concerned residents recognized that additional resources were needed not only to maintain existing local health care but also to ensure the continuation of this quality health care for the future generations of the

Ortonville area community. For more information, call 320-839-4135 or email Jan Schmidt at [schmidtj@ortonvilleareahealth.org](mailto:schmidtj@ortonvilleareahealth.org)

### **Community Networking – September**

(Marshall area nonprofits)

**Tuesday, September 13**

**8:00 – 9:30 a.m.**

**Adult Community Center (formerly Marshall Area Senior Center)**

**107 South Fourth St.**

**Marshall**

**Program: “Strategic Planning”**

Presenters – Wendy Lee, Marshall-Lyon County Library; Lois Schmidt, Bremer Banks. The 2005-06 season for Community Networking will launch with the theme: “*Operations in the Workplace.*” Reserve the 8 a.m. hour on the second Tuesday of each month for networking with nonprofit and community colleagues. For more information, contact Shirley Anderson-Porisch at 507-337-2812 [ander308@umn.edu](mailto:ander308@umn.edu) or Lois Schmidt 507-537-0273 [lcschmidt@bremer.com](mailto:lcschmidt@bremer.com)

### **Grantwriting Seminar- Southwest Minnesota Foundation**

**Wednesday, September 14**

**2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Renville Community Center**

**221 Main St. North, Renville**

Sponsored by Renville County HRA/EDA and the Southwest Minnesota Foundation. The training will introduce you to the Southwest Minnesota Foundation’s grant guidelines and priority areas, and will give you skills to write a successful grant proposal. Those who work for non-profit organizations within the 18 counties of southwest Minnesota are encouraged to attend. The program is free, but pre-registration is required. Pre-register at Renville County HRA/EDA office 320-523-3656 or contact Cheryl Glaeser, SW MN Foundation (800) 594-9480 or via e-mail at [cherylg@swmnfoundation.org](mailto:cherylg@swmnfoundation.org)

### **Comedian and Co-Author of “Triple Espresso” Bob Stromberg Performance**

**Thursday, September 15**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Willmar Education and Arts Center (WEAC)**

**611 SW 5<sup>th</sup> St, Willmar**

Plan to attend this fun evening of entertainment. Free admission, but there will be a freewill offering taken for Hope Pregnancy Center. Call 320-235-7619 for more information. Hope Pregnancy Center is committed to empowering women with unplanned pregnancies to make life-affirming choices as well as providing emotional support and practical assistance. Hope Pregnancy Center offers free pregnancy tests, referrals to community services, opportunity for transitional housing, and in the near future will also offer limited obstetrical ultrasounds.

### **Celebrate Art! Celebrate Coffee! Festival**

**Downtown Willmar Streets**

**Friday, September 16; 7:30 p.m. Concert by Monroe Crossing**

**Saturday, September 17; 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Artists, Musicians, One-Act Plays, Stage Performances, Lions Waffle Feed, Children’s Activity Tent, Free Coffee & More! Tickets for the Friday night concert are \$15 and are available at Bremer Bank, Heritage Bank, Cash Wise Foods, Willmar Area Arts Council, and from Celebrate Art! Celebrate Coffee! festival members. Visit [www.celebrateartcelebratecoffee.com](http://www.celebrateartcelebratecoffee.com) for a schedule of events.

The Mission of the Willmar Area Arts Council is to:

- Promote and support the arts in the greater Willmar area.
- Coordinate with area arts organizations, and communicate arts activities in the greater Willmar area.
- Serve as a fund raising organization and act as a collaborative for arts activities in the greater Willmar area.

Office is located in the Willmar Education and Arts Center, 611 SW 5<sup>th</sup> St. Willmar, phone 320-231-8560; e-mail [artscouncil@willmar.k12.mn.us](mailto:artscouncil@willmar.k12.mn.us)

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Southwest Minnesota Workforce Summit – Inventing the Future for Southwest Minnesota**

**Thursday, September 22**

**8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m**

**Prairie’s Edge Casino Resort**

**Granite Falls**

Keynote speaker: Gus Whalen, past chairman of American Apparel Manufacturers Assn, and CEO of Warren Featherbone Mfg Co., Gainesville GA. Also SW MN Business of the Year, Entrepreneur of the Year, and Youth Entrepreneur of the Year Awards. Sponsored by the SW MN Workforce Council. Early bird registration: \$69 by Sept 8; Regular \$89. For more information and to register: Call 1-800-422-0687 or online: [www.swmnpic.org/events/html](http://www.swmnpic.org/events/html)

**“The Odd Couple” female version by Neil Simon**

**September 29, 30, October 1, 6-8**

**7:30 p.m.**

**The Little Theater, New London**

Tickets go on sale Sept. 8 at Lulu Beans-Willmar, Jahnke’s - Spicer; Big Store – New London. Will-call tickets – 320-354-2559; For more information, contact Louise Mack: [lmack@tds.net](mailto:lmack@tds.net)

**Fundraising Professionals of Southwest Minnesota (FPSM) Quarterly Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 5**

**Marshall Municipal Building, Minnesota West Community & Technical College**

**344 West Main St, Suite 100**

**Marshall**

**9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Business Meeting**

**10:00 – 12:00 noon Program: “Basics of Starting Your Own Web-Page”** Kathy Cuppy, MN West Technical & Community College

FPSM is an independent organization composed of development directors, executive directors of nonprofits, proposal/grantwriters, fundraising consultants, and those individuals who are interested in the not-for-profit field. FPSM brings professionals in the field of fundraising together for educational and networking opportunities. Membership fees are \$25 per calendar year. For more information, or how to get involved, contact FPSM President: Sarah Ackerman, Marketing Coordinator, Western Mental Health Center, at 1-800-642-1525 or via email: [sackerman@whdcinc.org](mailto:sackerman@whdcinc.org)

