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Small Business Is a **Big** Priority at the Tucson Metro Chamber

Like 85% of the members of the Tucson Metro Chamber, my company, Horizon Moving Systems, is a small business. The last five years have tested all small businesses with harsh economic conditions and challenges that required us to innovate to sustain our operations. There has been plenty of whitewater for small businesses everywhere.

Fortunately, the Tucson Metro Chamber has responded. Aware of the unique challenges faced by small business owners in Southern Arizona, the Chamber has done much to help small businesses make it through these tough times and position ourselves for a true economic recovery.

- **The Small Business Growth Committee** is a group of small business owners who are helping the Chamber assist this vital business segment.
- The committee’s **Small Business Growth Series** identifies local experts in sales, marketing, digital media, finance and other important areas of business operations. Their workshops and seminars can make the difference for your company.
- The new **Change Your Business in a Month** program functions in collaboration with the Microbusiness Advancement Center and offers in-depth programs that include personal business coaching to transform small business operations.
- **Office Depot** discounts are the best in Southern Arizona. Office Depot treats all Chamber members as part of one big account. If you’re not buying your office supplies through the Chamber’s Office Depot program, you’re paying too much!
- **Chamber Benefit Administration (CBA)** is a new and innovative way to buy group health insurance. You can expect to save about $1,000 per full time employee. When the Chamber purchased its health insurance through CBA it had 14 FTEs and saved $16,000. Quotes are free and require no obligation.
- **SCF Arizona** offers Chamber members discounts and bonuses. Quotes are free and require no obligation.
- **Chamber XChanges** are fun-filled opportunities to open relationships with other businesses in a social setting. Walking into a room filled with prospects sure beats cold calling!
- **Good Morning Tucson** events bring together hundreds of business decision makers to hear important business ideas from recognized experts from outside of Southern Arizona.

Look for more small business benefits in the coming twelve months.

The Tucson Metro Chamber is all about super-serving small business. If there is anything we can do for you and your business, write us at info@tucsonchamber.org.

Bruce Dusenberry
Chairman of the Board
President, Horizon Moving Systems, Inc.
Chamber Responding to What Keeps You up at Night

For almost a year now, the Chamber has hosted regular Thursday morning breakfast meetings with six members, one member of the board of directors and me. The program is called Breakfast with the Board (BWB). At each breakfast, members introduce themselves and make quality new business contacts. The board member and I provide an overview of new things happening at the Chamber. But most of all, the board member and I listen. We want to know what’s working and not working in your business.

In the time we have been hosting Breakfast with the Board, two themes have emerged as the most prominent concerns:

• Our local government does not seem to understand or appreciate the role of business and is therefore perceived to be unfriendly to business.
• Local companies are concerned about and being affected by a less-than-satisfactory local workforce.

Let’s start with city and county government. A quick poll of who has been elected to office to serve the citizens of Tucson and Southern Arizona shows little if any real background or experience in the private sector. One would have to look for a long time to find anyone who has ever had to find financing, open a business and make a payroll.

A recent CNN and Money magazine survey showed that Tucson businesses rated Tucson as the fourth least friendly place to start and operate a small business. Economic expansion statewide is outpacing economic expansion in Southern Arizona. One fifth of our friends and neighbors in Pima County exist below the poverty line. Houston, we have a problem.

The Tucson Metro Chamber is working with our current elected officials to encourage meaningful change in attitudes and practices as they affect business. We hope our voices will be heard and that we will see change occur accordingly. At the same time, we are prepared to take steps to find, finance and promote more pro-business candidates. Our soon-to-be-approved Super PAC will help ensure a better business presence on the City Council and on the County Board of Supervisors.

As for workforce, everything starts with local education. One-third of our high school students do not graduate. These are young people who will likely not be meaningful contributors and who will likely need taxpayer-sponsored social services in their lifetimes. Many graduates of our famous University of Arizona take their educations elsewhere to apply their knowledge because Tucson does not have as many opportunities for them. Both of these problems need serious attention and both are being addressed by the Tucson Metro Chamber.

The best weapon in the war on poverty is a JOB. The best way to increase taxes is to create more taxpayers.
Investing in our Community

As business owners you know the importance of economic development to a healthy and thriving community. New businesses starting in Tucson, current businesses expanding and those choosing to remain in our area all have a direct impact in the success of your business. You re-invest in efficiency, expand your employee base and generate a profit. Economic development is the key outside force determining the success of this cycle.

Mayor Rothschild and the Tucson City Council are beginning to make economic development a priority and have been working with community stakeholders, including the Tucson Metro Chamber, to enact policies that encourage investment in our community. Two recent decisions that put development and infill at the forefront of economic development were the creation of an Urban Overlay District and the Central Business District.

Mayor Rothschild and Council recognized the need for pedestrian oriented development along the route of our newest mode of transportation, the modern streetcar, SunLink. Once operational in the fall of 2013, SunLink will connect the University area with downtown and bring with it an influx of development. The Urban Overlay District (UOD) was created to help ridership and provide additional housing for University of Arizona. The special overlay district allows properties within its boundaries to easily adjust their zoning, encouraging mixed use, commercial and student housing projects along the streetcar line.

In an effort to attract larger projects to the core of Tucson, the Mayor and Council authorized the creation of the Central Business District (CBD) redevelopment area this past April. The CBD spans downtown, including the SunLink line, and reaches out to other integral commercial arterials of the city. Public-private partnerships within the CBD are eligible to utilize Government Property Lease Excise Tax (GPLET) incentives. GPLET is a redevelopment tool established under Arizona state law to initiate development by lowering the operating costs of projects. Development costs are reduced by replacing property taxes with an excise tax.

