

AgStar Fund for Rural America

2011 Report | Giving Back for the Good of All



Committed to Giving Back to Agriculture and Rural America

*The Fund has
donated more
than \$3 million
to benefit farmers
and rural
communities.*

From barn raisings to threshing bees, lending a hand and working together are what sets rural America apart. At AgStar, we believe in this tradition and make sure that giving back to our clients, friends and neighbors is a fundamental part of who we are and what we do. At the heart of this philosophy is the AgStar Fund for Rural America. Through the Fund, we work hard to do everything we can to ensure the future of agriculture and rural America is bright. Created in 2001, AgStar's Fund extends our dedication to agriculture and rural communities by addressing the issues facing rural America. We proudly give much-needed funding to organizations that work to improve the quality of life in rural communities through education, technology or the environment.

In 2011, AgStar donated more than \$600,000 to many deserving organizations across our 69 county service area in Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin. Some of the ways in which the funds were given are:

- General-use grants for project or program support, technical assistance, general operating support or equipment
- Ag in the classroom grants
- County fair facility upgrade grants
- Emergency response equipment grants
- Rural feasibility study grants
- High school seniors scholarships
- AgStar Scholars Program

In total, since inception, the Fund has donated more than \$3 million, making AgStar a leading corporate citizen in the communities we serve.

The AgStar Fund for Rural America is a unique corporate giving program that underscores our dedication to serving those who are lacking opportunities and addresses issues facing rural America, such as under-education, minimal funding for students and minorities. It also provides money to organizations requiring technology or equipment upgrades. Since AgStar team members live and work with all the people impacted by the Fund's contributions, we feel privileged to provide assistance to programs and organizations that make our communities an enjoyable place to live. ■

GRANT APPLICATIONS

- Programs must specifically benefit farmers and rural communities
- Up to \$10,000 available per organization
- Four focus areas: education, environment, technology and quality of life

Annual application:

Oct. 1 through Nov. 30.

Visit AgStar.com for more information or to apply.

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When completed, expected to be in April 2012, AgStar Arena will look like this.

AgStar Arena Opening New Doors

The Minnesota State Fair is a summer staple for Minnesota residents. It brings together people from all over the state to learn about agriculture and have fun in the process.

Many of the buildings on the state fairgrounds have been in need of repairs or upgrades for years, but lacked the necessary funding. AgStar Financial Services, along with the AgStar Fund for Rural America, stepped up to address this issue by sponsoring the new equine and livestock arena on the Minnesota State Fairgrounds.

This agricultural education facility, expected to be substantially completed by April 2012, will carry the name AgStar Arena in recognition of AgStar's significant gift to the project.

The 27,000 square foot building will have an expansive show ring for use by 4-H, FFA and State Fair open class participants, equine exhibitions and other agricultural events throughout the year. It replaces the 1960s Judging Arena and Stall Annex, a wooden structure that withstood decades of storm damage and use. The new facility will complement activities at the Lee and Rose Warner Coliseum and the Horse and Cattle Barns, where thousands of exhibitors participate during the State Fair.

"We are proud to support the Minnesota State Fair, FFA and 4-H with this gift. The State Fair continues to celebrate agricultural excellence and connects today's consumers to agriculture," said Paul DeBriyn, president and CEO of AgStar Financial Services. "This partnership promotes agricultural education, which lays the foundation for preserving and enhancing the quality of life in agriculture and rural America for the future—the very essence of AgStar's mission. We are proud to be an advocate for agriculture and support the future of it."

A groundbreaking took place during the State Fair in August to celebrate the beginning of construction. The ceremony featured comments from Ag Commissioner, Dave Frederickson, AgStar President and CEO Paul DeBriyn and Chair of the Minnesota State Fair Foundation Development Committee, Mitch Davis. They, along with many other influential leaders in this project, were on-site to break ground on the new arena with a ceremonial straw toss. ■



Construction has been coming along nicely on the 27,000 square foot arena, which replaces the old Judging Arena at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds.



The groundbreaking of AgStar Arena took place in August. A ceremonial straw toss signified the beginning of construction.

