

# 2023 PROOF OF **PERFORMANCE**

GREATER FORT WAYNE INC.

BUILDING A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ECONOMY



**GREATER  
FORT WAYNE INC.**  
METRO CHAMBER ALLIANCE

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESULTS

## Your Investment Powers our Economic Growth

In 2023, Greater Fort Wayne Inc. assisted in 20 new deals, together paying an average annual wage above Allen County's current rate.

**\$770M+**

Total Investment

**700+**

New Jobs

**\$42M+**

New Annual Payroll

### *2023 Business Expansions & Attractions*

Asher Agency  
Bolt Custom Truck  
CME Corp.  
Custom Cartons

DKM Embroidery, Inc.  
Excell Color Graphics  
Faztek  
General Motors

JH Specialty  
Juvare  
Koch Air, LLC  
Kuehnert Milk House

Marathon Labels  
Murray Equipment  
NIA, LLC  
North American  
Cold Storage

QuikCut  
Sanders & Sons  
SH America  
Tippmann Group

### *Recent Notable Investments*

#### Kuehnert Milk House

Kuehnert Milk House, a new business from the operators of Kuehnert Dairy Farm, is planning to build a 23,000-square-foot facility. Here, they will process raw dairy milk into a variety of special products, including flavored milk in glass bottles, cheese curds, butter, and ice cream.



#### General Motors

General Motors plans to invest \$632 million in its Fort Wayne Assembly to support the production of next-generation (internal combustion engine) full-size light-duty trucks. 3,300 jobs will be retained.



**#2**

Fastest growing metro in  
the Great Lakes Region  
U.S.Census Bureau, 2020-22

**#2**

Emerging housing  
market in the U.S.  
The Wall Street Journal, 2023

**TOP-10**

Best-run city  
in America  
MSN.com, 2023

# GETTING BOLD PROJECTS DONE



## 650+

Local businesses visited,  
assisting them with their most  
pressing challenges



## 18

Ribbon-cuttings and  
groundbreakings held to  
celebrate new investments



## \$100M+

in funding for Fort Wayne  
and Allen County  
infrastructure projects

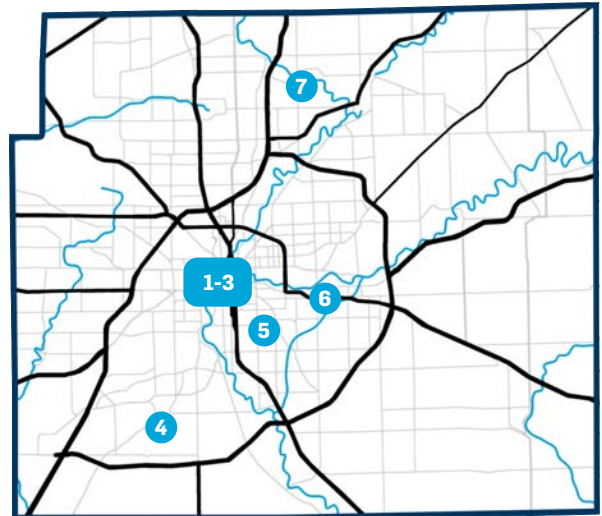
## Quality of Place

Greater Fort Wayne Inc. played a pivotal role in securing \$30.5M from the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) state funded grant. These funds will be allocated toward numerous significant quality-of-life projects aimed at enhancing Allen County's appeal for job creation and talent retention.

### Allen County READI Projects

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| 1. Riverfront – Phase II .....                | \$6M   |
| 2. Arts Campus Fort Wayne .....               | \$6M   |
| 3. Lofts at Headwaters .....                  | \$5M   |
| 4. Project Gateway – West Terminal .....      | \$3M   |
| 5. Park's Edge – Phase I .....                | \$6M   |
| 6. Crossroads Multifamily .....               | \$500K |
| 7. Trine Fort Wayne – College of Health ..... | \$4M   |

Learn more about READI at [INDIANAREADI.COM](https://indianareadi.com)



## TOP-5

Most affordable place  
to live in the U.S.

U.S. News & World Report, 2023

## TOP-10

City for new graduates  
to start a career

Insurify / CNBC, 2022

## TOP-10

Best affordable place  
to retire in the U.S.