GPLET was first utilized in Phoenix to redevelop their downtown and help to attract public investment for projects such as the Phoenix Convention Center and many of the entertainment venues that host the largest shows in the state. After seeing how successful a catalyst for investment and development GPLET was in Phoenix, it was clear Tucson needed to add this tool to our toolbox to improve our own convention center and create a vibrant downtown.

Since the designation of the CBD, an application and review process was established in early June. This process lays out the various steps for projects aiming to take advantage of GPLET and other economic incentives. While a seemingly small step by the City, it is indeed a large one. Potential developers now have concrete expectations for economic development and are ensured a fair review and level playing field by the city.

These are two great examples of what the City of Tucson has done in the last quarter. In my position I speak constantly with members of the business community. In general, they want two things from government – a predictable regulatory environment and an unbiased review process. Looks like the City is starting to offer those.

“... My company recently rejoined the Tucson Metro Chamber as we see a new spirit in leading the Tucson business community. By being a member we will now have access to other great Tucson businesses to partner with for our mutual success.”

– Fred L. Gould, Southern AZ Marketing Manager Arizona Shuttle

TucsonChamber.org
1. **SB1001**  
**MILITARY PRESERVATION; LAND EXCHANGES**  
Modifies the process for review, evaluation and approval of land exchanges of state trust lands for other public lands. Specifies that state land may be exchanged to improve management of the state land trust. This legislation was signed by Governor Brewer on April 17, 2012.  
**TMCC Position:** SUPPORT

2. **SB1016**  
**WORKERS’ COMPENSATION; METHODS OF COMPENSATION**  
Permits employees receiving workers’ compensation benefits to request electronic transfers, removes provisions relating to the State Compensation Fund. This legislation was signed by Governor Brewer on March 13, 2012.  
**TMCC Position:** SUPPORT

3. **SB1046**  
**CORPORATE TAX ALLOCATIONS; SALES FACTOR**  
Allows multistate service providers to elect to base in-state sales on market sales, rather than the state where the income providing activity occurred. This legislation was signed by Governor Brewer on February 21, 2012.  
**TMCC Position:** SUPPORT

4. **SB1198**  
**TOWN ELECTIONS; SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS**  
Makes multiple changes to the law governing the number of signatures required on nomination petitions. This legislation was signed by Governor Brewer on March 29, 2012.  
**TMCC Position:** SUPPORT

5. **SB1301 (S/E)**  
**EQUITY INVESTMENTS; TAX CREDITS**  
Creates income and premium tax credits for qualified equity investments made by qualified community development entities. This legislation was held in the House.  
**TMCC Position:** SUPPORT

6. **SB1336**  
**PRODUCT LIABILITY ACTIONS; PUNITIVE DAMAGES**  
Exempts manufacturer from exemplary and punitive damages if it complies with state, federal or agency-issued product standards. This legislation was held in the House.  
**TMCC Position:** SUPPORT

7. **SB1450**  
**PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS; PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE**  
Establishes procedures and guidelines for the implementation of public-private partnerships. This legislation was held in the House.  
**TMCC Position:** SUPPORT

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8. **SB1484**  
**PAYCHECK DEDUCTIONS; EMPLOYEE AUTHORIZATION**  
Prohibits third party deductions from public employee paychecks without annual reauthorization. This legislation was held in the House.  
**TMCC Position:** **SUPPORT**

9. **SB1486**  
**PUBLIC EMPLOYEES; ACTIVITIES; UNIONS; COMPENSATION**  
Prohibits a public employer from compensating a public employee or third party for union activities. This legislation was held in the House.  
**TMCC Position:** **SUPPORT**

10. **HB 2088**  
**ASRS; AMENDMENTS**  
Provides changes to ASRS statutes regarding administration, distribution, service purchase and investments. This legislation was vetoed by Governor Brewer on April 11, 2012.  
**TMCC Position:** **SUPPORT**

11. **HB 2092**  
**PROPERTY TAX APPEALS; VALUATION; CLASSIFICATION**  
Increases the minimum limitation to elect small claims Tax Court procedures for valuation of property. Limits the State Board of Equalization to granting or denying a petition for revaluation. This legislation was signed by Governor Brewer on April 5, 2012.  
**TMCC Position:** **SUPPORT**

12. **HB2103 (S/E)**  
**PUBLIC EMPLOYEES; PAYCHECK DEDUCTIONS**  
Prohibits a public employer from deducting third party payments from an employee's paycheck and entering into any employment agreement to compensate any public employee for union activities. This legislation was held in the House awaiting action on Senate amendments.  
**TMCC Position:** **SUPPORT**

13. **HB2120**  
**INTERNAL REVENUE CODE CONFORMITY**  
Conforms Arizona tax statutes to the Internal Revenue Code. This legislation was signed by Governor Brewer on March 16, 2012.  
**TMCC Position:** **SUPPORT**

14. **HB2123**  
**TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX REFORM COMMITTEE**  
Establishes the Transaction Privilege Tax Reform Committee, prescribes its membership, purpose and duration. This legislation was signed by Governor Brewer on March 29, 2012.  
**TMCC Position:** **SUPPORT**

15. **HB2127 (S/E)**  
**MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTION; INCENTIVES**  
Strikes everything that includes modified version of SB1170 with a few exceptions. This legislation was held in the House awaiting action on Senate amendments.  
**TMCC Position:** **SUPPORT**
16. HB2368
WORKERS’ COMPENSATION; OMNIBUS
Modifies workers’ compensation statutes regarding liability for the aggravation of previously accepted industrial injuries and the basis for computing compensation. This legislation was signed by Governor Brewer on April 11, 2012.
TMCC Position: SUPPORT

