

## our vision

The Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce is the premier business association whose influence, solutions, and networks drive economic growth in the Battle Creek area, enabling businesses and people to prosper in an ever-changing economy.

## mission statement

The Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce will provide the best in member services and aggressive business advocacy to create a climate for employer growth and a prosperous community for all.

## board members

**Bud Dunn**, Atlas Sales, Inc.

**John Banks**, Motor Shop  
Electrical Construction

**Troy Estill**, Wal-Mart

**Ronnie Coleman**,  
Consumers Energy

**Shane McClung**, Post Foods, LLC

**Ronald W. Wilson**, Col, MI ANG,  
Air National Guard

**Rebecca Fluery**, City of Battle Creek

**Debi Southworth**, OMNI  
Community Credit Union

**Emily Bandede**, DDS,  
Bandede Orthodontics

**Jim McKernan**, Bronson Battle  
Creek Hospital

### Thank you to the following departing board members for their service.

John Gayda  
Nelson Karre  
Mike Cope  
Cheryl Beard  
Russ Adkins  
Travis Morse  
Jim Burkheimer  
Sherii Sherban  
Paul David  
Dennis Bona



## connect. inform. develop.

The Chamber of Commerce is the best in member services, providing our members with aggressive business advocacy on a local, state and federal level all while actively creating a climate for business and employer growth at all levels (from idea to success) encouraging a prosperous community for all.

We have spent the last year successfully providing our members with opportunities to make enormous progress and change by connecting you with the community, informing you on what great things and talented people we have here and encouraging you to develop yourself, your employees and your business.

In 2015-2016, I encourage our members to think about how much time you and your employees spend working on the future? Are you developing your employees for future success?

In 2014-2015 we actively engaged with over 10,000 members with over 126 programs that Connect | Inform | Develop our members and we look forward to continuous improvement and progress in 2015-2016.

### Thank you for being a part of our organization.

President



## Strategic Vision and Achievements

1. The Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce shall educate the general public on the economy and business roles in the greater community.
2. The Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce shall fight for public policy and private partnerships that are conducive to employer growth and community development.
3. The Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce shall retain and attract members through value added programming.
4. The Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce shall act as a catalyst or conduit for partnering and strengthening the business climates in the communities we serve.



269.962.4076

Monday–Friday 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

One Riverwalk Centre, Suite 3A,

34 West Jackson Street, Battle Creek, MI 49017

[BattleCreek.org](http://BattleCreek.org)



## ambassadors

**Jenny Andrews**, *Ganton Senior Community*

**David Barrett**, *Minges Creek Village Apartments*

**Stephanie Breitbach**, *Ermisch Travel of Battle Creek, Inc.*

**Kasi Casterline**, *Troxel Realty Co, LLC*

**Laura Daugherty**, *Charitable Union*

**B.J. Etheridge**, *Chair, Prudential Preferred Realtors*

**Lynn Ward Gray**, *Battle Creek Community Foundation*

**Lorrie Hammock**, *Post Community Credit Union*

**Noris Lindsey**, *Harrington Real Estate Group*

**Lorene Frisbie**, *NorthPointe Woods*

**Jacob Miller**, *Edward Jones Investment*

**Dawn Nichols**, *Summit Pointe*

**Karen Reeves**, *Edward Jones Investments*

**Karen Rial**, *Partners Insurance Agency of SW MI, Inc.*

**Sue Smith**, *Comerica Bank*

**Angela Varga**, *Townsquare Media*

*The Chamber Ambassadors are dedicated volunteers from diverse businesses through the Battle Creek area. Their mission is to welcome, nurture, and recruit new Chamber members; act as goodwill representatives at Chamber functions and aid in the support of Chamber members. Interested in becoming an Ambassador? Call us to find out more!*

# member ribbon cuttings

*Our ribbon cutting ceremonies inaugurate the opening of a new building or a new business, celebrate an anniversary, a remodel or other milestone, and encourage entrepreneurship and investment in businesses and the community.*

*We provide the large red scissors and ceremonial RED ribbon. We invite members, guests, and local political leaders as well as encourage you to promote this to your clientele and potential clients.*

**To set up a ribbon cutting, contact 269.962.4076**

*Times are changing. Now more than ever, your business needs the confidence, connections, and resources that come with a strong Chamber. We help build the economy, the community, and connect businesses to the people and resources that get things done.*

*The Chamber shapes a community that people and businesses love. We believe a good community can get people in the door, but it's a truly inclusive and magnetic community that gives them reasons to stay.*

*More than 600 members, like these featured in our ribbon cuttings, have discovered how the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce can help them make good business happen. How may we help you?*



**Cereal City Concert Band** 2014-15 Season began with "Celebrating Our Military Bands" on October 25. The Cereal City Concert Band was excited to have the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce out to celebrate the start of their season.



**The Humane Society** in celebration of the newly renovated dog park, honored Curtis Whitaker, long time board member, with a ribbon cutting ceremony commemorating the new dog park. The Curtis Whitaker Bark Park is located at 2500 Watkins Road, Battle Creek.



