

TOP 11 REASONS TO CONNECT WITH THE GREATER AKRON CHAMBER

- 1 A shared commitment to the region's economic vitality and quality of life for employees and their families.
- 2 Promotes economic development activities for the tri-county Greater Akron Region.
- 3 Strengthens the community by providing a representative voice for the business community on air service and transportation infrastructure, healthcare, education and workforce development Issues.
- 4 High profile networking and exposure opportunities at the region's best business events.
- 5 Business development programs/activities for entrepreneurs.
- 6 Cost savings through member-to-member discounts and exclusive member rates.
- 7 Access to more than 30 products including customized lists, relocation information, economic data and business directories from our Research Department.
- 8 Leadership training through programs, committees and partnerships of the Greater Akron Chamber.
- 9 Business referrals from the Greater Akron Chamber Membership Directory and Website, www.greaterakronchamber.org.
- 10 Exclusive marketing and sponsorship opportunities through 25 programs.
- 11 Increase awareness among young professionals of the advantages of living and working in the Greater Akron Region.



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The mission of the Greater Akron Chamber is to promote economic development to benefit the people of the Greater Akron Region.



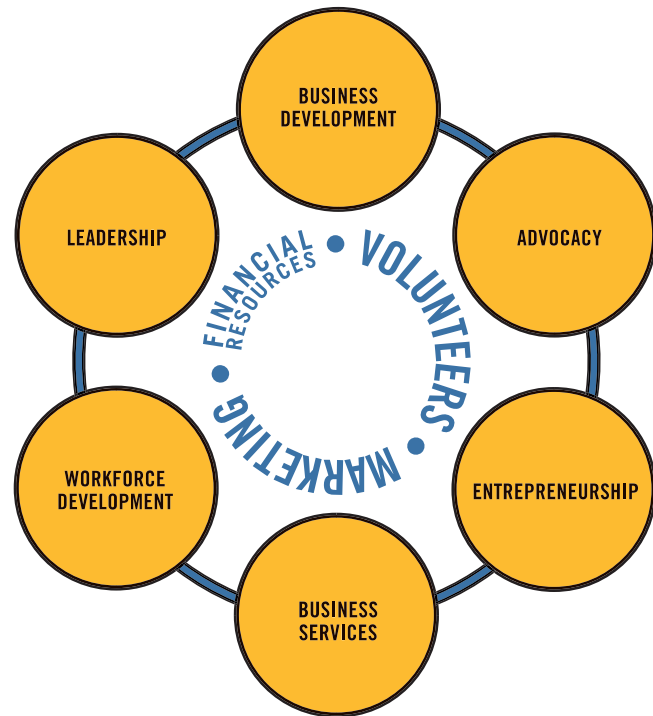
PROGRESS REPORT 2005





Advance Greater Akron represents the Greater Akron Chamber's game plan for meeting economic challenges head-on and for seizing economic opportunities. The game plan calls for implementing targeted initiatives that are part of the Chamber's Strategic Plan. This plan, crafted in 2002, represents a practical, well-conceived, and all encompassing application of the Chamber's mission, which is to promote economic development to benefit the people of the Greater Akron Region. We are extremely pleased to report our progress for the year 2005.

Our Six Core Strategies for Succeeding in Economic Development



COLLABORATING TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN COMPANIES – OUR PROGRESS TO DATE

- Partnered with Team NEO to implement an aggressive marketing strategy to retain 6 core industry sectors.
- Assisted 21 companies with their investments in the Greater Akron Region totaling \$60 million, creating 630 new jobs, and retaining 700 jobs. Collaborated with economic development allies to attract Homesite Insurance from Boston, Massachusetts to the Akron Region; to support Yellow Roadway Corporation's newly established subsidiary, YRC Regional Transportation; and to assist Applied Vision, Inc.'s expansion efforts.
- Participated in site dedications and officially recognized the following companies for their local investment: Wacker Silicones, ACRT Inc., Doyle Systems, item MB Kit Systems, Noble Industrial Metals, Preferred Rubber, Cornerstone Products, and Corporate Express.
- Showcased the Greater Akron Region at 9 trade shows—Society of Automotive Engineering World Congress in Detroit, Michigan; K Fair Messe and Hannover Messe in Germany; Corporate Real Estate Executives (CORENET) in Toronto and Las Vegas; FabTech International in Chicago; American Chemical Society Rubber Show in Pittsburgh, the Ohio Fuel Cell Symposium and the Great Lakes Industrial Show in Cleveland. This participation resulted in 175 investment leads for the region.
- Hosted the first "Discover Northeast Ohio" area familiarization tour in conjunction with the NEC World Golf Championships to promote Greater Akron to site selectors.
- Coordinated the visits of 8 foreign business delegations (Japanese, 2 German, Swiss, Russian, Indian, Chinese, and Turkish) to help them establish business investment opportunities.

