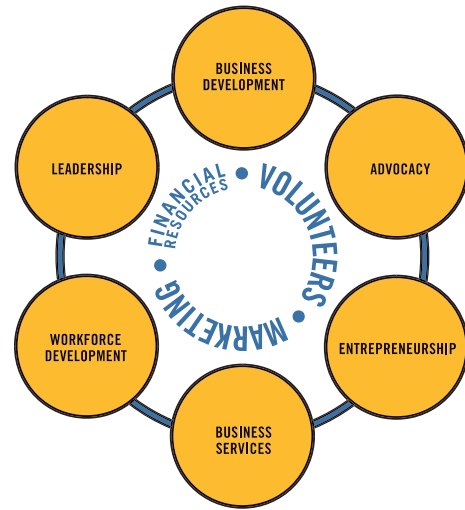


Our Six Core Strategies for Succeeding in Economic Development



The Greater Akron Region is no stranger to challenges brought about by economic change. What makes our community unique is its demonstrated ability to marshal its resources to face challenges in a way that is currently envied by many communities.

The Greater Akron Chamber is playing a front-and-center role in helping to position this community as a winner in the global economy. The Chamber crafted a Game plan named "Advance Greater Akron" which uses its track record in economic development as a springboard to implement new approaches to increase regional economic opportunities.

In 2004, area business, government, and education endorsed the plan and funded the \$2 million needed to conduct a five-year economic development program.

Today marks the half-way point of our program, and we are pleased to report:

- 4,531 jobs were added – 60% of our five-year goal of creating 7,550 jobs.

	Projected Goal	To-Date
Projected Goal	7,550	4,531
Capital Investment	\$94,000,000	\$56,085,000

- Total employment increased by 19,800 jobs from the end of 2003 to the end of 2005 in the Akron Metropolitan Area, reaching a high of 362,900 employed residents. The Akron Metropolitan Area's employment gain of 3.3% is more than any other metropolitan area in the State of Ohio. (The chart to the right reflects Annual Employment Averages at place of business.)

Annual Employment Averages			
	2005	2003	% Change
Akron	337,700	326,800	3.34%
Canton	176,900	177,300	-0.23%
Cincinnati	1,035,900	1,016,100	1.95%
Cleveland	1,070,800	1,074,000	-0.30%
Columbus	922,200	910,700	1.26%
Dayton	409,400	415,500	-1.47%
Toledo	330,700	330,100	0.18%
Youngstown	244,900	243,600	0.53%

Source: Current Employment Statistics
<http://lmi.state.oh.us/CES/LMR.htm#AnnualAverages>

- Of the 16 new companies that located here and the 35 companies that expanded in the past 2.5 years, all received direct assistance from our economic development team.

- This report highlights some accomplishments of the past 2.5 years – achievements made possible through your interest and commitment. We hope that you are as proud as we are of the progress that has been made and will continue to support the Greater Akron Chamber's efforts to "Advance Greater Akron," ensuring the future development and growth of our region.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Strategic Goal:

Market and promote the benefits of doing business in the Greater Akron Region in order to attract, retain, expand, and create businesses. Promote innovation, technology development and commercialization, new business formation, and new venture opportunities to facilitate entrepreneurship.

- Assisted 51 companies with their investments in the Greater Akron Region totaling over \$300 million, creating 1,803 new jobs, and retaining 2,728 jobs. Collaborated with economic development allies to attract Homesite Insurance from Boston, Massachusetts, and Ovonic from Detroit, Michigan, 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.
- Showcased the Greater Akron Region at 26 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, Canada; Las Vegas, Nevada; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; San Antonio, Texas; Orlando, Florida; and Chicago, Illinois; FABTECH International in Chicago; American Chemical Society Rubber Show in Pittsburgh; National Plastics Exposition in Chicago; Medical Design and Manufacturing Show in New York; Ohio Plastics Summit in Columbus; and the Ohio Fuel Cell Symposium and the Great Lakes Industrial Show in Cleveland. This participation resulted in 320 investment leads for the region.
- Established a broad-based theme for an economic development/marketing campaign based on Greater Akron's strengths. The campaign concept is: Greater Akron: "An Environment for Innovation." Implemented an advertising program utilizing industry-specific national publications to promote Greater Akron as a business location in *Area Development*, *Midwest Real Estate News*, *Business Facilities*, *Rubber and Plastics News*, *Modern Plastics International*, and *Plant Sites & Parks*.
- 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 18 foreign business delegations (Japanese, Canadian, Brazil, German, Czech, Swiss, Russian, Indian, British, Dutch, Columbian, Irish, French, Chinese, Korean, Slavic, Singaporean, and Turkish) to help them establish business investment opportunities.
- Collaborated with regional development partners to expand resources available to assist entrepreneurs and to help international and mid-market companies, including opening the Targetech Innovation Center, an Israeli Incubator that will help bring new companies to the United States, and launching Akron Accelerates (A2).
- Promoted entrepreneurial assistance through the Akron Development Fund I by administering loans to 10 Akron regional companies, creating value and investment, investing over \$3.5 million in innovation.

