



**Advancing Business
for a
Stronger Community**

2010 Annual Report

Dear Business Colleagues:

During 2010 we focused our programs and services on reinforcing our new tagline – “Advancing Business for a Stronger Community”. Our members and staff worked together to leverage their individual strengths and resources in order to produce collective success for not only our regional business marketplace but the community as a whole.

Entering the year our Board of Directors provided a very clear strategic framework designed to allocate our energies and resources on the organization’s eight strategic areas:

- Existing Business Support
- New Business Growth
- Business Promotion
- Talent Development
- Public Affairs
- Community Marketing
- Visitor Attraction & Servicing
- Civic Engagement

Reviewing the pages of this Annual Report you will read of tangible work and real examples in which Greater Mankato Growth, Inc., its partners, volunteers, and staff have delivered on our strategic commitments and brought results. Our work in 2010 was focused on adding value for our members, the greater Mankato business community, and the regional center.

As we go about our work in 2011 we will be even more focused on finding ways to put in additional value, as well as communicate that value to our members and the regional marketplace. We will continue to build on our collective success and the opportunities Greater Mankato Growth, Inc. has to Advance Business for a Stronger Community.

Warm Regards,



Jonathan G. Zierdt
President & CEO
Greater Mankato Growth, Inc.

Existing Business Support

Providing and connecting our region's businesses with the information and services they need to be successful

- Provided up-to-date business information to businesses through eNews, Minnesota Valley Business and an enhanced greatermankato.com
- Conducted 29 formal existing business support visits to area companies as part of the state-wide GrowMinnesota! program
- Provided expansion and development assistance to 33 existing businesses
- Facilitated industry-specific information & dialogue opportunities.
- Worked with manufacturers, who expressed interest in getting together to discuss opportunities in the renewable energy sector, as an outgrowth of support that GMG provided to Envision 2020 and the Energy Diversification Steering Committee's activities. The Renewable Energy Supply Chain Development group was formed and continues to grow organically as more have heard about its existence and have interest in expanding their company's role in the rapidly evolving renewable energy and materials business sector. Bi-monthly meetings are being hosted by Greater Mankato companies for others to tour their facilities, discuss their existing business in the renewable energy and materials sector and discuss opportunities for developing more supply chain connections regionally. The group now includes 21 regional manufacturers and a variety of education and other public resource members.
- Collaborated with the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce to award \$125,000 in grants and \$68,000 in loans to 3 businesses through the Pohlad Grant Program.
- Held the Greater Mankato Business Awards & Hall of Fame, honoring 6 organizations and 5 outstanding professionals and 6 City Center Design Awards of Excellence.
- Helped 76 organizations mark major milestones (groundbreakings, expansions, new businesses, etc.) through visits from the Greater Mankato Ambassadors.



New Business Growth

Attracting and helping new businesses start and locate in our region, resulting in a stronger, more diverse business climate

- Provided entrepreneur support through the Greater Mankato Business Accelerator, a program of Greater Mankato Growth, the City of Mankato and Regional Economic Development Participants that connects Entrepreneurs to area resources, including:
 - Providing assistance to 98 clients in 2010
 - Helping 27 primary economy clients grow their business through the Accelerator's formal Business Building program. Greater Mankato Business Accelerator
 - Awarding a total of \$15,000 in seed funding through the Brian Fazio Business Creation Project
 - Partnering with other agencies to provide services to entrepreneurs through programs such as the Minnesota Marketplace for Entrepreneurs and LegalClinic
- Provided personalized assistance for new or potential businesses, with 32 inquiries resulting in 28 proposals or formal assistance and 5 face-to-face company visits. To date 23 of these prospects remain active and 2 are on hold but still considering Greater Mankato for expansion.
- Enhanced online resources available to site selectors and businesses in the business section of greatermankato.com.
- Coordinated the Regional Economic Development Alliance with 8 cities and 2 counties to enable Greater Mankato Growth to provide regionally coordinated economic development efforts and to promote the collective assets of the Greater Mankato region to the world. Cities: Amboy, Eagle Lake, Lake Crystal, LeSueur, Madison Lake, Mankato, Mapleton, St. Peter Counties: Blue Earth and Nicollet.
- Collaborated with the BioBusiness Alliance of Minnesota (BBAM), Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), the International Renewable Energy Technology Institute (IRETI) and Minnesota State University, Mankato to further Bio Business opportunities in the area.
- Worked with the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), AgStar, the Agriculture Utilization Research Institute (AURI) and other groups across southern Minnesota to identify strategies the region can use to differentiate itself in our evolving global economy.
- Continued to work with the Two Rives Angel Investors Network (TRAIN), a pooled network of investors utilizing local capital and talent to attract development opportunities in the area.
- Introduced new businesses to the Renewable Energy Supply Chain Development group of existing business members.
- Contributed to the South Central Small Business Development Center's mission of assisting new and existing businesses with planning and funding preparedness and participated on the SBDC Advisory Board.

