

# Southwest Regional Development Commission



Annual Report

September 1, 2013

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## Chicago EDA Director Visits Southwest Minnesota

The SRDC is designated an Economic Development District by the US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA). Minnesota is located in the Chicago EDA region. When applying for grant funds, the SRDC competes for the same pool of money with the entire 6 state Chicago Region. Because these grant funds are highly competitive, it's important that decision makers are able to clearly appreciate the intricacies of each Region's economy.

Jeannette Tamayo, Director of the Chicago Regional Office, recently visited the region in conjunction with SRDC's annual meeting.

Tours of several companies in the region were arranged, MnSP in Brewster and Newport Labs, and the Bioscience Advancement Center (BAC) in Worthington. BAC had received an EDA grant award in 2010 written and administered by the SRDC.

Projects like the Bioscience Advancement Center will help strengthen the partnership between economic development and higher education while supporting



Brad Chapulis, City of Worthington, Jeannette Tamayo and Abraham Algadi, WREDC

emerging industries in the animal and plant biosciences. We were honored to host Jeannette Tamayo and show her what makes Southwest Minnesota such a vibrant place to live and work.

## SRDC Assists Communities with Safe Routes to School

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) plans are community plans to promote an active lifestyle for all residents. The focus of SRTS plans are on teaching children pedestrian and bicycle safety, making the environment safer for children to walk and bicycle to school and around the community, and promoting a

healthy lifestyle. The SRTS plan encourages children and the community as a whole to walk, bike, and be more physically active. By promoting a more active lifestyle, there are a number of positive externalities that include: reduced traffic congestion near schools and in the community, better air quality around schools and in

the community, and an overall healthier community. Amy Voss, Dean of Students/Activity Director at Pleasantview Elementary in Lakefield states, "The SRTS planning process helped us take a broader look at safety issues affecting travel to and from school and what can be done to try to increase walking and bicycling to and from school."

## Johnson's Meat Market: Award-winning product with customer service on par.

In October 2012, discussions were held with Dustin and Nicole Johnson about expanding their old

purchasing the adjacent building to house additional processing operations. The Windom location was slated to be a satellite retail location. Johnson's would also be offering fresh bakery products from another local bakery in St. James. Both the local meat market and bakery had closed in Windom in the past several years

well as a grant being offered by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). SRDC staff felt that the Johnson's project would be a good fit for the MDA Value Added Grant.

Through collaboration with SRDC staff, the Johnson's were able to successfully obtain grant funds that were used to assist in the purchase of equipment and inventory for their new location. The SRDC also utilized its Revolving Loan Fund program to provide subordinate financing for the project partnering with their primary lender in St. James.

This success story is an excellent example of utilizing available programs to assist small business owners with their expansion needs. The SRDC is honored to have been able to participate in such a great project.



*From left, Charlie Poster, MN Department of Agriculture, Betsy Herding, SRDC, Aaron Backman, Windom EDA, Nicole and Dustin Johnson.*

fashioned meat market from St. James into Windom. The Johnson's had purchased the struggling St. James location a decade ago and have grown the business exponentially,

so this project would fill a niche for the community.

In an effort to assist, the SRDC contacted Johnson's to inform them of the availability of the Revolving Loan Fund Program (RLF) as

## Aging Services Available to all Minnesotans

Aging is something we start to think about as we find everyday tasks more challenging. Senior LinkAge Line® provides more in-depth long-term care options counseling service by offering high quality, unbiased, accurate, and comprehensive information about services available. The Senior LinkAge Line® specialists are available by phone, in person, email and live chat through

[www.MinnesotaHelp.info](http://www.MinnesotaHelp.info)

The Senior LinkAge Line® is the Minnesota Board on Aging's free statewide information and assistance service, covers all 87 counties in Minnesota and helps connect you to local services. It provides objective and comprehensive counseling through trained professionals. Also known as the One Stop Shop, it can help you understand all of your options, and locate and plan for your future needs. The Senior LinkAge Line®

not only helps connect you to services in your community, but also provides the actual assistance to help you get the information and personalized help you need to make good decisions. This includes providing face to face help to you in your home and community. The Senior LinkAge Line® uses trained volunteers to supplement professional services. MNRAAA volunteers contributed 1,186.50 hours in 2012.