Greater Akron Chamber 2005/2006 Officers

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FirstEnergy Corp.

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KeyBank National Association

Vice Chairman, Marketing
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Greater Akron Chamber

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Portage County, Ohio

Frederick J. Krum
Akron-Canton Airport

James McCarthy
Summit County, Ohio

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Cascade Capital Corporation

Lois Margaret Nora
NEOUCOM

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City of Akron

Luis M. Proenza
The University of Akron

Sharon A. Ray
Medina County, Ohio

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Young Professionals of Akron

Margaret D. Lazzarini
ArtCetera

Kurt A. Minson
TorchBearers

Michele Tomer
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Jay Griffith
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Advanced Elastomer Systems

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President & CEO
Smithers Scientific Services, Inc.

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President
Jentner Financial Group

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GOJO Industries Inc.

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ASW Services

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Dominion

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Roetzel & Andress

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Vice President, Manager,
Commercial Banking
Fifth Third Bank Northeastern Ohio

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Brouse & McDowell, LPA

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Barberton Citizens Hospital

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The Ruhlin Company

James D. Staley
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YRC Regional Transportation

Glen Stephens
Owner & CEO
G.Stephens, Inc.

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President & CEO
Summa Health System

Donzell Taylor
President & CEO
Welty Building Company, Ltd.

Theodore F. Walter
Market President
Summit, Portage & Medina
JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.

Karl Warnke
President & COO
Davey Tree Expert Company

Margaret Williams
Director of External Affairs
SBC

Chairman’s Council

\$50,000(+) Investment Per Year

City of Akron
FirstEnergy Corporation
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
Summit County

President’s Circle

\$25,000(+) Investment Per Year

Acme Fresh Markets
Akron Beacon Journal
Akron General Medical Center
Albrecht Incorporated
Dominion
FirstMerit Bank NA
National City Bank
SBC
Summa Health System

Cornerstone Partners

\$10,000(+) Investment Per Year

Aircraft Braking Systems Corp.
Akron Children’s Hospital
JP Morgan Chase Bank, NA
Brouse McDowell
Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, LLP
GOJO Industries Inc.
KeyBank NA
Portage County
A. Schulman, Inc.
Sky Bank

Champion Supporters

\$5,000(+) Investment Per Year

Advanced Elastomer Systems, L.P.
Akron Aeros
ASW Services Companies
Barberton Citizens Hospital
Bridgestone/Firestone Incorporated
Ernst & Young
Jo-Ann Stores
Kent State University
Lockheed Martin Maritime Systems & Sensors
OMNOVA Solutions Inc.
Roadway Group of Yellow Roadway Corporation
Rubbermaid Home Products
Sheraton Suites Akron/Cuyahoga Falls
The Schipper Group
The University of Akron
US Bank

Vision Builders

\$2,500(+) Investment Per Year

AESCO Electronics Inc.
AirTran Airways
Akron Area Board of REALTORS
Akron-Canton Airport
Akron Community Foundation
ALLTEL Communications
Associated Materials Inc.
Bober, Markey, Fedorovich & Co.
Brennan Industrial Group, Inc.
Brennan, Manna & Diamond, LLC
Brockman, Coats, Gedelian & Co.
Brott Mardis & Co.
CAM Incorporated
CB Richard Ellis Inc.
CBIZ Mayer Hoffman McCann
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.
Charter One Bank FSB
Coca-Cola Bottling Company
Cohen & Company
Coldwell Banker/Hunter Realty
Corporate Express

Cutler/GMAC Real Estate
Dave Towell Cadillac-Saab
The Davey Tree Expert Company
FedEx Custom Critical Inc.
Fifth Third Bank
Floyd Browne Group
Geopfert Co. Inc.
Hattie Larlham
Hilton Akron/Fairlawn
Hitchcock Fleming & Associates
Hottle & Associates Inc.
House of LaRose
InfoCision Management Corporation
Jentner Financial Group
Louis Perry & Associates, Inc.
MAC Management
Meaden & Moore, Ltd.
Mogen Real Estate Co.
Moore Stephens Apple
NAI Cummins Real Estate
North Akron Savings Bank
Pepsi Cola
PolyOne Corporation
QualChoice Health Plan Inc.
The Reserve Group
Roetzel & Andress
The Ruhlin Company
Schneller, Inc.
Seal Master Corporation
SS&G Financial Services
Stark & Knoll Co., LPA
State and Federal Communications, Inc.
Struktol Company of America
Terminal Warehouse Inc.
Time Warner Cable
Toth Buick-Pontiac-GMC Truck Inc.
Visiting Nurse Service & Affiliates
Wal-Mart #191
Welty Building Company Ltd.
White Hat Management
Wojno Development

