



NEWS RELEASE

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HUNTINGTON BANK DONATES TO VENTURE NORTH TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES

NORTHWEST MICHIGAN – Huntington Bank has donated \$15,000 to Venture North Funding and Development to support the growth of small businesses in Venture North’s 10-county region. Funding will be used to assist businesses through Venture North’s trio of programs, including Affordable Loans, Mini-Grants for Growth and Professional Business Consulting.

“We are grateful for the continued contribution of Huntington Bank. They are a great booster for us and small businesses,” said Laura Galbraith, President of Venture North. “Their generosity helps us develop solutions that fit the unique needs of businesses. A business can go to www.venturenorthfunding.org and take five minutes to complete and send our intake form that triggers a quick contact from our team. By talking with the business owner, we identify the need and the correct solution together. We can then provide affordable loans, mini-grants for growth or professional business consulting – all aimed at helping business clients reach their full potential.”

“We value our collaboration with Venture North and support the organization’s mission to help small businesses succeed,” said Jennifer Jones, Community President, Huntington Bank. “From business start ups to existing small businesses, they’re doing great things to help our economy grow, including support for businesses, families and communities in economically distressed areas. Their flexibility as a certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) often makes them an ideal partner in providing businesses with the capital they need to grow and prosper.”

Venture North has made 138 loans to small businesses in their ten-county region totaling over \$35.2 million in funds loaned and leveraged, awarded mini-grants to 300 businesses and provided professional business consulting to help over 1,100 businesses. Their assistance has resulted in the creation of 453 new jobs and retention of 524 jobs in their region that includes Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee and Wexford Counties.

Venture North is a nonprofit, tax exempt organization. Those interested in supporting small businesses and jobs in northwest Michigan can consider making charitable donations to Venture North by going to www.venturenorthfunding.org or by calling 231-995-7115. Attached are examples of businesses supported by Venture North.



Customer Stories:



Increase Professional, IT, Scientific, Technical Jobs

Eclipse Communications *Benzonia*

A young entrepreneur bringing computer expertise back home and providing much-needed high-speed internet service to thousands in Benzie County.



Increase Average Wage

Grocer's Daughter Chocolate *Empire*

Empire duo imports world-class chocolate and builds a booming business, using profits to both expand and increase staff wages and benefits.



Increase Percentage of Working Families

Coastline Cycles *Frankfort*

A young couple combining a love for cycling, a talent for servicing bikes and a keen business sense in Frankfort.



Increase School Readiness

Blue Fish Early Learning Center *Kalkaska*

Addressing the ever-growing need for top-quality childcare and growing to meet that need in Kalkaska County.



Increase Percentage of Working Families

L'chayim Delicatessen *Beulah, Frankfort, Glen Arbor*

A long-favorite spot for authentic deli fare expanding – with now three locations – and sharing the helm with the next generation.



Increase Professional, IT, Scientific, Technical Jobs

TNT Electric *Traverse City*

A business with a sterling reputation changes hands but doesn't miss a beat in providing electrical expertise in northwest Michigan.

Learn more about Venture North by visiting our website: www.venturenorthfunding.org