



ANNUAL REPORT

2022

Geauga Growth Partnership's mission is to enhance the economic climate in Geauga County by attracting new business, supporting existing businesses, and preparing the workforce of the future.

“Thank you to everyone who worked with our team throughout 2022 to innovate and make new opportunities become a reality.”



Greetings,

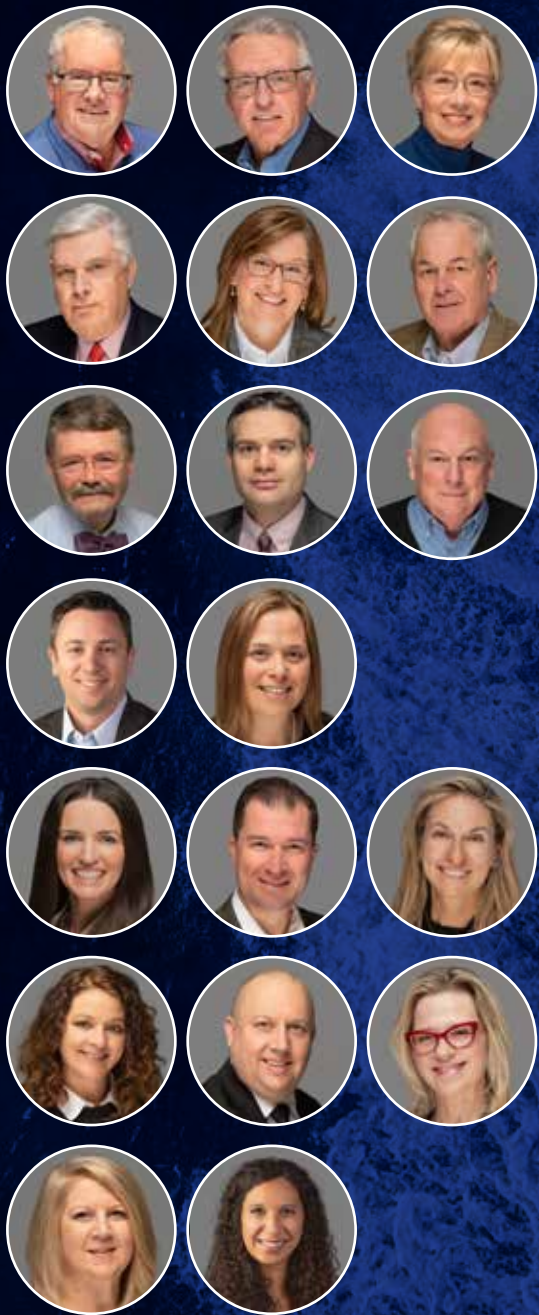
2022 was an incredible year of growth for Geauga Growth Partnership (GGP) in many ways - programs, membership, and staffing. First, the organization realized exponential growth in the Workforce Development Programs due to companies, such as Great Lakes Cheese, desiring to provide consistent learning opportunities for all employees across their business footprint. Virtual platforms created opportunities to provide trainings in eight states in 2022! The Youth Career Awareness and Readiness programs saw the expansion of services through the release of GGPYouthWorkforce.com in September of 2022. This website allows GGP to serve teachers and students in new and innovative ways. Membership grew to new levels, bolstering the organization to nearly 200 members! And finally, our Board of Directors recognized the need to expand our professional staff, for the organization to continue its growth while meeting the needs of the business community.

Certainly, this growth would not happen without the partnerships, commitments and investments from the local schools, business and nonprofit communities, and certainly, YOU, our valued and trusted members.

As you review this report, you will note a new logo and look on behalf of Geauga Growth Partnership, Inc. Our intent with this change is twofold. We want to reflect the trajectory of growth GGP has achieved, while also simplifying the logo to create a more modern, clean look that still embodies our core values and mission. GGP continues to be streamlined and forward-thinking, focused on continual improvement, with a new logo that also represents this effort. Our colors, blue and green, will remain the same. This is because when utilized together, they represent balance and growth, as well as three of our priority core values of stability, trust, and loyalty. Thank you to Ten10 Design for helping GGP through this process and providing guidance towards a positive result.

