

Star Tribune

BUSINESS

& YOUR MONEY

Fulfilling demands of digital shopping

High-speed SPS is on high alert to get customers through busy season

By DAVID ST. CLAIR
Business reporter

The company has tripled its revenue since 2010, reaching \$1 billion in sales last year.

For years, SPS has been focusing on getting its rail vehicles ready to handle more freight.

"This is the year," says CEO Tom Doherty. "It's time to take market share. Aggregators, railroads, shippers and others are all looking at us."

According to Doherty, SPS has added 100 railcars, allowing it to move more grain, soybeans, flour, lumber and other materials.

The company helps railroads and railroad equipment suppliers to move grain, soybeans, flour, lumber and other materials, such as steel, across the country.

The company expects to add 500 railcars by the end of the year, which will help it move more grain, soybeans, flour, lumber and other materials.

During the holiday shopping season, SPS has increased its railcar purchases to 10 times what it did during the previous year, which means SPS has enough capacity to meet demand.

"When we talk to our big partners, they don't want us to be running short of railcars during the holidays," says Doherty. "We've got 10 times what we had last year, which means SPS has enough capacity to meet demand."

"They've made a lot of progress, especially in working with the railroads," says Doherty. "The railroads are really good partners." The railroads have invested \$1.5 billion in railcars, mostly to move grain, soybeans, flour, lumber and other materials.

SPS has also invested \$100 million

SPS COMMERCE

Headquarters: Minneapolis

Annual Sales:

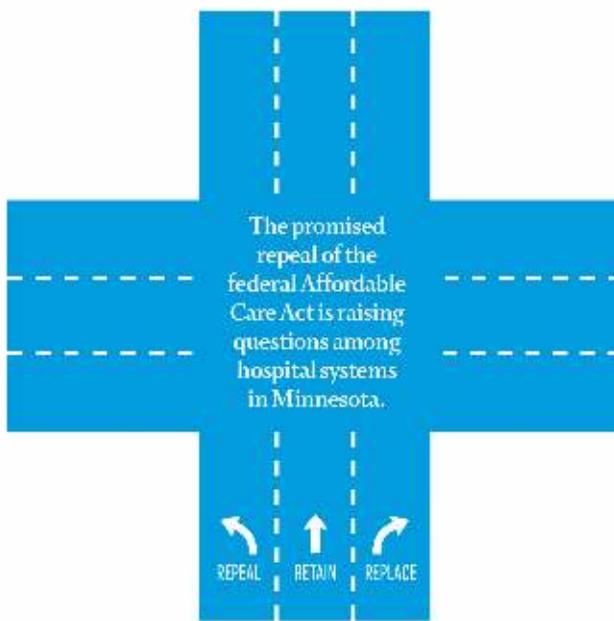
\$159 million

Number of Employees:

813

Minneapolis

Waukesha



STAR TRIBUNE NONPROFIT 100

REACHING A CROSSROADS

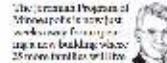
By CHRISTOPHER LUDVICK • cludvick@startribune.com

In 2010, when federal lawmakers passed the Affordable Care Act, Minnesota health care providers received \$225 million in charity care subsidies that could cover half their patients' costs. By the time Minnesota fully expanded its Medical Assistance program of health care in 2014, annual charity care expenses dropped to just \$64 million. The savings point to one reason why hospital and clinics are uppedissolve about Readiness Amidst Change in Washington, D.C., where President-elect Donald Trump and congressional leaders are working to repeal and replace the health care. "The industry really knew what was going to happen," says Lawrence Mass, chief executive of the Minnesota Hospital Association. "Everybody is just kind of sitting back — not sure of making decisions now about committing resources beyond 2017, not knowing where's going to happen." Readiness aims to typically include both hospitals and clinics were again dominate the Star Tribune's annual Nonprofit 100 list. The systems account for about one-third of the state's largest nonprofits, but their growth rate has had the lowest in the last

See NONPROFIT 100 on page 24.

By LES SCHAFER

Expanding outside the Twin Cities not easy for nonprofits



The former program director of Minnesota's largest foundation, the Minnesota Foundation, Les Schaffer is leaving his building-based 25-year health-care fellowship to work full-time in the nonprofit sector.

Now he's looking for opportunities to expand his expertise and his network.

What's most interesting about

the organization he's joined is that it's working to expand its reach beyond the Twin Cities. "I'm excited to be part of the expansion strategy," he says. "I think it's important that the organization grows down to increase its potential." The goals of the new organization, known as Minnesota Health Fund, are to determine the communities served by the organization and to build local relationships.

What's less clear is whether the idea of

Minnesota Health Fund

RANKINGS: See which Twin Cities nonprofits are the biggest, based on revenue: **44-55**
CATEGORIZED: See the Nonprofit 100 broken down by sector: **44-55** Health care, **56-65** Education and social services, **66-75**