17. HB2397
ABOR CONTINUATION
Continues the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) for 10 years. This legislation was signed by Governor Brewer on March 29, 2012.
TMCC Position: SUPPORT

18. HB2408 (S/E)
SPECIAL AUDIT; PIMA COUNTY
Requires the Auditor General to conduct a special audit of the 1997, 2004 and 2006 Pima County general obligation bond programs. This legislation was signed by Governor Brewer on March 29, 2012.
TMCC Position: SUPPORT

19. HB2463
SCHOOL DISTRICTS; PAYCHECKS; DUES PAYMENTS
Permits a school district to use its funds for membership in a chamber of commerce. This legislation was held in the Senate.
TMCC Position: SUPPORT

20. HB2469
REVENUE ALLOCATION DISTRICTS
Establishes revenue allocation districts and allows capture of incremental local property tax revenues to fund development projects. This legislation was vetoed by Governor Brewer on April 17, 2012.
TMCC Position: SUPPORT

21. HB2503 (S/E)
EXEMPTIONS FROM PUNITIVE DAMAGES
Exempts a manufacturer from liability for punitive damages if the manufacturer follows federal, state or agency-issued product standards. This legislation was signed by Governor Brewer on May 11, 2012.
TMCC Position: SUPPORT

22. HB2519
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE; OMNIBUS
Makes various changes related to unemployment insurance. This legislation was signed by Governor Brewer on April 3, 2012.
TMCC Position: SUPPORT

23. HB2544
RECOVERY OF ATTORNEY FEES
Eliminates the requirement that a court award reasonable attorney fees in a contested action upon clear and convincing evidence that the claim of defense constitutes harassment, is groundless and is not made in good faith. This legislation was signed by Governor Brewer on May 7, 2012.
TMCC Position: SUPPORT

24. HB2571 (S/E)
STATE PERSONNEL SYSTEM
Consolidates the current state personnel system, establishes the transition of majority of State workforce to uncovered and at-will status. This legislation was signed by Governor Brewer on May 10, 2012.
TMCC Position: SUPPORT

25. HB2646
PHARMACY BOARD; TRANSFER OF MONIES
Allows the transfer of monies to the Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center. This legislation was signed by Governor Brewer on May 9, 2012.
TMCC Position: SUPPORT

26. HB2647
COUNTY STADIUM DISTRICTS; RIO NUEVO
Provides a prime contracting transaction privilege tax exemption allowance for certain construction projects within Multipurpose Facilities Districts, and expands the type of projects for which District TPT revenues may be used. This legislation was vetoed by Governor Brewer on April 2, 2012.
TMCC Position: SUPPORT

27. HB2656
COUNTY BONDING; REGIONAL COMMITTEE
Adds requirements before county boards of supervisors or city and towns governing bodies may enter into real property lease-purchase agreements and lease agreements incorporating certificates of participation. This legislation failed in Senate on third reading.
TMCC Position: OPPOSE

28. HB2729
STATE REGULATION OF FIREARMS
Modifies certain provisions relating to limiting or prohibiting the possession of firearms on public property. This legislation was vetoed by Governor Brewer on April 17, 2012.
TMCC Position: OPPOSE

29. HB2744
REGULATORY RULES; AMENDMENTS
Modifies statutes relating to regulatory rule making. This legislation was signed by Governor Brewer on May 14, 2012.
TMCC Position: SUPPORT

30. HB2815
EMPLOYMENT; INCENTIVES; REGULATORY TAX CREDIT
Establishes individual and corporate income tax credits for capital investments and employment in new or expanded commercial headquarters and manufacturing and research facilities, among others. This legislation was signed by Governor Brewer on May 11, 2012.
TMCC Position: SUPPORT

31. HCR2024
UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS
Calls upon the state to compete for testing sites of unmanned aircraft systems under the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act. This resolution was referred to the Secretary of State.
TMCC Position: SUPPORT

32. HCR2062
F-35 TRAINING; ARIZONA FACILITIES
The state strongly supports the beddown of F-35 aircraft at Arizona facilities. This resolution was referred to the Secretary of State.
TMCC Position: SUPPORT
When I ran for office, I laid out specific steps I would take in my first 180 days as mayor. I was sworn in on December 5th – we are at the 180 day mark.

One of the things I stressed in my plan was holding government accountable. I believe that accountability starts with me. Here are some of the highlights of what we’ve accomplished so far, relating to jobs and economic development.

Business Advocate: I hired Maricela Solis. From day one, we have worked together to help local businesses succeed. Maricela has helped dozens of business owners navigate city services. Where there’s room for improvement, she lets me know, and we work with the City Manager and staff to make it easier to do business in the City of Tucson.

Land Use Code: We eliminated 178 pages from the Land Use Code and are combining three documents into one new Uniform Development Code. Along the way, we’re eliminating redundancy and resolving sections of the code that conflict with each other. Phase Two will bring another round of revisions in the coming months as we continue to make our code more user-friendly.

Permit Review: The city now processes 85% of its plan reviews and resubmittal reviews in 20 working days or less. Of the remaining 15%, about half are due to wastewater and health reviews performed by Pima County. This means that about 93% of city permits are being processed on time. Applicants are notified by phone or email if their review will exceed 20 days.

Cross-trained Inspectors: All residential building inspectors are now cross-trained. This means that now, on a residential project, you’ll have just one inspector. Three of the city’s commercial building inspectors are cross-trained and cross-training is ongoing. On a commercial project, you’ll either have one inspector or one portfolio or project manager – one person at Planning & Development Services charged with project oversight.