We look forward to an even stronger 2023!
Sincerely,
John Epprecht

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



STAFF



John Eprecht, Chairman
Great Lakes Cheese

John Steigerwald, Vice Chairman
At Large

Stephanie Ronyak, Treasurer
The Arms Trucking Co.

Richard Frenchie, Secretary
The Frenchie Group

Beth Bunton, Troy Chemical Industries

David Ford, The Federal Improvement Co.

Jay Giles, At Large

Jason Glowczewski, UH Geauga Medical Center

Lee Imhof, Retired, Troy Chemical Industries

Christian Klein, Company 119

Bridey Matheney, Thrasher, Dinsmore & Dolan

Paul Miller (not pictured), Honest Scales Recycling

Renee Nied, First Energy Corporation

Matthew Nipper, KeyBank N.A.

Diane Popovich, Solon Manufacturing

Tracie Roberts, Montville Plastics & Rubber

John Solich, Middlefield Banking Company

Angela Spalsbury, Kent State University Geauga

Bonnie Troyer, HR Strategies & Solutions

Casey Zulantz, Ten10 Design LLC

**Sincere appreciation for outgoing
Board Members: (not pictured)**

- **Cliff Babcock**, Junction Auto Family
- **Tony Madormo**, Best Sand/COVIA
- **Chuck White**, White Management

STAFF

Kimm Leininger, President & CEO

Monica Bricker-Thompson, VP of Operations

Kristine Frankenberry, Director of Development

Julie Gorenc, Director of Engagement

**Maggie Carpenter, Youth Workforce
Program Manager**

GROW

GGP strives to develop an attractive, strategic location where companies will choose to locate. It is critical to convene economic development organizations as well as research partners to organize efforts that encourage economic growth in Geauga County.

“Our partnership with the GGP assists in the development of sustainability and growth for our Village through innovation, resource connection, and workforce development.”

Leslie Gambosi-McCoy,
Village of Middlefield Administrator

“GGP DOES AN AMAZING JOB AT BEING A COMPLETE RESOURCE FOR THE LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND WORKS TIRELESSLY TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH ALL THE STAKEHOLDERS.”

Gina Hofstetter,
Gauga County Community & Economic Development

GROW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

GGP Board Members

Renee Nied
Committee Chair
David Ford
Richard Frenchie
Paul Miller
Tracie Roberts

Committee Volunteers

Leslie McCoy, Village of Middlefield
Steve Yaney, City of Chardon
Angela Zurbuch, US Bank

EVENTS TO SUPPORT BUSINESSES

47

Business Retention and Expansion visits



76

Referrals Made



Where Are The Workers Roundtable:

In partnership with TeamNEO, GGP held a roundtable discussion to explore information from a regional study, Where are the Workers, an initiative of the Fund for Our Economic Future. Nearly 30 businesses joined to share about the real challenges faced by the Geauga County business community.



Held an Ohio Department of Development Property Remediation Webinar for townships and businesses to learn more about how to connect with available funding.



Coordinated small businesses to attend roundtables with Governor Mike Dewine and Representative Dave Joyce, offering them the opportunity to share their concerns with elected officials.



Burning Down the House: How to navigate the Fed's push to extinguish inflation. Breakfast sponsored by The WealthCare Group of Raymond James and their partners: Casey Hendrickson, Regional Vice President, and Matthew Orton, Chief Marketing Strategist from Carillon Tower Advisors.



Thank you to our partners in economic development.



ENTREPRENEUR SUCCESS EVENTS



FEBRUARY Elements Fitness Studios	JUNE National Polymer	OCTOBER Northwoods Cabin Co.	DECEMBER Troy Chemical Industries
Chesterland	Bainbridge	Newbury	Burton

GGP NETWORKING EVENTS

APRIL Elements Fitness Studios	JUNE Sharon James Cellars	OCTOBER Arborwear	DECEMBER Welshfield Inn, GGP Holiday Member Networking
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Geauga Growth Partnership partners with community organizations providing a multitude of educational programs, training, and networking opportunities to support the growth of existing businesses in Geauga County. GGP strives to identify what products, programs, or services would benefit the GGP Membership and establish partnerships to meet those needs; while remaining agile to adapt to future needs.