**Dads and Early Childhood Development: Connecting dads and children through literacy and early education**

**Friday, September 23**

**8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**MN Center for Business Development Harold Anderson Entrepreneurial Center**

**616 Roosevelt Road, St. Cloud**

**Thursday, October 6**

**8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**SW/WC Service Cooperatives**

**1420 East College Drive, Marshall**

Sponsored by Minnesota Fathers & Families Network (MFFN) [www.mnfathers.org](http://www.mnfathers.org) Free to MFFN members; others pay \$10 registration at door. Promotional brochure at: [www.mnfathers.org/earlylit2005.pdf](http://www.mnfathers.org/earlylit2005.pdf). This seminar focuses on developmentally appropriate literacy activities, the influence of gender on reading habits, and the role of father-figures in children's literacy development. RSVP one week prior to event date to [info@mnfathers.org](mailto:info@mnfathers.org) or FAX: Attn: Paul Masiarchin 612-787-4002. Include name, email and session attending. For more information, call Paul at 612-787-4091.

**8<sup>th</sup> Annual Family & Community Violence Prevention Conference**

**Thursday, October 6**

**Registration Deadline – September 30**

**8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Best Western Marshall Inn**

**East College Drive, Marshall**

Keynote presentations: "Child Abuse/Diversity & Cultural Abuse" by Lisa Fontes, and "Life After Meth" by Carol Falkowski, Hazelden Foundation. Five breakout sessions will also be offered. For more information, contact Jeanne Nielsen, MN West Technical and Community College at [Jeanne.Nielsen@mnwest.edu](mailto:Jeanne.Nielsen@mnwest.edu) 507-537-7051 or 800-576-6728.

**Joint Conference:**

**Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless**

**Minnesota Youth Service Association**

**October 10 – 11**

**Arrowwood Resort, Alexandria**

Details at [www.mnhomelesscoalition.org](http://www.mnhomelesscoalition.org)

**“Follow the Dollars...A Guided Tour through the State’s Budget”**

**Wednesday, October 12**

**10:00 a.m. - noon**

**Redwood County Public Health Bldg.**

**266 E. Bridge Street/Hwy 71 (across from Blossom Town)**

**Redwood Falls**

Sponsored by Bremer Bank and the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MCN), this training is coming to southwest/west central Minnesota in October. The training will answer questions like: Is it possible to provide input on the budget process? Who can provide input? Can we advocate during the process? What are effective techniques to use during the budget process? Intended audience is advocates, leaders, front-line staff and members of the public. Registration includes refreshments & materials, \$20 for MCN members; \$35 for non-members. Watch for registration flyer soon. Questions; contact Michelle Wiethoff: [michelle.wiethoff@wcainc.org](mailto:michelle.wiethoff@wcainc.org); or Jeannie Fox: [jeannie@mncn.org](mailto:jeannie@mncn.org)

**“Energizing Entrepreneurship and Hometown Competitiveness”**

**Wednesday, October 12**

**8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Holiday Inn & Conference Center**

**2100 Hwy 12 East, Willmar**

Led by keynote speakers Don Macke and Craig Schroeder of the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship in Lincoln, Nebraska, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines, the Independent Community Bankers of Minnesota, and Minnesota Rural Partners (MRP) will be co-



hosting a round of community workshops on October 12 at the Holiday Inn in Willmar – October 13 at Cabela’s in Owatonna – October 18 at the Saw Mill Inn in Grand Rapids – and October 19 at the City Hall in Red Lake Falls. The workshops run from 8:30 to 3:30, cost is \$25 to cover lunch and refreshments. The workshops will include listening/feedback opportunities for the further development of the Minnesota Entrepreneurial Gateway system. Watch for registration info at [www.minnesotaruralpartners.org](http://www.minnesotaruralpartners.org) after September 1.

**Southwest MN Arts & Humanities Council 31st Anniversary Celebration**

**Saturday, October 29**

**5:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

**SMSU Conference Center**

**Marshall**

Costumes encouraged. Silent Auction. Performances by fiddlers from Renville County, Woodbury Singers from Olivia, Patrick Moore on accordion, Marya Manfred on piano, excerpt from Marshall Area Stage Company's “Wizard of Oz” by the Tin Man, Lion & Scarecrow, and much more. Keynote speaker, Brent Olson - humorist and author from Ortonville. Everyone welcome to attend. For more information, contact Greta Murray: [smahc@starpoint.net](mailto:smahc@starpoint.net)

**Minnesota Council of Nonprofits 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

**Framing: crafting messages that build support**

**November 3 – 4**

**St. Paul RiverCentre**

**Early Registration Deadline: August 31**

For more information and to register: [www.mncn.org/conference](http://www.mncn.org/conference)

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**Getting to Know Bremer**

The Bremer Difference – solutions and achieving goals. Bremer represents the best of both worlds. We are first and foremost a community bank, with local decision-making, individualized solutions, and a commitment to reinvesting in the community. At the same time, Bremer capitalizes on the financial strength and stability of our widespread affiliations. Bremer provides a variety of banking, investment, trust, and insurance services in more than 100 locations throughout Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin.

For more information on the Otto Bremer Foundation, please contact 888-291-1123 or visit [www.ottobremer.org](http://www.ottobremer.org).

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Look for this Bremer Update in your email box monthly. If you have an event, suggestions or ideas for this monthly newsletter, please send me an email! If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please select “Reply,” type "Cancel" and “Send.”

Bremer Bank is Member FDIC.

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