

**Pulaski County Community Development Commission**  
Pulaski County, Indiana

Achievements 2009

Direct Involvement. Activities in which the CDC board and/ or director were involved as originator and executor. Results and outcomes solely the result of CDC action with or without subcontractors.

The County's Website, [www.pulaskionline.org](http://www.pulaskionline.org), was expanded and routinely updated to keep it fresh and attractive to Web users. It is an accepted truth of economic development that a county's Website is the first stop for site selectors and others involved in development. The average number of monthly visitors to the site (3304.67 in 2009) was an increase of 566.53 over the 2008 monthly average. Statistically the Website proves to be the best promotion vehicle for the County to date.

The "*Pulaski County, Indiana. Welcome Back Home*" new resident (originally retiree) recruitment campaign began in early 2009 with a series of TV ads in the Lafayette/West Lafayette market area (the video from this ad has become a permanent fixture on the home page of the County Website). 2,500 brochures, "*Pulaski County, Indiana. Welcome Back Home*", have been distributed to 26 convention/visitor's bureaus, rest areas, and welcome centers throughout the State. In addition, randomly selected Pulaski County school alumni (total of 119) were direct mailed the brochure. It is too early to evaluate the effectiveness of the campaign; this is a long term activity. We may not see tangible/ measurable results for several years. One definite result is the name, *Pulaski County, Indiana*, has been widely distributed both within and outside the State.

Charter member of *MidWest Indiana Economic Development*, a regional development organization of nine Indiana counties (Benton, Carroll, Cass, Fountain, Montgomery, Pulaski, Tippecanoe, Warren, and White). This is the first regional economic development collaboration entered into by Pulaski County. Selected because of similar cultural and economic aspirations, this arrangement will provide Pulaski County a greater exposure to outside influences than can be gained independently.

Applied for and awarded a \$50,000 state grant for a county-wide *economic development strategic plan*. The purpose is to examine the County's advantages/ challenges, development possibilities, and realistic means to achieve them. A secondary focus of the plan is the development opportunities for the property located between Highway 421 and CSX railroad branch line.

Arranged for the honoring of three long-time Winamac employers at the *Governor's Century/ Half Century Business Awards* ceremony.

Collaborative Involvements. Efforts undertaken by the CDC with partner agencies organizations, and individuals.

Assisted and coordinated a tax abatement amendment for a Winamac manufacturer reflecting a *1.1 million dollar increase in new equipment* over the original application estimate. Amendment approved.

Coordinated the application for funds from the County *Revolving Loan Fund* for a Francesville employer. This start-up business has five employees. Loan approved.

Coordinated efforts for County participation in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (Stimulus). To date the Act has resulted in funds for the remediation of a Brownfield site (old gas station) in Medaryville and the Panhandle Pathway trail project. Other results of this participation are yet to be realized.

The CDC was an early sponsor/ encourager of the rails-to-trails project in the County. Ultimately formed as a non-profit corporation, *Friends of the Panhandle Pathway*, the organization has secured \$3,687,500 in grants to construct the 21-mile hiking/biking recreation trail. The CDC arranged for the local public agency agreement between Pulaski County government and INDOT to facilitate funding for the paving of the final 16 miles of the trail. The Panhandle Pathway is gaining state and national attention thus significantly adding to the County's tourism industry.

The CDC partners with PACE and the Extension in *welder training* for County and area residents. 59 individuals completed the program in 2009. To date 219 students have graduated from the program.

Assisted two employers in accessing State *training grants*. These grants provide hard dollar reimbursement for employer training expenses over a two year period. These grants can be worth tens of thousands of dollars to the employer.

Support. Activities involving often intangible effort to help another achieve an end.

Provided advertising support for each of the following County festival and activities:

- Francesville Fall Festival
- Potato Fest
- Monterey Days Festival
- Power From the Past
- Winter Wonderland
- Spring Fest
- Star City Sesquicentennial
- Welder Training Program
- HOPE