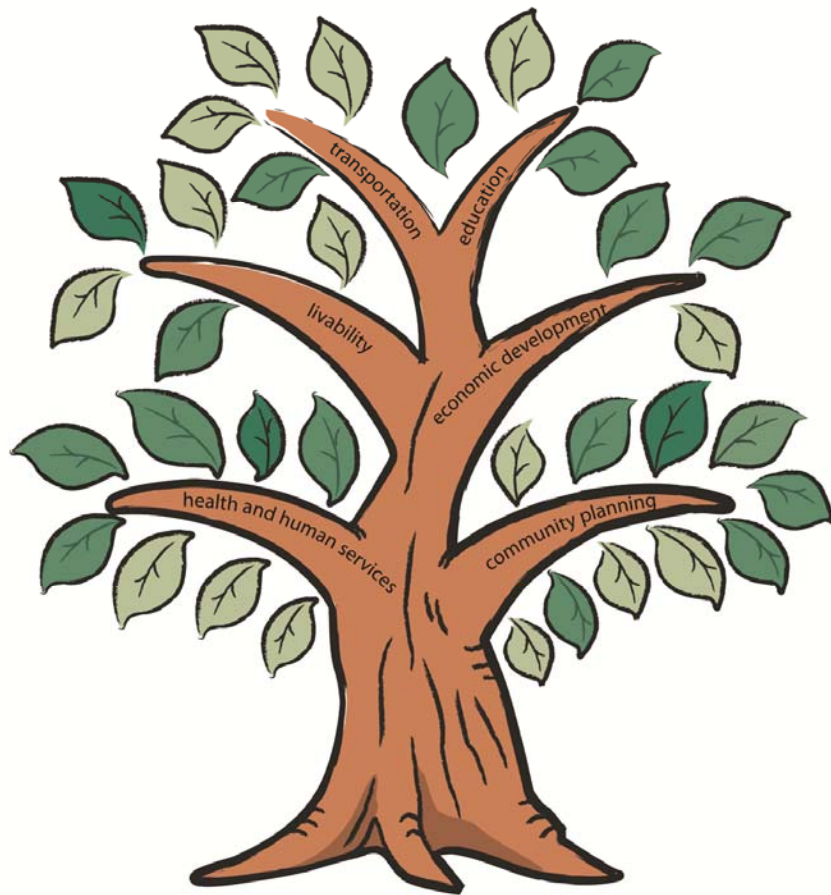


# The Growth of the Vision



Envision 2020 Annual Report  
May 2010

envision|2020



May 10, 2010

Dear community members,

Four years ago, well over 400 citizens took the time to engage in the important work of envisioning a desired future for the Greater Mankato region. Together, we organized a visionary plan into six Key Performance Areas and identified a total of 34 goals.

In 2007, we began the next stage of Envision 2020: Implementation. This phase requires ongoing collaboration, strategic and futuristic thinking, as well as creative problem solving. As the E2020 plan is designed to accomplish all 34 goals in the coming 12 years, it is important to prioritize areas of the plan that can be worked on each year. Certainly this past year, has been challenging economically for our whole nation.

Today we'd like you to look to the Envision 2020 tree, which is used to report the Growth of the Vision. As goals are accomplished, the leaves (or goals) on the tree will become shaded in. Some of these goals will take a short amount of time to accomplish, while others may take many years to complete. With diligence, patience, and partnership, we are certain we can grow our tree (our vision) into a beautiful, strong and vital reality. On the following pages, we've highlighted some of the major successes that have been accomplished during the past year. This success is due to the many individuals and organizations that work hard to make great things happen. The annual report also lists the next steps that lie ahead.

This is an important time for E2020. A time, we hope, when you'll be renewed by the passion of the vision and inspired to make a difference. A time to invest your talent to nurture, shape and prepare for the growth of our community.