**Binder Park Zoo** broke ground for building preparations on the new African Tented Camps (and school) in Wild Africa. Big thank you goes out to Donors of the African School, Joseph and Clara Stewart!



**Wirtz Family Popcorn** 898 Capital SW, is open Tuesday–Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Popcorn is available at the retail store as well as through fundraisers. For more information, call 269.753.1409 or visit [wirtzfamilypopcorn.com](http://wirtzfamilypopcorn.com)



**McCullough Chiropractic** ribbon cutting October 23 at the Lighthouse Professional Center located at 1346 West Columbia Ave. Formerly the Brown Building, the building has been renovated, revived and re-branded to serve the next generation of Battle Creek residents. The Lighthouse Professional Center currently houses: McCullough Family Chiropractic, Alternatives of Battle Creek, LJM Attorney's at Law, Nutrimost, Healing Waters Colon Hydrotherapy, and BCXfit.



**Calhoun County** Trailway Alliance and Calhoun County Parks and Recreation are proud to announce that the first phase of the Calhoun County Trail is open to use by the public. The Calhoun County Trailway is a 5.28 mile crushed gravel trail that begins at Raymond and E. Emmett St. in Emmett Township, and links to the Battle Creek Linear Trail and the North Country Trailway.



**Habitat For Humanity** opened its doors Saturday, November 15 with a grand opening celebration. Located at 595 North Ave., this location provides a wonderful location for those looking to donate household items, building materials and repurposed treasures. Stop in today to support the Habitat in Battle Creek!



**MedExpress** is committed to providing high-quality, convenient and affordable medical treatment to the Battle Creek community. Now located at 25 E. Columbia Ave., the new center will offer walk-in treatment and more advanced offerings such as x-rays, minor surgery, stitches and treatment for broken bones, sprains and strains. Local employers can also utilize MedExpress for occupational medicine needs.



**The Patio Garden** for CentraCare clients at the Burnham Brook Community Center was dedicated to Patty Miller from her friends at the former Emily Andrus Home. Patty Miller is a woman of great integrity and is a civic leader who has faithfully provided so much to our community.



**Edward Jones** Karen Reeves of the financial services firm Edward Jones opened a new office at 3164 Capital Ave SW Battle Creek, MI 49015. The new office opened for business on Thursday, January 22, 2015. The phone number is 269.979.7720.



**Cereal City Pediatrics** Dr. White and Dr. Allison Halonen of Cereal City Pediatrics are investing in a new building at 4520 Beckley Road. The ground breaking took place on March 30, 2015 with the staff of the pediatric office along with various community members. Completion of the project is scheduled for October 2015!



**A Taste of India** is opening their very own food truck and combining its signature Indian cuisine with American-style fast food for customers with the Singh Cruisin' Cuisine food truck. Singh Cruisin' Cuisine will be bouncing between Jackson Street and Fort Custer to provide a wonderful lunch experience throughout the town! Contact A Taste of India for more information at 269.962.9033.



**Charitable Union** \$20,000 Cash Raffle being held from May 4 through August 31. Tickets are \$50. Only 1500 tickets will be sold. On May 29, we gave away \$1000! On June 26 and July 31 we'll give away \$1000! On August 31 we will be drawing for \$20,000! All proceeds will benefit the Charitable Union.



**Battle Creek Books** located at 51 Michigan Ave W Suite A, is a new, locally owned and operated, independent bookstore dedicated to providing quality reading material and related items to the area's residents and workforce. Battle Creek Books is immensely proud of Battle Creek's history and plans to support local authors, illustrators and artists with in-store events! For more information call 441.2665.

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**Festival Market Square** celebrated their Grand Opening on May 15 with city officials and community members. The new space is home of the Farmer's Market and community festivals. Contact the Cereal City Development Corporation for more information.



**Community HealthCare Connections**, home of the Nursing Clinic of Battle Creek, recently moved into its own building in the downtown district at 62 East Michigan Avenue. This building has been proudly dedicated in honor of one of the founding physicians of the Clinic, Dr. John J. Collins, who has given over 25 years of service.



**Great Lakes Grow Store** is up and running! Open Mon–Sat 8 a.m.–8 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Located at 119 Union St. South in Battle Creek, we can be contacted at [Greatlakesgrowstore@yahoo.com](mailto:Greatlakesgrowstore@yahoo.com) or 269.968.4769. We cater to the indoor/outdoor gardening hobbyist to the everyday professional gardener or farmer.



**The Goodwill Store**, located at 15383 South Helmer Road, Battle Creek, originally opened in 1980, was re-opened on Friday, July 17! A significant portion of the funding for our programs comes from sales of donated items in our retail stores. Merchandise for our stores is provided through the generous donations of items from the community.



**Bicycles at KCC** A large crowd participated in the Tour de Creek ribbon cutting ceremony of the 3rd and latest Bicycle station in Battle Creek. Thirteen partner organizations were represented: KCC, Bronson Battle Creek, Calhoun County Visitors Bureau, City of Battle Creek, Battle Creek City Commission, Stewart Industries, Kellogg, the Regional Health Alliance and the Battle Creek Community Foundation.



