



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Mike Yoder** – Chair  
Town of Bristol

**Rhett Fisher** – Vice Chair/Treasurer  
Ancon Construction

**Jack Welter** – Secretary  
Retired

**Bill Burton**  
First Source Bank

**Lori Stanger**  
Wildman Business Group

**Suzie Weirick**  
Elkhart County Commissioner

**Chris Stager**  
EDC of Elkhart County -President/CEO

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Jeff Beachy**  
Bristol Town Council

**Adam Bujalski**  
Elkhart County Councilman

**William Burton**  
First Source Bank

**Mary Cripe**  
Middlebury Town Manager

**Brian Dickerson**  
Final Phase Electric

**Bill Dutkowski**  
Nappanee Chamber of Commerce

**Rhett Fisher**  
Ancon Construction

**Scott Ford**  
University of Notre Dame

**Phil Jenkins**  
Mayor, City of Nappanee

**Levon Johnson**  
Elkhart Chamber of Commerce

**Nick Kieffer**  
Goshen Chamber of Commerce

**Jess Koscher**  
Write Connections

**John Letherman**  
Cadet Construction

**Zhongjie “Peter” Liang**  
Fabric Services

**Gina Leichthy**  
Mayor, City of Goshen

**Carl Risk**  
Elkhart General Hospital President

**Rod Roberson**  
Mayor, City of Elkhart

**Lori Snyder**  
Berkshire Hathaway NI Real Estate

**Lori Stanger**  
Wildman Business Group

**Mike Stump**  
Forest River

**Jeremy Stutsman**  
LACASA President/CEO

**Clark Warner**  
Ceres Co-op

**Brett Weddell**  
Goshen City Council President

**Suzie Weirick**  
Elkhart County Commissioner

**Jack Welter**  
Elkhart Plastics

**Mike Yoder**  
Town of Bristol

**Chris Stager**  
EDC of Elkhart County President /CEO

## CHAIR’S MESSAGE

Again, this year, our EDC has impressive numbers to share in the annual report. But rather than highlight what you can read for yourself in this report, this year seems like a good time to reflect on how this organization started.

I may not yet be ‘old as dirt’, but I was there when the Elkhart County EDC was imagined and created. As a young farm business owner and a leader in the Indiana Farm Bureau, I was invited to join a group of visionary community leaders, which ultimately led to the formation of our Economic Development Corporation.

The EDC did not happen easily or overnight. It took a community-wide strategic plan and months of discussion to identify the need, formulate a goal, and implement a strategy. It involved long discussions, big debates, and disagreements because the same community diversity that drives a vibrant and thriving community often makes working together hard work. However, there was a shared goal: to build a diverse and sustainable economic foundation for our community. And in 2021 the EDC held its first board meeting.

Elkhart County is an economic engine that knows how to reinvent itself when disruptive change occurs. Our innovative entrepreneurial skills have created many stories of incredible business success. This ability is historic, generational, and noticed by others with comments like, ‘There must be something in the water in Elkhart County.’ In those early discussions, we identified our growing reliance on the recreational vehicle industry as a potential problem. Instead of waiting for disruptive change to spark innovation, we asked what if we can encourage innovation during the good economic times that would drive economic diversity?

Too often our economic diversification efforts were perceived as being anti-RV. However, the core strategy was to utilize this vibrant economic asset as a catalyst to diversify into other manufacturing sectors. With local government, businesses, Chambers, and a new EDC working together we developed incentives to attract, expand, and retain businesses. The RV industry supported this effort both financially and with EDC board involvement because a strong diversified local economy is understood to benefit everyone. Elkhart County is currently more diverse than ever. The economy is a complex system with various dynamics that have contributed to our progress toward our goals. The EDC has played a key role in laying the groundwork to assist businesses in capitalizing on opportunities as they arise.

Our EDC is accurately recognized as one of the best in the state, the formula for that success is a hard-working and knowledgeable staff, a supportive board, and a County that is a fertile field of economic activity. Additionally, a community that understands the best role for the EDC and local government is to work together to facilitate the activities in the business sector.

Our EDC continues to adapt to a changing role. Facilitating incentives remains a primary function. However, assisting companies to find ways to reduce costs and improve employee education levels is a new role we are leaning into.

I encourage you to take a few minutes to read this annual report to learn more about the important role your EDC plays in our local and regional economy.



**Mike Yoder**  
Board President/Chair  
Town Manager, Bristol, Indiana



# 2024 PROJECTS

BUSINESS RETENTION /EXPANSION			
COMPANY	LOCATION/ COMMUNITY	INVESTMENT ANNOUNCED	# OF JOBS ANNOUNCED
Aluminum Insights, Inc.	Syracuse	\$3,500,000	15
Anco Products	City of Elkhart	\$500,000	22
Brinkley RV	City of Goshen	\$25,000,000	500
Consolidated Metals	City of Elkhart	\$9,754,500	30
Cross Trailers	Middlebury	\$10,000,000	20
GDC	Elkhart County	\$8,875,000	38
Medix	Elkhart County	\$4,720,000	90
Northern Indiana Biogas, LLC	Elkhart County	\$15,000,000	15
Plastic Omnium	City of Elkhart	\$1,597,001	15
SEVNA, LLC*	Elkhart County	\$5,000,000	150
Showhauler Trucks, Inc.	Middlebury	\$10,750,000	40
Third Coast Commodities*	City of Elkhart	\$3,500,000	50
Triangle Rubber	City of Elkhart	\$3,000,000	10
Voyant Beauty	City of Elkhart	\$3,100,000	48
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$104,296,501</b>	<b>1043</b>

\*Attractions



## EDC'S VISION

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

## INVESTING IN TRAINING

Since 2017 the EDC of Elkhart County staff has partnered with local and state training partners to provide grants and other financial support to local businesses for talent upskilling and training. We assist companies in identifying areas where they can customize their training curriculum to enhance employee skills, streamline and improve operational processes, and ultimately improve company culture and long term profitability.