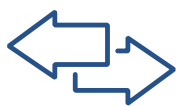
CEO PEER ADVISORY GROUP

"After working with the CEO Peer advisory group and with Dave both as a facilitator & individually, what I appreciate most is the groups' ability to focus our attention on core issues.



The collective experience of the group has been invaluable & continues to challenge us on everything from internal to external variables in our business. The group helps us dig in the weeds, but not get lost in them while always reminding us of the big picture. I LOVE the exuberance of this group!"

Lisa Carrelli-Kraus, Owner, Independent Tree



1,704

attendees at 150 GGP Programs for Business Consulting, Networking, and Workforce Development.



112

Workforce Training Programs Held

In 2023

62%



identify the Availability of a Skilled Workforce as their top need in order to successfully accomplish planned investments.

Top Investments Planned in 2023

1. Training
2. Equipment
3. Building & Plant Facilities
4. Technology Software

Thank you to our training and business support partners.

MANUFACTURERS SOLUTION, LLC



CORPORATE SUPPORT SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS GROUP



ENTREPRENEUR SUCCESS EVENT SPONSORS



NETWORKING SPONSORS



GUIDE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

GGP Board Members

- John Steigerwald
Committee Chair
- Cliff Babcock
- Beth Bunton
- Jay Giles
- Matt Nipper
- John Solich
- Bonnie Troyer

Committee Volunteers

- Michelle Rodewald
Auburn Career Center
- David Cowen
Community Volunteer
- Margo Reda
Ohio Means Jobs Geauga County
- Mandy Vacik
Ohio Means Jobs Geauga County
- Patty Schenker
Solon Manufacturing
- Nicole Crews
Great Lakes Cheese

GGP provides programs to middle school and high school youth to prepare them as our future workforce. Programs include Career Awareness through business tours, Career Readiness through Career Development Workshops, and Career Experience through GGP's Summer Incubator Program. GGP continually enhances these programs based on the needs of local students, school districts & companies. This work supports career readiness regardless of a student's post-high school chosen path: Entrepreneurship, Enrollment, Enlistment, and Employment.



Launch of GGPYouthWorkforce.com in September 2022

Thank you to the Ohio Department of Education for funding through the RemotEDx Grant which helped GGP to build this website for use by local educators.



Thank you Summer Incubator Program host companies:
 Montville Plastics & Rubber Company 119
 Troy Chemical
 Ohman Family Living at Holly Geauga Growth Partnership
 Geauga County Auditor's Office
 MSI, Inc.
 RE/MAX Rising
 Punderson Manor
 UH Geauga
 ASM International
 Advanced IT Professionals, Inc
 His Daughter
 Solon Manufacturing
 Burton Healthcare
 Mercury Plastics

PREPARE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

GGP Board Members

- Angela Spalsbury
Committee Chair
- John Epprecht
- Lee Imhof
- Tony Madormo
- Diane Popovich
- John Steigerwald

Committee Volunteers

- Chris Yuhasz
POV Solution
- Ken Green
Community Volunteer

CLEVELAND CAVALIERS CAREER NIGHT

Provided exposure to careers in professional sports to over **100** Geauga County students.



INCUBATOR PROGRAM



Hours of professional development provided

16

Geauga County companies participated



24

Youth Program Activities held in 2022 with 1,528 participants!

18

Students placed in Incubator Program



\$1,000 in scholarships awarded

3

students continued to work as interns after the Incubator Program ended.



CAREER EXPLORATION OPEN HOUSE

Passion to Purpose with featured speaker Sandra Palivoda, TeamNEO.