Supporting Agriculture Education



At AgStar, we believe that youth are the future of agriculture and it's important to support the young minds of today to become the agriculture leaders of tomorrow. That's why AgStar gives grants to organizations that teach youth and minorities about agriculture. We also offer grants to help students and organization members develop their passion further if they have an existing knowledge of the subject. Here are a few of the programs we support:

ACE Program

Area Career Exploration's (ACE) mission is to raise awareness of the job opportunities for students in the Fairmont area so they are knowledgeable of the opportunities awaiting them in our rural communities when they finish their education. The \$3,000 grant AgStar gave to the ACE program was used to purchase materials needed for the one day conference. At the conference, high school sophomores in southern Minnesota were able to attend presentations on job search, job applications, appropriate dress for interviews, mock interviews and the impact of social media. More than 100 businesses also attended the event to give students more information about internships available or their organization in general. The hope of this program is to make rural students aware of rewarding career opportunities in the region, thus keeping them in the area to keep it flourishing economically.

Ag in the Classroom

AgStar provided nearly \$30,000 in grant money to 13 high school agriculture departments in Minnesota and Wisconsin in 2011. This program's mission is to support ag education by funding educational equipment that improve students' ability to do course work relevant to agriculture and related fields. Even though many of these departments have the essentials, schools can't always afford new technologies to upgrade or replace old equipment. This grant program is designed to help alleviate some of the financial constraints for ag programs in rural high schools. Schools have used grant money to purchase various tools, workbench tables, computers or interactive whiteboard systems, which all aid in a more interactive experience for students. At AgStar, we believe in ag education and are committed to the rural and agricultural communities where we operate.

Youth Energy Summit

Youth Energy Summit (YES!) is a team-oriented youth program that uses hands-on, experiential learning and energy action projects to address energy opportunities and issues in rural Minnesota communities. The goal of YES! is to inspire widespread adoption of renewable energy technology and energy conservation practices, which contribute to the environmental and economic health of rural Minnesota communities. Teams of students in eighth to twelfth grade are assembled and implement projects such as energy efficiency upgrades to schools and community buildings, solar-heated winter greenhouses, community-wide electronics recycling days and composting and waste-reduction programs. AgStar has given more than \$12,000 to this program in the last two years to give students the opportunities to learn new skills and create a healthier environment for those around them.

High School and College Scholarships

Every year, AgStar awards 20 high school seniors with \$1,000 scholarships to pursue their education. Fifteen of the scholarships go to students who will be pursuing ag-related degrees

“We believe that youth are the future of agriculture.”

and five of the scholarships go to students who have an ag or rural background and plan to continue their education in any field of study. Students are awarded scholarships based on their academic record, vocational promise, community service and leadership qualities. Giving scholarships to deserving students helps to ensure a strong future for agriculture, which is a primary goal of the AgStar Fund for Rural America.

The AgStar Scholars Program is designed for junior college students at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities and the University of Wisconsin, River Falls who are interested in agricultural financing or agricultural-related careers. Ten \$2,000 scholarships are given away each year to aid students with tuition costs. Recipients participate in a day-long seminar hosted by AgStar in which team members, including CEO Paul DeBriyn, provide an overview of the ag financing industry and AgStar in general. Scholars are also given the opportunity to listen to guest lecturers focusing on specific areas within agricultural financing.

Minority Education

The Main Street Project provides creative and practical tools to give people of all ages, cultures, economic and immigration status the opportunity to fully participate in all aspects of community life. The \$10,000 in grant money that AgStar awarded to the program was used to make an “Agripreneur” training program fully operational. The program’s goal is to give aspiring farmers, specifically rural Hispanics, the resources, knowledge and experience they need to be successful. Training includes business management, sustainable practices, cooperative development/participation and agronomical, environmental and financial systems.

AgStar also sponsors the Immigrant and Minority Farmers Conference, which is hosted by the Association for the Advancement of Hmong Women in Minnesota. Women and immigrants are among the fastest growing sector of farmers. This conference, themed “Planting Seeds for Success on your Farm,” supports these new and aspiring farmers and their contribution to an adequate supply of local foods, local economic development and healthy communities. The two-day conference provides education and resources to small farm operators and fosters relationships between farmers and community partners.

AgStar Conferences

AgStar also hosts a number of conferences to educate clients and friends about what’s happening in agriculture today. The GroundBreakers conference is an educational event for young, beginning and small farmers, which gives attendees the opportunity to hear the latest on industry news and trends, learn about succession and transition planning as well as participate in discussion topics directly relating to their operation.

AgStar recognizes the vital and influential role women play in today’s farming operations and our women’s seminars provide them the opportunity to learn more about the importance of their role in a farming operation and in the family. They also learn how to manage a work-life balance through fun speakers that allow everyone to laugh together.