Kristi Schuck  
Implementation Chair  
Envision 2020

Barb Embacher  
Vice President  
Greater Mankato Growth



## Community Planning

Mike Fischer, Current KPA Co-Chair  
Paul Vogel, Current KPA Co-Chair

### Successes in 2009-10:

- Complete Sibley Parkway Phase I infrastructure improvements.
- Begin Sibley Parkway Phase II infrastructure improvements.
- Successful designation of redevelopment project for Marigold Site in North Mankato.
- Creation of Historical Preservation Commission. (City of Mankato)
- Historic Context Study for designation of locally historic properties.
- Increased boulevard tree plantings and replacement of 2:1 ratio. (City of Mankato)
- Draft of Consolidated Plans for housing and economic development initiatives (City of Mankato and North Mankato).
- City Center Partnership developed a Strategic Plan with long-term objectives and goals for 2009-2014.
- City Center Partnership implemented a partner investment program.
- Created a City Center Economic Profile.
- Established advocacy policies and guidelines for the City Center Partnership.
- Creation of an online City Center Newsletter.
- City Center traffic pattern conversions: Broad Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Street to two way traffic, Madison Avenue signal and median changes, and the opening of Mulberry Street intersection.
- Grand opening of Riverfront Park.
- Grant funding for erosion mitigation in LeSueur River Watershed.
- Adopted Benson Park Plan.
- Interconnection of the City of Madison Lake into the regional waste water treatment system. Other partners include Eagle Lake, North Mankato, Lake Washington, and South Bend Township.

## **Goals for 2010-2011:**

### **Goal #1:**

**To protect, preserve and revitalize green spaces, and recreational and community uses of land and water.**

Green Infrastructure Taskforce

Bend of the River Million Tree Project

Contact: Tom Hagen, Mike Fischer, or Paul Vogel

Next Steps:

- Acquire sponsorship for 2011 tree planting.
- Sustainability task force review of KPA goals and objectives and refine action steps.
- Finalization of Lakes Area Sanitary Sewer District for servicing Madison Lake, Ballantyne, and Duck Lake. Water quality improvements.

### **Goal #2:**

**To redefine and revitalize the city center.**

City Center Partnership

Contact: Andy Willaert, City Center Partnership Council Chair

Next Steps:

- Increase critical mass and business vitality in the City Center.
- Advance infrastructure development and aesthetic improvements to increase business activity and livability.
- Secure sufficient resources for the City Center Partnership to accomplish its goals.

### **Goal #3:**

**To develop effective strategies for regional governance for: emergency planning, energy needs, resource sharing and displaying a regional identity.**

Contacts: Regional City and County elected and appointed officials

Next Steps:

- Explore options for resource sharing and cooperation between all local units of government.
- Implement Consolidated Plans for funding mechanisms for Community Development Block Grants.

### **Goal #4:**

**To encourage the development or re-development of urban villages.**

Contact: City and County Planners and Engineers and Planning Commissions

Next Steps:

- Continue to pursue redevelopment of Sibley Parkway and Marigold sites for mixed use and residential densities.



- Create mixed use projects on in-fill sites within the 200 block of Belgrade Ave.