Business Promotion

Providing businesses with opportunities to connect with and market to their fellow businesses and Consumers

- Organized a Tour of Manufacturing event during MN Manufacturing Week, which showcased 11 area manufacturing companies to the public (in partnership with the South Central MN Economic Collaborative, and Enterprise MN).
- Enhanced Greater Mankato's online business directory, (greatermankatodirectory.com) to include all businesses in Greater Mankato, with GMG members given the opportunity of enhancing their listing by adding keywords, descriptions, logos, contacts and hot deals.
- Continued the Buy & Build Greater Mankato program to encourage businesses when possible to purchase a majority of their products from regionally located businesses, with 100+ businesses committing to the Buy & Build program in 2010.
- Held the Greater Mankato Business Showcase to give Greater Mankato Growth members the opportunity to showcase their products and services in a large event that welcomed anyone in the Greater Mankato business community.
- Gave Greater Mankato Growth members the opportunity to gather with one another to exchange ideas and promote their businesses through monthly Business After Hours (attended by 150-285 people each month), Business Before Hours (attended by 60-80 people each month), the annual Greater Mankato on the Green Golf event, the Business Awards & Hall of Fame event, and the Greater Mankato Growth Annual Meeting.
- Provided enhanced marketing opportunities for Greater Mankato Growth members in the form of advertising, event and program sponsorships.
- Conducted visits and publicized all new Greater Mankato Growth members with help from the Greater Mankato Cavaliers, who made 62 visits in 2010.



Talent Development

Ensuring employers have access to a talented workforce and employees have opportunities to enhance their skills

- Awarded the Mankato Area Public Schools a planning grant to research best practice Career Education models that could be effective for our partnership. A taskforce of business and education representatives developed a 5 year plan to enhance the career readiness programming to reach more students in 7th-12th grades and embed 21st century skills across the secondary curriculum.
- Continued K-12 Career Readiness efforts through a partnership with Greater Mankato Growth, Mankato Area Public Schools and South Central Service Coop that funds a position and delivers the following programs:
 - Greater Mankato Career Expo (enjoyed by 1,200 high school students in 2010)
 - Business Tours to a variety of businesses
 - Business speakers and classroom volunteers
 - Career Shadowing and Internships
- Coordinated the Greater Mankato Campus & Community Fair at Minnesota State University-Mankato which had 99 business/organization exhibitors and 1,500 student attendees.
- Made internship connections with 5 area colleges and local businesses.
- Community & college alumni outreach planning occurred with MSU's Alumni Office.
- Leaders of Tomorrow partnered with MSU's Honor's program to serve 18 students.
- Received the 2010 Excellence Award from NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Association) for the collaboration of the Leaders of Tomorrow program.
- Grew the participation of the Greater Mankato Young Professionals to 85 in 2010.
- Coordinated 12 Social Events and 12 Professional Growth events for the YP's.
- Graduated the 2009-10 Greater Mankato Leadership Institute students and celebrated the program's 25th Anniversary!
- Started the 2010-11 Leadership Institute session with 25 students.
- Communicated area professional development opportunities through greatermankatevents.com and eNews and partnered with MSU-Mankato's College of Business to develop the "Big Ideas" Speaker Series.
- Finalized the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation grant to engage elders in the workplace through programs called "WOW" and "SeniorTech", and a business forum held in the fall to help employers look at some best practice ideas.
- Began a new project with iSeek and the our workforce development partners to develop online tools to connect area businesses with students and prospective new employees.
- Referred more Human Resources Directors to utilize the online Cost of Living Index as they recruit employees new to the area.