FFA and 4-H Sponsorships

AgStar knows that youth are the heart of the next generation of agriculture and participating in programs like FFA and 4-H allow them to grow in their knowledge and passion for agriculture. Last year, AgStar was a One Star Partner and the Minnesota Stars Program Sponsor for FFA. The Minnesota FFA Star awards encourage excellence and development and allows students to develop life-long skills that will help them be successful in business and life.

In 2011, the AgStar Fund donated \$10,000 to Minnesota 4-H to sponsor Project Kit Boxes for beef, sheep, swine and dairy. The money also went toward hiring speakers for the State Fair interviews in beef, sheep and swine as well as toward the Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics program. Additionally, the Fund gave \$5,000 to Wisconsin 4-H to be a Silver Clover sponsor for the 2012 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days.

We at AgStar couldn’t be more proud of the programs and initiatives we support through monetary donations. They are at the heart of our mission and vision and we look forward to seeing the youth of today develop the field of agriculture and become the producers of tomorrow. ■



Giving New Life to the Park View Community Campus

AgStar believes in investing in local communities to keep them healthy and prosperous.



Keeping economies strengthened is a key element to the AgStar Fund for Rural America. Adequate jobs, schools, health care facilities and senior care centers keep communities thriving by providing jobs, bringing dollars into the economy and making the area a more appealing place to live. AgStar believes in investing in local communities to keep them healthy and prosperous, benefiting everyone who lives and works there. That's why we've helped dozens of communities through the AgStar Rural Feasibility Study Grant Program.

Ready to Grow

Park View Community Campus in Woodville, Wisc., is just one example of AgStar's support and involvement in action. Park View, a senior care center that has independent living apartments and a child care center, received funding through the Rural Feasibility Study Grant Program.

This program provides grants to communities to enhance infrastructure and provide an economic boost to its residents, whether it be by providing jobs and housing through a senior care center or funding an Internet initiative for rural residents. Projects must meet an economic development or sustainability objective, resulting in the creation of new permanent jobs and the economic development of a rural area. In the case of Park View, this meant the re-birth of the facility in 2011.

Park View Community Campus' renovation included the expansion of the child care center and a renovation of the independent living apartments. It also permitted for the 50-bed senior care center residents to have private rooms.

The rural feasibility study grants are used to help with the expense of conducting financial feasibility studies. Often, a study can cost up to \$10,000 to complete, which can be a large burden on a community that is already strapped for funds. AgStar provides grants of \$5,000 to organizations for a total of up to \$50,000 a year to assist communities in our service area with these projects.

"AgStar's program helps cover part of the cost of conducting a study and also helps rural communities by trying to ensure the projects that take place are financially and operationally viable," said Bob Madsen, associate vice president of AgStar Rural Capital Network.

A feasibility study examines proposed projects in terms of the debt and repayment ability, along with market factors affecting the project. In many cases, communities conduct feasibility studies using professional firms to determine if a proposed project works financially, operationally or through other factors. A study's results usually determine whether a project moves forward or not and it may result in changes being made to the original proposal to make it more realistic or functional.



Park View's Story

The senior care center in Woodville was built in 1959. It has been a place for retirees to go for more than a half century and has kept the community thriving by providing jobs and housing for residents who could no longer live alone. It was important because it allowed older folks a chance to stay in their hometown, close to friends and family. It was, however, overcrowded and outdated.

After applying for an AgStar Rural Feasibility Study Grant, the facility was given \$5,000 in 2010 to help pay for a study to determine if it was viable to renovate or expand the existing building.

AgStar's Rural Capital Network team worked with Park View and the USDA to get the project financed. The project was approved and moved forward to complete a total renovation and the addition of a new wing.

"Working with a financial institution that gave us the ability to take out a low-interest loan and has worked with rural development and the USDA was a key deciding factor for choosing AgStar to work with on this project," said Melissa Walthall, Project Administrator at Park View.

It was important for the facility to remain in the area because not only did it give jobs to more than 100 people, it allowed those from the area the ability to stay nearby to their homes instead of moving to a larger, unfamiliar city.

"Most of our residents are farmers that have grown up in the Woodville-Baldwin area," Walthall said. "They really want to keep Woodville their home, so we are thrilled to be able to provide a facility to let them fulfill that desire."

Kids View, the child care center, provides a caring and nurturing atmosphere for children to learn and develop in. Park Place and Park Place North are the independent living apartments and assisted living apartments at Park View. Residents are part of a community that helps them promote independence.

