

# 25th Anniversary

southwest michigan  first

Paving **The Road to Regional Prosperity** in Southwest Michigan

# ANNUAL REPORT



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



## Welcome to The Road Ahead

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In 2026, we officially launched *The Road to Regional Prosperity* strategic action plan. Over the past year, with your partnership and support, we worked diligently to shape this ambitious plan. I could not be more excited about the future of our region or the leadership role our organization will play in making this plan a reality.

As we begin the road ahead, it's important to reflect on the path that brought us here. In 2023, we introduced a new approach to economic development—one rooted in deeper regional collaboration and a shared commitment to transforming our future together. That vision became our *Path to Regional Prosperity* strategic action plan, which we implemented over the past three years. We set very high expectations, and I have been eagerly waiting to share what we have accomplished together.

I am proud to report that the results have been exceptional.

Together, we delivered record-setting outcomes across every major focus area. Over the three-year period from 2023-2025, we reached all-time highs in leaders engaged, businesses served, assisted capital investment, regional collaboration, leadership development, and participating Investors. These achievements mark the strongest performance in our organization's history and set a new standard for what is possible in our region. In areas such as consulting revenue, client growth, and stakeholder engagement, our work now ranks among the best in the country.

Our progress is visible, measurable, and impactful across the region. A few highlights over the past three years include:

- **More than 4,900 jobs created or retained**
- **More than \$3.1 billion in assisted capital investment**
- **More than 1,000 events hosted, engaging over 18,000 participants**
- **More than \$10 million in grant funding secured and advanced for community development projects**

These results translate directly into opportunity, growth, and long-term prosperity for our communities. They directly reflect the collective effort of hundreds of leaders working together to capture our greatest economic opportunities and address our shared challenges.

As we move forward with *The Road to Regional Prosperity*, we do so with momentum and confidence. The foundation we have built together is strong, and the opportunity is even greater. This next phase will build on our success, deepen collaboration, and accelerate impact for the benefit of the entire region.

Thank you for your partnership, your belief in what is possible, and your continued commitment to this work. I look forward to the road ahead and all we will accomplish together.



**Jonas Peterson, CEO**  
Southwest Michigan First



*Conducted in-depth strategic planning sessions with all seven counties*



*Produced seven high-quality videos for the Thrive in Southwest Michigan talent attraction campaign, showcasing some of the best our region has to offer*



*Expanded our Board of Directors by adding 11 new members*



*Hosted more than 400 impactful events in 2025, including our brand new Chamber's Choice Conference and Celebration*

HIGHLIGHTS

# MEET THE TEAM



A healthy and vibrant region begins with a healthy and vibrant team leading the way: a group of passionate people working together to serve others and help them be successful, now and in the future. Our mission is to increase economic prosperity for all in Southwest Michigan. But it's also our passion. Together with our Investors and community partners, we're creating an environment where businesses thrive and meaningful jobs are created. Meet the people who are working to make that happen.

Our five focus areas:

- Businesses
- People
- Places
- Operations
- Consultant Connect

**WEST MICHIGAN'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST COMPANIES TO WORK FOR WINNER 2025**

## Leadership Team:



**Jonas Peterson**  
CEO



**Carla Sones**  
President



**Jill Bland**  
Executive Vice President



**Twayne Howard**  
CFO



**Clarence Lloyd**  
Vice President

## Southwest Michigan First Team:



**Jenny Boerman**  
Associate



**Heather Burnett**  
Director



**Rodney Coleman-Robinson**  
Associate



**Jeff Coney**  
Director



**Kevin Crittenden**  
Associate Director



**Kaiden Gustafson**  
Intern



**Justine Laux**  
Senior Director



**Riley Lukumski**  
Director



**Cynthia McMullin**  
Senior Director



**Sean Moscynski**  
Director



**Nick Riashi**  
Senior Director



**Eric Ringwelski**  
Senior Associate



**Ambrei Riojas**  
Senior Associate



**Abbie Rumery**  
Vice President



**Petey Stephanak**  
Consultant



**Rachael Tiesenga**  
Director



**Stephanie Van**  
Associate



**Kimberly Viers**  
Manager

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Building Momentum Across Southwest Michigan

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2025 was another incredible year of momentum and economic development growth, particularly in two major regional projects that have been decades in the making.

