

# Harrison County Economic Development Corporation

## Annual Report

**2005**



### **Mission Statement:**

The Harrison County Economic Development Corporation is a public/private partnership building a better economic future through effective planning, economic diversification, and the growth of quality employers.

## Organizational Profile

- Organization:** Private Non-Profit 501© (3) Corporation
- Leadership:** A Public–Private Board of Directors with four members appointed by County Government and three members appointed by the Chamber of Commerce.
- Staffing:** Currently staffed by a Director who reports to the Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors.
- Operating Arrangement:** The Corporation conducts the economic development effort under an administrative contract with Harrison County Government. The Director is responsible for the day-to-day economic development activities. Staff support is provided by the Chamber of Commerce under an administrative contract with the Corporation.
- Budget for 2006:**
- |                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| \$190,000        | Administration       |
| \$ 70,000        | Marketing            |
| <u>\$220,000</u> | Development Projects |
| <b>\$480,000</b> | <b>Total</b>         |
- Plan of Action:** The Chamber of Commerce conducted an Economic Development Strategy in 1999 and had the plan updated in 2003. The Economic Development Corporation was formed in 2004 and this Strategy provides the Action Plan for the Harrison County Economic Development effort and identifies the funding needed to implement the Plan.
- We are focusing on two major areas: 1) Marketing the property in the Industrial Park area near Corydon (approx. 65 acres) and 2) Identifying the market potential for establishing a new Business Park in Harrison County.
- The Marketing effort is primarily accomplished through partnership arrangements with the South Central Indiana Regional ED Group, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation and GLI, the Louisville, Ky Chamber.
- Developing a new Business Park involves long-term activities such as working with local government to approve the needed zoning and to extend roads and wastewater treatment service to new properties.

## 2005 Economic Development Highlights

The county's largest employer, **Caesars Indiana in Elizabeth** was purchased by Harrah's Entertainment and it will be re-branded to a Horseshoe Casino theme in 2007. Caesars presently employs 2100 people, contributes \$100 million in state and local taxes and they provide more than \$15 million annually to Community Foundations and other charitable causes.

The **Harrison County Hospital** broke ground on a new 150,000 square foot facility northwest of Corydon. The approximate cost is \$38 million. The Hospital presently employs 400 people with a total payroll of more than \$15 million. The new location will be more central to the growing population of the community, will offer better access, greater visibility and is on a site that will allow room for future expansion.

Two major changes related to the volatile automotive industry also impacted Harrison County. **Martinrea International, Inc.** purchased the Oxford Automotive facility in **Corydon** and established **ICON Metal Forming, LLC**. The Harrison County Economic Development Corporation, with financial support from county government and the Indiana Economic Development Corporation was able to provide tax credits and direct financial assistance to ICON for their commitment to create 322 new jobs and invest \$3 million during the next three years.

The second event related to the automotive industry is that **Tower Automotive** closed its **Corydon** operation this summer idling almost 600 workers. The supplier of Ford Explorer frames since 1990 decided to discontinue production of Explorer parts and focus on other products in other parts of the county.

**Childcraft**, a maker of high quality children's furniture relocated from its flood-ravaged headquarters in Salem (Washington County) to a vacant Keller Furniture facility in **New Salisbury**. The Harrison County Council awarded the company 10-year tax abatement on their new investment in the facility. They presently employ approximately 130 people.

The **Harrison County Regional Sewer District** is now being established as the County Council and Commissioners have been notified by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management that their petition was approved. This will create significant development opportunities throughout Harrison County. Priorities for the establishment and expansion of wastewater service include the Industrial Park area near Corydon, the growing area near New Salisbury and the Lanesville interchange area.

A supplier to Lucas Oil Company, **Howard Packaging**, leased a vacant building in the Industrial Park late in 2005. They employ 10 people and plan to purchase the building and expand its size and their employment in 2006.

Continued development in the **Natural Gas industry** makes a positive impact in the county. **Quicksilver Resources** has invested more than \$70 million in the county, paid \$500,000 in property taxes and nearly \$6 million in royalty payments through 2005.

Small business development will be supported with a new service in the near future because the ED Corporation was successful in obtaining grant funds to initiate a **Revolving Loan Program**. With matching funds contributed by the Corporation, the program has a total of \$190,000 and will begin making loans in the first quarter of 2006.

**Financial Highlights**  
**12/31/2005**

Administrative Expenses	\$ 96,530
Advertising and Promotion	\$ 13,741
Development Projects	<u>\$177,151</u>
<b>Total Expenditures in 2005</b>	<b>\$287,422</b>

**Harrison County Workforce Information**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>Employed</b>	<b>% Unemployed</b>
1990	14,670	13,880	5.4%
2000	19,050	18,500	2.9%
2003	19,190	18,430	4.9%
2004	20,950	19,860	5.2%
2005(Dec)	19,510	18,210	6.7%

**Board Members and Staff**

President:	Gordon Pendleton
Vice-President:	Gary Davis
Secretary-Treasurer:	Sam Eckart
Director:	James Goldman
Director:	Ralph Sherman
Director:	Pam Bennett Martin
Director	David Whittington
Economic Development Director:	Darrell Voelker
Executive Director- Chamber	Barbara Middleton
Administrative Staff- Chamber	Shirley Roggenkamp
Administrative Staff-Chamber	Sarah Turpin