



## ***WILLMAR DESIGN CENTER***

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January 3, 2012

TO: Friends of Downtown

At the Willmar Design Center, we know we have many *friends* of downtown. You talk to us, you volunteer for our committees and events--in short, you CARE about what happens in downtown Willmar.

We appreciate that you care. We know that communities who care have turned things around for their downtowns. Those who don't allow their downtowns to fall to anonymity.

We are facing a 43% budget cut in 2012. In spite of all of our efforts to raise money through events, grants, volunteer hours--we have returned a 5 to 1 ratio on the investment of City funds to the WDC--we were still cut.

If you can help support our budget, we can continue to show community match for grant funding. That match last year gave us a \$20,000. grant to redesign the Lakeland Hotel 2nd and 3rd floors into 1 and 2-bedroom nice apartments. We also were instrumental in the Small Cities Grant of \$900,000.

What can we give you in return? We will listen to your suggestions for improvements. We are *always* looking for volunteers. Take a look at our website for opportunities to participate, make new friendships and contribute to the vitality of downtown Willmar.

Attached is submittal form. Thank you for your investment in downtown Willmar!

Richard Engan  
for the Board of Directors at Willmar Design Center (as we begin our 8th year!)