Public Affairs

Providing information about public policy issues and interactions with public policy leaders in areas impacting business

- Hosted 2 Issues Forums in 2010 (unemployment insurance and higher education funding).
- Surveyed city, county, state and federal candidates and posted their responses online prior to elections; with the Public Affairs section of our website receiving 1,603 unique visits during the elections.
- Promoted and moderated 14 candidate information forums with 335 people attending.
- Communicated with the business community to inform them of the work of local advocacy groups, including Southern Minnesota Advocates and City Center Partnership advocacy efforts.
- Provided opportunities for face-to face meetings and dialogue between business and policy leaders. (e.g., Governor Pawlenty attended Business Before Hours)
- Partnered with area legislative representatives on a small business survey.
- Coordinated the first Greater Mankato Day at the Capitol with approximately 30 legislators and 150 community members attending.



Community Marketing

Positioning Greater Mankato as the ideal location for businesses to locate and people to live

- Enhanced and promoted the comprehensive community-wide events calendar, gretermankato-events.com, a collaboration of Greater Mankato Growth, Greater Mankato Convention & Visitor Bureau, Twin Rivers Center for the Arts, and Voyageur Web.
- Provided resident and relocation information on our community portal website greatermankato.com/community.
- Refreshed the online Cost of Living Index tool on our website to let potential residents know about the benefits of living in Greater Mankato.
- Created community branding materials, with the theme “Greater Mankato– Greater Opportunities” - which included a trade show display, a wall display at the Greater Mankato offices and implemented proactive marketing in 2010.
- Partnered with the Greater Mankato Convention & Visitors Bureau to create a new Greater Mankato Visitor and Community Information Center in the River Hills Mall to let visitors and residents know about the assets of Greater Mankato (opened March, 2010).
- Trained over 30 volunteers to serve as “Community Concierges” in the Visitor & Community Information Center.
- Assisted the Mankato Area Healthy Youth with the application for the America’s Promise Award for the 100 Best Communities for Young People which we received for the 4th year in a row.

Civic Engagement

Engaging businesses in community visioning activities and working with other community groups to ensure progress is monitored and information shared

envision|2020

- Worked with the Envision 2020 implementation team to:
 - Maintain the E2020 website
 - Plan a 2010 E2020 Annual meeting, with 130 attendees
 - Create monthly E2020 Progress Reports appearing in Mankato Magazine
 - Assist with numerous E2020 Initiatives



- Helped coordinate and support the City Center Partnership's efforts to:
 - Hire a part-time coordinator
 - Launch 3 city center beautification projects: City Center Design Award of Excellence program, Adopt a Planter program, and the City Art Walking Sculpture Tour (installation May 2011)
 - Take a leadership role in mobilizing support for the Performing Arts Center
 - Implement cooperative marketing and promotion strategies to increase trade and traffic in the City Center
 - Continue to implement and refresh the 5 year strategic plan



Visitor Attraction & Servicing

Promoting and delivering services that make Greater Mankato a place people and businesses want to visit or have an event



The Greater Mankato Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) is an LLC of Greater Mankato Growth, Inc. solely focused on marketing the region to drive visitors to the community through tournaments, conventions and tourism.