Park View Home is the nursing facility that provides those in need of long term care the necessary care they need. Additionally, those who are in rehabilitation can stay at Park View Home to recover from surgery or after an injury. With the expansion they can now offer outpatient therapy.

"AgStar continues to help develop the communities we live and work in for the benefit of our friends, neighbors and clients," said Bob Madsen. "We are committed to providing the necessary tools and financing for deserving communities needing that economic boost."

For more information on the Rural Feasibility Study Grant Program or to learn how to apply, visit AgStar.com. ■

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The Hormel Institute

Today's RESEARCH,



The Hormel Institute, in partnership with the Mayo Clinic, is globally recognized as a leading medical research center.

Cancer research is growing in Southern Minnesota. Agriculture is the foundation of the rural economy.

Hopefully, someday in the near future, by integrating the two, the cure for cancer will also emerge from Southern Minnesota.

The convergence of agriculture and medical research in rural Minnesota is the result of the vision and generosity of a man who wanted to leave a lasting legacy for his hometown. Jay C. Hormel, son of the founder and namesake of Hormel Foods, created The Hormel Institute in Austin, Minn., in 1942 and gave it to the University of Minnesota. Now, in partnership with the Mayo Clinic, the Hormel Institute is globally recognized as a leading medical research center.

The Institute's mission is "to conduct research and provide education in the biological sciences with applications in medicine and agriculture." As stated in its 2010 annual report: "In pursuit of this mission and as intended by its founders, The Hormel Institute generates fundamental knowledge and disseminates it to the scientific community worldwide. It also serves as a center of technical and educational expertise for the benefit of the Austin community, the surrounding region and the State of Minnesota."

Possibly one of the best kept secrets in Southern Minnesota, The Hormel Institute's scientists have been responsible for milestone discoveries such as the coining of the terms omega 3 and omega 6 fatty acids as well as the anti-cancer benefits of compounds in ginger and green tea.

The Institute's original focus was for development in two areas: agriculture and medicine.

"The goal of the Hormel Institute is to combine these two foundational objectives," said Dr. Zigang Dong, the Institute's executive director. "The Hormel Institute seeks to isolate the major activities from chemicals in our foods as we seek to prevent and control cancer and other diseases."

Because of the agricultural focus and the exciting potential of assisting in the battle to prevent and cure cancer, the AgStar Fund for Rural America's Board of Trustees agreed to contribute \$10,000 annually to The Institute for three years.

Every dollar of every gift to The Hormel Institute is used for cancer research, not for administrative or operating costs.

John Monson, AgStar Senior Vice President, Investments in Rural America and chairman of the AgStar Fund for Rural America Board of Trustees, calls support of The Institute, "an outstanding example of the good that can happen when organizations with similar visions work together. The Hormel Institute helps AgStar reach its mission of 'Enhancing Life in Agriculture and Rural America.'"

Dr. Dong said the soybean is a good example of The Institute's research. "It had been found to not be a cancer preventive when isolated; however, we have recently discovered that soybeans' many phytochemicals, when in the body and within the colon/lower bowel area, create interactions with very strong anti-cancer actions. In other words, when combined with the bacteria in the colon of the human body, soy's phytochemicals (in that environment) became strongly anti-cancer."

"Another example is ginger," Dr. Dong stated. "Southern Research Outreach Center in Waseca grows, and has developed for The Hormel Institute, a highly concentrated agriculture product.

“The Institute’s original focus was for development in two areas:
agriculture and medicine.”

Tomorrow’s CURES

The chemicals in the ginger (6-gingerol) are highly anti-cancer. Our research shows ginger to be stronger than many current cancer drugs/therapies used. Ginger contains very strong anti-cancer properties.”

“Cancer has now surpassed heart disease as the number one killer of Americans under the age of 80,” according to Dr. Ann Bode, The Hormel Institute’s associate director. “A strength of The Hormel Institute’s research is that it has shown that cellular proteins and genes are crucial targets for anti-cancer agents. Most notably, The Hormel Institute’s scientists have shown that anti-cancer agents can be developed that exclusively target cancer cells with no harm to normal cells.”