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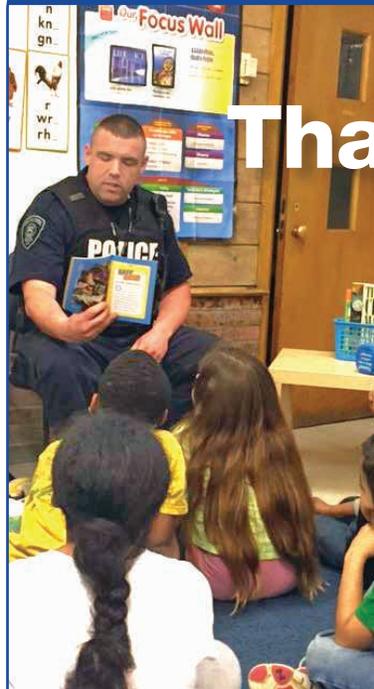
Coordinates truckload and LTL shipments for shippers and receivers throughout the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. We work as a member of your logistics team to match each shipment with the best equipment and most appropriate motor carrier.



## Thank you

to the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce and the continued support of the Silent Observer program. Together, we can make a difference.

*Jim Blocker  
Battle Creek Police Chief*



CITY OF  
**Battle Creek**  
MICHIGAN  
POLICE DEPARTMENT





**CityLinC Ministries** is pleased to announce the Grand Opening of its Youth Guidance House at 82 Calhoun Street, Battle Creek, Michigan. CityLinC, a non-profit agency specializes in mentoring children, youth, and adults through difficult life experiences. This includes finding permanent homes for foster children under our supervision.



**Hall of Toys** is devoted to Play Value. Play Value is the idea that more complex play is better. A toy with high play value is one that engages the child and keeps him or her coming back for more. Where big box stores carry many toys that treat children as an audience, they search for and carry toys that engage children in their play.



**Ganton Senior Communities and Reflections Memory Care** celebrated its new "Reflections Neighborhood", opened in May, 2015. The 10 room addition allows residents to enjoy beautiful private apartment living, 24/7 award-winning staff, deliciously prepared meals, housekeeping, laundry, and a rich array of activities designed specifically for the challenges of dementia and Alzheimer's.



**Ganton Senior Community—Lakeview Senior Living** ground breaking took place on September 10. This event marks the opportunity for Ganton Senior Community to build on 10 new apartments due to be done April 10, 2016.

# OMNI EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

With 10 years of experience in business banking relationship management and commercial lending, OMNI CCU's **Eva Tharge** is all about helping business owners reach their financial goals. Contact her today at (269) 441-1429 or [etharge@omnicommunitycu.org](mailto:etharge@omnicommunitycu.org).




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**Binder Park Zoo** is happy to unveil the NEW Joe and Clara Stewart African Tented Camp and Zamani School! Look forward to overnights in this new location next year! Thank you to the Stewart family for making the school building possible and to these sponsors: CSM Group, Worgess Insurance Agency, Caroline and Vincent Pavone Family, Mary Howell, Feldpausch Foundation, Al Miller, Motor Shop Electrical Construction and the Battle Creek and Marshall Rotary Clubs.



**A Taste of India**, an Indian restaurant at 215 W. Michigan Ave., is expanding to another location just down the road. At 56 W. Michigan Ave., lunchtime diners can get Indian food 11 a.m.–2 p.m. Mondays–Fridays.

## Playing It Safe Pays ... Dividends



Congratulations to members of the Battle Creek Area Chamber who received a **workSafe** compensation dividend check totaling \$3,798.86 in 2014.

Promoting a **WorkSafe** environment can lead the way toward premium discounts, dividends, and a safer workplace. Participating members of a Group Program can expect:

- 5% upfront discount on premium
- Potential for dividends based on group's overall performance
- Valuable WorkSafe tools

**Didn't get a check?**

If you'd like to take advantage of this exclusive chamber member benefit, contact your Accident Fund independent agent or go to [AccidentFundLoss.com](http://AccidentFundLoss.com) to learn more.



# YOUR DONATIONS CHANGE LIVES



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# annual report

2014-2015 fiscal year

Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce

One Riverwalk Centre, Suite 3A  
34 West Jackson Street  
Battle Creek, Michigan 49017

## want to join us?

*Consider serving on one of our Committees.*

### **Chamber of Commerce**

Ambassadors  
Government Affairs Committee  
Membership Committee  
Military Affairs Committee  
Small Business Task Force  
Workplace Education Committee  
The Art in Business Committee  
Member Marketing and Awareness Committee  
Business Expo Task Force

### **Chamber Foundation**

Silent Observer Committee  
Attraction & Recruitment Committee  
Leadership Academy Advisory Committee  
Growth & Prosperity Task Force

**OUTDOOR  
ADVERTISING**  
*is More*  
**POWERFUL**  
*Than We*  
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