Northwest Minnesota is currently facing a shortfall of more than 2,000 child care slots to accommodate the children of working parents. Julie Fredrickson, owner and operator of **Leonard Family Daycare** was not concerned about the apparent obstacles to opening a childcare business. She developed the business plan needed to apply for a loan in order to launch her dream. She knew that obtaining funding for a new building in a small town might be difficult. However, Julie was determined to fulfill what she knew was a pressing community need and stayed on course.

Julie went over the final projections with her Northwest SBDC consultant, Grant Oppegaard, and her father. Her father surprised both by saying, “I like it, consider me your banker, build it.” The result is the newest building in town, with new outside playground equipment, and the sound of happy children year-round.

“Julie’s determination, and her father’s wise investment made the project a success. I enjoyed working with them and seeing a business launched the old-fashioned way!” said Grant Oppegaard.

On average, Leonard Family Daycare provides care for 7 children a day, and has the capacity for 12 children when needed. Julie is the reason that Leonard, Minnesota is ahead of many other communities in northwest Minnesota that are currently struggling to find daycare for their working parents.

The need for childcare has become a top priority for the Northwest Minnesota Foundation as well as other organizations addressing the needs of Northern Minnesotans. Julie Fredrickson’s actions successfully solved a problem for her town.
Partners in Success

Our partners share in the vision for Minnesota’s business success and recognize the positive relationship between nurturing small businesses and the well-being of their communities, regions, and the state. Funding for the program comes from the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, and our most important local partners—the institutions of higher learning that host our regional centers.

Other local funding partners include many community lenders, economic development organizations, corporate donors, and private individuals. We’re so grateful for their incredible continuing commitment to this program. Together, we are helping businesses start, grow, and succeed.

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