First, the privately funded, 453,000 square foot, state-of-the-art, \$515 million Kalamazoo Event Center broke

ground on September 26, 2025, marking a new chapter for downtown Kalamazoo and an even greater investment than previously envisioned. Slated to open in 2027, the venue will become a must-visit hub for sports, concerts, and community events, and bring an estimated \$52 million in economic impact to downtown Kalamazoo every year.



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“ MICHIGAN IS ON THE RISE, AND SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN IS LEADING THE WAY. - Jonas Peterson, CEO

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Second, the new US-131 Business Route Interchange was completed in Kalamazoo, allowing traffic to go both north and south bound from the BR to US-131. This work marked an important investment that will improve connectivity, reduce congestion, and support long-term economic growth for the northern portion of Kalamazoo County. This \$19 million project strengthens access for residents, employers, and commercial transportation. It is a significant milestone in building a more efficient and competitive Southwest Michigan.

We would be remiss if we didn't congratulate AAM for its \$132 million investment in its Three Rivers facility, a commitment that will position the plant and community for long-term success. By designating Three Rivers as its Center of Excellence, AAM is not only elevating the facility's capabilities but also shining a spotlight on the extraordinary talent and craftsmanship of our regional workforce. Investments such as these strengthen the entire region for years to come.



**US-131 Business Route**



**Clark Logic**



**AAM**



**Kalsec**



**Keystone Solutions Group**

**NEW PROJECTS**

**26**

**NEW JOBS**

**576**

**SQUARE FOOTAGE**

**351,951**

**RETAINED JOBS**

**146**

**CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

**\$243,643,289**

COMPANY	INDUSTRY	PROJECT SUMMARY	INVESTMENT
	COUNTY		NEW JOBS
	Automotive Manufacturing St. Joseph	AAM is investing \$133M into their Three Rivers facility to improve into AAM's center of excellence. Their investment into the plant positions it to be a continued anchor of the St. Joseph County economy.	\$133,000,000 0
	Integrated Processing and Disposal St. Joseph	Clean Streams is building a facility in the Three Rivers Airport Industrial Park to provide sustainable processing and disposal solutions for non-hazardous liquids.	\$20,000,000 20
	Plastic Injection Molding St. Joseph	Summit Polymers, a global leader in automotive plastic injection molding, expanded their City of Sturgis facility by 71,000 square feet to support manufacturing and warehouse opportunities associated with expanded contracts.	\$15,600,000 5
	Defense Research and Development Kalamazoo	Faraday Defense is a Kalamazoo-headquartered defense company that provides solutions for protecting equipment from electromagnetic factors. Faraday acquired land from the WMU BTR Park II to build a new headquarters.	\$15,000,000 15
	Mechanical and Maintenance Services Kalamazoo	Pro Services, a mechanical and maintenance company, is expanding their Portage footprint. This expansion will help reduce the shortage of skilled trade workers in Southwest Michigan through their licensed State of Michigan proprietary training institution known as Pro U.	\$14,400,000 250
	Food and Beverage Ingredient Manufacturing Kalamazoo	Kalsec, an international leader in food and beverage ingredient manufacturing, expanded their Kalamazoo Township headquarters to build a new grinding facility and lower the community impact of their operation.	\$12,000,000 0
	Mechanical and Fabrication Services Kalamazoo	C&S Machine Allied Mechanical Services, a mechanical services company in Comstock Township, expanded their facility by 18,000 square feet to enhance their customized fabrication solutions.	\$9,000,000 15
	Major Household Appliance Manufacturing Kalamazoo	Kalamazoo Outdoor Gourmet, a leading manufacturer of world-class outdoor cooking appliances, is relocating recently-acquired Montreal-based Urban Bonfire's manufacturing operations to their Kalamazoo headquarters.	\$5,000,000 25
	Plastic Injection Molding St. Joseph	Sturgis Molded Products, a family-owned plastic injection molding company, added 47,000 square feet to their City of Sturgis facilities, allowing SMP to expand their manufacturing capabilities and secure new contracts.	\$2,600,000 2 RETAINED
	Contract Medical Device Manufacturing Kalamazoo	Keystone Solutions Group, a leader in contract medical device manufacturing, expanded operations with a 2,200-square-foot clean room and an additional 27,000 square feet to support new pre- and post-serial kitting contracts.	\$2,500,000 55
	Real Estate and Industrial Services St. Joseph	Clark Logic, a family-owned real estate and industrial services company, secured a \$1 million EGLE vapor mitigation grant to support the redevelopment of Three Rivers property into warehousing and logistics space.	\$2,200,000 20
	Mechanical and Fabrication Services St. Joseph	Peak Plastics, a plastic injection molding company, is expanding their operation into 45,000 square feet in White Pigeon. Their investment will go toward the purchase of five new presses ranging from 500 to 1,150 tons.	\$2,000,000 15
	Mechanical and Fabrication Services Kalamazoo	Majesty's Animal Nutrition, a manufacturer of canine and equine supplements, relocated its headquarters from Oregon to Portage, Michigan, to leverage the area's affordable business climate and talent pool.	\$2,000,000 41
	Boot Manufacturing St. Joseph	Heirloom Stitching, a family-owned custom leather boot manufacturer, is revamping and expanding a facility in Nottowa Township to increase their production capacity.	\$1,600,000 15