- Produced a total of \$6,459,675 in economic impact for Greater Mankato in 2010 representing a 10% increase from 2009 numbers.
- Confirmed (sold) 25 conventions in 2010 for conferences that were held in 2010 or in future years, up from 18 in 2009.
- Assisted with 27 conventions held in Mankato in 2010 bringing in an estimated 8,591 hotel rooms booked compared to 17 events with 5,148 rooms booked in 2009.
- Assisted with 35 tournaments with 8,140 booked hotel rooms representing \$3.7 million in economic impact.
- Leisure inquiries from magazines and general call-ins were down 17%. However, website visits increased 127%.
- Hosted the inaugural Mankato Marathon in partnership with Final Stretch, a race management company out of Nerstrand, MN. The event was a tremendous success with approximately 2,200 runners total running in either the KidsK, 10K, half marathon, full marathon or relay. It is estimated approximately 5,000-6,000 spectators watched the race with over 550 volunteers assisting.
- Formed an Events Commission consisting of community leaders interested in bringing large community events, tournaments and competitions to the community and working to remove barriers to growth in this area. They implemented Idea Search which is an initiative to get input from community members on possible events to bring to Greater Mankato.
- Partnered with Greater Mankato Growth to create a new Greater Mankato Visitor and Community Information Center in the River Hills Mall to let visitors and residents know about the assets of Greater Mankato (opened March, 2010.)
- Continued partnership with other local organizations to maintain and continue improvements on greatermankatoevents.com – a community-wide events calendar that lets visitors know what's happening in Greater Mankato.
- Engaged Vikings fans at Vikings Training Camp (brought in over 60,000 attendees) through Jared's Journey, a scavenger hunt that encouraged fans to visit attractions throughout Mankato.
- Hosted the first annual Greater Mankato Tourism Celebration in honor of National Travel & Tourism Week.

Financial Performance

Greater Mankato Growth, Inc.

	2008	2009	2010
Assets	1,424,559	1,613,700	1,463,340
Liabilities	244,479	449,008	330,198
Year End Members	764	724	792
New Members	91	86	126
Dropped Members	68	126	70
Member Renewal Rate	91%	86%	89%

Greater Mankato Convention & Visitors Bureau LLC (LLC of Greater Mankato Growth)

	2008	2009	2010*
Assets	\$ 265, 584	288,416	346,385
Liabilities	\$ 26,152	24,349	33,543

*Pre-audited



Boards of Directors

2010 Greater Mankato Growth Board, Inc. Board of Directors

Greg Kutcher, M.D., Mayo Health System (Chair)
Jim Santori, The Free Press (Vice Chair)
Jennifer Pfeffer, Pathstone Living (Secretary/Treasurer)
Trudie Gustafson, Taylor Corporation (Past Chair)
Rob Else, El Microcircuits (At-Large, Exec. Committee)
Chad Surprenant, I&S Group (At-Large, Exec. Committee)
Jim Beal, REDAlliance
Doug Belmore, Consultant
Travis Brovold, McGladrey
Ian Carlstrom, Robert W. Carlstrom
Julia Ketcham Corbett, Blethen, Gage & Krause, PLLP
Dr. Richard Davenport, Minnesota State University, Mankato
Brian Duehring, Culver's Frozen Custard
Pat Hentges, City of Mankato
John Howard, REDAlliance
Michael Klehr, Minnesota Elevator Inc.
Todd Loosbrock, U.S. Bank
Jim Marzolf, LarsonAllen
Joe Meidl, Music Mart
Shirley Piepho, Greater Mankato Convention & Visitors Bureau
Jon Rippke, Bolton & Menk, Inc.
Keith Stover, South Central College
Tim Tupy, LIV Aveda Salon & Spa
Andrew Willaert, City Center Partnership

2010 Greater Mankato Convention & Visitors Bureau LLC Board of Directors

Shirley Piepho, Minnesota State University, Mankato (Chair)
Paula Marti, Morgan Creek Vineyards (Vice Chair)
Duane Olenius, Pioneer Bank (Treasurer)
Lisa Cumiskey, Super 8 (Secretary)
Tanya Ange, City of Mankato
JO Bailey, Radio Mankato
Gerry Burke, Holiday Inn Express
Paul Gasper, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.
Preston Loughheed, AmericInn Hotel & Conference Center
Burt Lyman, Verizon Wireless Center
Jim Santori, The Free Press
Colleen VanBlarcom, McDonald's

Greater Mankato Growth Cavaliers

The Cavaliers are a committee of Greater Mankato Growth that brings value to membership by providing activities that encourage member involvement, member networking and retention. Throughout the year teams of Cavaliers make visits to new members of Greater Mankato Growth to welcome them and learn more about the business or organization.