Contributors & Foundations

Akron Education Fund
ALCO-CHEM Incorporated
Alcon Tool Co.
Annaco Incorporated
ASC Industries Incorporated
Babcox Publications Inc.
Bennett Construction Management Inc.
BFG Federal Credit Union
Braun & Steidl Architects Incorporated
Country Pure Foods, Inc.
The Dominion Foundation
The Fedeli Group
FirstEnergy Foundation
Flexsys America LP
GAR Foundation
Herman Machine Incorporated
Hitachi Medical Systems America, Inc.
Holland Oil Company
Home Builders Association
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
Levey & Company
The Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation
Merrill Lynch
Midcap & Company
National Electrical Contractors Association/N.C.O.
Nelson Development Ltd.
Ohio Savings/AMTrust Bank
OMNOVA Solutions Foundation
ROTOCAST Technologies Incorporated
Superior Staffing Inc.
WhiteSpace Creative

ENTREPRENEURSHIP – OUR PROGRESS TO DATE

- Partnered with NorTech and the Ohio Polymer Strategy Council in the successful bid to establish the Center for Multifunctional Polymer Nanomaterials and Devices.
- Partnered with OH!Polymer Inc. to deliver cost reduction and operations efficiency seminars for Akron area polymer and metalworking companies.
- Provided office space and support to NEO411.biz, an organization that serves as a one-source portal of network providers for Northeast Ohio entrepreneurs. The NEO411.biz staff connected 50 people to important business resources.
- Collaborated with JumpStart Inc. to provide counseling for high growth companies and to provide pre-seed and seed capital.
- Co-sponsored an event with COSE to promote the Northeast Ohio Business Plan Challenge, offering participants assistance with building upgraded business plans.
- Closed 2 loans for entrepreneurial companies that will result in technology applications and expansions globally and the creation/retention of 70 jobs through the Akron Development Fund.
- Co-sponsored a seminar on Innovation with CAMP (Community of Smaller Manufacturers).
- Became part of the leadership team for The University of Akron Research Foundation’s Arch Angel Network to promote investments in technology-based enterprises in Northeast Ohio.
- Developed an Akron Succession Planning program with Kent State University’s Ohio Employee Ownership Center.

MARKETING THE REGION – OUR PROGRESS TO DATE

- Created a new membership communications campaign, “*Connect with the Chamber,*” to grow membership.
- Led the charge to develop a stronger identity for Greater Akron and selected Hitchcock Fleming & Associates Inc. (hfa) as its marketing communications agency of record.

ATTRACTING AND RETAINING TALENT – OUR PROGRESS TO DATE

- Continued the community/leadership dialogue with Rebecca Ryan, Next Generation Consulting, Inc., to create actions that will help slow the emigration of knowledge workers.
 - The Chamber, along with the 4 major young professional (YP) organizations, held an event that attracted 600 people. The event gave members of the YP groups, business leaders, and the community-at-large a forum to celebrate the unique qualities of Akron through the eyes of the next generation. (For copies of Ryan’s reports on Greater Akron, go to <http://realneo.us/node/1154>.)
 - Rebecca Ryan presented her 18 final recommendations on how the region can attract and retain young talent. The Chamber has taken the lead on 3 of her recommendations: (1) staff a full-time executive director to serve Greater Akron’s young professionals’ groups; (2) develop a multimedia tool kit that Greater Akron’s employers can customize for their talent attraction efforts; and (3) convene employer roundtables in the industries in which the talent needs are the greatest.
- Helped kick off College 360° Brain Drain initiative—targeted at college graduates—to enroll, engage, and employ more college students in the region. The Chamber continues to encourage business leaders to create more internships.
- Published a Greater Akron Relocation Guide, “*Alive With Opportunities*” as an employee recruitment tool.
- Partnered with the Summit Educational Initiative to launch the Goodyear Leadership Network for Education with 17 charter members to develop experiential learning networks (assistantships, shadowing, etc.). The charter members included public schools, private and parochial schools, universities, and non-profit organizations with a focus on education in Summit County.

THE VOICE OF BUSINESS – OUR PROGRESS TO DATE

- Led efforts in the state legislature to exempt jigs, dies, patterns, and drawings from tangible personal property tax in the Governor’s Tax Reform proposal, saving manufacturers in Northeast Ohio tens of thousands of dollars in taxes.
- Worked successfully with the City of Akron, Akron Public Schools, The University of Akron, and the National Inventors Hall of Fame to fund and develop a math, science, and technology community learning center.
- Helped the Summit County Workforce Investment Board create its new One-Stop Employment Center called “The Job Center.”
- Supported the BizMat project for the Greater Akron Region allowing BizMat’s Recycling Center to assist small businesses with hazardous waste disposal.
- Contacted state legislators in support of the Institute for Global Studies, as well as the Telecom legislation.
- Supported the National Transportation Reauthorization Act with our senators to increase federal support for highway infrastructure.
- Hosted congressional luncheons with Congressmen Ralph Regula, Steve LaTourette, and Ted Strickland, bringing our congressional representatives face-to-face with Chamber members.
- Provided informative programs on the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Project and the “How-to’s of Brownfield Redevelopment.”
- Helped secure non-stop air service from Akron-Canton Airport to Denver through Frontier Airlines and to Las Vegas through AirTran Airlines.
- Advocated on behalf of the college community to establish a Doctor of Pharmacy degree program at Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine (NEOUCOM).
- Supported the passage of Issue 1 Jobs for Ohio by spearheading a letter-writing campaign and hosting Lt. Governor Bruce Johnson to discuss the issue’s importance.
- Initiated a relationship with Ohio Treasurer Jeanette Bradley by having her visit the Chamber.