The top 14 of 26 projects in 2025 are highlighted above.

# GRANTS AWARDED

In 2025, Southwest Michigan First received a final \$270,000 allocation of Industry 4.0 grant funding from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). Throughout the life of this program, our economic development team partnered with manufacturers across the region to secure critical funding for advanced manufacturing and technology investments.

These grants frequently served as catalysts for larger capital investments, driving new job creation, increasing operational efficiency, and upskilling employees on shop floors throughout our seven-county region. As this final allocation marks the conclusion of the Industry 4.0 program, we remain focused on maximizing its impact by supporting the last group of manufacturers approved for funding in 2025. These include:





# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

We believe that a skilled and diverse workforce is the foundation of successful economic development. To drive economic growth, we are committed to guiding, supporting, and leading innovative workforce development strategies that empower talent and strengthen our communities.

In 2025, we partnered with Kalamazoo Forward Ventures, a \$50 million, Black-founded investment firm headquartered in Kalamazoo, to advance two initiatives designed to strengthen the local entrepreneurial ecosystem and keep opportunity and ownership rooted in the region. Reach Forward is a curated event series that connects local founders with industry leaders and buyers across a variety of sectors, fostering candid conversation, strategic insight, and meaningful relationship-building while helping businesses diversify pipelines and reimagine how work gets done in Kalamazoo.

**Leadership Greater Kalamazoo**, a premier leadership development program in the region, graduated a cohort of 48 leaders. Five industry sectors were represented, including business, nonprofit, faith-based, education, and healthcare, reflecting a diversity of races, ethnicities, generations, interests, and experiences. The purpose of the program is to accelerate leadership impact in an intensive, community-focused program, something that we've been doing for more than 35 years. The impact of our LGK alumni was far and wide with 153 alumni learning and volunteering in 10 events this year.

Relaunched this year, **First 50**, is a high-impact mentorship experience that pairs local professionals with experienced leaders from across Southwest Michigan. Based on Clifton Strengths, 25 mentees received intentional, one-on-one sessions with experienced professionals that were designed to support the growth and development of emerging leaders in our region.

**First Up** is an eight-week leadership development program designed for early career professionals with five years of experience or less. A total of 34 young professionals from a variety of industries successfully completed this program.

**The MIX Design Initiative** leveraged Southwest Michigan's strong base of innovative, design-driven companies to strengthen the region's talent pipeline and drive economic impact. We hosted six MIX events that engaged more than 800 creative professionals and students from WMU's Richmond Institute for Design + Innovation, connecting talent to opportunity while supporting retention, attraction, and workforce development.

**The Summer Intern Series** was another huge success! We connected 84 interns to opportunities and experiences across the region with the goal of keeping them in the region after graduation. We also expanded the program's reach and impact through a new partnership with LINK Kalamazoo, a highly engaged network of young professionals.