ADVOCACY

Strategic Goal:

Represent the interests of our membership at the local, state, and federal levels by advocating for issues of importance to economic development.

- 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."
- 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.
- Supported the Reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act with our senators to increase federal support for highway infrastructure.
- Helped secure non-stop air service from Akron-Canton Airport to Denver through Frontier Airlines and to Boston, New York, and Ft. Myers through AirTran Airlines.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Strategic Goal:

Lead and coordinate activities to provide an educated and skilled labor force to be globally competitive and to provide quality employment opportunities.

Attracting and Retaining Talent

- Began a grassroots talent attraction/retention effort for the Greater Akron Region commencing at the 2004 Annual Meeting. Contracted with Rebecca Ryan to conduct analysis and work with the Chamber and its major partners to create a plan to attract and retain young professionals in the region. The analysis showed us that Greater Akron's "handprint" beats the national average in Vitality, Learning, and After Hours indexes. Greater Akron scored at or above the national average in all seven indexes (Around Town, Vitality, Earning, Learning, Social Capital, Cost of Lifestyle, and After Hours...)
 - The Chamber has implemented two of Ryan's eighteen recommendations: (1) hired staff to support talent attraction efforts; and (2) developed the foundation for a multimedia tool kit to help employers recruit talent. For more information, go to http://www.greaterakronchamber.org/cms/resource_library/files/3bc739b609e52c2f/next_gen.pdf.
- Continued the community/leadership dialogue to create actions that will help slow the emigration of knowledge workers.

RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

- Published 26 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 1,500 people interested in the Greater Akron Region.
- 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 400 times.

EXPOSURE AND RECOGNITION FOR GREATER AKRON

- Akron, Ohio was ranked in the Top 100 U.S. Cities and Regions for the Greatest Wireless Internet Accessibility by Intel's 3rd Annual "Most Unwired Cities."
- Akron, Ohio, is "Among the Best U.S. Cities to Expand or Relocate a Business," according to *Expansion Management* magazine's 3rd Annual Mayor's Challenge.
- The Milken Institute, a California think tank that ranks the nation's largest cities on how well they create and sustain jobs, elevated Akron's ranking substantially in 2004.
- Expansion Management* magazine ranked Akron, Ohio, with "Five Star" distinctions in its Quality of Life Quotient™ ranking of metropolitan areas where people can enjoy a career and raise a family.
- Expansion Management* magazine ranked The Akron Metropolitan Area as one of the Top 50 U.S. Cities for European Investments.
- Inc. Magazine** ranked Greater Akron in the Top 25 Cities for Doing Business in America!

*Top Medium-Sized Cities for Doing Business in America, *Inc.*, March 2004.

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President
KeyBank National Association

Chairman-Elect

Thomas J. Strauss
President & CEO
Summa Health System

Past Chair

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President & CEO
FirstEnergy Corp.

Vice Chairman, Finance

James J. Coats
Executive Vice President & CFO
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company

Vice Chairman, Entrepreneurship

Roger D. Emerson
Attorney-at-Law
Brouse McDowell, LPA

Vice Chairman, Business Development

Charles E. Jones
Sr. Vice President
Energy Delivery & Customer Service
FirstEnergy Corp.

Vice Chairman, Small Business

Dennis A. Kleidon
President
Kleidon & Associates

Vice Chairman, Business Services

John G. Pickard
President & CEO
FedEx Custom Critical

Vice Chairman, Marketing

Charles L. Sinclair
Sr. Vice President, Global Communication
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company

Vice Chairman, Workforce Development

Karen L. Talbott
President
Visiting Nurse Service & Affiliates

Vice Chairman, Advocacy

Jeffery Walters
President
CBIZ/Mayer Hoffman McCann

Ex-Officio

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Greater Akron Chamber

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Alcon Tool Company

William Frantz
Northern Ohio Golf Charities

Charles W. Keiper
Portage County, Ohio

Frederick J. Krum
Akron-Canton Airport

Lester Lefton
Kent State University

James McCarthy
Summit County, Ohio

Robert C. McConnell
Cascade Capital Corporation

Lois Margaret Nora
NEOUCOM

Donald L. Plusquellic
City of Akron

Luis M. Proenza
The University of Akron

Sharon A. Ray
Medina County, Ohio

Ex-Officio Young Professional Group Representatives

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Young Professionals of Akron

Margaret D. Lazzarini
ArtCetera

Michele Tomer
Akron Jaycees

George Van Horne
TorchBearers

Board of Directors

Scott Armstrong
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Floyd Browne Group

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President
Akron Community Foundation

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President & COO
The Cypress Companies

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Nicholas V. Browning
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OMNOVA Solutions Foundation

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SACs Consulting & Investigative Services

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Bober, Markey, Fedorovich & Co.

