



THE COMMUNITY CAPITALIST

Ron Kitchens

Presentations:

Community Capitalism

Leadership Lessons:

A View From the Corner Office

Dual Bottom Line Investing:

Equity as Economic Development

Education as Economic Development

Talent Gets it Done

"Community Capitalism offers up a disruptive point of view on economic development – one that has not only reshaped the sense of what's possible for the citizens of one community (Kalamazoo), but also has the power to help leaders of all stripes re-imagine a better future for their communities and organizations."

- Polly LaBarre, *CNN*

"Southwest Michigan First in Kalamazoo is the first economic development organization to make the "Fast 50" list and it did so for a simple reason: It's one of the best outfits of its kind."

- Chuck Salter, Senior Writer at *Fast Company*

Described by *The Economist* as "an energetic economic development leader," Ron Kitchens is the Chief Executive Officer of Southwest Michigan First, as well as the General Partner of Southwest Michigan First Life Science Fund.

He is the author of the best-selling book, *Community Capitalism: Lessons from Kalamazoo and Beyond*, which presents a ground-breaking economic development strategy for individuals, groups and organizations wondering what they can do to make a real difference in their communities. He also writes a monthly business column.

Ron is known for his motivational speeches to business and professional groups throughout the nation and internationally.

Ron has worked with more than 200 *Fortune 500*, international and regional corporations as diverse as Stryker, GE Capital, Aker, Celanese, Scholastic, Kiewit, Boeing, Exxon Mobil and Ryan Sanders Baseball. Along with his 25 years of experience as an economic developer and venture capitalist, Ron has successfully started and operated multiple privately held companies. In addition, he has been an elected official and staff member to U.S. Senator John Danforth.

Ron's work has been recognized with dozens of awards, including the prestigious National Marketing for Results Award, The *Wall Street Journal's* Winning Workplaces, the Leadership and Innovation Awards from CoreNet Global and numerous International Economic Development Council Awards.

To arrange your speaking engagement with Ron Kitchens, please contact Leslie Pawlak at 269.553.9588 or Lpawlak@southwestmichiganfirst.com

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**southwest
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The Kalamazoo Region's Economic Catalyst

Ron has been extensively featured in over 100 national and international media outlets including:

