

Leadership program seeking participants

As part of its commitment to strengthening rural communities, the Blandin Foundation, in partnership with the Bush Foundation, is once again making its Blandin Community Leadership Program available to area residents.

This is the fourth time the leadership training has been available for the Greater Mankato area. Since its inception in 1985, the program has served more than 5,500 leaders from more than 370 rural Minnesota communities.

The alumni continue to champion projects that build inclusive communities, create economic development opportunities, and deal creatively with health, housing and education issues, among others.

A committee of local residents is seeking applicants. Applications are available at Greater Mankato Growth, 1961 Premier Drive, Suite 100. Deadline to apply is Monday, June 14.

Applications also can be accessed and completed online at: www.blandinfoundation.org

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page, click the pinecones, and then on the next page click your community).

Two programs will be offered for Mankato-area communities. Two community teams of 24 people will be selected to take part in eight days of training.

■ The first program is a five- day residential retreat scheduled for Sept. 13-17 at Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge in Grand Rapids and two workshops Dec. 7-8 and March 15, 2011.

■ The second program is a five- day residential retreat scheduled for Nov. 8-12, 2010 at Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge and two workshops Feb. 1-2, 2011, and May 10, 2011.

BCLP is underwritten by the Blandin Foundation, which covers all costs for food, lodging and tuition.

Additional information about the program can be obtained by contacting BCLP alum Barb Embacher at 507-385-6644, Mike Lagerquist at 507-380-6163 or Becky Adams of the Blandin Foundation at 877-882-2257.