



E

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



elkhartcountybiz.com

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Wildman Business Group

Mike Yoder – Vice Chair
Town of Bristol

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Elkhart County continues to have one of the most dynamic manufacturing economies in the U.S. and 2023 was yet another outstanding year of growth and transformation. Despite continued supply chain challenges and economic headwinds within various Industries the county experienced robust industrial growth and significant reinvestment within our local companies.

In conjunction with the Indiana Economic Development Corporation and local governments, the Economic Development Corporation of Elkhart County (the EDC) facilitated Incentive support for \$203 M of projects in Elkhart County. These projects resulted in 567 job announcements with an average wage of \$29.63 per hour. For the first time in EDC history, personal property investments in automation and tooling exceeded real estate and building investments.

At the EDC training facility, approximately 400 students representing 49 local companies were able to take advantage of our robust short-duration local training programs that provide coaching and skill improvements that often offer immediate impact to companies upon completion. The EDC also reinvested in our classroom training facility to allow us to deliver hybrid workforce training remotely while offering improved trainee experiences.

As an engaged partner in the South Bend- Elkhart Regional Partnership efforts, 56 EC-based companies benefitted from The State of Indiana’s and Conexis Indiana Manufacturing Readiness Grant Program. The EC project volume led the state and provided up to a 200 K matching grant for advanced digital technology purchases that improve company processes and capabilities and move them towards Industry 4.0. The LiFT Network Skills Accelerator program allowed us to assist 14 Elkhart-based companies with funding of up to \$30K per company for customized training.

Economic development continues to evolve as our world changes and talent development and retention remains one our top priorities to fuel our local growth. The EDC continues to stay very active with Vibrant Communities and other local Quality of Place initiatives underway within the region to make EC the best place to live, work and play. We look forward to another successful year in 2024 and let us know how we can help!

Thank you for your support!



Chris Stager
President/CEO





COMMUNITY LEADERS ARE SAYING ...

"We have worked with the EDC of Elkhart County on several successful projects over the years, bringing continued growth opportunities to both our companies and employees. The EDC team has always provided us with the right direction and resources needed to make informed decisions, and we consider them a valuable, trusted partner. Their emphasis on employee training and development, along with an enduring commitment to making Elkhart County a better place to work and live, ensures a prosperous future, and gives us confidence to invest further in this community. On behalf of everyone at Great Lakes Forest Products, Inc. and Great Lakes Lamination, Inc. we thank you for your support and ongoing partnership."

BEN SMITH

CEO, Great Lakes Forest Products / Great Lakes Forest Lamination

"EDC assisted Vista Manufacturing in securing an abatement that was instrumental in us building a brand new facility. We were in a small, outdated building for 30 years and with the assistance of the EDC, we were able to take the huge step of moving into a facility almost 3 times the size. I was very concerned about the additional costs and the abatement allowed me to grow as our tax liability grew. We are now at full tax liability but we were able to in step with the taxes. EDC came beside us again as we added another 22K sq. ft. to our facility. On top of that, many of our employees have taken advantage of the phenomenal training and development programs that they offer."

TOD E. TIESZEN

CEO, Vista Manufacturing

"We have enjoyed working with the EDC of Elkhart County. They have been instrumental in enabling us to continue the growth of our business at Entech, Inc. and Jomar Machining & Fabricating, Inc. both in adding new customers and additional employees. Our expansions in facilities and equipment have generated new opportunities for us. Chris Stager and the EDC staff provide excellent service for the advancement of economic development. The EDC has also provided advice and contacts for us that we have sincerely appreciated. We consider the EDC to be a very valuable partner for our businesses."

MATT TROYER

CFO, Entech, Inc and Jomar Machining & Fabricating, Inc.

SINCE 2001...

The EDC has facilitated a total of

\$3,333,569,037 INVESTMENTS

which has created

33,192 NEW JOBS

in Elkhart County

EDC'S RESOURCES

We love all things Elkhart County! If you're thinking about a new business location, our team of economic development experts can help you decide whether Elkhart County is the perfect fit — and connect you with the resources you need to break ground and THRIVE in Elkhart County. Our Business Response Team makes establishing and growing your business an easy, risk-adverse and efficient process. Our team uses a relationship-based approach and serves more than 400 companies annually. A partial list of our services includes:

Workforce Development and Talent Solutions

Workforce upskilling and talent growth and retention have become critical components of the economic development playbook. We participate with our local partners in creating a local environment that attracts and retains diverse workforce talent and provides educational resources and funding to support the growth and creation of new career pathways within our existing and prospective businesses. These services include but are not limited to certificated and non-certificated training as well as subsidized internships and apprenticeships.

Business Solutions

Our team is responsible for the attraction, retention and economic vibrancy of business and industry in Elkhart County, Indiana. The team provides concierge services by removing barriers for business and by educating industry about public and private sector programming and other resources that might be available to them.

Financial Incentives

A variety of state and local tax incentive programs are available to encourage business development and growth in Elkhart County. State of Indiana and local tax incentives are based on various qualifiers including but not limited to: number of jobs; wages of jobs and investment (real and personal) property. All incentives require approval in advance of your project start date.

Infrastructure Resources

Utility rates are among the lowest in the nation. Whether electric or natural gas, or fiber connectivity our utility providers support and make it easy to do business in Elkhart County, Indiana. We partner with utilities to provide timely and predictable service deployments with high levels of reliability and competitive rate structures.

Site Selection

We assist existing and prospective businesses in finding ideal locations, a trained and skilled workforce, corporate incentives. A business friendly local government, low corporate tax rate and a AAA credit rating all make Elkhart County, Indiana, a great place to live, work and play.