## **Economic Development**

Chad Surprenant & Jonathan Zierdt  
KPA Co-Chairs

### Successes in 2009-10:

- Served 166 new and emerging businesses through the Greater Mankato Business Accelerator (GMBA).
- Coordinated the second annual “Marketplace for Entrepreneurs,” a resource fair for entrepreneurs. (GMG and many area service providers)
- Provided advanced training to regional leaders through the Leadership Institute program (GMG), the Elizabeth Kearney Women’s Leadership program, and the Blandin Community Leadership Program.
- Grew a membership of over 100 Young Professionals. (GMG)
- Coordinated a Campus and Community Welcome Fair in the fall of 2009 to connect new college students to the community. (GMG and colleges)
- Invited energy utility companies to assist with data collection and energy sustainability solutions. (Energy Conservation Taskforce)
- Developed an electric meter lending program with local libraries to help residents measure the wattage of home appliances. (Energy Conservation Taskforce)
- Renamed the Technology Plus building, the “Greater Mankato Business Development Center” to provide a stronger anchor, presence, and resource access point for entrepreneurs.
- Greater Mankato Growth developed a Regional Economic Development Agreement with the cities of Amboy, Eagle Lake, Lake Crystal, LeSueur, Mankato, Madison Lake, Mapleton, and St. Peter along with the Counties of Blue Earth and Nicollet.
- 9 Companies connected to MN Energy Smart Program
- Formed the Renewable Energy Supply Chain Development Group
- Published web resource guide on Greater Mankato Growth site for Renewable Energy/Green Companies
- Supported funding for International Renewable Energy Technology Institute (IRETI) at Minnesota State University, Mankato
- Formed a Renewable Energy Supply Chain Development group of 21 Private sector companies and support organizations to discover company

capabilities and interests in the renewable energy/materials business & encourage collaboration.

### **Goals for 2010-2011:**

#### **Goal #1: Energy Diversification: To increase our region's energy self-sufficiency.**

Energy Steering Committee and Energy Conservation Taskforce

Contact: John Frey, Tom Riley, Lou Schwartzkopf, or Ted Downey

Next Steps:

- Educate the community about energy alternatives and conservation strategies.
- Compile and communicate data on best practice strategies and area energy usage.
- Support the IRETI partnership.

#### **Goal #2: Business Retention and Growth: to optimize our existing resources/businesses to support a livable, sustainable, and regional economy that supports strategic growth.**

Contact: Tom Riley and Barb Embacher

Next Steps:

- Expand a relationship marketing strategy to attract new businesses to locate in Greater Mankato.
- Develop a directory of products manufactured in the region using mapping software .
- Utilize supply chain resources (ENS) for existing and new business growth.
- Gather the Greater Mankato Leadership Delegation to strengthen our community's vision and development, while strengthening collaborative relationships.
- Enhance talent development and retention strategies. (See Education KPA, goal #3)

#### **Goal #3: Business Development: Enhance the ease of doing business in the region.**

Contact: Jill Klinger and Jonathan Zierdt

Next Steps:

- Connect local investors with start-up enterprises.
- Increase the # of entrepreneurs served by the Business Accelerator.
- Develop specialized support services to entrepreneurs from diverse cultures.
- Participate in the FIRST group, and the Southern MN Regional Competitiveness Project to identify and support regional economic devel-



opment assets and strategies.

- Expand coordinated regional economic development services with area cities.

## **Education**

Glenn Morris, KPA Chair

### Successes in 2009-10:

- Coordinated a Young Professionals program to engage 21-39 year olds in our community and help retain them in Greater Mankato. (GMG)
- Expanded the Welcome Fair to Campus and Community in the Fall 2009. (GMG and colleges)
- Coordinated a Collegiate Leadership Academy (GMG and colleges)
- Utilized “The Internship Experience” to connect individuals, businesses and college internship coordinators. (GMG and colleges)
- Expanded the “Ready for Kindergarten” parent education program.
- Greater Mankato Early Learning Initiative launched a Kitchen Table Initiative that brought awareness to more than 100 community leaders on the importance of investing in early childhood efforts.
- Greater Mankato Area United Way expanded the First Steps Initiative in an effort to reach more at-risk, pregnant mothers through mentoring and support so their children are born healthy and develop on track
- Developed a regional shared-services e-education and supplemental online learning program. (SCSC/SOCRATES and schools)
- Developed a regional health careers academy program of study for area students. (SCSC, schools, and colleges)
- Implemented Prejudice Reduction Workshops to 11,000 students in Greater Mankato. (GMDC)
- Created Colorful Dialogue, a cross-cultural conversational exchange. (YWCA)
- Circled (dialogue around critical issues) processes started with City of Mankato and the Free Press. (GMDC)

## **Goals for 2010-2011:**

### **Goal #1: To promote a lifelong learning community**

Greater Mankato Education Council

Contact: Glenn Morris, Council Chair

Next Steps:

- Support the growing momentum and efforts to expand early learning in the community.
- Serve as a resource and support other E2020 taskforces and all educational programs in the region.