Business Roundtables: I held or attended over 20 business roundtables. These were invaluable, as I heard from owners of small and large businesses and was able to take their suggestions and concerns back to city staff. I was also able to get the word out about some of the city’s recent improvements and programs that help businesses. Most recently, those include the creation of the Central Business District and the GPLET, a development incentive with built-in performance guarantees that remove risk to taxpayers.

Trade: In partnership with the Arizona Commerce Authority, the U.S. Department of Commerce and others, I held a workshop for business owners on exporting – both business and legal considerations. In addition, I’ve formed a Mayor’s Advisory Task Force on Trade to develop strategies that encourage trade with Mexico and beyond.

Recruitment and Retention: My business advocate and I work closely with the city’s economic development team and partners on recruitment and retention issues, and I met personally with a number of employers considering relocating to Tucson or expanding operations in Tucson. I also worked with the Tucson Metro Chamber, our Arizona Congressional Delegation and other regional partners to keep Tucson’s Cherrybell Mail Processing Center open. Despite recent setbacks, efforts are ongoing to keep this center open, with several bills making their way through Congress.

There’s more, of course. A report is on the city’s website, at www.tucsonaz.gov/mayor.

I must thank my colleagues on the Council, city staff and the community as a whole for bringing great ideas, hard work and a willingness to work together toward common goals to the table. There’s a new energy in the city, and it’s exciting to be a part of it. In the next few weeks, I’ll be issuing a 360 plan for my next 12 months in office. I’m excited to see the progress this city is going to make in the next 6 to 12 months. And yes, I’ll be reporting on that as well.
April 2012

42 YEARS
Financial Distributing Co.

40 YEARS
Lennar

38 YEARS
Welcome Newcomers, Inc.

36 YEARS
Apperson Plumbing Service

33 YEARS
Clear Channel Outdoor, Inc.

30 YEARS
MGM Associates, Inc.

29 YEARS
National Auto Glass of Tucson

28 YEARS
Loews Ventana Canyon

27 YEARS
PICOR Commercial Real Estate Services

26 YEARS
The Hearing Aid Center, Inc.

25 YEARS
Viscount Suite Hotel

22 YEARS
Carrington College

19 YEARS
YMCA of Southern AZ

19 YEARS
Gospel Rescue Mission, Inc.

18 YEARS
W.G. Valenzuela Drywall, Inc.

18 YEARS
Record Energy Concepts, Inc.

17 YEARS
Southwest Airlines

17 YEARS
Tucson Relocation Guide

16 YEARS
Holualoa Arizona, Inc.

14 YEARS
Afn, Inc.

13 YEARS
Edge High School

12 YEARS
Materion Ceramics Inc.

12 YEARS
The Salvation Army

11 YEARS
Champlain Automotive Group

10 YEARS
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage – Bill Stein

9 YEARS
Community Foundation for Southern Arizona

8 YEARS
Dobbs Honda

7 YEARS
Champlain Automotive Group

6 YEARS
The Hungry Fox Restaurant & Country Store

5 YEARS
Desert Diamond Casino HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Southern Arizona

5 YEARS
Jan-Pro Cleaning Systems of Tucson

4 YEARS
Arizona Capitol Times College Place

3 YEARS
Holualoa Arizona, Inc.

3 YEARS
The Art Institute of Tucson

2 YEARS
Express-IT Company, Inc.

2 YEARS
The Elliott Accounting Group

1 YEAR
3 Gorillas Moving & Storage

May 2012

47 YEARS
Watson Chevrolet & Infiniti of Tucson

41 YEARS
Patio Pools

38 YEARS
Golden Eagle Distributors, Inc.

34 YEARS
Tucson Symphony Orchestra

33 YEARS
Cottonwood Properties

31 YEARS
Best Western InnSuites Tucson Foothills

29 YEARS
Glassman & Associates

28 YEARS
Hughes Federal Credit Union

27 YEARS
Calvert & Ivester, PLLC

26 YEARS
Champlain Automotive Group

25 YEARS
Bowes Honda

24 YEARS
Riverside Suites

23 YEARS
M3 Engineering & Industrial Tool, Die & Engineering, Inc.

22 YEARS
David G. Sheppard, Ph.D.

21 YEARS
The Elliott Accounting Group

20 YEARS
U.S. HealthWorks

19 YEARS
Riverside Suites

18 YEARS
A.J. Dominick

17 YEARS
B.A. Bowes

16 YEARS
A.J. Dominick

15 YEARS
A.J. Dominick

14 YEARS
FJ Consulting Group

13 YEARS
A.J. Dominick

12 YEARS
FJ Consulting Group

11 YEARS
A.J. Dominick

10 YEARS
FJ Consulting Group

9 YEARS
A.J. Dominick

8 YEARS
FJ Consulting Group

7 YEARS
A.J. Dominick

6 YEARS
A.J. Dominick

5 YEARS
A.J. Dominick

4 YEARS
A.J. Dominick

3 YEARS
A.J. Dominick

2 YEARS
A.J. Dominick

1 YEAR
A.J. Dominick
Telemundo - Tucson
KHRR-TV 40
Umbrella Roofing, LLC

7 YEARS
The Academy of Tucson
Bidegain Realty, Inc.
BJ’s Restaurant &
Brewhouse
Comfort Suites Tucson
Mall
Kindred Hospital
U.S. Bank

6 YEARS
Carrabba’s Italian Grill
Geico
Servpro of Northeast
Tucson
Xcel Delivery Services

5 YEARS
Recyco, Inc.
Veterans Employment
Services

4 YEARS
The Haven
Kais E Systems, Inc.
Northwestern Mutual
Financial Network
Villa Hermosa
Whataburger (Sixth Ave)
Whataburger (St. Mary’s Rd)
Whataburger
(Speedway Blvd)
Whataburger (22nd St)
Whataburger (Valencia Rd)
Whataburger (River Rd)

