

March 2014

Inside the Network



The Business Resource Network (BRN) partnership consists of chambers of commerce, workforce and economic development organizations, postsecondary institutions, community and government agencies that all offer services to the business community. The BRN creates POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS that work together as a team to share ideas and leverage resources that deliver comprehensive solutions for your business.

Success Stories: BRN Faces and Places



Contractor Connection, Inc., located in Canton, OH, is a business that provides turnkey services in strategic sourcing. Since 2000, CC Inc. has assisted in procuring goods and services for various levels of government (local, county, state), corporate America and small businesses including but not limited to industrial shut down projects, fleet purchasing, maintenance programs, and construction supplies and services. BRN Account Representative Mike Noe and network partner Steve Katz (V.P. of the Canton Regional Chamber) conducted an interview with the company's President, Maria Maculaitis. As follow-up to the interview, Maria was connected with a Veteran Representative who was able to provide information and answer her questions regarding the hiring of veterans. She was also provided information on various funding options, internship opportunities, available training monies, and possible solutions to workforce issues that were brought to light during the interview. Maria considered the interview a success

because of the new information and options she learned about as a result of her participation.

Westbrook's Cannery is located in the historic village of Zoar, and produces handmade old-fashioned canned goods, including jams, relishes, and pickles. BRN Account Representative Megan Wade and BRN Manager Kelly Haer met with the owner, Kristina Clark. Kristina requested info about joining a chamber of commerce and was provided with a summary of the Tuscarawas County Chamber's member benefits. Kristina tries to find the time to keep up to date on any services or incentives available to a woman-owned business, therefore, she was given contact information for the Minority Development Division of the Ohio Development Services Agency, as well as the Minority & Small Business Advocate with the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation. Because Kristina is exploring the option of exporting her products, she was provided with literature about the Ohio International Trade Assistance Center. She was informed about the USDA Business & Industry Loan Guarantee Program as a potential financing option, and received information about available BWC Safety Grants. The business is preparing to move into a larger space, and Kristina appreciated all of the options to consider as the business continues to grow.



Here's a look at our BRN Partners:

<i>Alliance Area Chamber of Commerce</i>	<i>Kent State University at Tuscarawas</i>
<i>Alliance Area Development</i>	<i>MAGNET</i>
<i>Alliance Career Centre</i>	<i>Malone University</i>
<i>American Electric Power</i>	<i>Massillon Area Chamber of Commerce</i>
<i>Buckeye Career Center</i>	<i>North Canton Area Chamber of Commerce</i>
<i>Bureau of Workers' Compensation</i>	<i>ODJFS Veterans Program</i>
<i>Canton City Schools ABLE</i>	<i>OhioMeansJobs Stark County</i>
<i>Canton City Schools ACTE</i>	<i>Ohio MeansJobs Tuscarawas County</i>
<i>Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce</i>	<i>Ohio Department of Job and Family Services</i>
<i>City of Canton-Community Improvement Corporation</i>	<i>Ohio Department of Transportation</i>
<i>City of Alliance</i>	<i>Ohio Development Services Agency</i>
<i>City of Canton</i>	<i>Ohio University PTAC @ Akron</i>
<i>City of Massillon</i>	<i>Ohio Small Business Development Center</i>
<i>City of Dover</i>	<i>R.G. Drage</i>
<i>City of New Philadelphia</i>	<i>Small Business Development Center</i>
<i>City of North Canton</i>	<i>Stark Development Board, Inc.</i>
<i>Community Improvement Corporation of Tuscarawas County</i>	<i>Stark State College</i>
<i>Dominion East Ohio</i>	<i>Tuscarawas County Chamber of Commerce</i>
<i>Economic Development and Finance Alliance of Tuscarawas County</i>	<i>Tuscarawas County Community and Economic Development Office</i>
<i>First Energy</i>	<i>Twin City Chamber</i>
<i>Jackson-Belden Chamber of Commerce</i>	<i>University of Mount Union</i>
<i>Office of Governor John Kasich</i>	<i>Walsh University</i>
<i>Kent State University at Stark, The Corporate University</i>	



Representatives from Men's Challenge recently spoke at an Area 6 BRN Roundtable Meeting.

Men's Challenge is a Christ-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose goal is to teach "unemployable" men how to become employable. Men's Challenge seeks to deal with the root causes of poverty by working with men in the greater Stark County area who, for a variety of reasons, do not have a job. Many of these men perceive themselves to be unemployable because they have never worked, they have felonies, or they have been out of the workforce for too long. Men's Challenge helps men overcome these barriers by providing free classes to show them how to find a job, coaches that keep them on track, and workshops that can provide the work related skills necessary to obtain employment.

All services are free to participants. Men's Challenge relies on the tax exempt donations of businesses, foundations, and individuals. They also seek volunteers to serve as advisor board members, speakers, and coaches.

Men's Challenge asks businesses that are looking to expand to consider hiring one of their participants temporarily through their MC Employment program. Participants are trained to become successful employees, and many are vetted through their workshop program. They try to point their participants to the positions in which they will most likely be successful. Contact Men's Challenge for more information.

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EMPLOYERS—Call us for more information to find out how we can help you grow your business! 1-855-669-4726