### **Goal #2: To build global awareness into education and promote diversity acceptance in our community**

(A joint effort between Education & Livability)

Contacts: Bukata Hayes & Nancy Pehling

Next Steps:

- Create board training for diverse inclusion on decision-making entities. (Blandin Community Leadership Diversity Group)
- Hold "A Colorful Dialogue" program every month. (YWCA)
- Have Prejudice Reduction Workshops reach 12,000 students in Greater Mankato. (GMDC)
- Start Circle process with 2 organizations. (GMDC)
- Develop, test and implement a curriculum that explores non-traditional career choices for future workers, targeted at students in grades 7-12 in Southern Minnesota. (SCSC, college, GMDC)

### **Goal #3: Retain and attract an educated workforce.**

(A joint taskforce of Economic Development and Education)

Contact: Bryan Stempka, Monde Schwartz & Glenn Morris

Next Steps:

- Engage the Greater Mankato Young Professionals group in community service, leadership development and E2020, increasing the group to 110 members.
- Design new strategies to ensure college and career readiness for secondary students; forming partnerships between education and business.
- Develop and implement strategies for connecting talented individuals with employers and workforce development programs and services.
- Continue the Campus & Community Welcome Fair with MSU-Mankato, and other area colleges.

- Develop connections with high school, college, and community alumni groups to reacquaint them with Greater Mankato.

**Goal #4: Make learning more accessible to all residents.**

Greater Mankato Education Council and GMG

Contact: Glenn Morris & Bryan Stempka

Next Steps:

- Promote current educational programs in the region on the greater-mankato.com website.
  - Provide referrals to programs, schools, and services across the region based on individual needs.
  - Continue to advocate for expanded early learning programs.



## Health & Human Services

Victoria Hanson & Laurie Dahl, KPA Co-Chairs

Successes in 2009-2010:

- Formed a Health Improvement Partnership (HIP) to promote wellness, exercise, and healthy lifestyles to prevent chronic illness.
- Implemented an “Exercise is Medicine” awareness campaign. (HIP)
- Received a SMIF grant to use a town meeting process to develop and implement projects to “Engage Elders in Meaningful Work” in 2009. (Greater Mankato Growth and area partners)
- Opened a new Regional Cancer Center at Immanuel St. Joseph’s.
- Implemented new electronic medical records systems at Mankato Clinic and Immanuel St. Joseph’s.
- The Open Door Health Center received federal designation as a Federally Qualified Health Center. (FQHC).
- Expanded dental and physical health services. (Open Door Health Center)
- Feeding Our Community Partnership (FOCP) implemented a pilot program at Franklin Elementary called the Backpacks in Schools Program.
- Conducted a town meeting (fall of 2009) to determine a project or projects that can help Engage Elders in Meaningful Work, through the SMIF grant.

- VINE opened a recycled furniture store to support it's programs for seniors.
- Visited Albert Lea's Blue Zone Project to bring back ideas for Greater Mankato.
- Formed a new Bike/Walk Advocacy group to move Greater Mankato toward becoming a Bicycle Friendly community.
- The Health Improvement Partners (HIP) distributed "Be Active Your Way" brochures to all community healthcare facilities to promote exercise.
- HIP purchased a web based strength training program to make available to residents.
- HIP presented the "Exercise IS Medicine" presentation to 212 healthcare providers and 815 citizens, as well as media coverage promoting the value of exercise as a way to prevent many negative health problems.
- The Mankato Multi-Sport Club was formed, providing connections and information for run, bike, swim, and triathlon enthusiasts.