2023 CLASSES BY THE NUMBERS



35
CLASSES
DELIVERED



399
EMPLOYEES
ATTENDED



49
COMPANIES
IMPACTED

TO DATE ...

The EDC has delivered
197 classes
and has trained **2,772 employees**
which has impacted
404 companies
in Elkhart County.

2023 PROJECTS

BUSINESS RETENTION /EXPANSION			
COMPANY	LOCATION/ COMMUNITY	INVESTMENT ANNOUNCED	# OF JOBS ANNOUNCED
Bennington N	City of Elkhart	\$12,400,625	14
Bennington S	City of Elkhart	\$3,590,000	19
Dynamic Packaging	Town of Bristol	\$3,653,200	32
Truck Accessories Group	Elkhart County	\$4,000,000	10
Coulter	Middlebury	\$16,223,700	73
Consumer Products TBA	City of Elkhart	\$58,398,202	150
Hydro Aluminum	City of Elkhart	\$39,762,000	40
Speedgrip Chuck	City of Elkhart	\$1,076,625	4
Elkhart Concord LLC*	City of Elkhart	\$25,000,000	100
BT Aluminum**	Town of Bristol	\$38,835,000	125
TOTAL		\$202,939,352	567

*Attractions **Startup

2023 TRAINING CLASSES

In 2023 the EDC invested in a leading-edge, digital classroom to provide enhanced training onsite and hybrid digital training solutions. Our staff leverages training and talent upskilling resources in both the public and private sectors to help local companies identify areas of improvement, streamline processes, and increase competitiveness and profitability.

Since 2017, the EDC of Elkhart County has partnered with the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) at Purdue University, University of Notre Dame's LIFT Program, Ivy Tech, as well as other local education partners to provide high-impact training content to South Bend / Elkhart businesses.

Our dynamic curriculum is offered through onsite and online training as well as complimentary workshops and provides high-value, affordable solutions to help businesses increase profitability and improve their manufacturing processes. Some of the classes content offered in 2023 included:

- **5S, the Visual Workplace**
- **Advanced Product Quality Planning**
- **Conflict resolution skills in customer service**
- **Emotional Intelligence**
- **Employee Retention and Recruitment**
- **IATF Internal Auditor**
- **Leadership Skills for success in English and Spanish**
- **Learn to run a Kaizen event**
- **Project Management**
- **Six Sigma, Green and Black Belt**
- **Supplier Selection**
- **Total Productive Maintenance**
- **Value Stream Mapping**

Upon completion of each training session, attendees receive a certificate of learning from the local education and training providers.



EDC'S MISSION

To attract, retain, and develop a sustainable and innovative economic base.

MANY THANKS TO OUR 2023 INVESTORS

1st Source Bank
AE Techron, Inc.
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary
Ancon Construction
Barletta Boat Company
Bennington Marine Group
Business Development
Center for Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc.
Centier Bank
Champagne Metals
City of Elkhart
City of Nappanee
CommunityWide Federal Credit Union
Culver Duck Farms, LLC
Dave Carter & Associates
DJ Construction Company, Inc.
D&W Inc.
Dwyer Instruments, Inc.
Edward Jones
Elkhart Clinic LLC
Elkhart County Board of Realtors
Elkhart County Convention & Visitors Bureau
Elkhart County Government
Beacon Health/Elkhart General Hospital
ET&T Enterprises, Inc.
Everwise Credit Union
First State Bank Middlebury
Forest River, Inc.
Forum Architects, LLC
GDC, Inc.
Genesis Products, Inc.
Global Link Distribution Corporation

Goshen Chamber of Commerce
Goshen Stamping Company, Inc.
Grand Design RV, LLC
Great Lakes Forest Products, Inc.
Green Stream Company
Greencroft Retirement Communities
Hampton Inn
Hansen & Associates
Hawkins Water Tech
Hoogenboom-Nofziger Real Estate
Indiana Michigan Power
INOVA Federal Credit Union
Insight Accounting Group
InterCambio Express, Inc.
Interra Credit Union
Ivy Tech Community College South Bend
JA Wagner Construction
Jomar
Jones Petrie Rafinski
KemKrest
Kountry Wood Products, LLC
Lake City Bank
LaVanture Products
L&W Engineering
LeMaster Steel
Lionshead Speciality Tire & Wheel LLC
Lippert Components, Inc.
Majority Builders, Inc.
Martin Brothers Contracting, Inc.
Mid-City Supply Company, Inc.
Mid States Construction
Nappanee Area Chamber of Commerce

Navarre Hospitality Group
NIBLOCK Excavating
NIPSCO
NuWay Construction
Physicians Health Plan of N Indiana
PWI
PNC Bank
RC Industries
Reschcor
Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc.
Robert Weed Corporation
EPIC Insurance Agency, Inc.
SAM Companies
Satellite Industries
Schrock Commercial
Schurz Communications, Inc.
Serim Research Corporation
Smart Cabinetry
Smoker Craft, Inc.
South Bend International Airport
Steel Dynamics
Surf Internet
Surveying & Mapping, LLC
The Northland Corporation
Town of Bristol
Town of Wakarusa
Utilimaster Corporation
Vista Manufacturing, Inc.
Welch Packaging
Welter Foundation
Yoder, Ainlay, Ulmer & Buckingham

EDC TEAM

Chris Stager

President / CEO

Linda Tunks

Director of Administration
& Operations

Sherm Hansen

EDC Ambassador

David Damerow

Director of Business
Retention and Expansion

Denise Hoke

Project Coordinator

Rob Hartzler

Advancement Director

Your Connection for a
Thriving Elkhart County



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