# THE CHAMBER



## Making Business Better Together

This year, the Chamber continued to bring people together through meaningful programming, strong advocacy, and opportunities to celebrate the leaders and organizations making a difference across our region.

Case in point: we launched the Chamber's Choice Conference and Celebration, a signature event which delivered timely, region-focused content for small business owners while honoring outstanding individuals and organizations across nine award categories. The Chamber also introduced the Monday Midday Mixer, a once-a-month lunchtime networking event featuring a round-robin format to help others engage with each other in a relaxed setting.

We also strengthened member connectivity with the launch of the upgraded Member Marketplace directory. The new platform makes it easier for members to support each other through improved search tools, local deals, and referral requests, while giving members expanded ways to promote their businesses.

Community impact was at an all-time high through several key events. The Chamber:

- Hosted a community conversation on housing and homelessness
- Supported The Legacy groundbreaking for an affordable senior housing development in Kalamazoo's historic Northside neighborhood
- Welcomed new Western Michigan University President Russ Kavalhuna to discuss the university's role in regional growth along with Discover Kalamazoo

Complementing this effort, the Acquisition Accelerator—often referred to as the “Silver Tsunami” series—addressed the impending wave of business transitions by convening industry-specific discussions focused on succession planning, acquisition readiness, and entrepreneur-led ownership. Through monthly engagements, including targeted sessions for business owners preparing to sell, the initiative helped keep wealth local and ensured that business legacies continue within our community.



**Chamber's Choice Conference and Celebration**



**Pins Not Putts FUNdraiser**



**Member Marketplace**



**Monday Midday Mixer**

# 400+ Southwest Michigan First Events in 2025

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2025 was another record year of events! We brought together business leaders, entrepreneurs, Investors, and community partners around the region to focus on our key focus areas. Attendees didn't just attend, they engaged. Big time. This is a connected group that's committed to working together to make our region better.

## Economic Development

- ♦ First Path
- ♦ Groundbreakings
- ♦ Regional Partner Meetings
- ♦ Site Consultant Events
- ♦ Supplier Summits
- ♦ Manufacturer's Talent Workshop
- ♦ Manufacturing Consortium
- ♦ Going PRO Talent Workshop
- ♦ Regional Strategic Planning Workgroups

## Workforce Development

- ♦ Internship Mixers
- ♦ Leadership Greater Kalamazoo
- ♦ Leadership Greater Kalamazoo Alumni events
- ♦ First 50
- ♦ First Up
- ♦ MIX Design

## Community Development

- ♦ Local Officials Academy
- ♦ The State of Economic Development

## Investor Engagement

- ♦ Fall Investor Celebration
- ♦ First & Foremost
- ♦ Small Group Lunches
- ♦ High-level Donor Event
- ♦ Economic Briefing
- ♦ Southwest Michigan First Board Meetings
- ♦ St. Joseph County EDGE Board Meetings

## The Chamber

- ♦ Business Breakfast Roundtables
- ♦ Chamber Connects
- ♦ Rise & Thrive Coffee Connects
- ♦ Community Townhalls
- ♦ Black & Brown Connect Mixers
- ♦ Connect for a Cause
- ♦ Small & Mighty Business Series
- ♦ Chamber Member Orientations
- ♦ Ribbon Cuttings
- ♦ Women's Business Lunches with Moxie Mastermind
- ♦ Pins Not Putts FUNdraiser
- ♦ Monday Midday Mixers
- ♦ Chamber's Choice Conference
- ♦ Veteran Series
- ♦ BOSS Workgroups

## Regional Strategic Planning

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*Scan to see how regional collaboration is shaping the next chapter for Southwest Michigan.*

# PUBLIC POLICY



## Working to Create Vibrant Business Communities

Over the past year, we:

- Engaged elected leaders at an unprecedented pace, conducting 273 meetings with elected officials at the local, state, and federal levels in a six-month period
- Advanced Southwest Michigan's priorities in Lansing, actively advocating on key legislation, budget negotiations, and economic development tools critical to regional competitiveness
- Provided regional input on federal policy issues, including direct engagement with Michigan's congressional delegation on tariffs, trade impacts, and supply-chain concerns affecting Southwest Michigan employers
- Hosted Local Officials Academies across the region, bringing together 70+ elected officials for structured, nonpartisan discussions focused on economic development, workforce, housing, and infrastructure
- Served as a convener among business, government, and statewide partners to align advocacy around shared legislative and budget priorities and connect regional employers with state and federal policymakers

## Second Annual State of Economic Development

OVERALL EXPERIENCE

**4.1** (Out of 5)

WOULD YOU ATTEND AGAIN?