#### **Goals for 2010-2011:**

##### **Goal #1: To prepare for an aging population.**

Engaging Elders Core Leadership Team/GMG/SMIF

Contact: Laura Turk, Community Coordinator

Next Steps:

- Implement the WOW and STEM+M projects to engage elders in the workplace.

##### **Goal #2: To enhance and promote healthy lifestyles for all.**

Health Improvement Partnership, YMCA, YWCA, Greater Mankato Bike/Walk Advocates,

Contact: Rodney(Chip) Gay, Chair

Next Steps:

- Provide education and outreach to residents and health practitioners about the benefits of regular exercise.
- Support and coordinate community activities and events that promote wellness and physical exercise.
- Conduct bicycle safety classes and bike/walk activities to encourage more residents to be active.
- Prepare for the first Mankato Marathon in October of 2010.

##### **Goal #3: To ensure that all our citizens have accessible healthcare.**



Contact: Victoria Hanson, Laurie Dahl, and Sarah Kruse  
Next Steps:

- Work with government leaders and local providers to address Healthcare accessibility and affordability.

## **Livability**

Nancy Pehling, KPA Chair

### Successes in 2009-10:

- Region Nine received a grant to establish the Entrepreneur Doorway Project – providing business development services to people from diverse backgrounds.
- Poetry stamping on City Center sidewalks, along with plans for expanded public art. (Twin Rivers Center for the Arts-TRCA and the City Center Aesthetics & Livability Committee)
- Collaborated to buy land and build the Rosa Parks Elementary School and athletic facilities. (The City of Mankato and ISD77)
- Continued to promote the use of the popular entertainment and information portal, [www.greatermankatoevents.com](http://www.greatermankatoevents.com).
- Continued to promote the “Volunteer Solutions” website tool to connect community needs with volunteers (The Greater Mankato Area United Way) <http://volunteer.united-e-way.org/gmauw/volunteer/>
- Delivered a diversity awareness curriculum to over 11,000 students in K-12 schools. (The Greater Mankato Diversity Council)
- Held several diversity awareness events, such as the YWCA International Festival of Fashion and the REEL Culture Festival
- Opened a new Greater Mankato Visitor & Community Information Center at the River Hills Mall. (Greater Mankato Growth & the Greater Mankato CVB)

### **Goals for 2010-2011:**

**Goal #1: To advocate for creative options to supply affordable housing**

**to young professionals, elder citizens, new U.S. citizens and all those with limited incomes.**

Next Steps:

- Use the information gathered from the Affordable Housing Taskforce to plan for future needs of residents.

**Goal #2: To keep and enhance our community's beauty. Encouraging neighborhoods to help "go green" and engage in environmentally friendly strategies to keep our residents and community healthy.**

Contact: Tami Paulsen, City Center Aesthetics & Livability Chair

Next Steps:

- Use media and education outreach strategies to promote "green" strategies for personal and community wellness. (See Energy Conservation Sub-Committee)
- Acknowledge people who have made aesthetic improvements to their property in the City Center (CCP Awards program).
- Raise funding and volunteer support for a spring 2011 planting for the Bend of the River Million Tree Project.

**Goal #3: To develop communication strategies to inform and engage all citizens, schools, business leaders, government leaders and non-profit organizations about the many attributes, events, and volunteer opportunities in Greater Mankato.**

Contact: Yvonne Cariveau

Next Steps:

- Hold focus groups to learn what interest there might be in workshops to help citizens from diverse backgrounds who are not engaged on community committees, boards, and advisory groups to get involved in those positions.
- Inform residents, businesses, and non-profits to use the Greater Mankato Events Calendar and the online United Way Volunteer Solutions website.
- Update the E2020 website to better connect the leaders, volunteers and community during the implementation of the goals.
- Make visitors and residents aware of the new Visitor & Community Information Center at the River Hills Mall.
- Provide support and resources for E2020 Taskforce Chairs to help with volunteer recruitment/management, meeting space options, website use, etc.

