

WHAT CLIENTS ARE SAYING...



A Pennsylvania Local Development District



Business and Economic Development

“Without the building and loan program that you offer, our recent expansion would have been much more costly for our company and we would have been required to downsize the expansion that we so greatly need in order to serve our customers’ growing needs and to be able to employ additional staff in order to meet those needs. The tightening of profit in domestic manufacturing requires that we watch every penny to keep the bottom line in the black and your services and programs continue to allow us to ride on the positive side of the precipice for financial success.”

David Jepson, Jepson Precision Tool, Inc.

“The low interest and business friendly loan assistance provided by the Commission has allowed us to create over 20 new jobs in our Meadville facility, install state of the art manufacturing facilities in advance of market demand and establish an operation with a significant cost and service advantage.”

Michael Dent, Optical Filters

“We worked closely with Daryl Coyne, the Manager of Loan Programs at the Commission. My fiancé and I are young business owners and often are not treated with the same respect other business owners receive, but Daryl showed us the same professionalism as any other client. It was a great experience and ultimately we were awarded the microloan to purchase our equipment.”

Jason Howles, Jason Howles Landscaping

“The Northwest Commission was able to help us get set up on the Bid Match System. This system matches our companies profile and products, to branches of the government seeking these products. During 2007 employees were able to attend the Veteran’s Business Seminar in February and the Wide Area Workflow Training in September. Both programs were offered by the Northwest Commission to give local businesses more information on doing business with the government. The training opportunities and the Bid Match assistance offered by the Northwest Commission are useful tools for local businesses.”

Kenneth Fisher, Great Lakes Automation Services, Inc.

“The personnel in the Government Contracts Program assisted us by reviewing our company profile and making several suggestions so that we could improve our ability to receive information on those government contracts that were more in line with our business, a significant time saver

in light of the number of requests for quotes put out by government entities. The Government Contracts personnel were also able to direct us to Penn State Erie, the Behrend College, for a course in RFID and UPC tracking so that we could learn more about these requirements when selling to the government. Overall, the services of the Government Contracting Program of the Northwest Commission have been invaluable to our business.”

Glenda Blinn, Approved Toilet Rentals, Inc.

“I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the great service we received from the Northwest Commission’s International Marketing Program. As an emerging small business seeking to grow and expand globally, we are faced with many demands and challenges, many of which are just having the resources needed. We appreciate the huge effort and quality services the Northwest Commission provided to us through this program and we couldn’t be more thankful to have the availability to a program such as this to assist us with achieving our future goals.”

Dan Hoversten, Salvage Direct Inc.

“The support that we received from The Northwest Commission and in particular Dorte Heffernan was excellent. Her assistance was invaluable both in the preparation stage for the show (Euromold 2007) and with assistance during the show as well as setting up before hand and tearing down afterwards. Thank you!”

Jack Jaeger, X-Cell Tool and Mold

Organizational Development

“I am pleased to participate as a sponsor for your 3rd Northwest Commission Annual Dinner. This is a great opportunity to network with local public officials, economic development directors, and important people from the private sector. It is also a great opportunity to get the Lee Simpson Associate’s name in front of all of the people, some of whom could become new clients.

Since we have the airport clients in the Northwest Region, we feel we are active members of the region. For me, this is a major marketing event in the Northwest Counties. It is the only event that covers a wide range of potential business in eight counties.”

Bill Sprague, Lee Simpson Associates

“I would like to express my thanks to your staff, especially Travis Siegel. I recently worked with Travis on a marketing assistance project. Travis was able to take my information and turn it into a Cover Letter and a Marketing Plan. I really needed help and the Northwest Commission’s staff was ready and able.”

Chuck Martino, Martino’s Deli (Marketing Assistance)

“Venango Chamber members joined in celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Northwest Commission during a well attended Chamber Mixer in May. Along with the opportunity to network with other members, attendees had the chance to view displays from Northwest Commission clients and see why “You can make it here!”

Susan Williams, Venango Area Chamber of Commerce (Chamber Mixer, 40th Anniversary)

“The Northwest Commission has the ability to continually provide, not only to the Board, but to the businesses and industry in the northwest region, critical information pertaining to a vast array of services, projects and programs that they oversee. At any point in time, you are assured that you have received up-to-the minute details of any and all projects from the Commission. The people responsible for these programs are truly the best in their fields and I am very honored and pleased to say that they represent us.”

