Collaboration between The Right Place and community leaders has driven job creation, investment, and economic prosperity in Newaygo County since 2015. Team members at The Right Place work closely alongside businesses in our community, connecting them with the tools and resources needed to ensure continued growth.

Over the years our community has seen tremendous change as a result of these collaborative efforts. Business expansion, retention and attraction work done by The Right Place team has had a lasting effect on our community. Quality employment opportunities, increased business support and resources for aspiring entrepreneurs have also had a positive ripple effect on economic growth in our area, creating 133 jobs and $83,599,353 in capital investment over the last five years. In 2019, The Right Place assisted with several business development projects in our county, including:

**HarbisonWalker International** – $9 million capital investment  
**G-M Wood Products** – $6.5 million capital investment  
**Riveridge Cider** – $8.4 million capital investment

In addition to traditional business assistance, The Right Place has implemented long-term strategies to ensure Newaygo County has a strong economic foundation for future growth. Initiatives like Discover Manufacturing, ReThink West Michigan, Pitch North and Grow North have broadened the opportunities available to residents and businesses alike.

**The need for community support**

The Right Place partners with the Newaygo County Economic Development Advisory Committee to provide services to Newaygo County. To keep this partnership active and maintain the availability of economic development resources in our county, the Newaygo County Economic Development Advisory Committee needs your support. We ask that you join our efforts to sustain this regional partnership and work alongside us to create lasting economic prosperity for our community.

---

**To our investors and partners,**

Collaboration between The Right Place and community leaders has driven job creation, investment, and economic prosperity in Newaygo County since 2015. Team members at The Right Place work closely alongside businesses in our community, connecting them with the tools and resources needed to ensure continued growth.

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**Ryan Coffey Hoag, Chair**  
Newaygo County Economic Development Advisory Committee

**Julie Burrell**  
Business Development Coordinator  
Newaygo County  
The Right Place, Inc.
Discover Manufacturing  This year, more than 150 students from the Newaygo County Career Tech Center participated in Discover Manufacturing tours at Bucher Hydraulics, Legacy Tool, Lubecon and The Original Print Shop. Additionally, more than 140 students from Hesperia and White Cloud schools participated in Discover Manufacturing tours for the first time. The 8th graders toured G-M Wood products in addition to the aforementioned businesses also toured by the Career Tech Center students. Discover Manufacturing gives students an opportunity to explore career paths in modern manufacturing facilities, sparking interest in young minds that will shape the workforce of tomorrow.

ReThink West Michigan  In November, The Right Place hosted its 2nd annual ReThink West Michigan event in Newaygo County, a Thanksgiving Eve networking event designed to connect people who have moved away with career opportunities in their hometowns. Attendance for the Newaygo County ReThink event increased 30% from 2018. One attendee landed an interview within 3 days of the event, and several more reported promising prospects. Since 2012, ReThink West Michigan has connected more than 1,165 candidates with 70+ companies across the region.

Entrepreneurship Up North  This year, The Right Place secured more than $20,000 in grant funding from the Regional Prosperity Initiative, Northern Initiatives and the Fremont Area Community Foundation to focus on increasing entrepreneurial development efforts in Newaygo County. In May, The Right Place hosted Pitch North, an entrepreneurial pitch competition for residents of Newaygo, Oceana and Lake Counties. The Right Place engaged with 20 entrepreneurs and awarded $8,500 to 5 local finalists. Following the competition, Grow North, an entrepreneurial support program and education series, was launched in Newaygo County. Grow North offers local entrepreneurs a continued support network and curated educational opportunities to further develop their skills.

### 2019 Annual Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New and Retained Jobs</th>
<th>New and Retained Payroll</th>
<th>Capital Investment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>$1.4M</td>
<td>$23.9M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Projects</th>
<th>Company Assists</th>
<th>Indirect Monetized Assists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>2 for a total of $19,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Advisory committee

Ryan Coffey Hoag
MSU Extension
Chair

John Buckley
Gerber Federal Credit Union
Vice Chair

Stephen Carlson
West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission

Don Farmer
Edgewater Bank

Scott Faulkner
Newaygo Nationals

Gene Ford
Nestle/Gerber - Retired

Martin Hall
Ceres Solutions

Del Hirdes
Southwick Insurance

Rich Houtteman
Consumers Energy Company

Pete Johnson
Bucher Hydraulics

Kent Karnemaat
Karnemaat Farms

Mark Kraus
Hesperia Area Chamber of Commerce

Shelly Keene
Michigan Works! West Central

Dave Landheer
Landheer Insurance

Kurt Lowdermilk
Real Estate Connection

Colleen Lynema
River Country Chamber of Commerce

Rolly Reed
H&S Companies

Gretchen Spedowske
Newaygo County Regional Educational Service Agency

Scott Swinehart
Edward Jones & River Country Chamber of Commerce

Therese Thill
The Right Place, Inc.

Dale Twing
Fremont Area Community Foundation

Kelly Wawsczyk
Legends Ranch

Jonathan Wilson
DTE Energy

Chris Wren
Newaygo County

Investors

Fremont Area Community Foundation | Newaygo County

Contact

Julie Burrell
231.335.1985 or burrellj@rightplace.org
www.rightplace.org/newaygo