3 YEARS
Best Western Royal Sun
Inn & Suites
City Wide Maintenance
of Southern Arizona
EDG Fuels
Handyman Connection
of Pima County
Holiday Inn Express &
Suites Tucson
NextCare Urgent Care
(Calle Santa Cruz)
NextCare Urgent Care
(Oracle Rd)
Sims Recycling Solutions
Wal-Mart Neighborhood
Market

2 YEARS
Canyon Community
Bank
Indigo Information
Services, LLC
IOI - Interlogic
Outsourcing, Inc.
IT Partners
Mane Street Salon
PSA Art Awakenings

1 YEAR
Arizona Stagecoach
Company
Better Business Bureau
of Southern Arizona
C-K 5 Rodeo Company
Compound Profit of
Arizona
Creative Awards

Girl Scouts of Southern
Arizona
Keller Williams -
Southern Arizona
LA Fitness
La Lomita Apartments
The Maids
Mattress Firm
MERIT
Moore Financial
Strategies
Nambe, LLC
Preferred HR Solutions,
LLC
Relax Accommodations
Skyview High School
The Growth Coach
Zimmerman Public
Affairs

New Members
Visit TucsonChamber.org for additional new member information.

April 2012
AR Financial Strategies
P (520) 219-5106
Big Juan’s Tacos y Burros
P (520) 325-9760
Bottom Line Utility
Solutions, Inc.
P (549) 707-1311
Breckenridge Group
Architects/Planners
P (520) 882-9944
Continental Ranch
Self Storage
P (520) 744-1400
DP Electric, Inc.
P (520) 882-2727
International Coach
Federation - Tucson
P (520) 971-2249
Kevin B. Howard
Architects
P (520) 322-6800
Premier Performance, LLC
P (520) 471-4715
R&R Group
P (520) 760-5944
Strategy1
P (520) 906-8252
The Clements Agency
P (502) 624-3456

May 2012
Arizona Food
Marketing Alliance
P (602) 252-9761
Ethan Allen Tucson
Design
P (520) 887-5621
First Command
Financial Services
P (520) 886-4068
Gopher Bearing
Southwest, LLC
P (520) 622-3545
Southwest Appraisal
Associates, Inc.
P (520) 327-0000
Tucson Police
Foundation
P (520) 207-2878
TucsonHelp Wanted.com
P (480) 320-3721
Member Renewals

April 2012

AAA Landscape
Afni, Inc.
AGM Container Controls, Inc.
Arico Plumbing
Arizona Capitol Times
Arizona Riverpark Inn
Associated Dental Care Providers
Automated Presort Services
A V Innovations
Best Western InnSuites Tucson Foothills
Bidegain Realty
C. H. Robinson Worldwide
Cambridge Investment Research
CBIZ Benefits & Insurance Services
Clear Channel Broadcasting
Compound Profit of Arizona
Comfort Suites Tucson Mall
Conference Services – UA Residence Life
CORE Construction
Cottonwood Properties
Cox Communications
Creative Awards
Crest Insurance Group
DK Advocates
Extra Space Storage
Fairview Manor
Fashion Eye
Fidelity Investments
Flooring Systems of Arizona
Foothills Mall
Good Law, PC
Hampton Inn & Suites Tucson East
Hickdan Business Park
Horizon Moving Systems
Holualoa Arizona
Institute for Better Education
Iron Mountain
ISS Facility Services
ITT Technical Institute
Kais E Systems, Inc.
Kaneen Advertising & Public Relations
Kidder Benefits Consultants
Konica Minolta Business Solutions USA
Lancom Consulting and Information Services
Latitude Catering
Littler Mendelson, PC
M3 Engineering & Technology Corp.
Materion Ceramics
MERIT
Mortex Manufacturing Co.
Mr. Electric of Tucson
Northwest Exterminating Company
Northwestern Mutual Financial Network
Outlet Electrical Supply
Pantano Vista/Harrison Hills Mobile Home Park
Pima County Public Library
Pro EM Party & Event Rentals
Professional Development Strategies
Recyco, Inc.
Riverside Suites
Schletter, Inc.
Shaffer Dry Cleaning & Laundry
Skyline Printing Company
Sonoran Science Academy – Tucson
Southern Arizona VA Health Care System
Studio Green
Swan Lake Estates
Tanque Verde Swap Meet
Teen Challenge of Arizona
The Academy of Tucson
The Hotel Congress
The Maids
The Running Shop
Tubac Golf Resort
Tucson Jewish Community Center
Tuhavi Corporation
University of Phoenix – Southern Arizona Campus
Veterans Employment Services
Western Land Investments
Whataburger