Donna Hartle, Clarion County

“I look forward to receiving the e-mail updates from the Northwest Commission. As board members, it is imperative that we attempt to stay current on the activities of a very active staff. Through the Northwest News and the Legislative Bulletin I feel that I am getting the up-to-date information in a succinct and timely fashion. Keeping members current is a difficult task, but we all benefit when line of communication are open and ongoing.”

Mary Ann Yochim, National Fuel

“The Northwest Commission’s Northwest News and Legislative Bulletin are outstanding information resources that are provided to the stakeholders and the public about the services the Commission provides to the Northwest Region. The Northwest News provides a short monthly update on what the Commission’s programs are working on throughout the region- a great way for businesses and governments to find out about trainings, seminars, and other services offered by the Commission. Meanwhile, the Legislative Bulletin provides quarterly information that is organized by county. I find it extremely helpful to read up on what the Commission is doing in my home area. Both documents are an excellent information source about what is being done to help the local businesses and municipalities within Northwest Pennsylvania.”

Jake Rouch, Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership

Community Development & Regional Planning

“The Carl F. Curran II Bridge Project was 15 years in the making. The Northwest Commission’s Transportation Planning and Assistance played a vital role in getting this project funded and completed.”

Kevin Reichard, Clarion County Planning Commission

“As an employee in Tionesta, I found the workshop to be beneficial as we prepare to develop an emergency management plan in anticipation of the uncapping of utility costs that is scheduled to occur in 2010. It was a very informative seminar given by Kathy Greely, and I was happy to have the opportunity to attend.”

Colleen Call, Tionesta Borough, Forest County

“The Regional approach to the Greenway Plan process presents a two-fold win for the 8 counties; first, it offers us the opportunity to plan projects at a regional level with all parties proactively planning at the same table, at the same time, and second the regional approach is the most cost effective method of developing a plan.”

Dan Glotz, Warren County Planning and Zoning Commission

“I recently attended a training seminar they offered on QuickBooks. This seminar was very helpful because it provided relevant information on how the program can be used for municipal purposes. The trainer, Heather Mohnkern, provided excellent training materials and provided a very informative seminar.”

Barbara Thomas, Oakland Township, Venango County

“The Northwest Commission recently held a municipal training seminar on QuickBooks courtesy of their Municipal Technology Assistance Program. The training assistance programs offered through the Commission are a valuable tool for local municipalities.”

Walt Snavely, Warren County

“VisitErie worked with the Northwest Commission to develop a custom map of downtown Erie for our annual visitors guide. The process was handled not only in a professional manner but it was seemingly effortless on our part. The Northwest Commission was efficient, effective and ultimately successful in putting together an easy-to-use map for our guide. We look forward to working with them in the near future.”

Christine Pennsy, VisitErie

“The Northwest Commission’s Regional Greenways Planning Initiative in 2007 has been and will be a great benefit to Venango County and Northwestern Pennsylvania. This project has brought many municipalities, and citizens to appreciate the resources that are in their communities, and allows Commonwealth agencies such as the Department of Environmental Protection to identify and prioritize the funding of environmental improvement and conservation enhancement projects.”

Timothy Bruno, Northwest-Regional Office, PA Department of Environmental Protection

“The Northwest Commission’s involvement in the Regional Greenways Planning initiative in 2007 has been and will be a great benefit to Venango County and Northwestern Pennsylvania. This project has brought many municipalities and organizations to the table to continue to work together to protect our natural resources and the character of the region, as well as add to the recreational opportunities that attract visitors and benefit our citizens. VCRPC encourages the NW Commission to continue developing these types of projects.”

Debra Frawley, Venango County Regional Planning Commission

“Your custom mapping service has been extraordinarily helpful for us. From time to time, we require maps to help to illustrate client service area geographies as well as locations based on a

radius geography. We do not have the volume of need to justify the large investment that would be required to have these capabilities in house. However, it is a tremendous benefit to be able to call and quickly get an accurate map that meets ours and our clients needs, at an affordable cost. We have found the staff to be very capable and helpful and the maps are great. We appreciate the NWC providing these services to organizations in the region.”

Debbie Thompson, Strategy Solutions