

## **2023 INVESTOR RESOURCE GUIDE**

economic development hamber alliance

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### WHO DO WE SERVE?

Aspiring entrepreneurs, small businesses, and large corporations looking to launch, locate, expand, or do business in Johnson County and southern Indy.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP?

We welcome any business and individual investor excited about our local economy, business success, and access to valuable member investor services. If you are interested please contact Aspire at info@**aspire**johnsoncounty.com.

### OFFICE LOCATIONS

**FRANKLIN** 66 S. Water Street Franklin, IN 46131

**GREENWOOD** 1499 Windhorst Way Suite 160 Greenwood, IN 46143







### **ABOUT ASPIRE**

Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance drives economic development and business success in Johnson County and southern Indianapolis.

As a local economic development organization, Aspire delivers strategic services to enhance returns on investment. This includes site location and business attraction, expansion, and retention. Aspire also works in talent attraction and retention to build up a workforce that is in high demand by employers.

As a chamber of commerce, Aspire's extensive connections throughout the business community makes us the go-to for support and resources for entrepreneurs. We support businesses every step of the way - from concept to launch to expansion. We can connect our members to resources for technical coaching and microlending programs. Aspire also hosts educational events on topics of importance to the business community.

Our public policy advocacy, lobbying campaigns, and educational programs are founded on a pro-business and community development philosophy. Aspire specializes in programs to convene business leaders and elected officials in Johnson County. We believe a prosperous and growing economy is at the base of a thriving society.

Membership with Aspire is a ticket to the leading access point to a large network of business leaders and industries in all areas of Johnson County and southern Indianapolis. Members will have ample networking opportunities to grow your financial, human, and social capital. Members have first-hand access to resources such as public policy and economic updates, business savings and targeted marketing.

Aspire's community development work goes beyond helping businesses succeed to include our local residents. We develop and execute plans that enhance our quality of life, infrastructure, and public services. We uncover barriers, gaps, and opportunities for growth through community engagement, planning and placemaking.

Aspire's role in the area is to serve and bring together workers and employers, consumers and producers, students and educators, and taxpayers and government officials. Investing in Aspire is to be a part of our mission to drive economic development and create an environment for lasting business success.

### STRATEGIC PLAN

A strong, vibrant community and a skilled workforce make Johnson County Indiana stand out among Midwestern communities. We believe that these assets can be used as catalysts for further development.

To establish a path forward for the county, Aspire has developed a 5-year strategic plan that identifies opportunities and corresponding goals. By 2025, we hope to achieve two key goals:

- Attract and develop 50% more advanced industries jobs
- Grow average annual wages by 15% for all workers

Our data-driven approach has helped us develop a series of goals that will ensure our economy and communities flourish in the next five years and well into the future. When measured collectively, these goals will have a positive impact on the wider community.

- 1. Drive innovation to boost business and industry development.
- 2. Boost site development for catalyst projects.
- 3. Nurturing community collaboration and engagement.
- 4. Embrace and pursue opportunities for enhanced livability and quality of place.
- 5. Magnify and deliver robust education and workforce endeavors.

Aspire Johnson County was formed to create a stronger, more unified engine to drive economic growth and business success. Setting the bar high is in our name.





### **ASPIRE STAFF**



Amanda Rubadue Vice President of Economic Development arubadue@aspirejohnsoncounty.com

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Lisa Stokes Investor Development Executive Istokes@aspirejohnsoncounty.com

Patricia Moon Economic Development Specialist pmoon@aspirejohnsoncounty.com

Tricia Bowen Investor Events + Relations Executive tbowen@aspirejohnsoncounty.com

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Chair Rob Campbell

Vice Chair, Economic Development | Leeanne Lollar Donaldson Capital Management

Vice Chair, Business Advocacy | Eric Prime Van Valer Law Firm

Secretary | Greg Simons Simons Bitzer & Associates

Treasurer | Julia Saltsgaver Quality Connection of Central Indiana

Past Chair | Marisol Sanchez Endress + Hauser David Coffey, Mutual Savings Bank

Dr. David Dunkle, Johnson Memorial Health

Chris Hamm, HWC Engineering

Jacque Haynes, CCIM, Midland Atlantic Properties

Jamie Medlock, Group Stellar

Lee Ann Logan, Franciscan Health

Pat Sherman, Compass Pointe CPAs

### MEMBER INVESTOR LEVELS

Aspire prescription discount card



• Access to attend networking events: Coffee Connections, Business Unwind, Maximize Your Membership, and Tidings + Tinsel

### ASPIRE AMBASSADORS

Our Ambassadors are highly visible, esteemed volunteers who serve as crucial liaisons between Aspire investors and the Aspire staff. Each Ambassador makes a commitment to developing personal connections with our members to build a loyal, engaged membership base, helping members get the most of their benefits and keeping them invested in Aspire. All new Aspire member investors are assigned an Ambassador upon membership.