May 2012

A & M Personnel Services
Alcoa Fastening Systems
Alliance Bank of Arizona
Allstate Insurance
Arizona Lifeline Med-Trans Corporation
ASARCO, LLC
Associates in Medical Management, Inc.
Bancroft & Associates
Bekins Moving Solutions
Bridge Technology Group
Brown Mackie College Tucson
Brown Wholesale Electric Co.
Calvert & Ivester, PLLC
CARF
Cash Box Jewelry Co.
CenturyLink, Inc.
Coca-Cola Refreshments
Envision Eyecare Center
Fastsigns
Geico
HealthSouth Rehabilitation Institute of Tucson
Hodges Construction, Inc.
Honeywell
IdeaMagic Visionary Marketing
IT Partners
International Rescue Committee
JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort & Spa
Kindred Hospital
Lazydays RV Center
Leak Seekers
Linkages
Long Realty
Lovitt & Touche', Inc.
Maintenance Mart
Marshall Home for Men
Med Tech – Tools for Mature Living
Mercedes-Benz of Tucson
Miracle-Ear Center
National Auto Glass of Tucson
Nova Home Loans
Office of Pima County School Superintendent
Oracle Road Rent-All & Sales
O’Rielly Chevrolet, Inc.
Paul Ash Management Co., LLC
Perfect Teeth
Porsche of Tucson
R S Herder Corporation
Salt River Project
San Miguel High School
Servpro of Northeast Tucson
Sign Magic
Simpleview
Sims Recycling Solutions
Studio 6
Sun Tran
Sundt Construction, Inc.
SURV-KAP, LLC
Texas Roadhouse
The Elliott Accounting Group
The Estes Co.
The Lodge at Ventana Canyon
The Schneider Group
Thomas Promotions
Tofel Construction
Tricon Contracting, Inc.
Tucson Appliance Company
Tucson Association of Realtors
Tucson Coin and Autograph
Tucson Dodge, Inc.
Tucson Federal Credit Union
Tucson Lifestyle Magazine
Union Pacific Railroad
Villa Maria Care Center
W.G. Valenzuela Drywall
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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING ON THEIR RECENT MOVE DOWNTOWN:

- 47 Scott
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- Aviar Design
- Ben’s Bells
- Borderlands Brewery
- Brewd Coffee
- Buffalo Exchange
- Cricket
- DL Withers Construction
- Eat-A Burger
- Elliott’s on Congress
- FORS Architecture
- Hollis Graphics
- The Hub Restaurant & Creamery
- Imago Dei Middle School
- Janos Downtown Kitchen & Cocktails
- Knucklehead Alley
- Leso Optique
- Lulu Bell Toy Bodega
- Monkey Burger
- Obsidian Gallery
- Peach Properties
- Perfect Pantry
- The Playground Bar and Lounge
- Providence Service Corp.
- North Scott Barbers-Salon
- Rice Bowl Rest
- Seawater Foundation
- Science Downtown-Mars & Beyond
- Sonoran Institute
- Sparkroot
- Tucson Canyon Brewery
- Unisource
- U of A College of Architecture
- Vila Thai
Many experts agree that the majority of all new jobs created in the next decade will come from companies already operating in communities across the country. Those jobs will result from opportunities for companies to expand and grow.

There is no question that the growth of local companies is heavily influenced by the national economy. Over-regulation, policy uncertainties and economic and fiscal mismanagement weigh heavily on companies across the country. But local circumstances in areas such as government regulation, government attitude toward business and workforce development also factor into decisions by local company executives to deploy capital and expand their enterprises.

To help encourage such growth and job creation, the Tucson Metro Chamber created the Business Expansion and Retention (BEAR) Project in March of this year. The BEAR Committee consists of ten teams of two volunteers each. Their mission is to survey the 570 local companies identified as having 100 or more full time employees (FTEs) on their payrolls. The survey will take two years to complete.

BEAR Committee volunteers will contact senior executives at the 570 target companies to set appointments to conduct surveys. The surveys are designed to provide important information regarding:

• Current assets to doing business in Southern Arizona
• Current challenges to doing business in Southern Arizona
• Challenges to growing the company in Southern Arizona
• Threats from outside entities encouraging the company to move or expand elsewhere

The BEAR Committee got off to a great start,” says BEAR Committee chair Andrea Abney, assistant branch manager, Randstad U.S. “We have a number of local business executives volunteering their time to contact local business owners to include their perceptions and ideas in the BEAR Project body of work. The Project needs each set of volunteers to complete about two surveys a month for us to hit our target in two years.”

There are two primary deliverables connected with the BEAR Project.

• First, volunteers will identify any “red flag” issues. A red flag issue is an opportunity for the BEAR Committee and the Tucson Metro Chamber to solve a problem for the business or advocate for a third party to intervene on behalf of the business.
• Second, a summary report will be published at the end of the first year and at the end of the second year to identify prominent trends affecting local companies and their ability to expand and grow. The Chamber will then meet with public and private individuals who address those challenges.

“Holding onto the businesses we have here in Southern Arizona is vital to our economic future,” observes Tucson Metro Chamber Chair Bruce Dusenberry. “Identifying the challenges local companies are facing and then assisting company executives in solving those issues is central to promoting a stronger local economy and creating jobs our citizens need so badly.”
If your business employs 100 or more FTEs it is likely that a BEAR Committee volunteer will contact you. We encourage you to meet with these volunteers and complete the Business Satisfaction Survey with them. Your candid assessment of current and future business conditions is vital to making Southern Arizona’s local economy vibrant and capable of creating new jobs. The survey takes less than 20 minutes to complete and is processed and archived totally anonymously. Volunteers even have confidentiality agreements available.

“The first step in solving a problem is to admit that we have a problem,” states Dusenberry. “I hope all of the companies targeted for survey work by the BEAR Committee will participate and help the Chamber build a body of work we can act on. We’re all about solving problems at the Chamber. Nothing is more important to us than having an economy that is growing and creating new jobs.”

Kristyn Meza
Strongpoint
BEAR Committee volunteer

Brandon Rodgers
Cushman & Wakefield | PICOR
BEAR Committee volunteer

The Business Expansion and Retention Project (BEAR) is a great proactive, collaborative effort between the Tucson Metro Chamber and the local business community. In business, you have to know what your customers are saying and thinking to better help them and provide services that they are seeking. Our business community is no different. Through this process, we are hearing job creation is critical. More importantly, high paying jobs along with the need to address the trailing spouse and family issues. Doing things the way we have always done them will not allow us to grow. Preparing us for the future will take change. There is frustration with the pace at which things move and collaboration is needed at all levels and in all areas.”

