

Otto Bremer Foundation

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Otto Bremer Foundation to Continue to Focus Twin Cities Metro Area Funding on Poverty Relief

**Support for emergency assistance and longer-term poverty reduction is part of the
Foundation's ongoing response to the current economic challenges**

SAINT PAUL, November 23, 2009—The Otto Bremer Foundation will continue to focus its Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area funding beyond the end of 2009 on programs and initiatives to relieve poverty, including emergency assistance and longer-term poverty reduction. The Foundation is especially interested in supporting efforts to help families and individuals meet immediate basic needs—such as food, warm and stable housing, health care, and reliable transportation—as well as efforts that address the underlying conditions that can help people achieve long-term economic stability.

This continued focus on poverty relief is part of the Foundation's ongoing response to the current economic challenges. "We recognize that timely assistance can sometimes make the difference between instability and security," said William Lipschultz, Foundation Trustee. "Once families and individuals are able to meet their basic needs, they are in a better position to access community programs that can help them achieve long-term economic stability."

The Foundation directs about 25 percent of its annual grantmaking to the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area. In 2008, Twin Cities metro area grantmaking totaled approximately \$7.9 million. Support for poverty relief builds on the legacy of Foundation founder Otto Bremer, who believed that people could survive and flourish if they had help at critical times.

Foundation funding in North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Minnesota communities outside the Twin Cities metro area will continue to respond to a broad range of proposals to meet community opportunities and needs, including needs related to poverty. Additional information about metro area funding, the Foundation's other grantmaking programs, and application guidelines are available at www.ottobremer.org.

About the Otto Bremer Foundation

Created in 1944, the Otto Bremer Foundation assists people in achieving full economic, civic, and social participation in and for the betterment of their communities. The Foundation's work to help build and maintain vibrant communities is based on the vision and legacy of Otto Bremer, whose commitment to the Bremer bank communities and to those working to make their lives better continues to guide the Foundation.

The Otto Bremer Foundation owns a majority share of the Bremer banks, and a portion of the banks' profits comes to the Foundation as dividends, enabling the Foundation to invest back in the bank communities in the form of grants and program-related investments. Organizations whose beneficiaries are residents of Minnesota, North Dakota, or Wisconsin are eligible to apply for Foundation grants, with priority given to communities served by the Bremer banks. In 2008, the Foundation provided approximately \$28.7 million in grants and program-related investments.

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