Dr. Bode wrote about food-based cancer therapies and preventions being studied at The Hormel Institute in a recent issue of *The Rural Minnesota Journal*, published by Minnesota’s Center for Rural Policy and Development, based in St. Peter, Minn. She calls cancer “a dynamic process that involves many complex processes and is therefore not likely to be prevented or cured by a ‘magic bullet.’ However, the design and development of chemical or natural agents that act on specific molecular and cellular targets is regarded as a rational approach to control cancer. This strategy for cancer control is based on the presumption that because cancer develops through a multi-step long-term process, each step in cancer development can be a possible target for reversing or suppressing the process.”

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Dr. Bode praises the partnerships that have developed around The Institute's programs. "We must continue to establish and nurture firm relationships with one another so we become increasingly knowledgeable about existing and future assets and continue to support each other through collaborative work and partnerships. This idea is clearly illustrated by the potential convergence of health-related research and agriculture in Minnesota.

"This cooperative effort could be one of the most crucial opportunities we have seen in years and will require the collaboration of a very diverse group of participants—medical research scientists and those directly involved in agriculture, our

farmers. The researchers have the capacity to identify the components of food that might have anti-cancer activity and the farmers have the ability to grow those components at an enhanced concentration in whole foods."

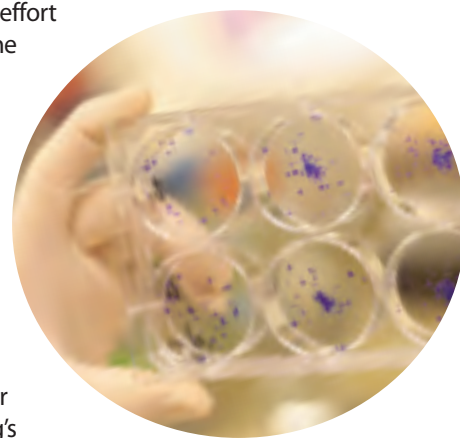
The Hormel Institute recently created an International Center of Research Technology (ICRT). Dr. Bode stated, "The long-term goal of the ICRT is to provide the most advanced tools of technology available today to researchers working at biobusinesses, medical centers, colleges and universities throughout Minnesota and regionally. Working with its collaborative partners, including IBM, the Mayo Clinic and the University of Minnesota Rochester, the ICRT is developing new technologies to accelerate discovery and facilitate comprehensive study of human disease by combining analyses of protein structure/function with advanced methods of data management and drug screening.

"The net result will be a greater understanding of biological systems for improving the quality of life in Minnesota, the nation and the world and a dramatic, positive impact on economic development in bioscience and biotechnology statewide and regionally."

The Institute's economic impact will be even greater with a proposed major expansion that would double the Institute's size and staff. "The Austin Port Authority is seeking \$13.5 million from the State of Minnesota bonding bill for the next expansion of the Institute. This would provide 15 additional labs and space for another 120 jobs in bioscience and biotechnology. This effort is good both for the medical research discoveries and the economic impact of job creation for rural, Southern Minnesota," according to Jerry McCarthy, Chair, Austin Port Authority.

In conclusion, Dr. Dong said, "Research of the Hormel Institute is enhanced by our position as an advanced unit of the University of Minnesota and partner of Mayo Clinic. Our findings have led to global recognition for The Hormel Institute as a leader in the prevention of cancer."

AgStar's Fund for Rural America is proud to be a partner of this world class research center, located in our own backyard. We are also honored to share in Dr. Dong's vision: "By working together, we will win the war against cancer and achieve the goal of a cancer-free world." ■



"This effort is good both for the medical research discoveries and the economic impact of job creation for rural, Southern Minnesota."

EXPLORE FURTHER . . .

Tax deductible donations to the medical research center may be made directly to The Hormel Institute, 801 16th Avenue NE, Austin, Minnesota 55912. For more information, visit The Hormel Institute's website at www.hi.umn.edu or contact Gail Dennison, Director of Development and Public Relations, 507 437-9604 or gdenison@hi.umn.edu. Tours are available on request.

“We hope to never have to use it, but if we do get a call like that, I’m confident the tool will be a necessity.”

Preparing for Farm Emergencies

Proper Equipment

Imagine working in a grain bin to dislodge some of the moist grain. Suddenly it shifts and an avalanche of grain begins to fall on top of you. If you become trapped, your only hope is the local fire fighters and emergency service crews. What if they don’t have a way to get you out? Sadly, many rural fire departments lack such a tool. When they come across a person trapped in a grain bin, they have to use their inventive resources to rescue the victim, and unfortunately, many times that just isn’t enough.