U.S. News & World Report, 2023

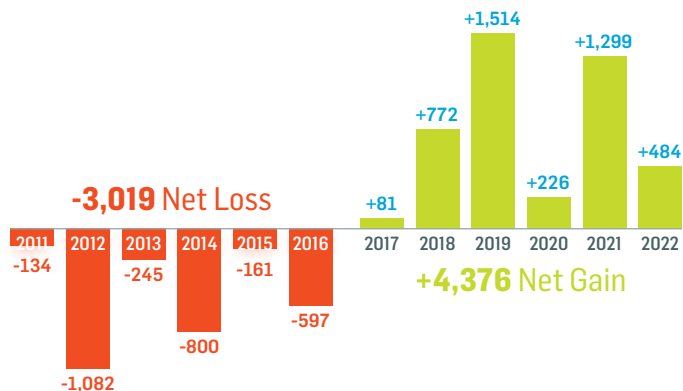


# ATTRACTING & RETAINING TALENT

## Six-Years of Postive Net Domestic Migration

Net domestic migration growth/loss in Allen Co.

Net domestic migration measures how many people moved into a community from other U.S. locales, minus how many moved away to other U.S. communities.



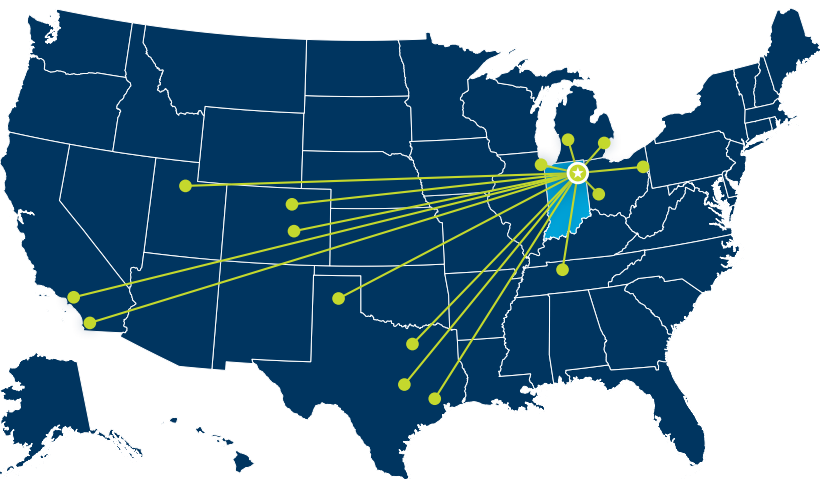
## Brain Drain Reversal

Since 2017, Allen County has reversed brain drain. We've gained a net **4,300+ new residents** through domestic migration and, for the first time in decades, have a **net gain of bachelor's degree holding adults**. We are working hard to ensure businesses like yours can find the talent you need to succeed.



## Attracting Talent from Across the Nation

- Chicago
- Dallas
- Houston
- Amarillo
- Austin
- San Diego
- Los Angeles
- Salt Lake City
- Dayton
- Youngstown
- Denver
- Colorado Springs
- Nashville
- Detroit
- Grand Rapids



SOURCE: IRS, GFW Inc. analysis

# OUR TALENT CONTINUUM

## Onboard Fort Wayne Expands to Welcome New Residents

Onboard Fort Wayne has created a continuum of programs aimed at helping newcomers connect with our community. With the inclusion of The Intern Experience and our existing C-Suite Social program, Onboard Fort Wayne now includes a complete spectrum of workforce outreach programs.



### The Intern Experience

Each year, local employers attract hundreds of interns from across the country. Once their internship is finished, our goal is to leave them wanting more of Fort Wayne! Through engaging summer events, we create an unforgettable experience for these young professionals, making them eager to call Fort Wayne their new home. In 2023, we welcomed **220+ interns** from 23 different states and 8 unique countries.



### Newcomers

For those new to Allen County, Onboard Fort Wayne provides a variety of support to help residents settle in and get connected. From networking events to resources such as our local volunteer Navigators, we aim to create a welcoming experience for newcomers looking to learn more about Fort Wayne. Over **330+ attendees** participated in an Onboard Fort Wayne event in 2023.



### C-Suite Socials

When executives and their families relocate to Fort Wayne, we are eager to roll out the red carpet. We invite them to join events where they can meet fellow newcomers, familiarize themselves with their new hometown, and catch a glimpse of the best our community has to offer. This year, **75 executives** joined us at our C-Suite Social networking events.