To date, over 3,000 employees from over 410 regional companies have taken advantage of the wide variety of training offered at our facility. Our curriculum at the EDC is always driven by requests from industry and can be offered in our facility, onsite at our client's facilities and online as well through paid or complimentary workshops.

Listed below is our schedule for upcoming training offerings

- Leadership Skills for success in English and Spanish – Entry and advanced
- Quality
- Additive Manufacturing
- Talent Attraction
- Supply Chain
- Lean Six Sigma/ DMAIC
- Human Resources
- ISO and internal Auditor
- Artificial Intelligence
- Digital Transformation
- Internet of Things
- Electrical, PLC and Maintenance Basic Training

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



## 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.



**SINCE 2001...**

The EDC has facilitated a total of

**\$3B**

**INVESTMENTS**

(\$3,063,099,460)

which has created

**36,475**

**NEW JOBS**

in Elkhart County

For more information,  
scan this code



**THANK  
YOU**



## COMMUNITY LEADERS ARE SAYING ...

“As our company continues to grow and innovate, the support from the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) of Elkhart County has been invaluable. Their assistance in securing automation grants and tax abatements has played a crucial role in our expansion efforts, enabling us to invest in cutting-edge technology and create new opportunities for our workforce. The EDC team has been a knowledgeable and responsive partner, helping us navigate the complexities of these programs with ease. We truly appreciate their commitment to local businesses and economic development, and we look forward to working with them in the future.”

**ANDREW KITSON**

President, GDC, Inc.

“The Economic Development Corporation of Elkhart County has been a transformative partner for my business. Their guidance and insights into the local market have helped us refine our strategies and grow effectively. The resources and training opportunities they provide have the ability to enhance our entire organization, making us stronger and more resilient. What truly stands out is their unwavering commitment to our community—they are dedicated to fostering success while prioritizing ethics and integrity. I’m incredibly grateful for their support and the positive impact they’ve made.”

**JORDAN NEW**

CEO, Mid-City Supply Co., Inc.

“I would like to say that since we were put in contact with the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) of Elkhart County. It has been a wealth of information of what is available that we never knew was for a small business in Elkhart County. The EDC was able to assist us in getting information to apply for a state grant to help bring some production equipment improvements. We have also sent several employees to the in-person training classes they offer. The information they learned has helped in the day-to-day operations of the company. Thank you.”

**JIM DENTON**

B-D Industries, Inc..

2024  
CLASSES  
BY THE  
NUMBERS



**34**

**CLASSES  
DELIVERED**



**413**

**EMPLOYEES  
ATTENDED**



**41**

**COMPANIES  
IMPACTED**

TO DATE ...

The EDC has delivered **231 classes** and has trained **3,185 employees** which has impacted **445 companies** in Elkhart County.

# MANY THANKS TO OUR 2024 INVESTORS

AE Techron, Inc.  
Alliance RV  
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary  
Ancon Construction  
Barletta Boat Company  
Bennington Marine Group  
Boling Vision Center. LLC  
Brinkley RV  
Business Development Corporation  
Cadet Construction, LLC  
Centier Bank  
Champagne Metals  
Choice Light  
City of Elkhart  
City of Goshen  
City of Nappanee  
CommunityWide Federal Credit Union  
Culver Duck Farms, LLC  
Dave Carter & Associates  
Dec-O-Art  
DJ Construction  
D&W Inc.  
Edward Jones  
Elkhart Chamber of Commerce  
Elkhart Clinic Care Center, LLC  
Elkhart County Board of Realtors  
Elkhart County Government  
Beacon Health/Elkhart General Hospital  
Elkhart Supply Corporation  
EPIC Insurance  
ET&T Enterprises, Inc.  
Everance  
First State Bank Middlebury  
Forest River, Inc.  
Forum Architects, LLC

Gaylor Electric  
GDC, Inc.  
Genesis Products, Inc.  
Global Link Distribution Corp  
Goshen Chamber of Commerce  
Goshen Stamping Company, Inc  
Grand Design RV, LLC  
Great Lakes Forest Products, Inc  
Green Stream Company (Shah Properties LLC)  
Hampton Inn  
Hansen & Associates  
Hawkins Water Tech  
Hoogenboom-Nofziger Real Estate  
Indiana Michigan Power  
INOVA Federal Credit Union  
Insight Accounting Group  
InTech Trailers  
InterCambio Express, Inc.  
Interra Credit Union  
ITR Concession Company LLC  
Ivy Tech Community College South Bend  
JA Wagner Construction  
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

Middlebury Chamber of Commerce  
Nappanee Area Chamber of Commerce  
NIBLOCK Excavating  
NIPSCO  
NuWay Construction  
Physicians Health Plan of N Indiana  
PNC Bank  
RC Industries  
Reschcor  
Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc.  
River Park Inc.  
R Yoder Construction  
Satellite Industries  
SAVION  
Schrock Commercial  
Serim Research  
Site Works (Himco-Waste Awa)  
Smart Cabinetry  
Smoker Craft, Inc  
South Bend International Airport  
Steel Dynamics  
Surf Internet  
Tactical Energy Group  
The Northland Corporation  
Thunderbird Molding  
Tom's 24-Hour Towing  
Town of Bristol  
Town of Middlebury  
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

Your Connection for a  
**Thriving** Elkhart County



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