

What's Developing

This column highlights the year of 2009 in a look at the history of the Eureka Community Development Company as it celebrates 30 years as a nonprofit.

Grants were important to ECDC that year. Funds from a \$15,000 Federal Home Loan Bank award were used for a copy machine to provide a free copy service to organizations, and that service has been offered since that time. The old copier was donated to the Eureka Fire Dept. \$5,000 of that award was offered to youth groups in Pay It Forward projects.

Other grants were used to help offset some of the costs of three more projects. A mailing was made to all EHS alumni to let them know about things going on in Eureka, Hospitality Training was offered to all businesses, and a 2-day grant training workshop was taught in Eureka by an experienced grant writer and trainer.

A fitness center board was formed and met with ECDC throughout the year. ECDC used \$20,000 received in grants for the purchase of equipment and some building renovation. A lease with a purchase option was signed for the former City Café and sublet to the fitness center.

ECDC was in contact with 2 call centers that year that expressed an interest in opening in Eureka. The call center building was vacant at that time and ECDC worked with the Governor's Office of Economic Development and the City of Eureka to bring Link It Software to Eureka to fill that building and provide employment to the trained labor force that was available.

Information packets were assembled for Dr. Anderson to send to prospects, and leads received by the ECDC office were relayed to him. A page of pictures and information about Eureka Dental was added to ECDC website.

Only a portion of the prospective businesses that have contact with ECDC ever materialize, so much of the work done is never seen by the public. Some of the ventures that took a considerable amount of time that year that never materialized were working with an electrician to locate in Eureka, being in contact with an individual who wanted to develop a community garden in Eureka, working with a person interested in opening a small dairy, and working with Second Hand Rose to find a larger location.

Miscellaneous happenings that year were joint quarterly meetings held with Leola Development Corp., worked with new ownership at the convenience store, Lona Hoff was the ECDC representative for the quasiquicentennial committee, Jundt was a speaker in Pierre at a Horizons training session, the Eureka Facebook page was developed, ECDC partnered with Chamber in a shop-at-home campaign by writing newspaper articles and printing tickets for a Christmas promotion, and policies on Record Retention, Conflicts of Interest and Disclosure of Certain Interests, and Whistleblower were adopted.

The annual meeting speaker was Dick Werner, credit officer from South Dakota Rural Enterprise Inc. He explained how ECDC has been a part of their lending program and how it is used in the community. He also presented statistics on McPherson County and Eureka, and talked about the need to have economic development in the community.

Irma Koerner began work for ECDC through the Experience Works program.

Wanda Jundt