### *Upcoming Program Features in 2024*

#### Best in Class

We're reaching out to Allen County's rising stars! To aid in local talent retention, Onboard Fort Wayne's Best in Class program engages with local high-achieving high school students, educating them on industries and opportunities within their own hometown. Best in Class will be a Community Action Project in Leadership Fort Wayne's class of 2024.

#### Ask a Local

Our Onboard Fort Wayne Navigators are proud ambassadors of Fort Wayne and Allen County, guiding new residents on a one-on-one basis as they get settled in.

### LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ONBOARD FORT WAYNE CONTINUUM

Scan the QR code or visit [OnboardFW.com](https://OnboardFW.com) for more information.



# PROGRAMS TO DEVELOP YOUR WORKFORCE

## Providing Paths to Success

### MadeByMe skilled trades program

Building a nationally recognized economy means building your workforce. We're working to connect students with rewarding educational and career opportunities in manufacturing, construction, and more. This year, we reached more than 2,600 students through skilled trades initiatives.



## Unlocking the Potential of our Local Leaders

### Leadership Fort Wayne class of 2023

2023 marks the completion of Leadership Fort Wayne's 41st cohort. This year's class of 51 graduates participated in our 9-month professional development course, exploring themes such as community history, public safety, and diversity, equity, and inclusion.



## Connecting, Inspiring, and Empowering our Community

### GFW Inc. Women's Network

Over the course of the year, the GFW Inc. Women's Network reached 200+ program members, and welcomed over 730 attendees at 6 events held throughout the year - including networking socials, a half-day conference, and our annual Champions of Change Awards.





# BRINGING YOU EXPERT INSIGHTS

## What's Happening in Allen County?

### 2023 Economic Development Summit

More than 400 people attended the 2023 Economic Development Summit. We sat down with local leaders to discuss the implementation of the Allen County Together (ACT) plan through topics such as Inclusive Economic Development, Innovation in Aerospace & Defense, Talent Attraction, Tourism Development, and Riverfront Fort Wayne.



## Federal Law, Local Impact

### Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) breakfast

In response to federal law, Greater Fort Wayne Inc. held a symposium for local businesses to learn how utilization of solar energy can qualify for tax benefits, reshore manufacturing jobs, and reduce corporate carbon footprints.



## Fresh Perspectives on Growing your Workforce

### Workforce & Waffles breakfast seminars

Your employees keep our economy growing. Our specialized seminars featured local industry experts sharing tactics and insights to help your business improve talent attraction, retention, and company culture. In 2023, more than 140 people attended these Visionary Investor exclusive events.



# ADVOCATING FOR OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

## Advocating for the Business Community

- Developed a legislative agenda to address business priorities
- Supported initiatives to increase access to high-quality, affordable child-care and early education
- Advocated for state enabling legislation to allow communities to establish Designated Outdoor Refreshment Areas (DORA)
- Worked with elected officials and tracked hundreds of additional bills



*We advocated for the following state budget items to further benefit our community:*

**\$500M**

READI 2.0

**\$30M**

NEIN Strategic  
Commission

**\$26M**

Airport  
Improvement

**\$15M**

PFW Music  
Technology Building

**\$2M**

Turnstone

## Meeting with Elected Officials

### [GFW Inc. legislative events](#)

In 2023, Greater Fort Wayne Inc. held three legislative events averaging 200+ registered attendees. During these events, we welcomed elected officials to discuss legislative goals, progress, and results of the 2023 session.



### SEE OUR 2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA ONLINE

Scan the QR code or visit [advocacy.gfwinc.com](https://advocacy.gfwinc.com) to see our goals for the 2024 session.





# CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

## Making a Change in Fort Wayne

### 2023 Champions of Change Awards

The GFW Inc. Women's Network celebrated its fifth annual Champions of Change Awards this year. We highlighted 39 individuals who have gone above and beyond to mentor and empower women within our community.

This year's award winners and categories include:

- **Flora Barrón** - Corporate Category  
*Flora & Lili's Mexican Kitchen, Kanela, & Pikoso Burrito Co.*
- **Daniel Boylan** - Education Category  
*Purdue University Fort Wayne, Doermer School of Business*
- **Lori Morgan** - Public Service Category  
*Allen Superior Court Family Relations Division*
- **Sharon Pohly** - Nonprofit Category  
*Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michiana*



## Highlighting our Annual Success

### 2023 Annual Meeting

More than 450 people attended this year's Greater Fort Wayne Inc. Annual Meeting, celebrating the accomplishments of our organization, and paying tribute to special individuals who have impacted our community over the years.