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Director, Marketing & Sales
Firestone Country Club

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Vice President Industrial Sector
Advanced Elastomer Systems

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President & CEO
Smithers Scientific Services, Inc.

Bruce Jentner
President
Jentner Financial Group

Joseph S. Kanfer
President
GOJO Industries Inc.

Thomas G. Knoll
Partner
Stark & Knoll Co., LPA

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Chairman
Mergers & Acquisitions Group,
Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs LLP

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ASW Services

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Managing Partner
Ernst & Young, LLP

Edward R. Moss
Publisher
Akron Beacon Journal

Jeffrey A. Murphy
Director, Pricing & Regulatory Affairs
Dominion

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Chairman
Roetzel & Address

John Orr
President & COO
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B. Louis Poppovich
Vice President, Manager, Commercial Banking
Fifth Third Bank Northeastern Ohio

Robert P. Refiner
Partner
Brouse & McDowell, LPA

Willard Roderick
President & CEO
Barberton Citizens Hospital

James L. Ruhlin
President
The Ruhlin Company

James D. Staley
President & CEO
YRC Regional Transportation

Glen Stephens
Owner & CEO
G. Stephens, Inc.

Donzell Taylor
President & CEO
Welty Building Company, Ltd.

Theodore F. Walter
President
Akron/Canton/Youngstown Region
JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.

Karl Warnke
President & COO
The Davey Tree Expert Company

Margaret Williams
Director of External Affairs
AT&T

"The strength of a community rests
upon the strength of its leadership."
Anonymous

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
AT&T
Dominion
FirstMerit Bank NA
National City Bank
Summa Health System

Cornerstone Partners

\$10,000(+) Investment Per Year
Aircraft Braking Systems Corp.
Akron Children's Hospital
Brouse McDowell
Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, LLP
GOJO Industries Inc.
JP Morgan Chase Bank, NA
KeyBank NA
Portage County
A. Schulman, Inc.
Sky Bank

Champion Supporters

\$5,000(+) Investment Per Year
Advanced Elastomer Systems, L.P.
Akron Aeros
Akron-Canton Airport
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 Express
Rubbermaid Home Products
Sheraton Suites Akron/Cuyahoga Falls
The Schipper Group
The University of Akron
US Bank
YRC Regional Transportation

Vision Builders

\$2,500(+) Investment Per Year
AESCO Electronics Inc.
AirTran Airways
Akron Area Board of REALTORS
Akron Community Foundation
ALLTEL Communications
Associated Materials Inc.
The Babcock & Wilcox Co.
Bober, Markey, Fedorovich & Co.
Brennan Industrial Group, Inc.
Brennan, Manna & Diamond, LLC
Brockman, Coats, Gedelian & Co.
Brott Mardis & Co.
Brouse McDowell
Buckingham Doolittle & Burroughs, LLP
CAM Incorporated
CB Richard Ellis Inc.
CBIZ/Mayer Hoffman McCann
Charles Schwab Corporate Services
Charter One Bank FSB
Cisco Systems, Inc.
Coca-Cola Bottling Company
Cohen & Company
Coldwell Banker/Hunter Realty
Corporate Express
Cutler Real Estate
Dave Towell Cadillac-Saab
Davey Tree Expert Company
Fallsway Equipment Co.
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
Interactive Media Group
Jentner Financial Group
Louis Perry & Associates, Inc.
MAC Management

Meaden & Moore, Ltd.
Mike Pruitt Honda
Mogen Real Estate Co.
Moore Stephens Apple
NAI Cummins Real Estate
North Akron Savings Bank
Pepsi Americas
PolyOne Corporation
QualChoice Health Plan Inc.
The Reserve Group
Roetzel & Address
The Ruhlin Company
Schneller, Inc.
Seal Master Corporation
SS&G Financial Services
Stark & Knoll Co., LPA
State and Federal Communications, Inc.
Sterling Jewelers, Inc.
Struktol Company of America
Terminal Warehouse Inc.
Thompson Hine LLP
Time Warner Cable
Toth Buick-Pontiac-GMC Truck Inc.
Visiting Nurse Service & Affiliates
Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP
Wal-Mart #1911
Welty Building Company Ltd.
Wojno Development