A One Stop Shop for Minnesota Seniors

## Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERT) Conference Held

The biennial CERT Conference was held in February 2013. At the Conference, SW CERT Region attendees provided direction on what five projects they wished to see move forward and direct CERT Staff time in assisting. Those five projects are:

**PACE – Property Accessed Clean Energy:** Enable financing for business & commercial energy efficiency improvements potentially coupled with renewable energy projects; develop a pilot PACE using grant and loan dollars in the 18 county Rural Minnesota Energy Board (RMEB) area to see if there is a market for the program.

**Community Solar PV Farm:** Research the cost of

developing a community Solar PV Farm. If the project is determined to be financially feasible, then look at developing a project in a community with a municipal utility.

**Mobile Renewable Energy:** Research the feasibility and practicality of mobile renewable energy systems. Two systems that were discussed in greater detailed included mobile solar thermal and mobile biomass technologies.

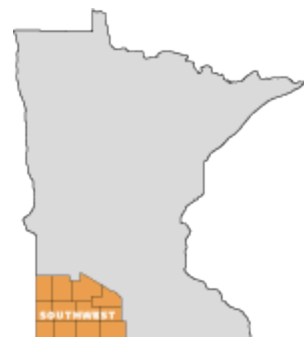
**Solar application for outdoor pools**

**Biomass – Research and make connections....**

**Use CERTs to Connect Education – MNSCU – YES**

**Teams: Connect students and faculty from area high school and college campuses around researching and implementing clean energy projects.** The initial project will be to connect to at least one YES! Team in the SW Region to help identify projects that would move energy – energy efficiency forward within their community.

**Energy on the Farm:** Beyond generally looking into energy efficiency in the agriculture sector, this group was interested in connecting with the Minnesota Pork Producers Association and drilling down into efficiency coupled with air quality issues; this will be a project in collaboration with The Minnesota Project, a CERT partner organization.



**“...develop a pilot PACE using grant and loan dollars in the 18 county Rural Minnesota Energy Board (RMEB) area...”**

## SRDC Demonstrates Benefits of Cross Pollination of Programs

While working with the development of a Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, the topic of Pharmaceutical Disposal came up. Law Enforcement in several southwest Minnesota counties have initiated secured collections due to concerns over prescription drug abuse. MPCA is also involved because waste pharmaceuticals are considered hazardous waste and must be transferred to an incineration facility by a licensed hazardous waste

hauler. From the environmental perspective, proper disposal of pharmaceuticals will help keep them from being flushed into the wastewater /septic systems (and entering water supplies). It has been demonstrated that when pharmaceuticals enter ground water they cause adverse effects on fish and other aquatic wildlife, as well as unintended human exposure to chemicals in the medications. The SRDC helped identify

outreach partners to assist in getting the word out about the availability of pharmaceutical waste disposal. The Area Agency on Aging works closely with the medical community (hospitals, clinics, pharmacies), as well as assisted living facilities and nursing homes. They have been a great partner in providing information and getting the word out about this program administered by law enforcement.

*Find out how to properly dispose of Pharmaceutical Waste*



*Contact your Local Law Enforcement Center for Disposal Information or Senior LinkAge Line® 1-800-333-2433*

*May 2013*





**“This initiative targets nursing home residents who are early in their nursing home stay...”**

## Return to Community Services

Return to Community is an initiative passed in 2009 by the MN legislature that supports efforts to maintain the independence of older adults in communities. The service began April 1, 2010.

Return to Community focuses on the nursing home resident and their family by beginning discharge planning at nursing home admission, equipping residents with self-care skills, supporting family caregivers, lining up community resources, and providing follow-up assistance after nursing home discharge.

This initiative targets nursing home residents who are early in their nursing home stay (90 days or less after admission), have the desire and resources to return to the community and/or supports to assist

with the transition, are private pay and would otherwise become long stay residents.

Return to Community is a partnership between public agencies, nursing facilities, hospitals and other health care providers.

