

# Rural Enterprise Center's **One Big Thing**

"I would like to start a business like this as soon as possible." **Watch** how you can help José succeed.



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**One Big Thing**  
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A program of

**Main Street**  
**Project**

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## Friend of the Rural Enterprise Center,

What does it take for a newly trained "agripreneur" to build a successful farming business? A well-thought out "Incubator" process, complete with individualized business planning, a revolving loan fund, and transitional access to land and poultry production facilities.

Main Street Project is extremely grateful for the incredible support the Rural Enterprise Center program has received from donors and community members over the past several years. As a result of everyone's commitment and dedication, the first class of 21 agripreneurs graduated in September.

Now it's time to build on that success to support the new Incubator process. The Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation has already shown their support in a big way, awarding Main Street Project the "**One Big Thing**" grant.

This \$100,000 award does come with a challenge and an even bigger opportunity. **The challenge is that we need 100,000 matching dollars to meet the conditions of the grant. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation has generously committed \$75,000 - that leaves a gap of \$25,000 to realize the opportunity of a fully funded incubator program.**

**Will you help Main Street Project meet the challenge by donating now?**

Here are some crucial activities your dollars will support:

- Developing long-term lease agreements for Incubator farming sites
- Purchasing building supplies for the construction of year-round poultry production facilities
- Seeding a revolving loan fund to finance agripreneur start-up expenses, such as chicks and feed
- Hiring an Agripreneur Incubator Manager

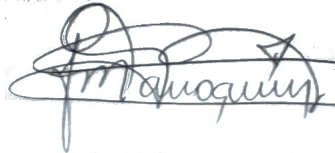
**RESULT? In the first year, six or more Latino families in rural Minnesota will make progress toward their goal of attaining an annual family income of \$30,000. For most,**

**that's a 50 to 75 percent increase over their current incomes!**

Every dollar matters as we work towards our goal of \$25,000, and the faster we get there, the faster our motivated agripreneurs will be supporting their families, and contributing to their communities as part of a new, inclusive system of sustainable agriculture.

**Thank you for your support**, and we look forward to keeping you updated on this and all of the inspiring activities going on at Main Street Project.

Warm regards,



Reginaldo (Regi) Haslett-Marroquin  
Program Director, Rural Enterprise Center

*Working for economic and media justice for immigrants, low-income and people of color so that everyone can participate in community life.*

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