



202 N 8th St - Ste 101  
PO Box 813  
Manitowoc, WI 54220  
P: 920.482.0540  
F: 920.682.6816  
[www.edcmc.org](http://www.edcmc.org)

## **EDC RECOGNIZES AREA INVESTMENTS**

MANITOWOC — The Economic Development Corporation held its first Excellence in Economic Development Recognition Meeting on January 19, 2012 at The Club. The event was sponsored by Leede Research and WCUB Radio. Dean Halverson of Leede Research presented the results of the Quality of Life Survey that was conducted in Manitowoc County by the EDC during the last quarter of 2011. In addition, five awards were given out to local businesses and entrepreneurs.

The Rising Star Award was presented to Ann and Dan Holsen of Heavy Pedal Bicycles. The award, which was sponsored by First Bank Financial Centre, recognized Heavy Pedal as an emerging small business that has developed their ideas, products, and services into a viable, competitive business. With mentoring from Mainly Manitowoc and the EDC, including graduating from the EDC E-Seed Course, Heavy Pedal Bicycles drafted and executed a well thought out and detailed business plan. Their business established in 2009 has already expanded, doubling their space in their downtown location.

The Neighborhood Development Award was presented to Dermatology Associates of Wisconsin. This award was sponsored by A.C.E. Building Service and recognizes innovative real estate development projects which are purpose build for the creation of jobs or for increasing the tax base, in addition to serving as a catalyst for economic development and demonstrating an innovative partnership approach between private and public sectors. In 2010, Dermatology Associates of Wisconsin constructed a \$7,000,000; 35,000 square foot corporate headquarters in downtown Manitowoc which consolidated central services into one location and provides adequate opportunity for continued growth of the practice. In 2012, they anticipate recruiting over 10 additional physicians and opening 5-10 new practice locations. Dermatology Associates currently has 131 staff in Manitowoc between central services and the local clinic. That is expected to grow to over 200 within the next 5 years.

The Corporate Investment Award was sponsored by Bank First National and was presented to two businesses that made a positive impact on the community through employment growth, by expanding their business facility or products/services through business growth and being active in community services and leadership. Miller St. Nazianz was one of the recipients of the award. In 2011, Miller St. Nazianz increased their sales by 58 percent



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over 2010, which resulted in the addition of 51 employees. In addition, the company supports employee involvement in community activities by encouraging them to be involved in local volunteer fire departments and provides financial support to the Wisconsin FFA to encourage young adults to pursue careers in Agriculture.

Holy Family Memorial also received the Corporate Investment Award. Holy Family has experienced a 10 percent growth with the development of new program offerings, including cancer care collaboration with St. Vincent Hospital and nursing home primary care with audiology services. Holy Family has added nearly 40 new positions to their organization and replaced almost double that due to steady growth in their services. They were also selected as the only rural healthcare provider in Wisconsin to participate on the Wisconsin Hospital Association Quality Collaborative Committee, which will help create policy on improving patient care and outcomes in Wisconsin.

The Economic Accelerator of the Year Award was presented to Dan Pawlitzke of Two Rivers for demonstrating leadership in the development of programs and projects, in addition to acting as an advocate for economic development. An enthusiastic and focused professional, Dan has 30 years of experience in completing business deals and assisting business expansion through his tireless efforts that have resulted in job growth and capital investment. The Economic Accelerator of the Year Award was sponsored by Diane Lupke & Associates.

Connie Loden, EDC Executive Director, commented, "We would like to offer our most sincere congratulations to the award winners,, as well as, express extreme gratitude to them for choosing to make Manitowoc County their home." Loden also indicated that additional information on the award winners and the summary results of the Quality of Life Survey are available through contacting their office at 920-482-0540.

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