Community Living Specialists assist residents in person with the transition from the nursing facility to the community setting of their choice. There are 10 Community Living Specialists throughout the State of MN.

Return to Community Specialists provide phone based follow-up assistance for up to 5 years to residents of all payer sources who are transitioned from the nursing facility. The MNRAAA-Slayton office

provides the phone based follow ups to residents throughout the entire State of MN. There are 3 Return to Community Specialists. As of May 31, 2013, the Return to Community-Community Living Specialists had directly assisted 783 residents out of the nursing home back into the community setting of their choice.

The Return to Community Specialists have made follow up phone calls to 4,695 residents that have been discharged from nursing homes. Each of the residents contacted has a choice if they would like to continue in the Return to Community Follow-up Program. The total residents being served through the Return to Community Follow-up Program at this time is 828.

## I-90 Corridor Study Completed

The I-90 Interchange Study provides an excellent example of how the SRDC partners with other organizations to complete a project. MN/DOT requested that a study be conducted of the interchanges along the I-90 corridor, from the SD/MN border to Faribault / Freeborn County border. The SRDC partnered with Region 9 to conduct the study to analyze the current demand pertaining to the interchanges along the corridor and assessed how

adequate the interchanges are to meet future demand based upon potential growth.

A survey was administered to communities along the corridor to identify growth in the next five years. Of the survey respondents, 78% anticipate development and 55% of those developments were anticipated to generate major traffic along the corridor. Crash data and traffic volumes were also included in the study.

Crash data was analyzed over a ten year period and broken down into three categories; crash rate, severity rate, and crash cost. Tops in all three categories was the interchange at I-90 and TH 71 in Jackson County. The study revealed that there is a need for future interchange development along the corridor at Jackson, MN. Other interchanges along the corridor appeared to be adequate to serve current and future demand.

## I-90 Interchange Study



## Revving up the Revolving Loan Fund

2012 was a challenging time for the SRDC Revolving Loan Fund, (RLF). With loan requests at a virtual standstill, low interest rates had enticed many existing RLF clients to pay off early and the RLF balance had grown to historic proportions. The RLF Committee met to discuss strategies to address the issue. Not wanting to compete with the private sector, the RLF Committee decided to implement some

additional marketing strategies rather than reducing the interest rate to less than 5%. Still, by early February, the RLF balance continued to grow.

In February 2013, the RLF Committee lowered the interest rate to a minimum of 4%. Staff created new marketing materials and put "boots on the ground" spurring activity in the program.

By the end of March 2013,

the SRDC had partnered on several projects in the Region. Currently, the RLF is seeing a sustained uptick in applications. During the first six months of 2013, loan totals have exceeded total annual loans for any of the past 5 years. The SRDC Revolving Loan Fund program is a terrific tool that helps strengthen and grow businesses in our Region by partnering with senior lenders on expansion, startup, and relocation projects.



## Land Use Plan Aids in Active Living

In 2013, new SRDC Development Planner Drew Hage worked with the City of Lakefield, (his home town) to update their Land Use Plan. The purpose of the Lakefield Land Use Plan with active living component is to bring together the community around a vision of resource management and health policy and incorporate these two

aspects into a policy related to housing, economic development, public infrastructure, transportation, parks and recreation, and community facilities. Through the development of this plan discussion occurred regarding how there is a health implication of most public policies. Health in all policies is a theme that

resonates throughout the plan and incorporating health policy and active living into city planning is a big step in creating a more sustainable community.

*"The purpose...is to bring together the community around a vision of resource management and health policy..."*

## MNRAAA, Inc. Senior LinkAge Line® CY2012 Statistics

Total Unduplicated Calls	25,444	Age	Beneficiary	Caregiver
Total Persons Served	15,060	Under 60	15%	40%
Total Served Multiple Times	4,177	60-64	13%	20%
Total Rep/Caregiver	1,404	65-74	26%	23%
Contacts Out	46,369	75-84	21%	13%
Volunteer Hours	1,186	85 or older	22%	3%
Caller Gender	Female 48%			
	Male 24%			
Caregiver	Female 70%			
	Male 29%			



## SRDC Board Members Retire



Long time Board Members Lyle Ten Haken, David Benson, Bob Fenske, Marv Tinklenberg and Bill Sauer are presented with a cake to celebrate their many years of service to the Commission at the December 2012 Board Meeting.