**92%** (Yes)

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND?

**86%** (Yes)

WHAT WAS LIKED BEST?

- Networking
- Engaging speakers
- Energy in the room

Our 2025 State of Economic Development event was all about Thriving Together. From the positive feedback we received, regional leaders are aligned around shared priorities and excited about the key regional projects shaping Southwest Michigan's future. A highlight was the keynote from Charles Montgomery, award-winning author of "Happy City". He challenged leaders to reimagine our communities by exploring how urban design can create a hopeful vision for our region's future.



*Scan to experience the energy and impact of The State of Economic Development.*

# A Year of Momentum and Global Reach

Consultant Connect, Southwest Michigan First's full-service economic development consulting firm, entered its 11th year with no signs of slowing down! A major milestone was our partnership with The Financial Times to launch a global event. Our friends across the pond helped us reinforce our role as a recognized leader in the field and expand our reach in the international site selection and economic development landscape.

We also released our annual Mid-Year Report, capturing insights from top site consultants on the trends shaping location decisions today. From energy reliability and foreign investment to workforce challenges, the report provided essential guidance for economic developers navigating an increasingly complex environment. Download a free copy at [consultantconnect.org/resources](https://consultantconnect.org/resources).

Another highlight was the IEDC Annual Conference in Detroit, where our very own President Carla Sones led a featured session on site selection trends and best practices. She emphasized the importance and power of collaboration and authentic partnerships between consultants and communities.

Lastly, our flagship ECONOMIX Conference brought together more than 250 attendees in Lake Nona, Florida, for our largest event every year. We explored what it meant to flourish—as leaders, professionals, and regions—through focused leadership training, meaningful peer connections, and direct engagement with more than 30 top site consultants. To cap off yet another incredible year, we made an exciting announcement: we won't have to travel very far for next year's conference because ECONOMIX will be held in Grand Rapids in 2026!

2025 REVENUE

**\$2.7M**

NEW COUNTRIES

**11**

CONSULTANT ENGAGEMENTS

**348**

2026 INVOICED

**\$1.1M**

NEW CLIENT ORGS.

**44**

ECONOMIX SEATS SOLD

**247**



**CONSULTANT  
CONNECT**

# MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

## FIRST & 42 Got a Major Glow-Up!

FIRST & 42, our digital news platform serving seven counties in Southwest Michigan, underwent a major rebrand in 2025. We completely reimagined our e-newsletter and rebuilt our website from scratch to give our readers more of what they've been asking for: more original content, more success stories, and more regional news. After months of building, testing, and listening to readers, our new website launched in September 2025, giving our readers a front row seat to what's thriving throughout Southwest Michigan.

### What's new:

- **Refreshed branding:** a clean and modern logo that's true to the brand
- **Improved newsletter design:** cleaner layout with bigger visuals and smarter sections, now published every other Monday so we can produce more original content
- **All new website:** faster navigation, improved story pages, and a better experience for mobile users
- **Lower pricing:** job postings and event promotion are now just \$50, while articles remain at \$150 each

Check out [firstand42.media](https://firstand42.media) to subscribe, download our content calendar, submit a story or job posting, and so much more.

### SUBSCRIBERS

4,600

### NEWSLETTERS PUBLISHED IN 2025

53

### INCREASED CLICK-THROUGH RATE

43%

### OPEN RATE

26.33%





# THRIVE

*in Southwest Michigan*

*A bold, regional campaign designed to attract top talent and help them build lives, careers, and community in Southwest Michigan.*

## It's time to Thrive: Attracting and Retaining Top Talent

A major milestone in 2025 was building on the momentum of our Thrive in Southwest Michigan regional talent attraction campaign. Our team worked with local business and Chamber member Rhino Media to produce seven high-quality videos that tell a compelling story, highlighting the people, places, and lifestyle amenities that make our region a destination for top young talent. Our digital ad campaign resulted in a 340% increase in traffic to [thriveinsouthwestmichigan.com](https://thriveinsouthwestmichigan.com).



