

# Sawmill Rural Business Center

## 2016-2018 Annual Report



**SAWMILL**

*Reach goals beyond your expectations.*

# Board of Directors



- Diane Suvada** | Executive Director
- Mike Walker** | Chair of the Board
- Denise Stefanko** | Secretary
- Mark Walling** | Board Member
- Jay Jacobs** | Board Member



## Message from the Executive Director:

The Sawmill Rural Business Center was founded in 2016 as one of many initiatives taking place in the Village of Roscommon to revitalize not only a small village in rural northern Michigan, but the county and the region. It was recognized that rural areas are as much, if not more, in need of accessible business support resources as larger cities and more populated areas. The Sawmill sprang up as the first stand-alone business incubator and resource center in the region through the support of key local partners and funders. The following information is a snapshot of the impact and results the Sawmill has had in its first few years. We are very proud and passionate about the work we do to support our clients and the community.



*Diane Suvada  
Executive Director*

*On behalf of the Sawmill Board of Directors, I'd like to extend a sincere heartfelt thank you to all those that have supported our efforts.*

# Services & Fundraising



- Consulted with over 50 entrepreneurs and small businesses
- Hosted 30+ business workshops, programs, or events drawing over 500 attendees
- Support received from the following organizations:
  - USDA Rural Business Development - \$60,000
  - Roscommon Downtown Development Authority - \$84,180
  - NEMCOG Regional 3 Prosperity Initiative - \$10,000
  - Roscommon County Community Foundation - \$4,252
  - Kirtland Community College - \$1,000

# Sawmill Project Partners

- Village of Roscommon
- Roscommon DDA
- Roscommon County Economic Development Corporation
- Houghton Lake Public Library
- Higgins Lake Roscommon Chamber of Commerce
- Kirtland Community College
- Michigan Works Region 7B
- SBDC of Michigan, Northeast Region



# Sawmill Successes

- 10 new businesses launched through direct Sawmill support and programs
- 3 buildings in Roscommon occupied due to Sawmill community engagement (Bob's Butcher Shop, White Pine and Pearl, Bridges of West Michigan)
- Implementing and assisting with Redevelopment Ready Communities program for the Village of Roscommon
- Achieved grants for billboards and signage promoting Roscommon
- Partnering with local chamber to create new events to promote business (Biz Talk Sessions during Business Expo, Brunch & Browse)

