

Tech Training Program Expresses Interest In Coming To The Area



Digital Works provides the training and opportunity to help

unemployed and under qualified candidates be part of a productive workforce by developing the technical skills necessary to get a job and gain a pathway toward better-paying, mid-level jobs after guaranteed basic employment.

Digital Works is Connected Nation's program to create technology jobs. The program originated in Tennessee and is in place in Ohio. In Michigan, the program would be overseen by Connect Michigan, a subsidiary not-for-profit organization of Connected Nation. The organization has expressed interest in bringing this program to Cheboygan County.

The Digital Works program provides technical training to job seekers through a 140-hour course, which culminates in a guaranteed job for eligible



participants. The typical entry-level position is in customer service, powered by internet and telecom technology. These positions can be home-based or based at the Digital Works center. Training can be extended to create higher-level job opportunities for participants, such as technical support, HTML programming and higher-level customer service positions.

By creating a partnership between Northeast Michigan Council of Governments and Connect Michigan to form a network of Digital Works outlets in northeast Michigan, supporters believe they have the potential to bring new jobs to the area annually.



The program involves creating a community training and job center to develop skills needed to gain employment. Michigan Works! and other agencies help direct candidates to the program, where they are introduced to the job opportunities, screened for eligibility and enrolled. Applicants are guaranteed a job if they complete the training and meet eligibility.

The Cheboygan Economic Development Group has adopted the Digital Works proposal as a project worthy of supporting. The Cheboygan Communities Foundation Board is now considering the possibility of a monetary donation to put it into action.

For more information on the Digital Works opportunity, contact Bud Darnell at (248) 495-2122.

Summer 2015

Foundation Supports The Port of Cheboygan

This spring, the Cheboygan Communities Foundation (CCF) showed its continued support of the Port of Cheboygan by contributing to the marketing efforts of the project. Dick Sanford, chairman and CEO of the CCF, recently presented a check for \$3,500 to Mark Lorenz, project manager for the Port of Cheboygan. This is part of the \$5,000 commitment to help supply promotional materials. This grant is the second contribution by the CCF to help market the project, for a total of \$12,000.

"Now that property has been acquired, there is a lot of interest in what is available at the mouth of the Cheboygan River," stated Lorenz. "It has been a great experience to work with members of the Port Commission and city leadership on this project. Thanks to the CCF contribution, we are able to get our marketing materials out there and promote this deep water port on Lake Huron."



Richard Sanford presenting a \$3,500 check from CCF to Mark Lorenz, Project Manager of The Port of Cheboygan.
(L-R: James Darnell, Mark Lorenz, Richard Sanford, Cheboygan City Manager Tom Eustice, Cheboygan Mayor Mark Bronson)

"Our contributions to help support the Port are made possible by the generous donations of Cheboygan County citizens, both full-time and seasonal residents," said Sanford. "The goal is to support projects like this that can bring good paying jobs to the community and enhance the

overall economic health of Cheboygan County."

Cheboygan City Manager Tom Eustice is excited about the potential for the Port and the community. "Local entities along the river are interested in expanding and we have had some serious inquiries from out-of-state manufacturers about what is available."

The Port of Cheboygan is a non profit 501 (C) 4 receiving the funds to help market the project. The Port Commission is an appointed body by the Cheboygan City Council and is currently chaired by former Mayor Rich Sangster.

The freighter *Mississagi* offloads crushed stone for Cheboygan Cement Products





COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION ON THE RADIO

One of the ways the CCF is getting the word out to the people of Cheboygan County is by going on the radio. Mike Grisdale of Northern Star Broadcasting in Cheboygan recently interviewed

Chairman and CEO Dick Sanford. It is part of the Community Perspective series on WCBY. The interview focused on the mission of the Foundation and some of the recent projects the Foundation has been involved in, including the Port of Cheboygan, North Central Michigan College - Cheboygan Campus, efforts in Industrial Park and committee work on improving the appearance of communities countywide.