Southern Arizona is a great place to live, yet a continually challenging place to do business. This oft-expressed sentiment was voiced once again to my colleague in the BEAR project, Lowell Thomas of Snell and Wilmer, and me during a sit-down conversation with the chairman, president and CEO of a successful home-grown medical equipment company. This gentleman expressed many positive feelings about running his business here in Tucson, yet noted several areas of needed improvement, beginning with the government structure in Southern Arizona. He described the local government structure as one that “is uniquely designed to prevent making progress”, due to the authority (or lack thereof) vested in the mayor’s office, the existence of city-wide elections and ward system. He would like to see a “metro government” in which all local municipalities are brought under one umbrella to work in harmony for the region’s collective benefit.”
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With the advent of the Internet, there has been drastic changes in the way people find what they are looking for, discover new and exciting things, share their experiences, shop for anything and everything and connect with their friends and family. Since more than 90 percent of United States’ Internet users of all ages engage in social media, social networking is becoming a crucial part of the lives of most every consumer. This change in how we communicate and search is not just a fad—it is a revolution.

Worldwide, we perform 88 billion searches per month through Google with more than 20 percent catered to local queries, so ranking high on search engines is no longer optional, it is critical. Since Google is the new Yellow Pages, it behooves business owners to be listed as high as possible on the world’s most popular search engine. Being on social media networks and publishing content that is search engine optimized will greatly improve your position.

To be effective, business owners should be where their customers are. One in every eight people on Earth has a Facebook account and more than 400,000 users live in Tucson. It is possible to get 1 billion views on a free YouTube video while a 30-second spot during the Super Bowl costs $3.5 million and only reaches 111.3 million viewers. Getting your name out there to potential customers through extensive brand awareness and engagement with consumers is essential for creating brand advocates. With this huge exposure and global reach, it is essential that every business gets active on the world’s social networking platforms.

In addition to maintaining a presence online, it is important to remember how smartphones are making more of an impact on our lives with each passing day. More than 500 million people access social media on a mobile device and Americans, on average, spend more time socializing on their mobile phones than eating in a given day. To show how important it is to cater to this ever-growing audience, 4.8 billion people own a mobile phone while 4.2 billion own a toothbrush.

When adapting to this new realm of social media and mobile use, you cannot simply apply your traditional advertising strategies onto Facebook. While every other form of advertising is a one-way street in which you push out a message and wait for people to enter your store, social media requires you to be a person again. The social media revolution taking place all around us promotes interaction and your audience expects you to talk with them. Only 14 percent of consumers trust advertisements while 90 percent trust peer recommendations, so it is more important to cater to customers than spend countless dollars pushing your product. It is no longer possible to control the conversation. You need to be the conversation.

By being a knowledgeable expert in your field, mixed with a strong personality that people can get to know, you can build brand advocates. Through maintaining these positive customer relationships, these repeat customers will become your greatest supporters. They will tell their friends and family how great your business is. They will do the word of mouth advertising for you and absolutely nothing is stronger than that.

The bottom line: It’s time to get social.

Sandy Kenny is the vice president of TucsonLikes at Madden Media: 520-232-2631
AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE ADDS TWO AGENTS
American Family Insurance is proud to introduce Robert Hamm and Cynthia Hernandez as new agents in Tucson. American Family offers a full-line of auto, home, life and commercial insurance.

GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE
Grant funds are available to pay half the tuition and book costs for employees in the aerospace and IT fields who want to complete their bachelor’s degree in engineering, IT or production management by 2015. If you have employees working either full time or part time who want to complete their bachelor’s degrees in one of these three areas, contact Evelyn Wright at Pima County One Stop ewright@pima.gov or call 243-6678.

ALAN STRAUSS JOINS CARONDELET AS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
Carondelet Health Network welcomed Alan Strauss, formerly Chief Financial Officer at St. Thomas Health in Nashville, Tenn., as executive vice president and chief financial officer earlier this month. Mr. Strauss stepped into his new role, joining the Network’s executive team, on April 30, 2012.

TUCSON METRO CHAMBER LOS COMPADRES MEMBER RECOGNITIONS
Ken Keppler, president of Presidio Distribution has been recognized as the 2011 Los Compadres Volunteer of the Year.

Special recognition to Joel Nessler, Stanley Steemer, for his outstanding work and dedication to the Los Compadres Committee.

Good Morning Tucson
is proud to present
Nike
The Brand Experience

Mr. Hoppes will share the Nike culture, Nike thinking and Nike vision. Hear about Nike’s brand identity and what keeps them at the top of the consumer’s mind. Also learn how these values can be applied to your business, regardless of size or industry.

7:00 am: Registration, Networking and Business Exhibits Open
8:00 am: Breakfast & Program
$45 Tucson Metro Chamber members / $65 Non-members

Presenting Sponsor

Pima Federal Credit Union

Loren Hoppes
Thursday, August 23
The Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa
3800 E. Sunrise Drive
RSVP by Friday, August 17
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Carondelet Neurological Institute | Carondelet Heart & Vascular Institute
Carondelet Holy Cross Hospital | Carondelet Medical Group
Carondelet Specialist Group | Carondelet Foundation
The Tucson Jewish Community Center has been serving Tucson for more than 60 years with quality programming and events for kids and adults of all ages. The JCC offers a robust arts and culture program, a fully equipped cardio room and gym, more than 100 free fitness classes offered weekly (with your membership) and an excellent afterschool and preschool program. We offer scholarships for memberships and the preschool based on financial need.