## Board Retreat Establishes Relationships with New Board Members



Senior Outreach Specialist Gail Radke walks through a care scenario with Board members at the Board Retreat conducted in May 2013. The SRDC Board of Directors conducts a Board Retreat and Training every other year to allow for more in-depth training and establish working relationships among Board members.

In addition to the Board Retreat, the SRDC also conducts a New Member/ Newly Elected Official Orientation the year following an election year. This year's Orientation was held at the Slayton Senior Citizen's Center on February 23, 2013. There were forty new Commissioners and newly elected officials in attendance.



## SRDC Presents Project of the Year Awards at Annual Meeting in July

SRDC Chair Miron Carney presents the Project of the Year Award to the New Vision Magnolia Project. Pictured from left, New Vision Chairman Don Bork, USDA Representative Paul Pierson, Rock County Commissioners Jody Reisch and Ken Hoime, Rock County Administrator Kyle Oldre and SRDC Chair Miron Carney.



New Vision Co-Op began looking for the perfect location to develop a feed mill in the mid 2000's. The location needed to have access to good infrastructure, roads, as well as a supply of good quality corn. Magnolia was eventually selected as the perfect site.

Although Magnolia was a perfect location for the project, there was still a considerable amount of infrastructure improvements needed to service the \$17 million project. This was the catalyst for what eventually became a large team of players including--New Vision, Rock County,

SRDC, Lismore Telephone Company, Rural Development, and the State of Minnesota. This dedicated group focused in on determining what types of tools were available to assist with the infrastructure portion of the project.

Today, the Region is proud to be home to the New Vision Magnolia Feed Mill. The long and short term benefits of this project are significant. This project is a perfect example of agriculture as the driving force behind Southwest Minnesota's economy.



Sue Rohlik, Linda Trullinger and Nicole Warner receive the award from SRDC Chair Miron Carney.

On the night of January 24, 2013 the Redwood Falls and Morton Fire Departments, along with local law enforcement agencies, responded to a fire at Lakeside Manor in Redwood Falls. Everyone residing in the building needed to be evacuated.

Throughout the days that followed, several agencies, organizations, businesses, church groups and individuals assisted in so many ways by providing food, clothing, blankets, laundry money and soap. The SRDC, through its programs, helped to provide services that Lakeside Manor residents relied on and appreciated even before the fire. Staff from MNRAAA along with Karen Christensen, the Redwood County Volunteer Program Director, were great resources for programs and services.

<b>Revenues</b>	<b>FY2013 YEAR END</b>	<b>FY2014 BUDGET</b>
Tax Levy	317,102	317,915
MNRAAA-Adm/Pdc/IIID Funds	61,395	74,423
MNRAAA-Information & Assistance Funds-Federal	251,933	265,455
MNRAAA-Information & Assistance Funds-State & Other	419,501	477,797
MNRAAA-Eldercare Development Partnership-EDP	33,558	33,558
Economic Development Administration	64,628	64,628
MN Department of Transportation	50,000	50,000
MnDOT-Safe Routes to School	29,739	0
CERTS Funds	69,964	15,630
Current Contracts	185,484	175,383
Interest Earned & Miscellaneous	13,818	7,840
Reserves Used	0	65,651
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>1,497,122</b>	<b>1,548,280</b>

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>FY2013 YEAR END</b>	<b>FY2014 BUDGET</b>
Committee Expense	36,130	33,800
Salaries & Fringe	1,128,994	1,228,269
Staff Travel	75,190	72,500
Office Space	42,662	44,000
Postage	15,908	16,610
Communications	7,655	8,020
Print/Publication	8,186	9,752
Supplies-Mtg/Wkshp Expenses	14,970	16,358
Insurance	745	4,000
Depreciation (Non-building)	14,701	18,724
Computer	10,749	11,555
Equipment	14,928	13,200
Building Updates	0	0
Other	8,584	10,103
Consultant/Contracted Services/Legal	8,200	10,920
Certs seed grants	13,925	0
MNRAAA, Inc. match	29,991	26,020
Debt Service-Principal & Interest	11,800	11,800
Office Building Principal Payment	11,976	12,649
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>1,455,294</b>	<b>1,548,280</b>
<b>Overall Balance</b>	<b>41,828</b>	<b>0</b>