### MEMBER ONLINE PORTAL

#### Website Benefits

Each Aspire member is assigned their own unique login credentials that allows them to post events, job openings, news online, and referral reports. Access referral reports are a great way to see how many people are finding you through the Aspire website.

#### **Referral Report**

You can view your referral report at any time through the Member Online Portal. When visiting our website, click the three stacked lines on the upper right side to access the website menu. Scroll down to About Us. Here will be a link to login to your member portal.

The report can also be viewed in two different ways: by total referrals per month or by referral type. The report automatically defaults to only the current date; however this can be changed by clicking the date and manually changing the time frame.

Referral reports are handy and give value to your Aspire membership. It is fast and easy. In review, here are the quick steps:



# AFFINITY PROGRAMS: OFFICE SUPPLY, EMAIL, AND INSURANCE SAVINGS

Aspire has partnered with the following companies to provide our members exclusive access to group savings on office supplies, email marketing, and insurance.



Office360 offers a special Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance pricing program on 100 of the top office products items, as well as deep discounting on over 30,000 items, all available for next day delivery. To open an account with Office360 please contact: Brenda Kelley, Account Manager at: 317.445.2007 or b.kelley@office3sixty.com.





Constant Contact offers discounts on their email marketing to help you stay in touch with your customers. Plus, you get our unlimited, award- winning FREE support and personal coaching to help you do itright every step of the way! With your Aspire membership, you receive up to 20% at 6 month prepay and 25% at 12 month.

Accident Fund Insurance of America, worker compensation program, offers members a 5% up-front discount, an opportunity for long-term dividends, no minimum premium to qualify, and access to Accident Fund's online Loss Prevention Toolbox. Contact Aspire for a list of independent agents.



The Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance Rx Card is a free prescription discount program that offers free drug cards to all investors, investors' employees, friends, and family. The program provides discounts on both brand and generic medications up to 75%. The program has no restrictions to membership, no income requirements, no age limitations and there are no applications to fill out. All members are eligible to receive savings! Contact Aspire to receive copies of the Rx Card.

For more information on these savings programs, contact Aspire at 317.888.4856 or info@**aspire**johnsoncounty.com



### SMALL BUSINESS MENTORING

Aspire has partnered with the following organizations to support growing businesses. Meeting with advisors can be held virtually or in person and are available at no cost.



SCORE is Counselors To Americas Small Business providing free counseling for starting or expanding your business, solving business challenges and more.

#### Local SCORE Counselor

Mike Crumbo | 317.226.7264 mike.crumb@gmail.com



The Indiana Business Development Center (SBDC) is a government agency that helps grow the economy of Indiana by providing entrepreneurs with the education, information and tools necessary to build successful businesses. Examples include FREE demographic business reports to help estimate a company's target market, industry marketing reports to help identify macro national trends, and financial analysis reports that compare a firm's performance to other businesses in their industry.

#### **ISBDC Business Advisor**

Dan Drexler | 317.940.3919 isbdc.org Email Central Indiana SBDC for more information at central@isbdc.org.



BOI offers small business loans (microloans) from \$1,000 to \$50,000+ that are available for startups or existing businesses. No minimum credit score is required. Your interest rate will be prime plus 3% to 8%.

#### **Contact BOI**

info@businessownership.org

### MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES

Aspire offers a variety of marketing opportunities to help you stand out in the business community. Check your membership level as some of these marketing opportunities are included or discounted.

### Annual Community Guide and Membership Directory

A copy of the community guide is directly mailed to your business with a total of 15,000 copies printed and distributed throughout the year. This resource has information about the southside community and our Aspire members. Members are listed both alphabetically and by their category listings. Advertising opportunities are available through our publisher.

#### **THIS WEEK @ ENEWSLETTER**

The Aspire E-Newsletter is sent weekly to 1600+ local business people.

#### **Member News Briefs**

Newsworthy write-up about employees and leadership; company milestones, awards and achievement; mergers and acquisitions; and grand openings or relocations. This benefit is available at all membership levels. Reserved on a first-request basis. Email your submissions to info@**aspire**johnsoncounty.com.

#### **ENews Ads**

This opportunity is to include a banner ad that will display in between content areas. Your ad will be linked to your online Aspire business directory listing or a landing page you specify. Location of ads (top, middle, bottom) are on a first-commit basis.

#### M2M Emails

Send announcements about your special offers, new services, company awards, new employees, or seminars and events. Your M2M Email will reach more than 1,600 local business people and come from Aspire, but contains your content and graphics. Due to the demand for the M2M email marketing program, all M2M emails must be pre-paid by at least two weeks before their release date.

The Aspire Partner Program is an annual (calendar year), personalized membership and marketing program that makes it easy to engage with the Johnson County and Southern Indy area business community. Partners have first opportunity at sponsorship and marketing for the following year. To learn more, contact Aspire at info@**aspire**johnsoncounty.com.











### 2023 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS CALENDAR -

For more information including times, locations, and event descriptions and to register, visit our event page at **aspire**johnsoncounty.com/events.

