

**ONE LORAIN COUNTY**  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR A NEW ECONOMY

**ANNUAL REPORT | 2025**

***“The Best Way To Predict The Future Is To Create It.”***

*Peter Drucker*

Dear Supporters,



Last year, ONE Lorain County hosted our inaugural Annual Meeting and published our first Annual Report. 2024 marked the beginning of our journey to bring together leaders with diverse perspectives, align a shared vision, and establish the organizational foundations needed to drive progress across Lorain County. In 2025, we built on that momentum.

Throughout the year, we deepened our engagement with the business community and strengthened strategic partnerships. Working closely with our municipal, educational, and community partners, we enhanced collaboration to reduce the fragmented experiences businesses often face when seeking support or resources. By fostering a more connected ecosystem where businesses can navigate opportunities with greater clarity, we are creating the conditions necessary for Lorain County's economy to thrive.

Our outreach efforts expanded significantly. We met with a greater number of Lorain County businesses than ever before, and we doubled the number of companies successfully accessing statewide funding resources. We also broadened our communications reach by launching a quarterly newsletter, growing our social media presence, and enhancing our website to better highlight opportunities, resources, and success stories.

Looking ahead, our top priority remains supporting our existing businesses. This includes strengthening the talent pipeline by connecting companies with education and workforce partners who can help ensure employers have access to the skilled workers needed to remain competitive. Additionally, ensuring that our residents have pathways to careers offering long-term economic security. We are equally focused on supporting site readiness to ensure Lorain County is prepared when new opportunities arise.

As we pursue growth, we will continue to honor our legacy industries while welcoming companies that will help move our region into the future. By building on our history and embracing innovation, Lorain County can shape our own trajectory—and ONE Lorain County will continue serving as the catalyst for connection, collaboration, and transformation.

The best way to predict our future is to create it. We invite you to join us in creating the future of Lorain County together.

*Lisa Hutson*  
President/CEO,  
**ONE Lorain County**

*Philip Amos*  
Board Chair,  
**ONE Lorain County**  
*Magis Advisory Group*

# Locate | Stay | Grow

in a Prosperous Lorain County

At ONE Lorain County, our mission is defined by a commitment to the people and industries that call this region home. In 2025, these values served as our strategic compass, guiding us through a year of growth and transformation.

## Outcome-Driven

We measure our success by the tangible growth and vitality of our community. In an ever-changing economic landscape, we remain agile and responsive to ensure that our efforts yield meaningful results. Our focus remains on delivering strategic impacts that enhance the quality of life for all residents and businesses in Lorain County.

## Collaborative by Design

Our strength lies in our ecosystem. We recognize that regional prosperity is a team sport, and in 2025, we deepened our alliances with local, regional, and state partners. By fostering inclusive relationships and welcoming diverse perspectives, we have proven that we are stronger together than we are alone.

## Integrity & Respect

Trust is the currency of economic development. We operate with unwavering honesty and reliability, ensuring that every interaction—from small business owners to global CEOs—is rooted in dignity. We honor the unique culture, skills, and ideas that each partner brings to the table, creating a professional environment where innovation thrives.

## Responsible Stewardship

We are dedicated to safeguarding the long-term interests of our region. We believe that sustainable vitality requires the responsible management of both our fiscal and natural resources. By applying foresight and creative problem-solving to our decision-making, we ensure that today's initiatives build a foundation for future success. We are committed to planning boldly and investing wisely to protect the unique assets of our community.



## Economic Development Focus

- **Attracting New Businesses:** We're bringing new investment, jobs, and revenue to Lorain County by showcasing our strengths and targeting key industries.
- **Supporting Existing Businesses:** We're helping local businesses thrive by connecting them with resources, funding, and expertise.
- **Building a Skilled Workforce:** We're collaborating with education partners and businesses to ensure Lorain County residents have the skills needed for today's and tomorrow's jobs.
- **Developing Ready-to-Go Sites:** We're preparing shovel-ready sites to attract new businesses and compete in the Northeast Ohio market.

# Lorain County Companies **On The Move**

**Congratulations** to these standout companies on their recent **JobsOhio** support and their **continued commitment** to our community's growth.