Advance Greater Akron Investors

ACME Fresh Markets
Action Super Abrasive Products Inc.
Advanced Elastomer Systems, LP
AESCO Electronics Inc.
Aircraft Braking Systems Corp.
AirTran Airways
Akron Aeros
Akron Area Auto Dealers Association
Akron Area Board of REALTORS
Akron Beacon Journal
Akron-Canton Airport
Akron Children's Hospital
Akron Community Foundation
Akron Education Fund
Akron General Medical Center Health Systems
Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority
Albrecht Incorporated
ALCO-CHEM Incorporated
Alcon Tool Co.
ALLTEL Communications
Annaco Incorporated
ASC Industries Incorporated
Associated Materials Inc.
ASW Services Companies
AT&T
The Babcock & Wilcox Company
Babcox Publications, Inc.
Barberton Citizens Hospital
Bennett Construction Management Inc.
BFG Federal Credit Union
Bober, Markey, Fedorovich & Co.
Braun & Steidl Architects Incorporated
Brennan Industrial Group, Inc.
Brennan, Manna & Diamond, LLC
Bridgestone/Firestone Incorporated
Brockman, Coats, Gedelian & Co.
Brott Mardis & Co.
Brouse McDowell
Buckingham Doolittle & Burroughs, LLP
CAM Incorporated
CB Richard Ellis Inc.
CBIZ/Mayer Hoffman McCann
CF Bank
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.
Charter One Bank FSB
Chicago Title Insurance Company
City of Akron
Coca-Cola Bottling Company
Cohen & Company
Coldwell Banker Hunter Realty
The Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation
Corporate Express
Country Pure Foods, Inc.
Cutler Real Estate
Cuyahoga Falls General Hospital
Dave Towell Cadillac-Saab
Davey Tree Expert Company
Diamond Polymers, Inc.
Dominion
Dominion East Ohio Foundation
Eliokem Inc.
Ernst & Young LLP
Fallsway Equipment Company
FedEx Custom Critical Inc.
The Fideli Group
Fifth Third Bank

FirstEnergy Corporation
FirstEnergy Foundation
FirstMerit Bank
Flexsys America LP
The Flood Company
Floyd Browne Group
GAR Foundation
Geopfert Company Inc.
GOJO Industries Inc.
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
GreatWork! Employment Services
Hattie Larlham
Herman Machine Incorporated
Hilton Akron/Fairlawn
Hitachi Medical Systems America, Inc.
Hitchcock Fleming & Associates
Holland Oil Company
Home Builders Association
Hottle & Associates Inc.
The House of LaRose
InfoCision Management Corporation
Interactive Media Group
Jentner Financial Group
Jo-Ann Stores Incorporated
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
JP Morgan Chase Bank NA
Kent State University
KeyBank NA
Kleidon & Associates
Levey & Company
Lockheed Martin Maritime Systems & Sensors

Louis Perry & Associates, Inc.
MAC Management
Meaden & Moore, Ltd.
Midcap & Company
Mogen Real Estate Company
Moore Stephens Apple
Myers Industries Inc.
NAI Cummins Real Estate
National City Bank
National Electrical Contractors Association/N.C.O.
Nelson Development Ltd.
North Akron Savings Bank
Northern Ohio Golf Charities
OMNOVA Solutions Foundation
OMNOVA Solutions Inc.
PepsiAmericas
PolyOne Corporation
Portage County
QualChoice Health Plan Inc.
Roadway Express
Roetzel & Address
ROTOCAST Technologies Incorporated
Rubbermaid Home Products
The Ruhlin Company
Schipper Enterprises
Schlabig & Associates, Ltd.
Schneller, Inc.
A. Schulman, Inc.
Seal Master Corporation
Sheraton Suites Akron/Cuyahoga Falls
Sky Bank
Smithers Scientific Services Inc.
SS&G Financial Services
Stark & Knoll Co., LPA
State and Federal Communications, Inc.
Sterling Jewelers, Inc.
Struktol Company of America
Summa Health System
Superior Staffing Inc.
Terminal Warehouse
The County of Summit
Thompson Hine LLP
Time Warner Cable
Toth Buick-Pontiac-GMC Truck Inc.
The University of Akron
US Bank
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Welty Building Company Ltd.
WhiteSpace Creative
Wojno Development
YRC Regional Transportation



PROGRESS REPORT 2006

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.



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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.