

# jobs first

JOBS AND INVESTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS in 2012

## Jobs. Jobs. Jobs. Count the Ways We Grew our Community's Economic Base.

The most powerful force for change is a well-paying job. Those great words are at the heart and soul of Southwest Michigan First's mission of jobs and wealth creation. Our commitment to jobs as the most powerful force for change in an individual's life starts long before the official "announcement" is made.

Our economic development approach begins with strategic business consultations made on site with existing companies. During these consultations, we discuss how relationships, our expertise and talent can help expand, retain and/or accelerate their company through:

- Business-to-Business Marketing
- Supply Chain Recruitment
- Workforce Development

- Capital Acquisition
- Site Selection
- Consulting Services
- Brand Development
- Government Collaboration

We understand that traditional economic development success is measured by announcements of jobs creation and private investment by companies and our success is measured by such.

In the past year, our project teams have made a total of 118 company consultations to existing industries within St. Joseph County. Eleven companies in St. Joseph County made 12 announcements for 458 new jobs, retained 125 jobs and committed to investing \$85.1 million in the county.

### In the fast lane

American Axle & Manufacturing will create 400 new jobs and plans investment of \$78,000,000 at its Three Rivers facility due to customer diversification — winning business with Volkswagen, Nissan, Tata Land Rover and others — and expanding its presence in passenger cars and crossover vehicles to augment its core strength in trucks. For its job creation efforts, American Axle was awarded a 2012 Catalyst Award from Southwest Michigan First accepted by Plant Manager David Brown. The Southwest Michigan First team has witnessed an energized partnership develop between the company and city and was in attendance at an October 2012 celebration in honor of the company's \$400,000 gift to



the City of Three Rivers in appreciation of the community's support of its expansion efforts.

### By the numbers ...



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**Summit Polymers**, a Tier I automotive supplier of interior kinetic and decorative components and systems, will create 74 jobs over 3 years and invest \$9,300,000 spread between its facilities in Sturgis, Portage and Vicksburg. Sturgis will directly benefit from **27 new jobs and \$1 million investment**. In addition, our project team has facilitated a letter of intent with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for a \$370,000 grant from the Michigan Business Development Program.



## Growing our future

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**Mendon Seed Growers** was awarded a \$2.1 million, 12-year tax abatement by the Township of Mendon for its investment in a corn seed dryer building. The company specializing in corn production will create 3 new jobs.



**Johnson Precision Mold and Engineering** has been awarded a tax abatement on equipment of \$149,789 by the City of Sturgis Commission. The manufacturer of high-performance production tools and short-run aluminum prototypes will hire **2 new employees** as a result of the announcement.

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### DOUBLE INVESTMENT IN 2012!

**LTi Printing**, in Sturgis, invested **\$874,000** in a seven-color printing press and warehouse equipment to better serve and create opportunities for large pressure-sensitive label offset customers. The investment will create **4 new jobs** and **retain 88**.

The company currently provides carton, label and graphics solutions for companies like Welch's, Abbott, Quaker Oats, Kar's, Ford and Mattel. Our project team worked to facilitate the company's tax abatement request approved by the Sturgis City Commission.

The company made its second capital investment of 2012 with a **\$464,364**

investment in new platemaking technology, a management information system and forklifts. The City of Sturgis has awarded the company a 12-year tax abatement for this announcement creating **4 new jobs**.

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**Neo Manufacturing** received approval for a tax abatement from the White Pigeon Township for a **\$186,000 equipment purchase** allowing the company to improve efficiencies and increase response time. The manufacturer of recreational trailers will **retain 44 employees** and **create 5 new jobs**.

**Burke Porter Machinery** in Grand Rapids has recently purchased **XL Machine** and committed to retain management at the company's current location. Our role was to coordinate the Phase I environmental assessment needed for the purchase utilizing grant funding of St. Joseph County's Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. In addition to **40 jobs retained**, the company is considering further expansion at this location.

**Parma Tube Corporation** has been approved by the City of Sturgis Commission for a tax abatement worth **\$262,373** on upgraded quality inspection equipment including tool and dies, computer technology and flaring and punching machinery to meet the demands of its largest customer for shorter lead times and increased productivity. The tube assembly manufacturer **will retain 85 jobs**.

**MVB Improvements** has completed a move into the vacant Armory building in Three Rivers with funding from the St. Joseph County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. The startup machine shop has recently won a new contract prompting the move to a larger facility, private investment of **\$50,000** and announcement of **3 new** and **5 retained jobs**.

**Mayer Tool & Engineering** announced **4 new jobs** and **27 retained** as it invests **\$396,000** in new molding equipment and technology upgrades to meet customer demand. Our project team prepared a tax abatement approved by the Sturgis City Commission to receive a reduction on school bond mills.

Recently creating an engineering center next to its main plant, **VCI, Inc.** plans to lease 10,000 square feet of production space for a refurbishing operation. The company will invest **\$709,500** in new water jet propulsion cutting equipment and has received a 12-year tax abatement from City of Sturgis. This growth and investment will create **6 jobs**.

# jobs 2012

## Expansion in St. Joseph County BY THE NUMBERS

Company	Location	Jobs Created	Jobs Retained	Investment
American Axle & Manufacturing	Three Rivers	400	0	\$78,000,000
Johnson Precision Molding	Sturgis	2	0	\$150,000
LTi Printing	Sturgis	4	0	\$464,000
LTi Printing	Sturgis	4	0	\$875,000
Mayer Tool & Engineering	Sturgis	4	0	\$396,000
Mendon Seed Growers	Mendon	3	0	\$2,100,000
MVB Improvements	Three Rivers	3	0	\$50,000
Neo Manufacturing	White Pigeon	5	0	\$187,000
Parma Tube Corporation	Sturgis	0	85	\$262,000
Summit Polymers	Sturgis	27	0	\$1,000,000
VCI, Inc.	Sturgis	6	0	\$709,500
XL Machine	Three Rivers	0	40	\$888,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>458</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>\$85,081,500</b>