**North Ridgeville, Ohio**  
[ruf-briquetter.com](http://ruf-briquetter.com)

**RUF Briquetting Systems** is transforming the way manufacturers handle waste. From their new, state-of-the-art North American headquarters in *North Ridgeville*, RUF provides innovative hydraulic systems that compress metal, wood, and sludge into high-density briquettes. This "Plug & Press" technology doesn't just reduce scrap volume by up to 20:1—it allows companies to reclaim up to 97% of expensive cutting fluids and create new revenue streams from their byproducts. **As a family-owned business with a legacy of 50 years**, RUF is a cornerstone of Lorain County's economy, proving that sustainability and profitability go hand-in-hand.

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**Lorain, Ohio**  
[skyliftus.com](http://skyliftus.com)

Based in Lorain, Ohio, **Skylift** has been the industry leader in specialty easement equipment for 25 years, marking a quarter-century of **consistent investment and job creation in Lorain County**. They specialize in manufacturing "Skylift Blue" backyard easement machines and bucket trucks, featuring Skylift's new line of articulating booms. By prioritizing innovative, patented engineering—including the industry's first battery-powered hybrid easement machine—Skylift provides utility crews with safe, reliable solutions that enhance productivity while minimizing environmental impact.

# Workforce & Talent:

## Empowering the People Who Power Lorain County

Our region's economic vitality is inextricably linked to the strength of our workforce. In 2025, ONE Lorain County deepened its commitment to **talent-driven economic development**, ensuring that as our industries evolve, our people are ready to lead.



**Collaboration is the heartbeat of Lorain County's progress.** We believe that the challenges facing our regional economy—from talent shortages to infrastructure needs—require collective solutions. That is why ONE Lorain County serves as a bridge, connecting the dots between our diverse townships, cities, and business leaders. By working together, we turn individual goals into a county-wide movement, ensuring that the benefits of economic growth reach every corner of our community.



*Photos of Lorain County JVS Students*

Our success is rooted in a simple truth: **we are stronger when we work together.** Our collaborative initiatives in workforce development and business retention are proof that when we pool our resources and ideas, we achieve more. This spirit of cooperation allows us to provide a comprehensive support system for our local businesses, helping them navigate obstacles and unlock new opportunities for innovation.

For Lorain County, collaboration isn't just a strategy—it's our identity. It is the handshake between a small business owner and a city official, the partnership between a high school and a manufacturer, and the shared commitment of every resident to see our region thrive. As we look toward the future, it is this culture of togetherness that will continue to drive our transformation and ensure a prosperous Lorain County for all.



*Photos of Lorain County Community College Students*



# Business Growth & Retention: Building on the Legacy of Excellence

In Lorain County, we don't wait for economic trends to find us; we cultivate the environment where **businesses can thrive for generations**. Our 2025 strategy focused on the dual mission of attracting high-impact new investment while ensuring our existing corporate citizens have the resources to scale.

We recognize that for a business to thrive in Lorain County, it requires a synchronized support system involving municipal leaders, utility partners, educational institutions, and state-level resources.

This collaborative framework allows us to engage with our local employers more deeply. This unified response ensures that no business has to navigate the path to growth alone.



## **ABSOLUTE MACHINE TOOLS**

Their recent **facility expansion** reinforces Lorain County as a premier hub for advanced manufacturing and CNC expertise, adding high-tech roles to our local economy.

## **green circle GROWERS**

A global leader in floriculture, their **continued investment** drives hundreds of jobs. We are proud to feature their world-class orchids as our event centerpieces—a symbol of the excellence grown right here in our backyard.

# LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

**Collaboration is a marathon, not a sprint.** During Manufacturing Month in 2025, we were honored to celebrate the multi-decade successes of companies that have anchored our economy for generations:



**General Plug (70 Years):** A pillar of local manufacturing, General Plug's seven decades of excellence in fastener and plug production exemplify the grit and reliability of our regional industry.



**Thogus (75 Years):** For three-quarters of a century, Thogus has been at the forefront of plastic injection molding, evolving through innovation and a steadfast commitment to the Lorain County community.

These milestones represent more than just longevity; they represent thousands of families supported and a "**Legacy of Excellence**" that inspires the next generation of Lorain County entrepreneurs.



# The Power of Partnerships: A Unified Vision for Lorain County

“The best way to predict the future is to create it”—but no one creates the future alone. In 2025, our greatest achievement wasn't a single project; it was the strengthening of our **collaborative ecosystem**.