## Financials

### FY2012 Project Reviews

During Fiscal Year 2013 the Southwest Regional Development Commission reviewed 10 projects from within the Region to avoid duplication and insure wise use of public funds. If you are interested in receiving a complete listing of the project reviews for FY13, please contact the SRDC office.



### Audited Governmental Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2012

#### Revenues

##### Program Revenues

Charges for Services & Other	144,986
Operating Grants	799,301

##### General Revenues

Property Taxes—General	320,579
Property Taxes—Debt Service	0
Other Revenues	104,396
General Interest Revenues	5,424
RLF Interest Revenues	63,348
Debt Service Interest Revenues	1,438

Total Revenues	1,439,472
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#### Expenses

Government Activities	1,409,631
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Total Expenses	1,409,631
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Change in Net Assets	29,841
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Beginning Net Assets	2,293,023
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Ending Net Assets	2,322,864
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#### 2012 Audit

*The FY 2012 Audit was conducted by Richard W. Holmberg, LTD, Certified Public Accountant, Marshall, Minnesota. The auditor's report expresses an unqualified opinion on the General Purpose Financial Statements of the Southwest Regional Development Commission.*

## Fiscal Year 2013 Southwest Regional Development Commission Members

Vacant ----- Cottonwood County Municipalities  
 Darrell Holmberg ----- Cottonwood County Town Boards  
 Tom White\* ----- Cottonwood Co Commissioners  
 Darrel Hage\* ----- Jackson County Municipalities  
 Richard Peterson ----- Jackson County Town Boards  
 Dave Henkels ----- Jackson County Commissioners  
 Darrel Denney ----- Lincoln County Municipalities  
 Eloise Hauschild\*\* ----- Lincoln County Town Boards  
 Larry Hansen\* ----- Lincoln County Commissioners  
 Russ Stobb ----- Lyon County Municipalities  
 Lori Grant ----- Lyon County Town Boards  
 Mark Goodenow\* ----- Lyon Co Commissioners  
 Miron Carney\*\* ----- Murray County Municipalities  
 William Crowley ----- Murray County Town Boards  
 Gerald Magnus\* ----- Murray County Commissioners  
 Vacant ----- Nobles County Municipalities  
 Paul Langseth\* ----- Nobles County Town Boards  
 Matt Widboom ----- Nobles County Commissioners  
 Les Nath\* ----- Pipestone County Municipalities  
 Daryl Hanenburg ----- Pipestone County Town Boards  
 Bruce Kooiman ----- Pipestone County Commissioners  
 Vacant ----- Redwood County Municipalities  
 Vacant ----- Redwood County Town Boards  
 Sharon Hollatz\*\* ----- Redwood Co Commissioners  
 Fabian Deutsch ----- Rock County Municipalities  
 Vacant ----- Rock County Town Boards  
 Robert Jarchow\*\* ----- Rock County Commissioners  
 Bob Byrnes\* ----- City of Marshall  
 Michael Kuhle\* ----- City of Worthington  
 Nils Nelson\* ----- Region Eight School Boards  
 Vacant ----- Region Eight School Boards  
 Vacant ----- Region Eight Cultural Diversity  
 Linda Halbur ----- SW Center for Independent Living  
 Linda Spronk ----- SW MN Private Industry Council  
 Richard Shrubb ----- Southwest MN Higher Education  
 Chris Sorensen ----- Health & Human Services

\*\* Indicates Current & FY2013 Executive Comm. Members

\*Indicates Current SRDC Board Members



### In Memoriam

The SRDC remembers Commissioner Bill Sauer who passed away on March 25, 2013. Bill had retired in December after having served the Commission since 1997. Bill represented the Murray County Board on the Commission and was a Member of the Board of Directors, former Treasurer and active on the Budget & Personnel, Development, Transportation and Legislative Committees and represented the SRDC on the MNRAAA Board of Directors.