The interview was aired several times in June and July on AM-1240 and 100.7 FM, as well as online at wcbyradio.com. The Foundation is one of several community organizations to be featured on a regular basis. Other community leaders are also being invited to get involved in the program.

"What a great way to share the good news regarding our efforts," said Sanford. "I am excited to have other members of the Foundation be part of the radio show and encourage other community leaders to participate."



CCF Chairman and CEO Dick Sanford speaks with radio host Mike Grisdale about the purpose and work of the Cheboygan Communities Foundation.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF THE CHEBOYGAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Established in December 2011, the Cheboygan Communities Foundation (CCF) is a unique tax sheltered and tax deductible entity whose sole objective is to create economic development and a better quality of life for the citizens of Cheboygan County.

Funds are not warehoused to generate investment income, but are targeted and

invested in economic growth projects that generate the potential for increased employment, jobs and support of retail and entertainment activities which attract visitors. These visitors spend money in our stores, shops, motels and other businesses. Those funds will be spent seven more times in our community, creating more jobs and allowing businesses to expand and enhance the appearance of the storefronts – creating a more attractive and eye appealing shopping district.

The Cheboygan Communities Foundation invests funds directly as they are received in support of qualified projects. The Foundation is lead by a volunteer leadership group, has no paid staff and uses reputable local professionals to manage its affairs. Visit our website to learn more about the Cheboygan Communities Foundation and to consider making a contribution. Your **contributions are tax deductible** and go towards projects identified as having great promise in delivering good jobs, better opportunities and additional upscale shopping venues for everyone in Cheboygan County.



VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERS PLAY KEY ROLES

The Cheboygan Communities Foundation has been fortunate to have such talented and experienced board members in helping the organization be successful. This spring, three outgoing board members were replaced by three new members.

Sue Eno, Chris Sangster and Kevin Tucker finished their terms on the Foundation Board of Directors. These three have been instrumental in developing the Foundation to support the Cheboygan Economic Development Group, according to Foundation Chairman and CEO Dick Sanford.

"Our organization has benefited greatly from the contributions of all our board members," said Sanford. "These are all private sector volunteers who bring their talent, energy and knowledge to our mission. They all enjoy giving back to the community."

New board members include David Butts, Noreen Keating and Spencer Libby.



David Butts attended the Graduate School of Business at Saginaw Valley State University before enrolling in the College for Financial Planning in Denver, Colorado. He is a registered principal with LPL Financial, LLC (Member SIPC/FINRA) and has more than 35 years of experience in the financial

planning business. Mr. Butts is listed in the "Guide to America's Best Financial Planners" published by the Consumers' Research Council of America based in Washington, D.C.

As a former small business owner employing more than 90 professionals, Dave has learned how to work for profit making companies as well as non-profits. He is happy to return to Cheboygan and northern Michigan, where his family is from and where he is a proud member of the Mackinac Band of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians.

Noreen Keating is a business leader with numerous accomplishments. She graduated from the University of Detroit Mercy with a degree in social work and later



received an honorary doctorate in humane letters. She also completed non-profit management training at Harvard Business School.

Noreen has used her education to benefit many Michigan residents through several organizations. Her efforts included fundraising, consulting and serving as a board member with

organizations such as Lighthouse Services of Oakland County, the Kresge Van Dusen Endowment, Keepers of Hope Campaign and The Robert and Mary Flint Campus of Caring. While she and her husband have a Cheboygan County residence, she still serves as a board member for several downstate organizations.

Spencer Libby is the owner of the Wheeler Chevrolet Buick dealership in Cheboygan. His career includes 20 years as a manufacturer's representative for a machine



tools company. His local community involvement includes both the Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce.

He and his wife, Debra, raised their two children in the Cheboygan community and are now proud grandparents. They remain very involved in the community with a special

focus on conserving the environment on both a professional and personal basis.

"We have a very dedicated board that is ready to work for the betterment of Cheboygan County," said Sanford. "We are excited about the possibilities."

Cheboygan Communities Foundation

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Chairman & CEO
Mullett Lake

Phil Welch
Secretary
Indian River

James Darnell
President
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David Butts
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