**THERE'S NO PLACE  
I'D RATHER BE THAN  
SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN.**

- Kyle Brott, Consumers Energy

Just as important as attracting new talent is retaining those already here so they can continue to thrive. This year, our team strategically partnered with community organizations to extend the campaign's reach and effectiveness:

### **Celebrating community at 269 Fest**

We partnered with several local organizations to help promote the first-ever 269 Fest, a weeklong festival kicking off on the 269th day of the year—which just happened to fall on 9/26—celebrating the music, food, film, technology, and culture that make Kalamazoo a city like no other.

### **Welcoming WMU students downtown**

We participated in Western Michigan University's Downtown Welcome Day in August, helping new and returning students discover downtown Kalamazoo and explore the Kalamazoo Mall and Haymarket Plaza. To build excitement and connect with the students, our Thrive in Southwest Michigan campaign featured a social media giveaway with five gift cards to popular downtown businesses, sparking strong engagement and a warm welcome to the community.



*Seven high-quality videos spotlighting our counties, culture, dining, and lake life*



*See our region through the eyes of those who live, work, and thrive here*

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Southwest Michigan First is guided by one of the largest and most influential boards in Michigan, now exceeding 75 members and representing top business, academic, and nonprofit leaders across all seven counties. Together, these visionary leaders are advancing our three-year strategic action plan *The Road to Regional Prosperity* and helping position Southwest Michigan as one of the most economically prosperous regions in the state.

## **Danielle Mason Anderson**

Miller Canfield

## **Dan Bartholomae**

Western Michigan University

## **Brian Bellware**

Gibson

## **Jamauri Bogan\***

Bogan Developments

## **Fritz Brown**

Treystar

## **Steve Carlisle**

Wightman

## **Joe Cekola**

Imperial Beverage

## **Lynn Chen-Zhang**

Zhang Financial

## **Jamie Clark**

Clark Logic

## **Dan Coffman**

Miller-Davis

## **Troy Cuvelier**

Integrated Smart Technologies

## **Marlee D'Arco**

Safety Services

## **Greg Dobson - Board Chair**

AVB

## **Jack Endres**

MANN + HUMMEL

## **Jim Escamilla**

Abonmarche Byce

## **Jim Felch**

ELITE COMPANIES

## **Scott Fountain\***

Charles River

## **Angela Gildea**

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

## **Jose Gomez**

Edwards Garment

## **Bjorn Green**

TowerPinkster

## **Andrea Haas**

Summit Polymers

## **Brandon Hoggard**

AAM

## **Bobby J. Hopewell\***

Kabundant

## **Bill Huizenga**

U.S. House of Representatives

## **Aimee Jachym**

Miller Johnson

## **David Jackson\***

Landscape Forms

## **Dan Jaqua**

Jaqua Realtors

## **Jason Jerz\***

Flowserve

## **Bill Johnston**

Greenleaf Companies

## **Mark Jones**

Lake Michigan Capital

## **Michael A. Jones, Sr.**

Goodwill Industries

## **Russ Kavalhuna**

Western Michigan University

## **Ian Kennedy**

Kalsec

## **John Kerr**

DENSO

## **Russell Lauderdale**

St. Julian Winery & Distillery

## **Scott LeBeau**

Graphic Packaging

## **James Liggins Jr.**

Warner Norcross + Judd LLP

## **Rich MacDonald**

The Hinman Company

## **Bill Manns**

Bronson Healthcare Group

## **Dave Maurer**

Humphrey Products

## **Todd McDonald**

CSM Group

## **Tim Merwin\***

Advia Credit Union

## **Mitch Moldovan**

Kreis Enderle Hudgins & Borsos

## **Yazeed Moore\***

W.K. Kellogg Foundation

## **Kevin Murphy**

Miniature Custom Manufacturing

## **TG Nulty**

Nulty Insurance

## **Jeff O'Brien**

WSI (Workforce Strategies, Inc.)

