



**Brainerd Lakes Area
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Corporation**

**2019
ANNUAL
REPORT**

A Vision for the Future



BLAEDC is a community-driven, non-profit organization created to preserve and enhance the area's economic base by expanding business, building community and growing jobs in Crow Wing County.

We work together with area businesses and government leaders to:

- Foster the creation of new jobs
- Attract new industry to the region
- Assist area businesses with their growth and development needs
- Provide services for expansion, relocation and start-ups



Education Sessions on ED Efforts



Sheila Retires



ICF New York Broadband Efforts Continue



EXEC Led Outreach to Business Sector

BLAEDC Entrepreneur Fund

BLAEDC partnered with Clow Stamping and CTC to launch the Entrepreneurial Fund and provide funding for young entrepreneurs through the Junior Achievement and YMCA summer programs. BLAEDC EXECS created a "shark tank" environment for the participants to assess the students' business ideas and their funding needs. Four out of the six business ideas were funded through the Entrepreneur Fund and two of the companies continue today through the help and leadership of participants' parents.



Brad Dad Jokes Apparel



Sun Junkie Apparel



Lake Apparel



YMCA - Sports for Life

2019 Economic Development Highlights



The BLAEDC Unified Fund assisted with financing for Karen Pederson, to acquire Greenheck Auto Glass. Greenheck is located on Washington Street in Brainerd and operates as a full-service glass replacement business. The company employs four people.



Graphic Packaging will be investing \$7 million in building improvements. This upgrade is in response to Europe's push for more sustainable packaging options. Improvements will include machinery upgrades and basic updates throughout their 35,000 square foot facility. The updated space will be used for fabricating parts, assembling machines, and quality-control testing.



There is an exciting new construction project planned for the Pequot Lakes business park. Dotty Brothers construction has acquired 1.85 acres and is planning approximately 15,000 square feet of new facilities to house their growing construction company.



Knut Nelson announced plans to build a senior lifestyle housing community in Baxter in 2020. The location for the proposed development is at the southeast corner of County Road 48/Highland Scenic Road and Mapleton Road in Baxter. Development plans include independent/assisted living apartments, enhanced assisted living apartments as well as a secure memory care household.



Cuyuna Area Murals Continue



City of Brainerd Adopts R2R Incentives



Children's Museum Site Exploration



Crosslake EDA Hosts Regional ED Sessions



Economic Impact of the Arts



Babinski Housing Project Planned for Breezy Point

Area Stats

BLAEDC is always committed to Crow Wing County and the ever changing economic development climate. We continually work to enhance the economic health of our area.

| Population | |
|------------|--------|
| 2009 | 2019 |
| 62,579 | 67,929 |

| Companies | |
|-----------|-------|
| 2009 | 2019 |
| 2,148 | 2,175 |

| Employees | |
|-----------|--------|
| 2009 | 2019 |
| 27,024 | 30,775 |

| Average Weekly Wages | |
|----------------------|-------|
| 2009 | 2019 |
| \$602 | \$792 |

| Unemployment | |
|--------------|------|
| 2009 | 2019 |
| 9.6% | 4.4% |

Sources: US Census Data, MN DEED - QCEW Tool (2009 Annual, 2019 Q3), MN DEED - LAUS Tool (2009 Annual, 2019 Annual)

Vision for the Future

BLAEDC is excited to see what is in store for our community and organization in the years to come!

- New Executive Director- Tyler Glynn
- Youth Entrepreneurial Programming
- River to Rail Continued Efforts
- Priority Housing Investments
- Expanded Workforce Initiatives
- Business and Industry Growth and Investment Focus

2020 BLAEDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Angella Roby, Oakridge Woodview Services



We are honored to lead the BLAEDC and CREDI organizations in 2020. Our boards and staff are dedicated to making our area a successful place to expand business, build community and grow jobs. We are optimistic for our future and look forward to sharing the many wonderful programs and opportunities BLAEDC and CREDI have made priorities in the coming years.

Eric Charpentier
CREDI President

Tom Haglin
BLAEDC President

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

| | <u>2019 Accomplishments</u> | <u>Total Program Accomplishments</u> |
|--|--|--|
| BLAEDC Organization 1987-2019 | 32 Projects \$10.4 Million in Capital Investments 89 Jobs Created, 83 Jobs Retained | 478 Projects \$717.46 Million in Capital Investments 5,102 Jobs Created |
| KEY Recruitment Program 2016-2019 | 11 Hires 10 Spousal Referrals 18 New People to the Area 23 Workforce Ed. Presentations | 35 Hires 22 Spousal Referrals 68 New People to the Area 51 Workforce Ed. Presentations |
| BLAEDC Unified Fund 2016-2019 | 6 Projects \$3.4 Million Total Project Investment \$415,000 Total BUF Financing 38 Jobs Created, 36 Jobs Retained | 13 Projects \$8.67 Million Total Project Investment \$971,626 Total BUF Financing 72 Jobs Created, 73 Jobs Retained |



BLAEDC and CREDI have formed a strong partnership and work together to support economic development in Crow Wing County. Shared staff between the two organizations provide efficiencies and expertise throughout the region.



THE 2019 TEAM

Sheila Haverkamp, Executive Director
Mike Bjerkness, Workforce Director
Tyler Glynn, Economic Development Officer
Chelby Jensen, Marketing Coordinator
Megan Rehbein, Office Administrator



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