**Goal # 4: To collaboratively plan and acquire funding to build or restore community facilities. This group of community leaders will consider options, develop funding strategies and plan collaboratively.**

Contact: Jonathan Zierdt or Kristi Schuck

Next Steps:

- Explore options for new community facilities and convene special interest groups when needed to give input to the taskforce.
- Continue to plan collaboratively to share resources & services when possible.

**Goal # 5: Increase and raise awareness of diversity in the community.**

Contacts: Bukata Hayes & Nancy Pehling

Next Steps:

- Launch a Business Diversity Curriculum to address workplace needs.
- Assess community activities and programs that promote, celebrate, or educate citizens about multi-cultural and global awareness.
- Work with existing business development organizations to assist in educational courses to be culturally and linguistic appropriate for participants.
  - Share existing resources and create alternative funding sources to serve interested Entrepreneur Doorway Project participants.
  - Develop a network of business owners to develop relationships among and with ethnic business owners.
  - Educate the community at-large of the economic contributions of people of color in Minnesota.



## Transportation

Joe Duncan, KPA Chair

Successes in 2009-10:

- Re-establishment of Second Street as main artery through the downtown by way of connection to Mulberry Street at Veteran's Memorial Bridge.
- Removed a majority of one-way streets in downtown area to promote new traffic patterns that support the different commercial and residential areas.
- Cities and Counties worded on a new Mankato Area Transportation and Planning Study (MATAPS) for future multi-jurisdictional projects. Open

- houses were held to capture public comment and suggestions.
- Developed the Greater Mankato Bike/Walk Advocates group.
  - Developed a non-motorized connectivity and development plan for the local area to be considered in the MATAPS planning process.

### **Goals for 2010-2011:**

#### **Goal #1:**

##### **Develop an accessible mass transit system.**

Next Step:

- Cities & counties will explore options and advocate for mass transit funding support for our region.

#### **Goal #2:**

##### **Promote and develop non-motorized transportation systems.**

*Community Trails Taskforce and the Greater Mankato Bike/Walk Advocates*

Contact: Bruce Chalupsky and Tom Engstrom

Next Steps:

- Encourage businesses and institutions to promote non-motorized means of travel through to add more bike racks near building entrances.
- Promote safe biking and walking to work, school, and everyday activities as a viable mode of transportation.
- Increase the membership of the Greater Mankato Bike/Walk Advocates, organize activities, events, classes, and enthusiasm about biking and walking.

#### **Goal #3:**

##### **Maintain, improve and coordinate efficient and safe streets, roads, and trails.**

Next Steps:

- Continue pursuit of City Center street changes and improvements. (City of Mankato)
- Work with city planners, engineers, and developers to enhance the community's transportation infrastructure.
- State Highway 14/CSAH 41 Interchange project (Nicollet Cty & City of N. Mankato)

**Goal #4:**

**Enhance and develop a regional & inter-regional multi-modal transportation system (including pedestrians, bicycles, motor vehicles, transit rail, and air.)**

**Next Steps:**

- Work with governmental leaders to advocate for local and regional transportation needs through the MATAPS.
- Form a Metropolitan Service Organization to prepare for regional transportation plans now that Greater Mankato is a Metropolitan Service Area.
- Explore railroad connections for commuters and commodities.

**Thank you to the leaders of Envision 2020!**

**2009-2010 E2020 Implementation Team**

**Implementation Chair:**

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**Implementation Vice Chair:**

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**E2020 Facilitator:**

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**Critical Community Stakeholders:**

Pat Hentges, City of Mankato  
Robert Podhradsky, Nicollet County  
Dennis McCoy, Blue Earth County  
Jonathan Zierdt, Greater Mankato Growth  
Wendell Sande, City of N. Mankato

**At-large Community Stakeholders:**

John Kind, YMCA  
Laura Bowman, Greater Mankato Area United Way  
Marilyn Lott, MSU-Mankato  
Leigh Pomeroy, Citizen Rep from Mankato  
Tom Hagen, Citizen Rep from N. Mankato