- Implemented CapWiz, which is a grassroots advocacy online tool to provide a resource for members to communicate their views to area lawmakers.
- Lobbied the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) for the creation of an Akron high school basketball tournament for NCAA recruitment.
- Supported the passage of the Summit County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD) levy.
- Endorsed the Akron Public Schools’ 5.9 mil operation levy request.
- Continued advocating on behalf of the Seasons Road interchange on State Route 8.
- Hosted Local Officials Recognition Luncheon and recognized three local legislators.
- Lobbied on behalf of Summit Health Ventures and BioEnterprise for Third Frontier funding.

KEEPING THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY INFORMED – OUR PROGRESS TO DATE

- Attracted 630 business leaders (a 20% increase over 2004) to the Chamber’s Annual Meeting, which featured Rebecca Ryan speaking about her year-long work in the Greater Akron Region.
- Published 12 key demographic and economic reports including a polymer directory, economic indicators, and population trends used by companies making critical decisions on locating, expanding, or creating a business in the Greater Akron Region.
- Provided economic and demographic community information to 700 people interested in the Greater Akron Region.
- Kept members informed of activities through six *Directions* newsletters and through the Chamber’s web site, www.greaterakronchamber.org, which received over 165,000 visits.
- The media relied on the Greater Akron Chamber for its expertise in business development, advocacy, and workforce development including talent attraction, business services and issues relating to entrepreneurship, and small businesses. The Chamber and its initiatives appeared in print, radio, and television 137 times, an increase of 140%.

SERVICE FOR OUR MEMBERS – OUR PROGRESS TO DATE

- Enrolled 54 members in the Chamber’s health care plans, bringing the total enrollment to 748.
- Provided members with Workers Compensation group ratings, saving them over \$4 million.
- Hosted 37 networking events that brought 2,600 people together to share best business practices and to create solid business contacts.
- Continued collaboration with other organizations, such as SCORE, in assisting 1,277 small business clients with business advice.
- Awarded 3 local business leaders for their achievements: “Entrepreneur of the Year,” Timothy Sheeler, First Credit International Corp./Healthcare Resolution Services, Inc.; “New and Emerging Business of the Year,” Jeffrey S. Ruby, The Ruby Group Inc.; “Small Business Advocate of the Year,” Bruce A. Jentner, The Jentner Group.

INVESTOR GROWTH – OUR PROGRESS TO DATE

- Increased number of investors—companies that make significant financial contributions to the Chamber, ensuring the implementation of Advance Greater Akron—from 77 in 2003 to 137 to date.

RECOGNITION – OUR PROGRESS TO DATE

- Received an award for “Excellence in Communications” for the Advance Greater Akron DVD from the American Chamber of Commerce Executives—a nationally recognized association with 1,300 chambers of commerce/economic development organizations.
- *Expansion Management* magazine ranked Akron, Ohio with “Five Star” distinctions in its Quality of Life Quotient™ ranking of metro areas where people can enjoy a career and raise a family; its Mayor’s Challenge™ ranking of business climates to expand or relocate; and in its Logistics Quotient™ study, ranking the most logistics-friendly metros in the country. For the complete reports, go to www.expansionmanagement.com and look under Research Studies.

Behind every successful organization is a strong group of leaders. I look forward to your continued involvement in building a better business environment in the Greater Akron Region and Northeast Ohio in 2006. Your support on the following high priorities will increase economic opportunities for all

HIGH PRIORITIES 2006

The Greater Akron Chamber will accelerate its efforts by focusing on the following key economic development priorities:

- Increase the attraction, retention, expansion, and creation of businesses to the region.
- Continue to develop a talent retention and attraction strategy for the region.
- Create new marketing tools to promote our region and enhance retention and recruitment of talent.
- Expand our advocacy program to include legislative initiatives, policy priorities and resources for economic development.
- Enhance the role of the Chamber in supporting and/or creating entrepreneurship initiatives in the region.
- Continue to develop benefits and services that give our members a competitive advantage.

Thank you for your commitment.



Daniel C. Colantone, *President & CEO*