There is a way to easily extract a trapped victim from this type of situation. It’s called a grain bin rescue unit and it’s a vital piece of equipment for rural emergency service crews. A grain bin rescue tool has four pieces that create a tube that is placed around the victim. Rescuers then use a shop vacuum to suck the corn out of the tube and from around the victim, allowing them to be pulled free from the grain.

Unfortunately, the cost of the rescue unit is out of most departments’ budgets. This year, AgStar stepped in and has offered nearly \$100,000 to help fire, rescue and ambulance departments pay for grain bin rescue units and other much-needed equipment upgrades.

“AgStar understands the need for fire departments to have updated equipment, that’s why we offer grants to help them purchase the necessary equipment, like grain bin rescue units, which aids all people in rural communities,” said John Monson, Chair of AgStar’s Fund Board of Trustees. “We appreciate their work so much and can’t imagine them not having the proper tools to do their jobs, which is why we’ve created this grant program.”

The Deer Park Area Fire Department out of Deer Park, Wisc., was one of the departments that received a grant to purchase a grain bin rescue unit.

“Having the money to purchase a grain bin rescue unit has given our fire department such an advantage when it comes to preparing for farm emergencies. We hope to never have to use it, but if we do get a call like that, I’m confident the tool will be a necessity,” said Duane (Duke) Krueger, the Chief of the Deer Park Area Fire Department.

The Deer Park Area Fire Department will also make the tool available for mutual aid to the other departments in the surrounding counties, as not every department is able to purchase it.

Training

Another vital aspect to using these rescue units is having the proper training. The Minnesota Grain and Feed Association’s (MGFA) goal is to ensure all rural rescue departments have adequate training to provide a quick rescue to those who are trapped in a grain bin.

MGFA is a non-profit association made up of competing grain elevators and other agribusinesses involved in the grain, feed,

fertilizer and farm supply areas. It provides information, education and representation for an emerging country elevator industry.

The AgStar Fund for Rural America provided MGFA with a \$10,000 grant in 2011 to allow them to create a training video for farm emergencies. The training video was developed specifically for firefighters and emergency personnel who respond to a grain elevator or feed mill fire, explosion or other farm related emergencies, like someone being trapped in a grain bin.

“The video will be used to educate local fire fighters and first responders about the unique techniques required to respond appropriately to a grain or feed mill fire as well as how to perform a grain bin rescue,” said Bob Zelenka, Executive Director of MGFA.

The videos will be distributed to fire departments throughout the Midwest to provide meaningful training to those who most need it.

“Rescuers need to understand a lot of things about elevators, access to bins, about the grain, how to prevent people from falling in further and how to extract them,” Zelenka said. “This very specific program gives them the necessary information and training they wouldn’t otherwise have, but need to know.”

AgStar believes that knowledge is power and fully supports providing the proper training needed to complete a challenging, but sometimes necessary, rescue of a victim trapped in a grain bin. We are proud to support the brave men and women who work hard to keep our communities safe. ■





Giving Back for the Good of All

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*AgStar is an equal opportunity
employer and provider.*

AgStar Fund Board Creates Matching Donation Program

*Together AgStar team members and AgStar Fund gave
more than \$22,000 in 2011*

In 2011, AgStar team members had the opportunity to give to their communities like never before. For the first time, the AgStar Fund Board of Trustees created a matching donation program. Through this program, engaged team members had a hand in supporting organizations and programs in their communities and our clients' communities as well as share in AgStar's philanthropic efforts.

The program, which was implemented in each of AgStar's 11 offices, allowed donations by team members to eligible organizations in AgStar's 69 county service area to be matched, up to \$500, by the AgStar Fund for Rural America. Team members were able to make a donation to an eligible organization of their choice or participate in flagship fundraising efforts for organizations chosen by the flagship's Community Coordinator(s). More than 50 organizations received donations through this effort, totaling more than \$22,000. Organizations receiving funds ranged from Habitat for Humanity to disease

fighting causes to community organizations that support families in need.

In addition, the AgStar Fund matched team member donations during the March Food Shelf Campaign.

This fundraising campaign by MN FoodShare is a state-wide effort to restock food shelves across Minnesota. For this effort, AgStar team members and the AgStar Fund gave more than \$13,800 and more than 1,100 pounds of food to food shelves across the LSA.

"We are proud of our team members who align with AgStar's mission to give back to the community in any way possible," said Melanie Olson, Fund Administrator. "This is just another way for AgStar and our team members to work together to make rural America a better place for all." ■