#### JANUARY

- 10 HR Roundtable
- **13 Legislation Matters**
- **17 Coffee Connections**

#### **FEBRUARY**

- 1 Community Workshop
- 7 Coffee Connections
- 14 Aspire 2 Luncheon
- **21 Professional Matters**
- 23 MYM Maximize Your Membership

#### MARCH

- 2 Greenwood Mayor State of the City
- 8 Women Leaders Workshop
- 14 HR Roundtable
- **16 Coffee Connections**

#### **APRIL**

6 - Aspire 2 Luncheon
14 - Legislation Matters
18 - Coffee Connections
27 - Celebrate Aspire

#### MAY

- 3 Community Workshop
- 9 HR Roundtable
- 9 MYM Maximize Your Membership
- 12 W.I.L.D. Peer Networking
- 18 Legislation Matters: Municipal Matters
- 23 Coffee Connections

#### JUNE

- 13 Business Unwind
- **15 Professional Matters**
- 20 Coffee Connections

#### JULY

- 11 HR Roundtable
- 20 Golf Classic
- **25 Coffee Connections**

#### AUGUST

- 1 MYM Maximize Your Membership
- 2 Community Workshop
- 8 Legislation Matters
- **15 Coffee Connections**
- 24 Business Unwind

#### SEPTEMBER

- 8 W.I.L.D. Peer Networking
- 12 HR Roundtable
- 14 Workforce Development Conference
- 19 Aspire 2 Luncheon
- 26 Coffee Connections

#### **OCTOBER**

- 19 Aspire 2 Luncheon
- 24 Coffee Connections
- 31 MYM Maximize Your Membership

#### NOVEMBER

- 8 Economic Outlook
- 14 HR Roundtable
- 14 Coffee Connections
- 16 Professional Matters
- 28 Legislation Matters: Pints + Policy

#### DECEMBER

- 7 Tidings + Tinsel
- **12 Coffee Connections**
- 15 W.I.L.D. Peer Networking

# SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

NETWORKING PROGRAMS

**COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS** 

CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

\*Event dates are subject to change.

### ADVOCACY

We believe that Aspire's engagement in legislative issues echoes our investors' collective voice and demonstrates strong leadership. Below you will find our three **legislative session policy priorities**.



#### WHY PUBLIC POLICY MATTERS TO BUSINESS

A healthy business environment is essential to growing the economy, creating jobs, and improving our quality of life. Decisions made by elected officials have a direct impact on business. Legislative and executive branches at all levels of government regularly consider legislation regulating infrastructure, permitting, taxes, trade, and construction.

Aspire's role is to advocate for business interest. We do this by convening forums with business leaders and elected officials, as well as lobbying directly for specific bills and issues. Our Business Advocacy Council (BAC) monitors and researches issues and recommends policy positions. Aspire's board of directors reviews and adopts our final policy positions.

#### **2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

**Early Childhood Education / Childcare -** Aspire supports public-funding for quality early childhood education - from daycare to PreK - for Hoosier children, especially those who are from income-limited families. Studies show children who are ready for kindergarten are more likely to be reading at the third-grade level by the end of third grade, and more likely to graduate high-school. A strong educational foundation is critical, and the state should focus on quality and affordability, collect data, and provide a multitude of types of providers. Importantly, access to affordable quality childcare is an important recruitment tool and assists with the labor participation rate. A child placed in a stable educational environment provides more certainty and stability for their parents in the workforce.

Attainable Housing - Aspire supports policies and local government incentives that promote attainable housing for all income earners in a growing workforce. We support a comprehensive planning and development strategy, connecting attainable housing to placemaking and quality of life. Robust economies like Johnson County and the Central Indiana area must continue to attract talented workers to sustain new business and GDP growth. Increasing the inventory of housing to support all income earners means more residents can join and stay in our community. Moreover, providing local governments a wide variety of tools in their economic development toolkit to foster support for attainable housing alongside quality of place efforts such as transit, parks, and mixed-use development, will support residents' upward mobility.

Business Autonomy/Free Enterprise - Aspire supports loosening of red tape, limiting unnecessary or duplicative regulation, and reduction of government interference to ensure that businesses across the state can operate freely and efficiently. Over-reaching administrative rulemaking and legislative regulations unduly burden businesses of all sizes, thereby hampering innovation, expansion, and job growth. Streamlining government processes and making them easy to navigate will help our community save taxpayer dollars, and to be a good place to do business. Hoosier businesses value their ability to operate autonomously when it comes to making decisions that are right for their business.

### MEETING SPACES

Aspire offices in Greenwood and Franklin feature conference rooms and a member office that provide a professional space perfect for inperson or virtual business meetings, seminars, and interviews.

Members get complimentary rentals during regular business hours! Please call the office to reserve the space, 317.888.4856.







### THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 PARTNERS

Aspire Partners, below, go "above and beyond" in their commitment to Aspire and leadership within the business community. They are passionate about the Southside business community and passionate about Aspire. Call the office to learn more about how you can become an Aspire Partner.