Amber Pietan	AAA-MN-Iowa
Mike Oliver	Farmers Insurance Group
Christa Haala	Drummer Companies
Rhonda Drysdale	Independent CAbi Fashion Consultant
Linda Osborne	Country Inn & Suites
Liz Brown	Subway Restaurants
Nathan Crane	University of Minnesota Extension
Connie Hanek	Paragon Printing & Mailing
Karen Tetzloff	Independent Paint & Flooring
Honey Burg	US Bank
Mary Weller	Coldwell Banker Welcome Home
Russell Blaschko	First National Bank Minnesota
John Daley	Valuation Specialists
Megan Lange	Aflac
Kate Loging	Eide Bailly
Sandra Oachs	Hilton Garden Inn, Mankato Downtown
Jim Buckley	Jim Buckley Insurance
Judy Ringler Mountain	New York Life Insurance
Denny Schuetz	Kitchenmaster
Duane Olenius	Pioneer Bank
Monica Schugel	Back to Wellness Clinic
Brooke Amundson	Primrose Retirement Community
Sandy Buckley	Sandra Buckley, CPA
Nate Brekke	SRP Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration
Mike Kennedy	Community Bank & Insurance
Dan Baker	Mankato Golf Club
Nancy Bellig	Frandsen Bank & Trust
Jennifer Faust	Snell Motors
Kathy Sanger	Rasmussen College
Rick Chandler	R-U Wireless/Think! Toner & Ink
Heather Ribbe	Famous Dave's BBQ
Judy Mettler	JM Promotions
Joy Kelley	ECS-Electrical Communication Specialists
Nicole Schroeder	Paulsen Architects
Tom Warrant	Tire Associates
Amber Power	North Point Senior Living Communities
Denny Wahlstrom	KEYC
Rick Harbarth	Agstar Financial Financial Services
Erin Kuiper	South Central College

Greater Mankato Growth Ambassadors

The mission of the Ambassadors is to promote the community by welcoming new businesses and celebrating milestones of existing businesses, including expansions and major leadership changes.

Anna Thill, Greater Mankato CVB
Billy Steiner, Radio Mankato
Fred Lutz, Retired
Jerry Kopel, Voyager Bank
John Ginther, KEYC CBS 12/Fox Mankato
Jon Teeslink, Snell Motors
Karen Wagner, Job Service/Workforce Center
Karla Haley Malone, Coldwell Banker Welcome Home Realty
Kevin Mock, Pawn America
Laurie Folsom, Charter Business
Mark Piepho, Piepho Moving & Storage
Sal Frederick, Happy Chef Systems
Shawn Soucek, North Point Assisted Living
Tom Frederick Jr., Pub 500
Amy Ites, Rasmussen College
Art Westphal, Bethany Lutheran College
Bernie Bastian, Angie's Kettle Corn
Brad Reeves, MAS Communications
Christi Wilking, Greater Mankato Area United Way
Douglas Johnson, Pratt, Kutzke & Associates, LLP
Eric Oleson, R.L. Engebretson
Ginny Bergerson, Waseca County News & St. Peter Herald
JO Guck Bailey, Sign Pro/Radio Mankato
Kathy Depuydt, Bridge Realty
Keith Balster, Wells Federal Bank
Rosa Ackerman, Milbrett, Dauk & Co., Ltd.
Shawn Andrews D.C., Andrews Family Chiropractic
Stephanie Stack, AmericInn Hotel & Conference Center
Tami Reuter, South Central College Foundation
William Simonette, Diversified Financial Services
Ann Anderson, South Central College
Tiffany Tillman, Abdo Eick & Meyers, LLP
Brian Leonhardi, El Microcircuits
Bruce Gratz, First National Bank Minnesota
David Sunderman, BENCO
Dean Bowyer, Sports Institute
George Sugden, Retired
Gordan Gibbs, Retired
Judy Arzdorf, Harry Meyering Center
Karen Wright, KMSU 89.7 FM
Karry Meyer, Country Inn & Suites
Leah Pockrandt, Minnesota State University, Mankato - College of Business
Lloyd Miller, Prudential Action Realty

