

*Community Report*



*Moving  
Forward.*



Erie County  
**Economic  
Development**  
Corporation



## *The wind in our sails.*

*There is economic momentum in Erie County, Ohio. Economies evolve and ours is no exception. Not sitting idle, we're cultivating a whole new generation of forward looking businesses: idea driven entrepreneurs finding affirmation and support; successful local companies aggressively investing to grow even more; and executives from beyond our borders who have elected to plant new facilities within ours.*

*Erie County Economic Development Corporation is the pivot point, connecting a team of civic, business and philanthropic leaders who understand that it takes strategic planning, investment, hard-work, and active partnership to sustain and enhance the economic vitality of this community. We want to thank all those who have stepped up for our future.*

*Let us share some highlights from a very active and successful year.*

**BEAR** *The Business Expansion and Retention (BEAR) Program works with the existing business community to identify barriers to growth and opportunity, connecting them to state, local, or federal resources and incentives for assistance.*

2016 Accomplishments

- 1** **fulltime employee** added to execute the BEAR program; identify opportunities, solve problems and promote growth.
- 101** **business visitations executed** to fully understand their opportunities and challenges.
- 54** **existing businesses assisted** with site selection searches or technical project support, including incentives, financing options or workforce development needs.
- 18** **agencies** partnered to host our 5th annual Business Appreciation Event.
- 1000+** **participants** in our Future Maker showcase — supporting area workforce development by introducing 9th graders to future careers and in-demand skill-sets.
- 1** **of only two counties** representing business and economic development needs of Northeast Ohio to our state government through board representation with the Ohio Economic Development Association.

**RISE** *The Regional Incubator for Sustainability and Entrepreneurship (RISE) program offers free business development assistance to start-ups and existing businesses.*

2016 Accomplishments

- 50** **stakeholders** including area service providers, business and community leaders were involved in a process to update our RISE Strategic Plan with the support of experts in community entrepreneurial ecosystems, plus input via a small business owner survey. The result is a robust 2-year plan to add partnerships and services to the RISE program to extend its community impact.
  - 43** **one-on-one entrepreneur and business advisor consultations** that include b2b referrals, economic and demographic research, financing information, site and building searches, workforce development support and introductions to local or state officials.
  - 100+** **entrepreneurs attended** the on-going RISEing Entrepreneurs Networking & Speaker Series to meet, share ideas, and collaborate.
- Look for features on local businesses and updates on our RISE program through the RISE monthly newsletter and social media communication.

**Development Task Force**  
*ECEDC's programs and activities are designed to inspire and implement development deals in Erie County, in collaboration with our private and public economic development partners.*

2016 "Wins"

- \$75M+** **capital investment** and creation of over 200 new jobs planned by Mucci Farms in establishing its US Headquarters in Huron, Ohio.
- \$57M+** **in projected annual economic impact** by The Sports Force complex.
- \$1M+** **expansion** by Label Aid and Paper Resources to accommodate business growth.
- \$1.3M** **renovation of historic buildings** in Downtown Sandusky by the Kilbourne Hotel—completed, and soon to expand.
- 30+** **employees** of the new Hallee KIA Erie County dealership.
- 4** **RISE clients opening new retail outlets.** Welcome locally-owned Burdue Quality Cars, Aloha Nutrition, Rockin' Horse Saloon, Great Lakes Machine!
- 28** **finalists in a statewide review** of "shovel-ready" communities and sites through the JobsOhio SiteOhio Program, and Erie County was one of them. This distinction will increase exposure to site consultants and developers across the nation.

Finally, ECEDC launched a refreshed website to better support new and expanding businesses in our community with relevant economic and community data and a robust property database.



2016 Financials

	2015	2016
<b>Income</b>		
Public Funding	\$ 124,500	\$ 89,500
Private Funding	\$ 80,550	\$ 99,625
Grants	\$ 46,126	\$ 27,000
Other	\$ 1,016	\$ 3,126
In Kind Contributions	\$ 40,315	\$ 40,315
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 292,508</b>	<b>\$ 259,566</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Personnel	\$ 108,302	\$ 134,379
Lease & Rentals	\$ 40,315	\$ 40,315
Occupancy	\$ 36,499	\$ 23,869
RISE Expense	\$ 30,000	\$ 26,000
Meeting Expense	\$ 17,841	\$ 19,401
Communications & Marketing	\$ -	\$ 10,762
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 232,957</b>	<b>\$ 254,726</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 59,551</b>	<b>\$ 4,841</b>

---

## *Board of Directors*

Ted Kastor, Janotta & Herner, Inc., Board President

Stuart Wells, Parallax Lighting, Board Vice President

Gary Mortus, Ohio Edison, Secretary

James O. Miller, Civista Bank, Treasurer

Gary Borchardt, Erie County Chamber of Commerce

Gary Boyle, Perkins Township

Eileen Bulan, City of Vermilion

Larry Fletcher, Lake Erie Shores & Islands

Dan Frederick, Erie County Township Association

Mary Jane Hill, Dorn Foundation

Andrew Kurtz, BGSU Firelands

Matt Lasko, City of Sandusky

Jason McClure, Cedar Point

Daniel Moncher, Firelands Regional Medical Center

Brian Shanle, Kalahari Resorts

Patrick Shenigo, Erie County

Ron Waite, Sandusky Register

Andrew White, City of Huron

Michael Miller, North Coast Young Professionals  
(ex-officio)

---

*Please get in touch and become part  
of the area's revitalization.*



Erie County  
**Economic  
Development**  
Corporation

Contact Abbey Bemis  
Executive Director

[director@eriecountyedc.org](mailto:director@eriecountyedc.org)

419 627-7791

[www.eriecountyedc.org](http://www.eriecountyedc.org)

A Public-Private Partnership