## **Greg O'Niel**

O'Niel, LLC

## **Mike Odar**

Greenleaf Trust

## **Mark Olson**

Athletic Mentors

## **Bill Parfet**

Northwood Group

## **Jonas Peterson**

Southwest Michigan First

## **Shawn Premer**

Consumers Credit Union

## **Tim Rayman**

Greenleaf Hospitality Group

## **Carl Risk\***

Beacon Health System

## **John Rosenburg\***

Stryker Corporation

## **Mike Rozewicz**

Re:Build TEKNA

## **Terry Rubenthaler**

Midwest Energy & Communications

## **Greg Salisbury**

Consumers Energy Corporation

## **Dr. Robert Sawyer**

WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine

## **Fred Schubkegel**

Varnum LLP

## **Marc Schupan**

Schupan & Sons

## **Beth Stewart**

Huntington Bank

## **Sara Sweers\***

Kruggel Lawton CPA

## **Becky Thompson**

Pfizer

## **Nancy Turtle**

Mercantile Bank

## **Natalie Valentine**

Peregrine Company

## **Jim Valk\***

UHY Advisors

## **Devon Voster**

Whirlpool Corp.

## **John Waldron**

Southern Michigan Bank & Trust

## **Tom Webb**

TW LLC Advisors

## **Matt Weishaar**

Sturgis Molded Products

## **Sean Welsh**

PNC Financial Services Group

## **Perry Wolfe**

Greenleaf Trust

## **Aaron Zeigler**

Zeigler Auto Group



**TOGETHER, WE WILL CONTINUE TO ADVANCE REGIONAL COLLABORATION AND DRIVE MEANINGFUL IMPACT.**

- Greg Dobson, COO, AVB Inc.

# INVESTOR ENGAGEMENT

Our Investors are deeply committed to helping existing companies thrive and creating opportunity for everyone in Southwest Michigan. Their leadership, generosity, and belief in our mission make regional growth not only possible, but sustainable. In 2025, Southwest Michigan First hosted a variety of Investor engagement events, from small group lunches to First & Foremost breakfast events to high-level donor events to Investor celebrations. Our Investors toured regional companies, including AAM, WMU College of Aviation, and WMed Innovation Center. We also received a sneak peek at the construction of the Kalamazoo Event Center, the newly opened KRESA Career Connect campus, and the Burma Center in Battle Creek. Additionally, Southwest Michigan First hosted panels of regional leaders speaking on timely and relevant topics such as entrepreneurship, inclusive leadership, and philanthropy.

As a charitable 501(c)(3) organization, every dollar we receive is reinvested into our region to support economic, workforce, and community development efforts. Together, we are attracting new businesses and strengthening existing ones, building a diverse, skilled talent pipeline, fostering vibrant communities, and ensuring the long-term growth and viability of our region.

The impact of this work—and a brighter future for our region—would not be possible without the more than 140 Investor organizations who stand with us. **On behalf of Southwest Michigan First and the communities we serve, thank you for your continued commitment to increasing economic prosperity for all.**





# THANK YOU INVESTORS!

## ACCOUNTING

BDO  
Kruggel Lawton \*  
Plante Moran  
UHY LLP +

## ARCHITECTURE | ENGINEERING

Abonmarche Byce +  
CRB Group  
Diekema Hamann + \*  
Eckert Wordell  
Fishbeck  
Jones Petrie Rafinski  
TowerPinkster ++  
Wightman +

## AUTO

Zeigler Auto Group +++

## BUSINESS SERVICES | PRODUCTS

Abundant Thought Revolution  
Athletic Mentors  
BDN Industrial Hygiene Consultants \*  
Buist Electric  
CLS  
Harron Fire Protection, a division of Shambaugh  
Hi-Tech Electric  
Integrated Smart Technologies, LLC +  
Knight Watch  
McDonald Commercial Roofing  
PRO Services  
R&A Landscaping  
R.W. LaPine  
Safety Services, Inc. +  
TRELLIS