Marsha Danielson, South Central College
Mary Landkamer, MinnStar Bank, NA
Pam Weller-Dengel, MSU-Career Dev. Center
Ryan Spaude, Kitchenmaster
Susan Weinberger, Northern EnergyHomes
Tom Warrant, Tire Associates
Athena Ediger, Sam's Club

Public Affairs Steering Committee

Kevin Burns, Mayo Health System
Yvonne Cariveau, Voyaguer Web
Tom Koch, Ridley, Inc.
Joe Meidl, Music Mart
Bob Richter, Willard & Williams
Geoff Roise, Lindsey Windows
Dan Sarff, Bolton & Menk, Inc.
Ryan Spaude, Kitchenmaster Financial Services
Kay Wallerich, Farrish Johnson Law Office

Marathon Core Committee Volunteers

April Graff, Hy-Vee
Beth Fowler, Sport Pix
Brian Fowler, Sport Pix
Chris Dehning, United Prairie Bank
Chris Schull, Ridley Inc.
Dan Nessler, Promotions Powerhouse
DeeDra Vosburg, Hickory Tech
Doug Flitter, Sports Institute
Frank Jackman, Sports Institute
Ginny Bergerson, Free Press
Jeff Lang, Radio Mankato
Jen Blue, Minnesota State University, Mankato
JO Bailey, Radio Mankato
Joy Leafblad, Mankato Area YMCA
Kelsey Mead, United Prairie Bank
Kevin Burns, Mayo Health System
Matt Westermayer, Mankato Public Safety
Shane Bowyer, Sports Institute
Tanya Ange, City of Mankato

CVB Events Commission Volunteers

April Austin, Passion Tournaments
Paula Gaspar, Pioneer Hi-Bred International
Joan Eisenreich, Mankato Community Education & Recreation
Karl Fager, Bethany Lutheran College
Molly Madden, Mankato Community Education & Recreation
Paul Ostoff, All Seasons Arena
Ruthann Kragh, Passion Tournaments
Steve Leth, Country Inn & Suites
Troy Jutting, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Talent Development Initiatives

K-12 Career & Technical Education Program Volunteers

Tara Buboltz, Mayo Health System
Heather Gleason, South Central Youth Council
Matt Carlson, MSU-Mankato
Gwenn Wolters, Rasmussen College
Patti Sjulstad, Taylor Corporation
Eric Lennartson, Paulsen Architects
Megan Roberts, Crystal Valley Coop
Lisa Buckner, USDA
Danielle Stedman, Mid States Mechanical Services
Amanda Quist, DEED

Amy Ites, Rasmussen College
Heather Teigum, Pioneer Bank
Vickie Bushman, Pioneer Bank
Mandy Hansen, Mayo Health System
Gina Rigdon, Mayo Health System
Jennifer Potocnik, Perkin's
Josh Daluge, Geek Squad-Best Buy
Teresa Burgess, Bolton & Menk, Inc.
Jen Epper, Buffalo Wild Wings
Darla Austin, Austin's Auto

Career Readiness Taskforce

Ian Carlstrom, Robert W. Carlstrom
Christine Phelps, Corporate Graphics
Joe Meidl, Music Mart
Diana Stoll, MTU Onsite Energy
Glenn Morris, South Central Service Cooperative
Dennis Davito, Mankato Clinic
Nancy Genelin, South Central College
Kate Hansen, Minnesota State University, Mankato
Amy Lunemann, Thro Company
Jennifer Pfeffer, Pathstone Living