This year's award winners and categories include:

- **Asher Agency** - Small Business of the Year
- **Blue Jacket, Inc.** - Nonprofit of the Year
- **Bob & Irene Walters** - Mac Parker Swagger Award
- **John Stafford** - Public Official of the Year
- **Kelly Updike** - Barb Smith Service Award



# EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS

## Behind-the-Scenes of our Local Businesses

### Economic Development Site Tours

GFW Inc. hosted four Economic Development site tours, taking our elected officials and economic development partners behind-the-scenes of local businesses and communities. In 2023, we visited Fort Wayne Metals, Leo/Cedarville, Dupont Meadows, and Master Spas.

**Interested in hosting a tour?** Contact Melissa Beber at [mbeber@gfwinc.com](mailto:mbeber@gfwinc.com) to learn more.



## Exclusive Access to What's New in Allen County

### Visionary Investor Sneak Peek Tours

Throughout the year, Visionary Investors are invited to join us for exclusive "Sneak Peek Tours", getting previews of upcoming economic development projects in our community. This year, we toured the newly completed Swiss Re offices and The Riverfront at Promenade Park.



## Rocket Fuel for our Community's Growth

### 2023 Inter-City Visit to Huntsville, Alabama

Greater Fort Wayne Inc. led a group of over 40 individuals to Huntsville, Alabama, where we met with community leaders to learn about industry and entrepreneurship, talent attraction, and the music economy.



# ALLEN COUNTY TOGETHER PLAN

## The Blueprint for Building a Nationally Recognized Economy

Our 10-year plan for economic growth in Fort Wayne & Allen County

The momentum in our community is real—and we're just getting started. Our Allen County Together (ACT) economic development action plan sets the pace and tone for our next decade of growth.

*The plan focuses public-private efforts around three main pillars:*



High Growth



Innovative



Inclusive

### Recent Results of the Allen County Together Plan:

- Partners throughout Allen County worked together to secure **\$100M** in funding for Fort Wayne and Allen County infrastructure projects.
- We successfully surpassed our development-ready site goal in ACT, **securing more than 600 acres for Google**. Alongside the more than 200 acres already owned by the City of Fort Wayne, this land will serve as the location for Google's newest data center campus, situated in Southeast Fort Wayne.
- **\$22M** in funding was secured for a **26,000 sq ft addition to the Music Center at PFW**.
- GFW Inc. commissioned a comprehensive **economic impact** study that lays the foundation for planning at the **122nd Fighter Wing Indiana National Guard**.
- Purdue University Fort Wayne has issued an RFP for off-campus **student housing** and is currently pursuing additional opportunities to support its campus master plan. Indiana Tech broke ground on Troder Hall, a 124-room dormitory set to open summer of 2024.
- GFW Inc. proudly partnered with Amani Family Services and Downtown Fort Wayne in developing a **Welcoming Plan for Fort Wayne-Allen County** to ensure that our international workforce is supported and engaged in the Allen County economy.
- GFW Inc. hosted its second annual **Economic Development Summit** event discussing topics surrounding the implementation of Allen County Together (ACT).

**SCHEDULE A PRESENTATION OR LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ACT PLAN**

Scan the QR code or visit [act.gfwinc.com](https://act.gfwinc.com) for more information.





## A Special Thank You to our Visionary Investors

Visionary Investors go the extra mile to support our efforts to build a nationally recognized economy in Allen County. Our thanks to the companies below for their commitment to growing jobs, wages, and the economy:

1st Source Bank	Don Wood Foundation	Metropolitan Title
3Rivers Federal Credit Union	EDP Renewables	The Model Group
AARP	F&M Bank	NAI Hanning & Bean
Allen County Government	Fort Wayne Allen County Airport Authority	NIPSCO / NiSource Charitable Foundation
Amazon	Fort Wayne Community Schools	Nucor
Ambassador Enterprises	Fort Wayne Metals	Old National Bank
Ash Brokerage	Fort Wayne Newspapers	Ortho NorthEast (ONE)
AWS Foundation	FORVIS, LLP	Parkview Employer Solutions
BAE Systems	Franklin Electric	Parkview Health
Barnes & Thornburg LLP	Garmong Construction Services	Physicians Health Plan (PHP)
Barrett & Stokely	General Motors	Pizza Hut of Fort Wayne
Barrett McNaghy LLP	Fort Wayne Assembly	PNC Bank
BFGoodrich Tire Manufacturing	Heartland REMC	Prairie Farms Dairy
Bona Vita Architecture	Hylant	Premier Bank
Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company	Indiana Michigan Power	Purdue University Fort Wayne
Brunswick Boat Group - Fort Wayne Operations	Indiana Tech	Rothberg Law Firm
Building Contractors Association	IU Fort Wayne	Ruoff Mortgage
Business People Magazine / BP Promos	IU Health	Shambaugh & Son
City of Fort Wayne	Ivy Tech Community College	Sold by the Gold at North Eastern Group Realty
City of New Haven	JPMorgan Chase & Co.	STAR Financial Bank
City Utilities	Kelley Automotive Group	Steel Dynamics, Inc.
Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne	L3Harris Technologies	Sweetwater Sound, LLC
Custer: Workplace Furniture and Design	Lake City Bank	Town of Hometown
DeHaven Chevrolet	Lincoln Financial Group	TriCore Logic
Do it Best Corp.	Lutheran Health Network	Upstate Alliance of REALTORS® (UPSTAR)
Don Ayres Honda	Manchester University - Fort Wayne	Vera Bradley Designs
	Master Spas	Weigand Construction Co.
	MedPro Group	Zayo
	Meijer	

# OUR AUDIENCE. YOUR BRAND.

## 2023 Key Impact Statistics

When it comes to our programs, events, and economic development updates, our team is hard at work making sure the business community is in the loop! Below are just a few statistics highlighting the reach of our organization:

**1,350+**

Active Chamber Members

**150+**

New Investors in 2023

**8,400+**

Event Attendees

**13,500+**

E-newsletter Subscribers

**37,500+**

Followers on Social Media

**261,000+**

GFW Inc. Website Views

## Your Company, Front and Center

### Program and event sponsorship opportunities

Greater Fort Wayne Inc. offers unique sponsorship opportunities that allow your business to stand out and engage with our community. From networking and advocacy initiatives to our signature events, each platform provides a chance for your brand to connect with and make an impact on our community.



**OVER 170**

Program & Event Sponsors in 2023

Whether you're looking to sponsor a single event, or an entire program, Greater Fort Wayne Inc. offers customizable packages for all sponsorship opportunities.

### INTERESTED IN SPONSORING A GFW INC. PROGRAM OR EVENT?

Scan the QR code or visit [sponsor.gfwinc.com](https://sponsor.gfwinc.com) to see our 2024 Sponsorship Guide.



# MAXIMIZE YOUR INVESTMENT

## Build your Business and a Better Allen County

While your investment supports many of the projects and experiences highlighted in this year's Proof of Performance, your membership includes a number of benefits you won't find anywhere else:

### Business Advocacy Services

If red tape is getting in your way, we're ready to help. We work every day to create an outstanding business climate in Allen County.

### Investor-Only Job Board

Find the talent you need to grow your business. Post your job openings on our job board, where only investor companies can share openings.

### Email Banner Ad Opportunities

Put your brand front and center. Our emails reach more than 13,500 contacts in the Allen County business community every month.

### Fort Wayne Business Weekly Newspaper

Stay in the loop with all the local business happenings—for free. Your annual subscription is included with your membership.

### Online Business Directory

Your future customers are online. Make sure they find you. Member pages on our Business Directory attract over 145,000 hits per year.

### Notarizations & Certificates of Origin

Don't let document fees bust your bottom line. Our in-house notary can certify documents, including certificates of origin at no charge.

### "Partner Perks" Discounts

Save on core expenses like office supplies, health insurance, and more—all while supporting fellow GFW Inc. members.

### "Hot Deals" Investor Promotions

Protect your bottom line with these short-term discounts that are too hot to last. As a member, you can post your company's Hot Deals, too!

### Reduced-Rate Admission to Events

Get plugged into the business community at GFW Inc. events. With special investor-only pricing, you can grow your network for less.

### Online Event Calendar

Tell the world about your upcoming events, using our online calendar. It's the place the business community goes to find out what's up next.