Thank you to our Youth Program Sponsors



2023 Excellence in Manufacturing Award

presented in partnership with MAGNET



Born in 2011 in a 300 square foot, make shift plastic greenhouse in Kirtland, Great Lakes Growers has evolved into a 160,000 square foot highly automated, hydroponic greenhouse production facility specializing in leafy greens and herbs. After quickly realizing the potential of the business, Great Lakes purchased 20 acres of land in Burton in 2012 and built its first 60,000 sq ft, a high tech greenhouse. The business grew quickly, and in 2015 added another 30,000 square feet and also continued to make investments to further automate its processes. In 2019, Great Lakes Growers expanded an additional 70,000 square feet and added the infrastructure that would allow the company to rapidly expand over the next decade. Great Lakes Growers is preparing to expand an additional 60,000 square feet by winter of 2023.

Great Lakes Growers focuses on the Midwestern marketplace and boasts the nation's broadest product line focused on both retail grocery chains as well as food service distributors.

The company utilizes several interconnected automated processes ranging from water fertilization and sanitation, automated climate and lighting control, automated transport and spacing of the plants as well as automated packaging. As a true innovator in his quest to create the highest quality produce in the most efficient and profitable manner possible, John Bonner continues to make the necessary improvements and investments in automation and people to make that goal become reality.



2023 FRANK SAMUEL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



MR. JIM PATTERSON

The GGP Board of Directors is honored to recognize Mr. Jim Patterson, as the 2023 recipient of the Frank Samuel Distinguished Service Award. A lifelong Geauga County resident and a graduate of West Geauga High School, Mr. Patterson has dedicated his life to following his agricultural roots and serving as a third-generation farmer of Patterson Fruit Farm. In addition, Mr. Patterson has represented numerous boards, including The Ohio State University, Ohio Produce Growers and Marketers Association, University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center, Geauga Park District, Geauga Growth Partnership, and the Great Geauga County Fair Foundation to name a few. Mr. Patterson has also served our community as a County Commissioner for thirteen years. We wish to thank him for his deep commitment and passion for not only serving our community, but for the leadership and support he has provided to the agricultural industry and business sectors through the years.

WITH OVER 200 PARTICIPATING MEMBERS, GGP AIMS TO BRING VALUE TO EACH AND EVERY ONE.

"We believe being a member of GGP affords us many benefits. I would say the wealth of information from a very diverse group of local and like-minded businesses would rank among the top reasons. We have also benefitted from many of the different classes, and seminars they do. Hearing stories from other business owners and entrepreneurs, and having a platform to share our own story. All around we feel that being a member of GGP adds value to our company and to us personally."

Keith & Danialle Lynce, Northwoods Cabin Company

"We are members because we believe in supporting the organization that supports the companies in our county, as well as the educational programming for high schoolers."

Jane Neubauer, Sugar Pines Farm

2023 ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS

Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



SCOTT MIHALIC
AUCTIONEER



Bronze Sponsors



Award Sponsors



HOMEGROWN GEAUGA AUGUST 4, 2022 • SAPPHIRE CREEK WINERY

Presented by:



Featured Restaurants



WELSHFIELD INN



Chef
Jonathan
Bennett



SUSTAINABLE ORGANIZATION

The GGP Board of Directors established a second **Organizational Fund** held at **The Cleveland Foundation**. The Geauga Growth Partnership Legacy Fund will support the organization, including all programs and activities.

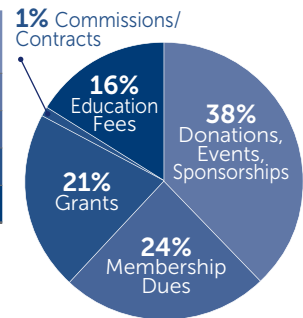


The new **Legacy Fund** compliments the previously established endowment fund serving youth programs, the Geauga Growth Partnership Workforce Development Fund in Honor of Frank Samuel.

Both funds support the long-term sustainability of the organization. Fiscal Year 2022 (January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022)

Revenue

Donations, Events, Sponsorships	\$232,804	38%
Membership Dues	\$143,177	24%
Grants	\$128,080	21%
Commissions/Contracts	\$7,466	1%
Education Fees	\$95,570	16%
	\$607,097	100%



Expenses

Personnel	\$344,656	55%
Programs	\$163,667	26%
Fundraising	\$49,564	8%
Operations	\$42,169	7%
Rent/Utilities	\$24,045	4%
	\$624,101	100%