Thank You to the following SRDC Commissioners whose terms expired in FY2013: David Benson\*\*, Nobles County Commissioner; Bob Fenske, Lyon County Commissioner; Craig Myers, Health & Human Services; Bill Sauer, Murray County Commissioner; Lyle Ten Haken, City of Worthington; Marv Tinklenberg\*\*, Pipestone County Commissioner.

## CURRENT SRDC STAFF MEMBERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
Jay Trusty -----	Executive Director	execdir@swrdc.org	836-1636
Annette Bair -----	Physical Development Director	phydev@swrdc.org	836-1631
Betsy Herding -----	Economic Development Director	betsyh@swrdc.org	836-1638
Dianne Crowley -----	Finance Director	dcrowley@swrdc.org	836-1634
Drew Hage -----	Development Planner	drewh@swrdc.org	836-1633
Rhonda Wynia -----	Administrative Specialist	rwynia@swrdc.org	836-1644
Helen Brinks -----	Account Specialist	hbrinks@swrdc.org	836-1646
Kathy Schreiber -----	Administrative Assistant II	srdc@swrdc.org	836-1640
Doreen Veenhuis -----	Administrative Assistant I	doreenv@swrdc.org	836-1645
Robin Weis -----	Aging Program Director	srlinkage@swrdc.org	836-1642
Gail Radke-----	Senior Outreach Specialist	gailr@swrdc.org	836-1632
Nicole Konz -----	Development Planner I	nicole@swrdc.org	Ext. 82020**
Lisa Ackerman -----	Community Living Specialist	lisaa@swrdc.org	Ext. 82017**
Kylie Chandler -----	Development Planner I	kylic@swrdc.org	Ext. 82018**
Brittany Perish -----	Development Planner I	brittany@swrdc.org	Ext. 82019**
Linda Tobias -----	Information & Referral Specialist II	lindat@swrdc.org	Ext. 82012**
Julie Stewart -----	Information & Referral Specialist I	julies@swrdc.org	Ext. 82008**
Katie Gillette -----	Information & Referral Specialist I	katrina@swrdc.org	Ext. 82022**
Jennifer Pieske -----	Information & Referral Specialist I	jenniferp@swrdc.org	Ext. 82011**
Jasmine Lund -----	Information & Referral Specialist I	jasminel@swrdc.org	Ext. 82025**

\*\*In order to contact these staff members please dial 1-800-333-2433 and then when the message starts type in their extension number.

## New Staff Join the SRDC



Economic Development Director  
Betsy Herding



Development Planner  
Drew Hage



Aging Development Planner  
Brittany Perish

The SRDC welcomed three new staff during FY 2013. Joining the SRDC were Betsy Herding from Windom as the Economic Development Director, Drew Hage from Lakefield as the Development Planner and Brittany Perish from Fulda as an Aging Development Planner. Long time staff Nan Larson and John Shepard moved on to take exciting new positions, Nan as the Rural Innovation Director for AURI and John as Lead Planner for Laramie County, Wyoming.



## SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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Slayton, MN 56172

Phone: 507-836-8547  
Fax: 507-836-8866  
E-mail: [srdc@swrdc.org](mailto:srdc@swrdc.org)

The Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC) is a nine county regional development commission made up of representatives from local units of government and public interest groups in Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood and Rock Counties. The purpose of the SRDC is to “work with and on behalf of local units of government to develop plans or implement programs to address economic, social, physical, and governmental concerns”.



## SRDC Staff



Front from left, Betsy Herding, Kylie Chandler, Nicole Konz, Rhonda Wynia, Katie Gillette, Robin Weis. Back row, Lisa Ackerman, Linda Tobias, Annette Bair, Julie Stewart, Jay Trusty, Jen Pieske, Doreen Veenhuis, Dianne Crowley, Gail Radke. Not pictured, Helen Brinks, Kathy Schreiber, Jasmine Lund, Brittany Perish and Drew Hage.