

Ozaukee County Economic Development Corporation 2006 REPORT

The purpose of the non-profit development corporation is to promote, assist, encourage, develop, and advance business, prosperity, and the economy of Ozaukee County.

www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/ocedc

During the calendar year 2006, our organization was involved in the following activities:

Enhanced Priorities and Strategic Objectives: The OCEDC contracted with the UW-Milwaukee's Consortium for Economic Opportunity for the services of an interim Executive Director. This Director;

- Worked with the OCEDC to develop and implement a fundraising strategy with core service measurements. Met with all 14 Ozaukee communities and received funding commitments from eight communities, the other six communities are considering funding.
- Met with five businesses and received funding commitments from two for 2006 and 2007, and three additional businesses committed funds for 2007.

As a result of this initiative, the Ozaukee County Board has increased funding to the OCEDC from \$20,000 in 2006 to \$100,000 in 2007 and the OCEDC will hire its first full-time Executive Director in 2007. Over \$9,000 has been pledged by local communities for 2007 and \$7,500 was brought in through business contributions for 2006, with over \$15,000 already committed for 2007.

Entrepreneurial Training: OCEDC, in cooperation with UW-Extension, has developed and implemented;

- First Steps, a pre-venture counseling workshop, had fifteen participants that accessed their readiness for entrepreneurship and gained knowledge on business resources.
- Fast Trac, an 11-week business plan development class, was offered twice in Ozaukee County. Since 2003, 49 business plans have been developed through this course.

Regional Economic Development: OCEDC actively participates in;

- Milwaukee 7- Ozaukee, Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha Counties are working cooperatively on a five-year, \$12 million campaign to recruit, retain, expand and create companies that offer high-value jobs.
 - Launched www.choosemilwaukee.com and the Resource Center- high-technology tools to market the Region to the World
 - Participated in business visits for the Milwaukee7's Biotechnology Retention Program – three businesses were interviewed in Ozaukee County.
- Regional Economic Partnership: A consortium of seven Southeastern Wisconsin Counties, We Energies, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, the City of Milwaukee, and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Area of Commerce working together on common economic development issues.
 - Administer Wisconsin Technology Zone Program- \$10 million in tax credits for high technology companies in Southeastern Wisconsin

Workforce 2010: Continued as a member of a consortium of education, business, community and government representatives pursuing future employment needs in the county through the implementation of a School-To-Work apprenticeship program.

Respectfully submitted by Roger Kirgues, President
Ozaukee County Economic Development Corporation