

2008 Annual Report

April 29, 2009

Letter from the Director

It hardly seems possible that I have been with the KCDA for almost eight months. I was fortunate enough to come on board with this agency on September 1, 2008 to serve the communities of Knox County. It has been a challenging and rewarding career choice for myself and I am thankful every day for the opportunity. I feel we conquered many things in 2008 and I am eagerly working on so much more in 2009. Economic Development is not easily defined and to some has several different meanings. One thing is for sure, without the support and encouragement of our communities we would not exist today. I thank each of you for making my "Quality of Life" better each and every day. I look forward to continued success in 2009 and years beyond.

Sincerely,

Toni Tauber
KCDA Director

Knox County Development Agency 2008 At a Glance

2008 was the eighth year for the KCDA. Terry Johnson was the Director up until July 18, 2008. Terry was instrumental in many projects throughout the years for the KCDA.

According to Terry, "Together we have seen an idea come to fruition to create one of the strongest and successful county economic development organizations in the State of Nebraska. We are continually looked upon as a model for other counties to follow. You all should be proud of yourselves for having the vision and fortitude to conceive such a model." We thank Terry for his vision and work in serving Knox County.

Looking back the KCDA was active in many different projects throughout 2008, although all are important our major projects will be highlighted in this report.

- Retail Sales Increased by 9.2% in 2008
- BR & E Surveys
- Completed Business Transfer BECA Grant
- BECA Grant Destination Knox County
- Awarded BECA Grant Building Communications
- Knox County Revolving Loan Program served 42 loans across the county
- SafeRoutes Nebraska Grant
- Business Transition Counseling Provided
- New Business Counseling Provided
- Wind Power Conference
- Governor's Conference on Rural Development
- Small Business Network with Center for Rural Affairs
- Transitioned from Hometown Competitiveness



Mission Statement

"To increase the economic base of Knox County through the use of networked resources while maintaining the quality of life"

Knox County Development Agency

What Does the Future Hold in 2009?

Completed

REAP Class
BECA Grant
Crofton SafeRoutes Grant
KCDA Strategic Planning
Heartland Economic Institute
15 Business Visits
Web Page Development Course
Washington DC Trip
City Council Meetings
Business Database
Kiosk for Tourism at Weigand

In Progress

Destination Knox County—BECA
Building Communications—BECA
Creighton Money MarketPlace
Monthly Business Visits
Leadership Academy Grant
Proposal
Shop Locally Campaign
KCDA Website
Revolving Loan Program
Small Business Network
Crofton Hills Wind Project
Strategic Plan Implementation
Business Transition
Recruitment of Citizens
Alumni Database
Online Newsletter

Coming Soon

NPPD Target Surveys
NEN Windshield Program
Bloomfield Money MarketPlace
Crofton Money MarketPlace
Business Succession Seminar
Tax Incremental Financing
Speaker
Youth Leadership Seminar
Elementary Job Fairs

Thank You to Our Partners

During the past year, KCDA continued to build relationships and establish partnerships with the economic development community in Northeast Nebraska and throughout the state. The KCDA is grateful for the support and assistance shown to us by our partners in economic development.

Northeast NE Economic Development District
Great Plains Communications, Inc.
Nebraska Business Development Center
Nebraska Public Power District
NE Department of Economic Development
SCORE
USDA Rural Development
Rural Enterprise Assistance Program
Center for Rural Affairs
Commercial State Bank
Farmers & Merchants State Bank
Knox County Communities

Board of Directors

Representative Name

City/County

Joe Skrivan	Bloomfield
Lyndsy Jenness	Bloomfield
Loren Hintz	Center
Carmen Jacobs	Creighton
Allan Arens	Crofton
Al Larson	Crofton
Jim Fuchtman	Knox County Supervisor
Rayder Swanson	Knox County Supervisor
Sheila Keeler	Niobrara
Delores Ruzicka	Verdigre
Joan Vakoc	Verdigre
Brian ElDorado	Wausa
Murray Peters	Wausa
Carol Berglund	Winnetoon
Linda Kallhoff	Winnetoon
Wendell Strom	Great Plains Communications

Coming Soon!

www.knoxcountyeconomicdevelopment.com