## COMMUNITY LEADERS | ORGANIZATIONS

City of Kalamazoo +  
City of Portage +

City of Sturgis +  
City of Three Rivers +  
Glen Oaks Community College  
Greg O'Neil +  
Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan  
Heritage Community of Kalamazoo \*  
Kalamazoo County ++  
Kalamazoo RESA +  
Ronda E. Stryker and William D. Johnston  
South Michigan Food Bank  
St. Joseph County ++  
Sturgis Improvement Association  
The Kalamazoo Promise  
Western Michigan University +  
WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine +  
William and Barbara Parfet

## CONSTRUCTION | MANAGEMENT

Allied Mechanical Services \*  
AVB +  
CSM Group +  
Consumers Concrete +  
DJ Construction  
ELITE COMPANIES  
Forman Glass \*  
INNOVO Development \*  
Kendall Group  
MacAllister CAT Power Systems \*  
Majority Builders  
Miller-Davis Company +  
Rockford Construction  
Walbridge  
Wolverine Building Group \*

## ENERGY

CMS Energy | Consumers Energy ++  
Energy Consultants, LLC  
ITC  
Midwest Energy & Communications

## FINANCIAL

1st Source Bank  
Advia Credit Union +  
Comerica Bank  
Consumers Credit Union +  
County National Bank +  
Fifth Third Bank +  
Greenleaf Trust +  
Horizon Bank  
Huntington Bank ++  
Independent Bank \*  
JPMorgan Chase  
Lake Michigan Capital +  
Mercantile Bank +  
Old National Bank +  
PNC Bank ++  
Rose Street Advisors  
Southern Michigan Bank & Trust +  
Sturgis Bank & Trust  
The Connable Office  
The Wiser Financial Group  
Zhang Financial ++

## FOOD & BEVERAGE

Greenleaf Hospitality Group +  
Imperial Beverage ++  
Millennium Restaurant Group  
St. Julian Winery & Distillery +

## FOUNDATIONS

Irving S. Gilmore Foundation ++++  
Fetzer Institute  
W.K. Kellogg Foundation ++++

## HEALTHCARE | HOSPITALS

Beacon Health System +++ \*  
Bronson Healthcare Group ++++  
OptiMed Health Partners

## IT | DATA MANAGEMENT

AT&T  
Aunalytics ++

## INSURANCE | RISK MANAGEMENT

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan +  
Gibson  
Nulty Insurance +  
Priority Health

## LAW

Kreis, Enderle, Hudgins & Borsos  
Miller Canfield +  
Miller Johnson +  
Varnum Law +  
Warner Norcross + Judd

## MANUFACTURING

4 Flutes Machining  
AAM +  
Armstrong International +  
Bell's Brewery, Inc. ++  
Everis  
Charles River Laboratories +  
DENSO +  
Edwards Garment  
FEMA Corporation  
FlavorSum  
Flowserve +  
Graphic Packaging +  
Green Bay Packaging  
HECO, Inc.  
Humphrey Products +  
Kadant Johnson LLC  
Kalsec  
Landscape Forms  
MANN+HUMMEL USA  
Miniature Custom Manufacturing +  
Newell Brands  
Pfizer ++  
Re:Build TEKNA  
Schupan +  
Stryker ++++  
Sturgis Molded Products  
Summit Polymers +  
Whirlpool Corporation

## REAL ESTATE | DEVELOPMENT

Allen Edwin Homes  
Callander Commercial  
Franklin Partners +  
Jaqua Realtors +  
Midlink Business Park ++  
NAI Wisinski of West Michigan  
Peregrine Company  
PlazaCorp Realty Advisors  
The Hinman Company +  
Treystar Holdings, LLC

## TALENT | MANAGEMENT

HUMANeX Ventures  
WSI +

## TRANSPORTATION | LOGISTICS

Clark Logic ++  
Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport +

*\* New Investors for 2025*

*Council: (\$6,000 - \$9,999) | + Leadership: \$10,000-\$19,999*

*++ Legacy: \$20,000-\$49,999 | +++ Visionary: \$50,000-\$99,999*

*++++ Pinnacle: \$100,000*



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