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2014 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION

Sustain and Promote diverse economic development through education, training and technical assistance that improves the quality of life in Todd County.

OUR GOALS

To facilitate assistance to local businesses in order to retain and create quality jobs.

To pursue new, sustainable business opportunities that connect existing resources and supply chains.

To develop a multi-level marketing plan that promotes Todd County's balanced life style, agronomy based work force and progressive business policies.

To have an affective expression of ownership and collaboration across all communities.

To promote and encourage technology and infrastructure development that supports retention and growth of quality jobs.

HERE TO HELP YOU GROW



To the Communities and Citizens of Todd County

More than four years ago Todd County Development Corporation began a new chapter and commenced strong relationships with our economic and community development partners. A renewed development of our mission and goals have helped us explore new and innovative ways that improve the services we offer to our communities and businesses. We clearly value our community and economic development partners who helped our organization improve the services we offer to our communities and businesses in Todd County.

Since 2011, important initiatives by Todd County Development Corporation included development of a revolving loan fund (RLF), Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Outreach Office, helping to create quality jobs in our communities, and providing education, training and technical assistance relating to business development, broadband/e-business and technology. As an organization we have come far and will continue to develop and improve the services we provide in Todd County.

Our Board of Directors, Todd County Commissioner Representatives, RLF Committee and Executive Director would like to thank all of you for your support and guidance that helps to shape our direction. We look forward working together toward our mission to promote and sustain diverse economic and community development through education, training and technical assistance that improves the quality of life for the citizens of Todd County.

With warm regards,

Jim Lunemann, Board Chairman

Rick Utech, Executive Director

Key Activities of Todd County Development Corporation (TCDC) in 2014:

Provided free business technical services through our Small Business Development Center Outreach Office for 14 clients generating 124 billable client hours for a total of \$4,960. TCDC provided an additional 148 hours of business assistance to 15 non SBDC business projects in 2014.

Hosted 3 E-Business forums that were held in Eagle Bend, Long Prairie and Staples.

Agreements and requirements were completed for the Blandin Foundation grant that created 9 public Wi-Fi hotspot sites in Todd County. Technical assistance, equipment and financial assistance were provided to help businesses and communities host these public Wi-Fi hotspot sites.

LOCATIONS INCLUDED:

- Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop, Staples
- Historical Society/Amtrak Station, Staples
- Dairy Queen, Staples
- City of Hewitt
- Farm House Café, Clarissa
- City of Clarissa
- City of Eagle Bend
- Dairy Queen, Long Prairie
- Hats Off Coffee, Long Prairie

TCDC became part of the advisory board that helped launch “Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities” (CEO) program. The CEO program is hosted by Staples Motley High School with participation by Wadena and Pillager School Districts. The CEO Program is funded through private

business and community investors who have committed more than \$100,000 to date.

The CEO mission is to enable high school students in rural areas to become self-reliant, enterprising individuals who learn to start successful businesses and contribute to the ongoing economic development of their communities. Students meet at a local business boardroom, tour local businesses, work to create their own business as a class project, learning to create, finance and operate their own businesses in a real life setting.

TCDC adopted the Location One Information System (LOIS) to help market Todd County development sites and properties. LOIS is an on-line data base economic development database with detailed information on buildings, sites and locations for businesses looking to expand or relocate. In 2014, LOIS services were contracted by the State of Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development and is now available free to economic development organizations such as TCDC.

OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES OF TCDC OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS INCLUDED:

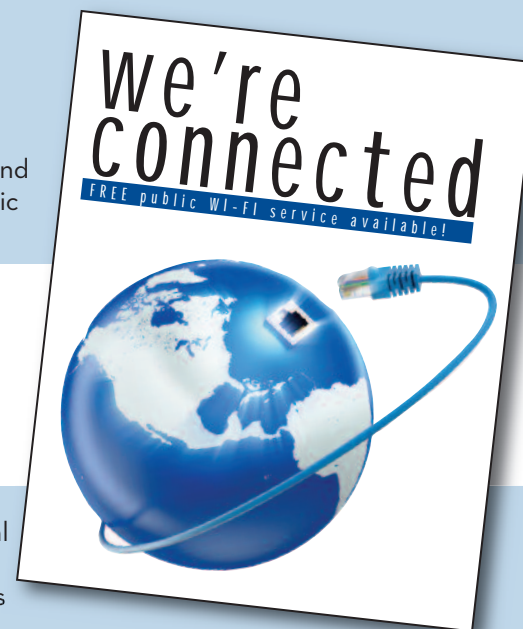
Planning, developing and creating the TCDC Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program offering low fixed interest gap financing or full financing when conventional funds are not available. The RLF program has more than \$180,000 available for business financing for value-added agricultural manufacturing, retail, commercial and manufacturing operations.

Establishing a new Minnesota “Small Business Development Center” (SBDC) Outreach Office in Todd County in 2012, providing more than 520 hours of “FREE” SBDC technical services to Todd County businesses.

Helping to create 112 new jobs for Todd County citizens, with an estimated annual total payroll of more than \$2.2 million dollars with an annual economic development multiplier benefit of over \$3.1 million dollars.

Providing community and economic development and strategic planning assistance for our communities.

Provided education, training and technical assistance for our communities including areas such as ecommerce/technology and business.



Key Performance Indicators				
MEASURES		2014 Actual	2014 Goal	2015 Goals
Direct Report to County Board		2	2	2
Report to County Board Representatives		12	12	12
Grant Writing – successful grants		2 grants \$ 6,500.00	2 grants	2 grants awarded
Jobs Created or Retained		28 created/64 ret.	25 c/r	25 c/r
Small Business Development Center (SBDC)		124 hours/ \$ 4,960.00	250 hours	250 hours
Partner Sponsorship dollars		\$13,700	\$16,800	\$ 16,000
Facilitation/technical assistance for projects		2	2	2
Dollars financed through TCDC assistance		\$525,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000