



Growing Montcalm Since 1995

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



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To our investors and partners,

Since 2015, the Montcalm Economic Alliance has worked with The Right Place to drive long-term job creation, investment, and overall economic prosperity in Montcalm County. The Alliance provides Montcalm County businesses with the tools, resources, and support they need to grow. With a revamped partnership model, the Alliance continues its work to make West Michigan the most prosperous region in the state and one of the most prosperous regions in the Midwest. Through the pandemic, the Alliance worked with The Right Place to ensure business owners continued receiving the goods and services needed to keep their doors open. As we recover in the post-pandemic world, we need our community employers and businesses now more than ever. The Right Place's [2023-2025 strategic plan](#), in tandem with localized approaches, will guide the work of the Alliance in our efforts to retain, expand, and attract new and existing businesses and industries to Montcalm County. Fostering economic growth, championing inclusive opportunities, elevating the Greater Grand Rapids region, and touting our regional impact is the three-year plan's core.

The Alliance is a public-private partnership that receives financial support from communities and businesses. We need your help to keep this partnership active and allow economic development resources to continue flowing into the county. We ask that you join our efforts to sustain this regional partnership and work with us to create the next generation of economic growth in all our communities across Montcalm County.

Dave Seppala, President
Vice President, Isabella Bank
Greenville Division

Jakob Bigard
Executive Director
Montcalm Economic Alliance
The Right Place, Inc.

2022 BOARD MEMBERS

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Mr. Dave Seppala

Vice President
Mr. Michael Falcon

Past President
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The Right Place, Inc.
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Montcalm County
Ms. Brenda Taeter

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Mr. John VerPlank
Mr. Joshua Gibbs
Mr. Patrick Tiedt

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

SECOND MIPITCH COMPETITION

The Alliance partnered with the Ionia County Economic Alliance and area Chambers for the second year to host the MIPitch competition. New and existing business owners, entrepreneurs, and dreamers living in Montcalm and Ionia counties had the opportunity to present their business idea to a panel of judges for cash prizes at Candlestone Resort in Belding in September. This year's first-place winner, White Lotus Boutique in Greenville, was awarded \$5,000. We look forward to working with our partners and sponsors to host next year's competition.

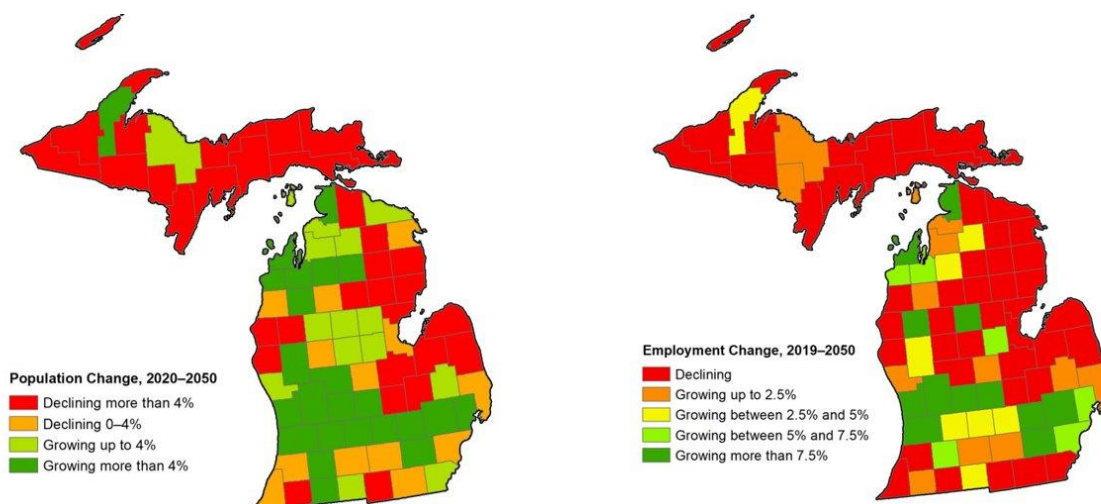
SMALL BUSINESS SURVIVAL PROGRAM

The Alliance was instrumental in the Michigan Small Business Survival Program. Applications were received from 83 businesses throughout Montcalm County requesting \$1,291,400 in Survival Grant Funds. A committee was pulled together to review the applications, and based on specific criteria, the Alliance awarded 32 businesses with a total of \$231,834 in Michigan Small Business Survival Grant Funds. The support from investors throughout Montcalm County has been crucial for continued financial support and economic growth.

NEW PARTNERSHIP MODEL & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Together with The Right Place, the Alliance embarked on a new partnership model, complete with a full-time Executive Director. The model provides regional support for business expansion, retention, and attraction throughout Montcalm County. Supportive investors make these economic development resources and services possible to create economic growth in our county. The executive committee chose Jakob Bigard, a former business development intern with The Right Place, as the new executive director going into 2023.

STATE OF THE REGION



Source: University of Michigan LSA

2022 METRICS

145

Company Assists

39

Companies Served

45

Retention Visits

7

Ongoing Projects

2022 INVESTORS

City of Stanton | Montcalm Township | Village of Lakeview | Howard City DDA | Carson City | Village of Sheridan |
Montcalm County | Montcalm ISD | Montcalm Community College | Eightcap | Greenville Public Schools |
Greenville Area Chamber of Commerce | Spectrum Hospital | Consumers Energy | DTE Energy | Point Broadband |
The Daily News | Greenville Tool & Die | Johansen Brothers Inc | Michigan One Credit Union | Commercial Bank |
Isabella Bank | Mercantile Bank | West Michigan Works | Josh Gibbs | Bob Clingenpeel | S. Michael & Cheryl Scott



Jakob Bigard

Executive Director

Montcalm Economic Alliance

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