### Investor-Only Events & Programs

Meet your elected officials, get looped in on the next big projects, and grow your network. Our events keep you connected, informed, and inspired.

### Ribbon-Cutting Event Support

Opening a new location? We'll bring the giant scissors. When you're celebrating your company's biggest milestones, we're here to help.

### CEO Roundtables

Get trustworthy insights, practical knowledge, and best practices from fellow executives in a confidential forum.

### Leads Groups

Smash your sales goals—with a little help from your friends! These private groups meet twice per month to share business referrals and sales tips.

### GFW Inc. Women's Network

Get plugged in and powered up! Join us for events and programs that push you to be your best self, both professionally and personally.

### Conference Room Access

Our conference rooms are available to GFW Inc. members at no extra charge. Reserve a room for your team retreat, work session, or just a quick change of scenery—complete with a bird's-eye view of downtown Fort Wayne!

### Annual GFW Inc. Membership Decal

Showcase your investment with Greater Fort Wayne Inc. with our annual membership decals! Proudly display these clings in your business' front window and let customers know you're helping to create a nationally recognized economy.

## LOOKING TO BECOME A GREATER FORT WAYNE INC. MEMBER?

Scan the QR code or visit [chamber.gfwinc.com](https://chamber.gfwinc.com) to activate these benefits and more!





# BECOME A VISIONARY INVESTOR

## Making an Impact with your Investment

By becoming a Visionary Investor, your investment helps to support initiatives that drive innovation, attract new businesses, and create job opportunities for our residents. Be at the forefront of this exciting journey, and join us in our mission to build a nationally recognized economy right here in Allen County.



## Exclusive Visionary Benefits

### Recognition at GFW Inc. Events

Put your brand front and center. Visionary Investors get exposure to thousands of local business leaders every year as we display your logo at signature GFW Inc. events and programs.

### Sneak-Peek Tours

Explore Allen County's most anticipated bold projects—often before they open to the public. You'll also get exclusive networking opportunities.

### Workforce & Waffles Seminars

Get an edge when it comes to workforce, talent attraction, and company culture. Learn best practices and get insights from expert panelists and local leaders.

### Inter-City Visits

Join us for these exclusive tours of America's best-in-class communities! Meet and greet local leaders and learn best practices for improving Allen County.

### Early Registration for Select Events

Don't miss out! GFW Inc. events often sell out. Visionary Investors get the first opportunity to lock in their reservations.

### Access to GFW Inc. Mailing List

Deliver your message to the masses. When you need to reach the Allen County business community, our member mailing list is a great place to start.

### One Email Banner Ad Per Year

More of an online communicator? We've got you covered. Reach thousands of recipients with a banner ad in one of our email newsletters.

### Quarterly Economic Development Updates

Stay informed on the momentum of Allen County. Receive quarterly reports detailing the progress and results of Economic Development projects in our community.

### Annual Check-ins from GFW Inc. Staff

Every year, our staff meets with each of our Visionary Investors one-on-one to ensure your investment is exceeding your expectations. Meet with our team to share your experience, provide feedback, and learn how to take full advantage of your membership.

### Leadership Fort Wayne Participation

Elevate the skillset of your emerging to seasoned professionals through this program with hands-on learning and civic engagement. Visionary Investors receive priority access to sponsorships and discounted pricing for program fees.

### Annual Visionary Investor Decal

As a Visionary Investor, you'll get a special window cling highlighting your elevated investment with Greater Fort Wayne Inc. Display your decal and let the community know you're a supporter of GFW Inc.'s mission.

## LEARN WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME A VISIONARY INVESTOR

Contact Lindsay Hannah at [LHannah@gfwinc.com](mailto:LHannah@gfwinc.com) or (260) 602-6200 to learn more.





**10**  
**YEARS**  
2014 - 2024

## Celebrating 10 years of **GROWING JOBS, WAGES, AND THE ECONOMY**

A decade of incredible growth, unity, and your unwavering support have brought us here. Together, we've nurtured innovation, helped businesses thrive, and reshaped our community thanks to your investment. As we celebrate this milestone, we look ahead to the next 10 years of bringing opportunities powered by new technologies, sustainability, and inclusivity. It's a journey we look forward to taking with you.

SEE OUR 10-YEAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN AT [ACT.GFWINC.COM](https://act.gfwinc.com)



**GREATER  
FORT WAYNE INC.**  
METRO CHAMBER ALLIANCE

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