

## **A Chamber exists to make any community a better place to live ... period.**

A Chamber of Commerce is many things to many people . . . an information center; an association of businesses coming together to improve the local economic climate, help members network and build new business; the voice of business on legislative matters. According to the official description “A Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary organization established to promote the civic, commercial, industrial and agricultural progress of the community and to work for sound legislation and efficient administration of the community and all levels of governments.”

Chambers have been protecting and promoting commerce since the concept originated in Marseilles, France in 1599. Today’s Chambers of Commerce are catalysts for growth and vitality in their communities, focusing on a broad range of activities and support for both business and community. Chambers connect members to members and to the communities they serve.

A strong dynamic business community benefits the entire community. Direct benefits of a chamber are a stronger local economy, the creation of new jobs, rising wages and a growing tax base for their communities. The indirect benefits are better schools, improvements of community facilities such as streets, highways, parks, and less crime. Chambers not only address economic issues; they address community issues, health care concerns, education, transportation, workforce quality and availability, housing and crime. A Chamber of Commerce unites the public spirit of a community and directs it into useful and constructive channels that are not limited to business.

The Clermont community benefits from a countywide chamber, the Clermont Chamber of Commerce, serving as the front door to our county for nearly 40 years, and benefits from the good work of four local area chambers, Goshen Chamber, Loveland Area Chamber, Milford-Miami Township Chamber and New Richmond Chamber.

Among the many civic program in which these chambers are involved, you will see the New Richmond Chamber promote their historic riverfront with a series of classic car cruise-ins and outdoor concerts this summer, the Milford Miami Township Chamber recognize the importance of education by hosting the annual Educational Excellence Awards each spring, the Loveland Area Chamber involve their community in the Loveland Family Festival, including a mini business exposition and Taste of Loveland in September; the Goshen Chamber, get into the spirit of the holiday season with what has become a rich community tradition, the Light Up Goshen Parade and the Clermont Chamber honor individual, corporate and public servant “Pacesetters” for outstanding qualities of character, citizenship and leadership, and genuine dedication to the welfare of Clermont County, at the Annual Pacesetter Awards Dinner.

At the heart of the local economy and the backbone of the nation’s economy, you will find a chamber of commerce, celebrating and promoting their communities. Chamber membership is open to any individual or business who shares a common interest in improving and enriching the community, making it a better place to live, work invest, and raise a family.

Our chambers exist to make our communities a better place to live . . . period.