One of our signature events is the Tucson International Jewish Film Festival that happens every January. This is a great event for film enthusiasts to see films that they cannot see around town. We are also home to the Sculpture Garden with an exhibit that changes yearly. Art from around the world is displayed in our garden and is open to everyone in the Tucson community.

The biggest challenge we face is letting people know that we are open to everyone. You don’t have to be Jewish to join. We offer a number of Jewish education opportunities but we also offer art classes, fitness and nutrition classes and so much more.

In today’s economy we are often competing for a shrinking pool of available funding when the need for our services have increased. Luckily we have a very committed Board of Directors who volunteer their time to increase our visibility in the community and ensure our success.

We are always looking to increase our interaction with the business community whether through partnering with the business to sponsor events, be a major sponsor of the Foundation or identifying individuals with the interest and commitment to potentially join our board of directors.

The Tucson Police Foundation, founded in 2003, is an independent, non-profit, charitable organization. Our mission is to promote a partnership between the Tucson Police Department and the community and to solicit and disburse funds that will assist the department and its members in providing for community safety and security.

The Tucson Police Foundation is the largest source of private funding for the Tucson Police Department. Funding that comes from and through the Foundation goes to support a wide array of projects. Items purchased include equipment such as investigative tools, safety equipment, technology upgrades as well as training and education.

As an independent organization, we do not receive any funding from the City of Tucson, and our funds come from sponsorships, grants, special events and the general public.

One of the most popular things we can offer to the business community is that we are a wonderful location for conferences, meetings or special occasions. We have on-site catering and a full-time event planner on staff to help with all the details, as well as a state-of-the-art media arts system – ideal for business presentations. We also offer corporate memberships for businesses of all sizes.
Ribbon Cuttings

APRIORI BEAUTY
Apriori Beauty has come to Tucson. Apriori means “it is what it is without question or doubt” and that is exactly what Apriori is: products made with pure and natural ingredients like sugar beets and papaya. These innovative and proactive “anti-aging” skin care products treat the visible signs of aging, wrinkles, lines, sagging, hyper-pigmentation and age spots. Just what every gal and guy needs in the dry desert climate.

BROOKLINE COLLEGE
5441 E. 22nd Street #125
Brookline College held a grand re-opening ceremony to celebrate the newly expanded and remodeled Tucson campus. The campus underwent a major renovation that doubled the size of the campus with new classrooms, laboratories, an expanded learning resource center and a cyber lounge for students. Students, staff and area businesses attended the event which included the presentation of a donation to Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse.

EMLOYMENT PLUS, INC.
7070 N. Oracle Road #220
Found in 1993, Employment Plus is one of the fastest-growing US staffing firms, operating from over 100 branch and on-site partner locations throughout the nation. The company provides award-winning staffing, professional and technical recruiting, managed services support and innovative contingent workforce solutions.

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY SERVICES
2820 W. Ina Road
Interfaith Community Services celebrated the expansion and opening of its new 2,700 square foot Food Bank with a community dedication, donor recognition and ice-cream social on Friday, April 13. The new $500,000 facility enables ICS to serve more people in need and to offer healthy fresh and frozen foods.

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY SERVICES
8701 E. Old Spanish Trail
Interfaith Community Services, a non-profit organization serving seniors, individuals with disabilities and people in financial crisis, celebrates the grand opening of its new ICS Employment Resource Center and newly expanded eastside Tucson office with a reception and open house.

NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL – TUCSON
1760 E. River Road #247
Northwestern Mutual officially opens its newly expanded Tucson office. Thanks to the company’s focus and success in the Tucson market, the local office is adding staff and experiencing rapid growth. Northwestern Mutual offers insurance for life, disability and long term care as well as investment products.

OLD PUEBLO COMMUNITY SERVICES
4007 E. Paradise Falls Drive, Suite 125
Offering a process of change through which individuals will improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential. Providing excellent supportive services using evidence-based practices through transitional living programs, substance abuse counseling and recovery services, and affordable housing programs.

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Good Morning Tucson

The Tucson Metro Chamber hosted Good Morning Tucson presented by Pima Federal Credit Union on April 19 at the Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa. Guests were enlightened by the witty humor and expertise of Keith Woods, CEO of North Coast Builders Exchange & president of North Customer Service Training Center. Keith shared his insights on How to Survive (And Even Prosper) In Tough Economic Times with those in attendance. He also taught how the keys to success only prevail when the values of customer service are put in practice.

On May 10 nearly 300 guests attended the 2012 State of Education presented by CenturyLink at the Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Golf & Tennis Resort. The Tucson Center for Cultural Enrichment in collaboration with the Tucson Metro Chamber presented seven local graduating high school students with scholarships.

Keynote speaker Kim Bearden, co-founder of the Ron Clark Academy and Disney American Teacher Awards Outstanding Middle School Humanities Teacher, offered an energetic and informative keynote address which inspired educators to transform average classrooms into remarkable learning centers!

Congratulations to the 2012 Scholarship Recipients!

Kevin Arreaga, Corina Gallardo, Jenny Mai, Adriana Parra, Michael Rivera, Alyssa Rosales, Jennifer Thornton

The Tucson Metro Chamber would like to thank our sponsors:

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Special thanks to the Good Morning Tucson Committee for all of their hard work and dedication in putting on the Good Morning Tucson event.
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Casino Del Sol Resort also hosts outdoor events with distinction and grace. A 13,500 square foot deck winds through the palms surrounding the terrace and pool, resplendent with roomy poolside cabanas, and a 30,000 sq. foot lawn adorned with a wedding gazebo. It’s all new and it’s all spectacular...raise your expectations for your next meeting or event at the new Casino Del Sol Resort!

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