



Breakfast for Champions

The Partnership for Community Growth &

Development hosted its second annual awards event called the “*Breakfast for Champions.*” The purpose

of the event is to recognize the efforts of many to

improve and enhance the economic health of the Liberty area. The Partnership presented Community Growth Awards to those who have invested in our area with new businesses, expanding business, new commercial development and public projects. The event was held at the Clubhouse at the Shoal Creek Country Club on November 29th, 2007.

The event was even bigger than last year’s, with over 160 reservations from across the business community of the Liberty area. Announcing the awards were Partnership Executive Committee members John Engelmann, Aquila and Tom Cole, S M Wilson Co. Presenting the awards were Partnership Chairman Larry Wepler of Trophy Properties, Past Chairman Tony Sarver of Realty Executives and Russ Weathers. The Community Growth Awards were divided into three categories: individual businesses, public and institutional organizations and developers. The main event sponsor was M&I Bank. KCP&L sponsored print items, as well as a promotional gift. Other sponsors included:

Aquila	Hallmark	Missouri Gas Energy
Curry Investments	Hunt Midwest	Patriots Bank
Ferguson Properties	Liberty Area Chamber	William Jewell College
Freedom House	Liberty Public School District	

The sixteen awards presented represent \$32 million in investment, 131 new jobs and 170 retained jobs.

Individual Business Category



Accepting the award for **Commerce Bank** is Jamie Grayson, branch manager. Commerce Bank added a location at Flintlock Road & 152. This new branch created 8 new jobs and offers extended hours.

Accepting the Award for **Freedom House** is Kelly McClelland. This new facility is located in Oakwood Business Park, and has done a tremendous job of fundraising. The facility houses Inasmuch Food Pantry, Love Inc. offices and thrift store, Hillcrest Offices, and Rebuilding Liberty Together.



Tom Marshall is accepting the award for **Hallmark**. Hallmark



received a Community Growth Award for their efforts towards becoming a bit more “green,” by making changes in their building automation system that reduced their energy consumption by 8% reduction in the facility’s carbon footprint. The Hallmark Distribution Center has been located in Liberty since 1972.

Steve and Carolyn Hatcher are realizing their dream in **Stone-Yancey House**. They have renovated the beautiful brick house to make it a bed and breakfast. Located in Historic Downtown Liberty this stately brick mansion is a perfect match for the area.



Richard Held and Matthew Wilson are accepting the award for **Steeple Inn**. The two have renovated and reopened this piece of history located in one of Liberty's Historic Districts after several years of inactivity.



Bret Ohlhausen is accepting a Community Growth Award for opening a new building which houses State Farm, as well as an additional 5,000 sq ft which is available for lease.

Accepting the award for **Shaped Steel** is Bob Evans.

Shaped Steel recently completed an expansion project which doubled its facility located in Heartland Meadows. This company has been involved with projects such as Cardinal Stadium and



the new Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

Jerry Brown is accepting the award for **Vari-Form**. Vari-Form, a Canadian company, is opening its first site in the United States, and chose Liberty! Vari-Form is bringing 41 new jobs to their new 36,000 sq ft facility in Oak Wood Business Park.. Vari-Form is opening the plant in Liberty to provide robotic welding of components to support the automotive industry.





Accepting the award for **Jazzercise** is Starla Yarbrough. The Yarbroughs received a Community Growth Award for their work in rehabilitating the old Dairy Queen building to turn it into a new wellness business. Local contractors were used for construction and renovation projects.

Piston Automotive Group. Piston is new to the area and moving into 75,000 sq. ft. of the newly rehabilitated Guy's Plant. Piston will also be offering 51 new jobs.



Scott Hayworth is accepting a Community Growth Award for



Smurfit-Stone

Container Company received a Community Growth Award for their investment in new equipment which will increase automation and improve productivity and sustainability.

Representatives from Smurfit-Stone were unable to attend the Breakfast.

Public/Institutional Category

Gary Zaborac and Freddie Nichols are accepting the award for the **Clay County Public Health Center**. The center recently moved into its new 28,500 sq. ft. facility in Oakwood Business Park. This project has provided five new jobs to the community and retained eighty. The County Health Department was established in 1947.





Accepting the award for **Liberty Hospital** is David Feess. The hospital made additions to their equipment which include endo-cardio equipment, installation of a clinical information system, as well as a new MRI. They are also remodeling a patient floor and adding a pain clinic. The total additions equal 14,300 square feet & add 5 new jobs.

Dr. Phil Wright is accepting the award for the **Liberty School District**. In the last year, the Liberty School District purchased the Ford Daycare Center and turned it into an early childhood education center, added 7 new classrooms to Schumacher Elementary, and has been planning for the second high school.



Developer Category



Accepting the Community Growth Award for **A&E Builders** is Terry Bush. A&E received an award for their Hospital Valley project, which added 2 new office buildings, an additional 20,000 sq ft of space that houses Comprehensive Foot Centers, P.A.; Mid-America Foot and Ankle Specialist, P.C.; and Malik Neurological Associates, Inc., among other tenants.

Billings Construction received a Community Growth Award for the addition of two new buildings to Liberty Bell Industrial Park; each new building is 4,800 sq ft. The award was accepted by Paul and Jeff Billings.



For more information call the Partnership at 816.407.9242.