Greater Mankato Young Professionals Leadership Council & Committees

Jennifer Faust, Snell Motors
Ian Carlstrom, Robert W. Carlstrom Co., Inc.
Amber Power, MSU Foundation
AJ Menden, Area 9 Special Olympics
Brad Boettcher, LarsonAllen LLP
Bronson Power, LarsonAllen LLP
Christi Wilking, Greater Mankato Area United Way
Darren Krein, United Prairie Bank
Mary Kaus, Quartz Surfaces Cambria
Nathan Hanel, Capstone Publishing
Paul Lawton, Paulsen Architects
Andrea Larson, US Bank
Rosa Ackerson, Milbret Dauk & Co.
Lee Noland, State Farm Insurance

Greater Mankato Leadership Institute Committees

Brian Jones, Minnesota State University, Mankato
Kristel Lynch, Minnesota State University, Mankato
Jennifer Faust, Snell Motors
Thomas Flunker, Bethany Lutheran College
Kay Wallerich, Farrish Johnson Law Office
Jan Klien, US Bank
Anne Wolff, Snell
Jim Panko, Paulsen Architects
Sandra Oachs, Hilton Garden Inn
Tami Reuter, South Central College Foundation
Glenn Morris, South Central Service Cooperative

Leaders of Tomorrow Committee

Ryan Yunkers, Minnesota State University, Mankato—CSU
Chris Corley, Minnesota State University, Mankato—Honors Program

Greater Mankato Business Accelerator Volunteers

Greater Mankato Business Accelerator Council

Dave Schlichte, Creative Company
Doug Belmore, Manufacturing Expert
Eric Else, El Microcircuits
Steven Friese, United Prairie Bank
Jason Johnson, Gopher Sports
Casey McCabe, City of Mankato
Dennis Miller, Independent Entrepreneur
Scott Olson, Minnesota State University, Mankato
Tim Tupy, LIV Aveda Salon & Spa
Andrew Willaert, Gislason & Hunter LLP
Joe Willaert, Eide Bailly
David Wittenberg, United Prairie Bank

Brian Fazio Business Creation Project Committee

Greg Bednar, South Central College
Scott Danger, Abdo, Eick & Meyers, LLP
Todd Loosbrock, U.S. Bank
Scott Johnson, Minnesota State University, Mankato
Jonathan Zierdt, Greater Mankato Growth
William Bassett, former Mankato City Manager
Mike Nolan, South Central MN Small Business Development Center

Legal Clinic

Attorneys from the following firms:

Blethen, Gage & Krause, PLLP
Susan Chambers
Gislason & Hunter LLP
Maschka, Riedy & Ries
Farrish Johnson Law Office
Kakelday & Koberoski, PA

Accountants from:

Eide Bailly

City Center Partnership Council

Andy Willaert, Gislason & Hunter (Chair)
Stacey Straka, Red Door Creative (Vice Chair)
Cathy Brennan, Brennan Companies (Secretary/Treasurer)
Kent Schwickert, Schwickert's, Inc.
David Schooff, Coldwell Banker Commercial Fisher Group
Jerry Crest, Immanuel St. Joseph's – Mayo Health System
Kaaren Keohane, Events & Expos
Mark Cipos, I&S Group
Mark Levitt, Christy's Café
DeeDra Vosburg, Hickory Tech
Mike Fisher, City of North Mankato
Shannon Robinson, Twin Rivers Center for the Arts
Steve Olson, MinnStar Bank
Tami Paulsen, Paulsen Architects
Tanya Ange, City of Mankato
Todd Loosbrock, U.S. Bank
Tom Frederick, Jr., Pub 500
Tony Frentz, Frentz Construction
Anna Thill, Greater Mankato Convention & Visitors Bureau
Jonathan Zierdt, Greater Mankato Growth

City Center Partnership Committee Volunteers:

Jessica Potter, Blue Earth County Historical Society	Lisa Kinowski
Shannon Robinson, Twin River Center for the Arts	Pat Person, Mankato Ind. Originals
Bruce Chalupsky, Paulsen Architects	Theresa Carlberg, Presence Maker
Chris Roe, Blethen Gage & Krause	Gina Conlon, Ridley, Inc.
Jill Baker, Blethen, Gage & Krause	Peggy Grey, Mary Lou's Yarn & Ewe
Karry Meyer, Country Inn & Suites	Betty Ouren, MinnStar Bank
Malda Farnham, Citizen	Jed Hanson, Ink Spot
Peg Ganey, Century 21 Atwood Reality	Jerry Pietz, Kato Moving
Tim Auringer, RL Engelbretson	Brittany Mitchel, RL Engelbretson
Bayard Black, Mankato Place	Bryan Paulsen, Paulsen Architects
Brady Schmidt, Coulter, Schmidt & Klein	Casey McCabe, City of Mankato
Dan Robinson, Lidstrom Commercial Realtors	
David Thompson, MinnStar Bank	
David Naples, Leonard Street & Dienard	
Jay Weir, James R. Weir Insurance Agency	
John Considine, Region 9 Development Commission	
Julie Nelson, Small Business Development Center	
Jo Bailey, Radio Mankato	

Envision 2020 Resource Campaign Investors

\$52,500 (\$17,500 annually)

Mayo Health System

\$30,000 (\$10,000 annually)

Cities of Mankato & North Mankato
I & S Group
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Rasmussen College

\$15,000 (\$5,000 annually)

Davisco Foods International
EI Microcircuits
Eide Bailly LLP
Kato Engineering
Mankato Clinic
MinnStar Bank N.A.
The Orthopedic & Fracture Clinic, PA
Paulsen Architects
South Central College
Taylor Corporation
The Thro Companies
U.S. Bank
Wells Concrete: Pre Stress Division

\$7,500 (\$2,500 annually)

Bethany Lutheran College
Blue Earth County
Bolton & Menk, Inc.
Century 21, Atwood Realty Inc.
Charter Communications
Dotson Company
First National Bank Minnesota
The Free Press
HickoryTech
Johnson Outdoors, Inc.
Leonard Street & Deinard
Robert W. Carlstrom Co. Inc.
Schwickert's
Snell Motors
Valley Bank

\$3,000 (\$1,000 annually)

Abdo, Eick & Meyers, LLP
Alliance Pipeline
Blethen, Gage & Krause, PLLP
Community Bank
Corporate Graphics Commercial
Crystal Valley Cooperative
Dan & Kay Wallerich
Exclusively Diamonds
Farrish Johnson Law Office, CHTD
Frentz Construction
Gislason & Hunter LLP
Gustavus Adolphus College
KEYC CBS & FOX Mankato
LarsonAllen LLP
Lime Valley Advertising, Inc.
Nicollet County
Pathstone Living
Pioneer Bank
Ridley, Inc.
Scheels All Sports
Southern Minnesota Construction
The Occasions Group
Tire Associates
Volk Transfer, Inc.
Voyager Bank
James R. Weir Insurance Agency Inc.
Wells Concrete: Ready-Mix Division
Wells Fargo
Winland Electronics

\$1,500 (\$500 annually)

BENCO Electric Cooperative
CenterPoint Energy
Certified Professional Coach, Diana Gabriel
Coldwell Banker Commercial Fisher Group
Culver's Frozen Custard
Jonathan & Ginger Zierdt
Jones Metal Products
Kakeldey & Associates
MRCI
Minnesota Valley Federal Credit Union
Pepsi-Cola of Mankato Inc.
Radio Mankato
River Hills Mall (General Growth Properties)
United Prairie Bank
Wells Federal



MISSION STATEMENT

Greater Mankato Growth, Inc. exists to support and promote the economic growth and vitality of our members and the regional marketplace.

CORE VALUES

The needs of the members are best met by growing the regional marketplace. We accomplish this by being:

Catalysts - *initiating action for economic growth beneficial to our members and congruent with our regional desire and culture.*

Stewards - *using our resources efficiently and effectively and wisely leveraging our strengths.*

Collaborative & Inclusive - *cultivating and sustaining relationships, while encouraging the mobilization of our marketplace assets to enhance growth.*

Approachable - *being visible and accessible and creating a friendly, vibrant and respectful environment.*

Innovative - *embracing change and promoting progressive solutions.*

Ethical - *communicating openly and honestly and taking responsibility for our actions in all our business practices.*

