

# OTTO BREMER FOUNDATION

## The Bremer Emergency Fund

### OVERVIEW

The Bremer Emergency Fund is a joint response to the current economic crisis by the Otto Bremer Foundation and Bremer Bank. The Fund enables community organizations to provide timely financial assistance to individuals and families living in Bremer communities. We recognize that financial assistance can sometimes make the difference between instability and security as families struggle to continue to provide food, warm and stable housing, health care, and reliable transportation in the face of increased unemployment and high prices. Once basic needs are met and a crisis is averted, families are in a better position to access community programs that can help them achieve long-term stability and participate fully in their communities' economic, civic, and social life.

The Bremer Emergency Fund is closely tied to the history of the Foundation and Bremer Bank. Otto Bremer, our founder, arrived in St. Paul as a German immigrant in 1886. Over the next thirty-five years he worked his way from bookkeeper to chairman of the American National Bank, while engaging in a broad range of civic, financial, and corporate affairs. His bank investments, many of which were in independent rural banks, made him the largest investor in bank stocks in the Midwest. In the 1930s, during the Great Depression, Bremer liquidated many of his personal assets to help the "countryside banks" ride out the hard times. Bremer believed that people too could survive and flourish if they had help at critical times.

### ELIGIBILITY

Bremer Emergency Fund grants are available to organizations that have the capacity to identify community members who can benefit from financial assistance, provide timely disbursements, and offer appropriate follow-up and referral services.

Grants are made to organizations whose beneficiaries are residents of the Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin communities served by Bremer Bank. (See [www.ottobremer.org](http://www.ottobremer.org) for a list of Bremer communities.) Grants are restricted to private nonprofit or public tax-exempt organizations for purposes defined under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

### GRANT PROCESS/SIZE/TIMELINE

Interested organizations apply for one-year Emergency Fund grants of up to \$100,000 to the Otto Bremer Foundation. The Foundation's grant dollars will be supplemented by a donation from Bremer Bank. Determination of grant size is based on community size and need. Complete proposals must be received no later than December 15, 2008. Notification of grants will occur by January 15, 2009.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

Foundation decisions will be based on: demonstrated community need; geography; the organization's experience and capacity; and the organization's ability to provide follow-up and support, including links to additional community resources.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Information about the Bremer Emergency Fund and grant application forms are available on our website, [www.ottobremer.org](http://www.ottobremer.org). If you have additional questions, please contact us at **651-227-8036** or toll free at **1-888-291-1123**.

### ABOUT THE OTTO BREMER FOUNDATION

The Otto Bremer Foundation assists people in achieving full economic, civic, and social participation in and for the betterment of their communities. In 2007, the Foundation provided \$32,111,712 in grants and program-related investments.