## The Lorain County Economic Alliance: A Unified Front

*In Lorain County, economic development can no longer be a collection of isolated efforts; it has to be a coordinated mission.*

**The Lorain County Economic Alliance represents a strategic partnership** of lead organizations dedicated to moving the needle on regional prosperity. By integrating the unique strengths of each partner, we provide a "no wrong door" approach for businesses—ensuring that whether a company needs a new site, a specialized workforce, or capital for expansion, the right resources are immediately accessible.

## Our Collaborative Power

This alliance bridges the gap between vision and execution. Through a shared roadmap, we align our efforts in business retention, talent attraction, and infrastructure readiness. Our strength lies in the diversity of our expertise:

- **Strategic Leadership & Advocacy**
- **Workforce & Talent Pipelines**
- **Business Support & Industry Insights**
- **Infrastructure & Policy**

**By working as one, we ensure that Lorain County isn't just competing—we are winning. This collaborative engine is the reason we can confidently tell businesses that their future belongs here.**





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# Quarterly Newsletter

**SCAN ME!**



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## INVESTORS

### Municipalities

- City of Avon
- City of Avon Lake
- City of Elyria
- City of Lorain
- City of North Ridgeville
- City of Oberlin
- Village of Grafton
- Village of Sheffield

### Private Sector

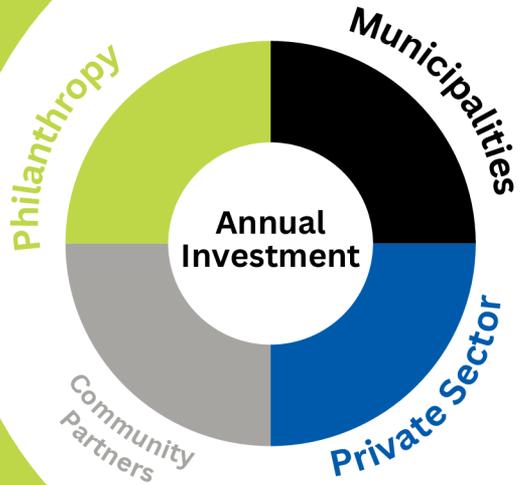
- Buckeye Bank
- Chronicle Telegram
- CommStar Credit Union
- Green Circle Growers
- Flanigan Industries
- Liberty Ford
- Magis Advisory Group
- Maloney+Novotny
- Nordson Corporation
- North Coast Design Build
- Northwest Bank
- PC Campana
- Rudolph Libbe
- Skylift
- Terminal Ready Mix
- Two Knight, LLC

### Community Partners

- Lorain County Community College
- Lorain Medina Rural Electric
- Lorain Port and Finance Authority
- MAGNET
- Oberlin College

### Philanthropy

- Community Foundation of Lorain County
- First Energy Foundation
- Nord Family Foundation
- Nordson Corporation Foundation



### 2025 Board of Directors

- Philip Amos  
*Magis Advisory Group*
- Marcia Ballinger  
*Lorain County Community College*
- John Falbo  
*Terminal Ready Mix*
- Anthony Gallo/ Nico Samaniego  
*Lorain County Chamber of Commerce*
- Jaime Hart  
*Rudolph Libbe Inc.*
- William Hudnutt  
*Lorain County Printing & Publishing*
- Kevin Knight  
*Two Knight, LLC*
- Chris Mead  
*Maloney + Novotny*
- Christine Nelson  
*TeamNEO*
- Keith Nelson  
*Welded Products Inc.*
- Radhika Reddy  
*Ariel Ventures*
- Maxwell Sherer  
*Green Circle Growers*
- Rebecca Starck  
*Cleveland Clinic Avon*
- Robert Munro  
*Avon Lake Regional Water*



**Jadera Patton** spearheads the marketing and communications strategy for **ONE Lorain County**, focusing on amplifying the organization's mission through managing brand consistency across all platforms and developing high-impact outreach.

**Reka Barabas** is a fractional COO at ONE Lorain County focusing on executing the organization's strategic plan, raising **ONE Lorain County's** community profile via new relationships, and leading organizational operations and service design processes.

## Meet Our Team





# CONTACT US

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# Thank You!

In our second year, **ONE Lorain County** has transitioned from a new initiative to a catalyst for regional growth. Guided by our Board and supported by our dedicated investors, we continue to harness the power of collaboration to deliver real results.

The progress we've shared in this report is not the result of chance, but of a unified commitment to take ownership of our economic destiny. Thank you for your continued partnership as we work together to design, build, and **create** the future of Lorain County.



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