**Annual Report 2023**

**ATTRACTION & RECRUITMENT**

* Worked 32 named projects: Avocado, BlackStream, CC, Castle, Centre, Chapstick, Colbalt, Drive, ECO3, Green, Grey Platinum, Iron Cross, Jae, Kaza, Make, Max Ten, Melange, Next, Orange Lily, Power, QSR, Range, Ray, Real, Shark, Slow Track, Speck, Sweet Tea, Track, Welcome, White, Wood (6 located; 12 still active)
* New Businesses (Chick-fil-A, Corporate Storage, Savannah Power Systems, SungEel, Superior Distribution, Thermacell)
* Job & Investment Totals Created or Announced from these recruitments:
	+ 236 Jobs
	+ $40M
* Managing a $700k REBA Grant from the State for SungEel
* Hosted Georgia Power Company’s New Community Development Manager for the Northeast Region on a tour of our available industrial sites and buildings.
* SCDA was featured in an article in Georgia Trend’s April Edition on how the EV Industry is impacting Northeast Georgia.
	+ **Product Development**
		- We applied & were awarded a $200k grant from DCA’s OneGeorgia Fund to finish the sewer infrastructure that will serve our largest available lots in Hayestone Brady Business Park. Bids are in and work will begin soon.
		- We are in the process of working with DCA to obtain another grant from their Rural Housing Innovation Fund that will help us complete sewer infrastructure in our community that will support our housing efforts.
		- We worked with CW Matthews to level up one of our sites in HBBP.
		- We have been updating our marketing materials and finalizing our new website with the help of our TFC summer intern Destany Stover.

**WORKFORCE EFFORTS**

* Partnered with T-SC Chamber of Commerce, Georgia Power Company & the School System to host a Discovery Tour for 39 educators in our school system. The goal was to connect students to careers available in our community by introducing our local educators to the opportunities available. (We toured Bowen & Watson, ASI, Sark Wire, the hospital & Patterson Pump. We also took them on a tour through of all our industrial parks and talked about the industries we did not get to visit.)
* SCDA was in charge of the industry day for the T-SC Leadership Toccoa Class. We toured Osborne Wood Products, Luftex, & Meadowbrook Machine & Tool this year.
* Continue to work with our WBL coordinators to host and advertise their job fairs for students.
* Sponsor the WBL student of the month, gave our first $1,000 scholarship to the WBL student of the year and participated in several employability skills training opportunities.
* Meet and served on several workforce committees for NGTC and the high school to make sure that we are adequately preparing our future workforce for opportunities available with our local industries & businesses.
* Working with SCBOE to provide externships in local businesses for teachers this summer.

**EXISTING INDUSTRY RETENTION & EXPANSION**

* Our Existing Industries Reported **59** Jobs Created & over **$6M** invested.
	+ **ASI Southeast**our largest industrial employer (400 employees)
		- Jobs Created (**16** total)
			* Added 2 Robotics positions
			* Added 2 IT postions
			* Added 6 WBL
			* Added 1 Chemical Engineer
			* Added 1 Safety Coordinator
			* Added 4 New Salaried Manager positions between all 3 facilities
	+ **Sark Wire** has completed their 4th & 5th expansion this year totaling **$5M** and have already started two additional expansions at their facility here. They have created 15 new positions this year with those two expansions and in August when their sixth expansion is complete, they will add another 14 jobs. Making their job creation total **29**.  (They employee 83 people total now.)
	+ **Lanier Air Products** has expanded in the last 6 months and created**2**positions.
	+ **Jaymarz Graphics** created **2**positions.
	+ **Mountain Sweet Honey** has created **2**new job creations.
	+ **American Woodmark** has had **2** manager positions.
	+ **Dewtex** created **2**new positions
	+ **Mark Wilkinson Lumber**completed an expansion and created **4** new positions. (Total Employees 48)
* In September we hosted Chairman Hayrettin Cayci of Sarkuysan. We included local, state and federal leadership in our meeting with him.
* SCDA hosted two Quarterly Industry Luncheons for our Existing Industries.
* We provided a fall & spring tour of our community for US Congressman Andrew Clyde and his staff members. He toured the Ritz Theatre, The Links & Lake Toccoa, The Currahee Military Museum, 3 local industries (American Woodmark, Sark & Trachte), and had lunch with community leaders each visit.
* We invited US Senator Warnock’s regional aide Katrina Cochran to a lunch where she was able to meet with County, City, School, SCDA, Chamber & Hospital Leadership. She also toured the hospital and two local industries (MWL, LLC & Sark Wire) while she was in town.
* We took North Georgia Technical College’s economic development team & the school system’s CTAE staff on an industry tour of 5 local industries (Patterson Pump, CMC, Sark Wire, Trachte & American Woodmark).
* Helped numerous existing industries with a variety of concerns from obtaining zoning & variance changes, to helping them take advantage of state tax credits, to finding warehouse space.
* Worked with E911 to get vital EMA/Tier II Reports from local industries.

**HOUSING**

* Worked with the City and Chamber to identify areas where infrastructure is in place to support housing developments.
* Rezoning SCDA property not suitable for industrial property to attract housing developers.
* Hosted major housing and multifamily developers in our community and shared with them our available sites for housing.
* Worked closely with the owner of 120 acres at the Bypass and Hwy 106 to bring housing to our community.
* Surveyed & had one on one visits with local industry leaders to do an assessment on how lack of housing is impacting their ability to recruit, retain & expand in our community.
* Represented Stephens County on a Housing Panel hosted by the Department of Community Affairs where we were recognized for our efforts in trying to get more housing in our rural community.