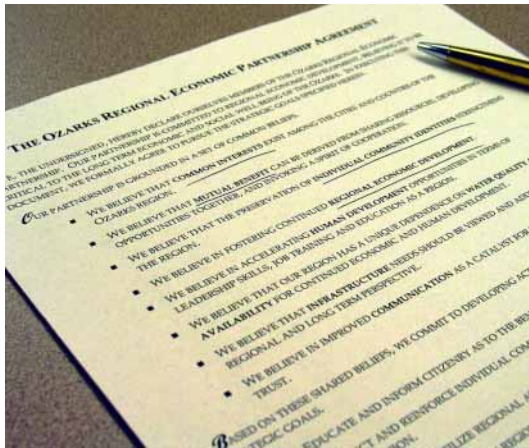


COOPERATION COMMUNICATION TRUST



2005 ANNUAL REPORT

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|--|--------------------------------------|
| City of Ash Grove | City of Marionville |
| City of Aurora | City of Marshfield |
| Aurora Chamber of Commerce | Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce |
| Barry County | Monett Chamber of Commerce |
| City of Battlefield | City of Mount Vernon |
| Battlefield Chamber of Commerce | Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce |
| City of Bolivar | City of Nixa |
| Bolivar Area Chamber of Commerce | Nixa Area Chamber of Commerce |
| City of Branson | City of Ozark |
| Branson Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce | Ozark Area Chamber of Commerce |
| City of Branson West | Polk County |
| City of Buffalo | City of Purdy |
| Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce | City of Reeds Spring |
| City of Cassville | City of Republic |
| Cassville Area Chamber of Commerce | Republic Area Chamber of Commerce |
| Christian County | City of Rockaway Beach |
| City of Crane | Rockaway Beach Chamber of Commerce |
| Dade County | City of Rogersville |
| Dallas County | Rogersville Area Chamber of Commerce |
| City of Everton | City of Seymour |
| City of Fair Grove | Shell Knob Chamber of Commerce |
| Fair Grove Area Chamber of Commerce | City of Sparta |
| City of Forsyth | City of Springfield |
| Galena Area Chamber of Commerce | Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce |
| Greene County | Stone County |
| City of Greenfield | City of Strafford |
| Greenfield Area Chamber of Commerce | Strafford Area Chamber of Commerce |
| City of Hollister | Table Rock Lake Chamber of Commerce |
| Hollister Area Chamber of Commerce | Taney County |
| City of Humansville | City of Walnut Grove |
| Humansville Chamber of Commerce | Webster County |
| City of Kimberling City | City of Willard |
| Lawrence County | Willard Area Chamber of Commerce |
| City of Lockwood | |

To promote sustainable economic development opportunities for our partner members.



Chairman - Cy Murray

2005 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Bill Adams • James Ashworth • Bill Bryant
Shirley Click • Steve Coller • Bill Dudley
Tim Eastin • Bud Godfrey • Conrad Griggs
Jane Hill • Jane Hood • Paul Ipock
Diane May • Cy Murray • Debbie Richardson
Keith Roberts • Larry Snyder
Darrell St. Clair • Dean Thompson • Jim Tice
Brenda Tigg • Cherry Warren • John Wilson
Amy White • Steve White • Rex Wilkinson
Mark Woodson • Ondria Wohfeil

Our organization is fast becoming a model for regional development. Around the state, others are looking to the Ozarks Regional Economic Partnership for ideas and advice on how to bring together diverse communities and then work together for common solutions. Most recently, a new organization based on our successful approach was started in southeast Missouri. Also, Greg Steinhoff, the director of the Missouri Department of Economic Development, has noticed and commended our partnership.

Recently, two separate SWOT analyses were conducted in our region to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. There were many similarities. If you were to look at your own community, it probably would not be much different. The point is that we all have a lot in common. When we come together in partnership, open to cooperation and communication, we can accomplish much more.

To continue to move forward, it is necessary to reinforce the basics. What do you want us to do for you in your city, county or your organization? The partnership is here for your benefit. We need your input.

Throughout the year, we will be visiting all 10 counties, meeting with our partners to identify needs and discuss participation. We will also meet with newly elected officials to introduce them to the Partnership and all that it does.

In the meantime, visit our newly-designed web site, www.ozarkspartnership.com, to see what we have to offer.

Thanks for your support over the past two years. I especially thank those who served on the regional advisory council and executive committee. I owe many thanks to past chairmen Todd Parnell, Steve Vaught and Keith Roberts for setting high standards. I look forward to our continued relationships.

COOPERATION COMMUNICATION TRUST

EXISTING BUSINESS. GLOBAL OPPORTUNITY.

A \$16 million expansion of George's Farms, a Barry County poultry processing plant, is an example of the growth of the southwest Missouri region. The expansion adds a feed mill and 27 new jobs as George's increases production capacity. The mill is scheduled to open by May, 2007, according to Craig Coberly, vice president and plant manager for George's. The mill will complete the company's fully-integrated operation and help service more than 150 contract growers.

The Partnership assisted Barry County in receiving a \$266,500 industrial infrastructure grant for plant entrances and highway intersection improvements. Coberly said he appreciated the assistance of regional manager Allen Kunkel and the Springfield Chamber for the work on this project. The company built the processing plant in 1989 and processes \$1.9 million birds per week. The third-generation, family-owned business employs about 1,000.

Hans Benkert saw a huge potential in the United States for the wire "stockings" his company, Rupi-Cologne, has produced for 40 years in Cologne, Germany. The difficulty was international logistics: getting the product to his American customers, fast and easily. Last summer, Hans and colleague Vera Brand, with the help of a longtime Springfield friend, decided to move the company to the center of the United States, specifically, Springfield.

As obstacles emerged, the Ozarks Regional Economic Partnership came into the picture. "Allen (Kunkel, regional manager) was really a big help," Brand said. From navigating the many required forms and applications to scouting possible locations, Kunkel provided assistance to the transplanted company and helped it open in July. A half-year later, Rupi-Cologne employs five people and are making inroads, selling their high quality hand-braided wire stockings to customers across the United States, including City Utilities of Springfield.



**OZARKS REGIONAL
ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP**



Robert Mastamarino was searching for a small business to buy that would be a welcome change from his 10 years as an over-the-road truck driver. His hunt ended with Jordan Cash Register, a company with a 35-year history in Springfield that sells and services cash registers across southwest Missouri.

The problem was that his bank told him that a loan would be dependent on his coming up with working capital. Then the bank mentioned the Ozarks Regional Community Development Corporation, which offers gap financing for small businesses in the 10-county region.

Within three months, Jordan Cash Register was his. "The ORCDC loan gave us a cushion and without it, we would have struggled," Mastamarino said. "For lots of businesses, a loan like this can be the difference between success and failure."

The Ozarks Regional Economic Partnership celebrated its sixth anniversary in 2005. To build on the foundation of cooperation, communication and trust, the organization held two regional meetings to bring area leaders together.

The Regional Summit featured sessions on entrepreneurship, economic development planning, and retail development. The Fall Partnership Meeting featured a discussion of the China economy, site selection trends, and the impact of early childhood education. These topics are key issues to our region's long-term economic success.

Each of these meetings attracted more than 120 leaders from around the region to learn about these issues as well as to network and build relationships. Our organization is about lending ideas to all of our members. These ideas will assist each community with its economic development goals.