KPA Chairs: (see list on next page)

***Thank you to all the wonderful taskforce chairs and volunteers who contributed to the successful implementation of the E2020 goals in 2009-10.***

**2009- 10 Key Performance Area Chairs:**

Health & Human Services KPA Co-Chairs:

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**Victoria Hanson**, ISJ Regional Medical Center  
[hanson.Victoria@mayo.edu](mailto:hanson.Victoria@mayo.edu) 507.385.5657

Education KPA Chair:

**Glenn Morris**, South Central Service Cooperative  
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Livability KPA Chair:

**Nancy Pehling**  
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Community Planning/Regional Governance KPA Co-Chairs:

**Mike Fischer**, City of North Mankato  
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**Paul Vogel**, City of Mankato  
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Transportation KPA Chair:

**Joe Duncan**, Bolton & Menk

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Economic Development KPA Co-Chairs:

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**Jonathan Zierdt**, Greater Mankato Growth

A Special Thank You  
to  
all the

**Envision 2020  
Resource  
Campaign  
Investors**

For your contribution  
to the  
Growth of our Vision

[jzierdt@greatermankato.com](mailto:jzierdt@greatermankato.com) 507.385.6646

For more information, visit [www.envision-2020.com](http://www.envision-2020.com)

**\$3,000 (\$1,000 annually)**

Abdo, Eick & Meyers, LLP  
Alliance Pipeline  
Blethen, Gage & Krause, PLLP  
Community Bank  
Corporate Graphics Commercial  
Crystal Valley Cooperative  
Dan & Kay Wallerich  
Exclusively Diamonds  
Farrish Johnson Law Office, CHTD  
Frentz Construction  
Gislason & Hunter LLP  
Gustavus Adolphus College  
KEYC CBS & FOX Mankato  
LarsonAllen LLP  
Lime Valley Advertising, Inc.  
Nicollet County  
Pathstone Living  
Pioneer Bank  
Ridley, Inc.  
Scheels All Sports  
Southern Minnesota Construction  
The Occasions Group  
Tire Associates  
Volk Transfer, Inc.  
Voyager Bank  
James R. Weir Insurance Agency Inc.  
Wells Concrete: Ready-Mix Div.  
Wells Fargo  
Winland Electronics

**\$1,500 (\$500 annually)**

BENCO Electric Cooperative  
CenterPoint Energy  
Cert. Prof. Coach, Diana Gabriel  
Coldwell Banker Com. Fisher Group  
Culver's Frozen Custard  
Jonathan & Ginger Zierdt  
Jones Metal Products  
Kakeldey & Associates  
MRCI Worksource  
MN Valley Federal Credit Union  
Pepsi-Cola of Mankato Inc.  
Radio Mankato  
River Hills Mall  
United Prairie Bank  
Wells Federal

**\$52,500 (\$17,500 annually)**

Immanuel St. Josephs –  
Mayo Health System

**\$30,000 (\$10,000 annually)**

Cities of Mankato & North Mankato  
Dotson Company  
I & S Group  
Minnesota State University, Mankato  
Rasmussen College

**\$15,000 (\$5,000 annually)**

Davisco Foods International  
EI Microcircuits  
Eide Bailly LLP  
Kato Engineering  
Mankato Clinic  
MinnStar Bank N.A.  
The Orthopaedic & Fracture Clinic  
Paulsen Architects  
South Central College  
Taylor Corporation  
The Thro Companies  
U.S. Bank  
Wells Concrete: Pre Stress Division

**\$7,500 (\$2,500 annually)**

Bethany Lutheran College  
Blue Earth County  
Bolton & Menk, Inc.  
Century 21, Atwood Realty Inc.  
Charter Communications  
First National Bank Minnesota  
The Free Press  
HickoryTech  
Johnson Out-  
Leonard Street  
Robert W.

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doors, Inc.  
& Deinard  
Carlstrom Co.

Inc.