

We joined the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce immediately after starting our business in 1999 and it has truly been one of our greatest sources of information and has provided countless opportunities to build relationships within our business community. Lakewood is a very loyal community when it comes to their local businesses. Our involvement with the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce has given us the chance to know business owners, politicians, leaders, church & school administrators, and residents who then, have become customers. These relationships are the foundation of our business. **Julie Warren, Owner, Erie Design**

One of the benefits of being a member of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce has been that it gives us the opportunity to meet and develop relationships with other business owners and representatives of businesses who have assisted in the growth and operation of our firm. Through many of the Chamber events, we met representatives of a bank that took a personal interest in us and our business that resulted in a business relationship that has been and continues to be very rewarding. We think the Chamber is an organization critical to the success of economic development in the City of Lakewood and we look forward to continuing our support of its efforts. **Tari S. Rivera, President, Regency Construction Services, Inc.**

I'd been hired as Executive Director of the Lakewood Public Schools Alumni Foundation and felt it was important for us to raise our profile in the community. I joined the Chamber to begin to network with Lakewood's business community. Belonging to the Chamber gave me the chance to spread the word about our organization and its mission; to connect with alumni and friends of the schools who work or live in our community; and to create new partnerships with between the alumni office and the business community. **Teresa Andreani, Former Executive Director, Lakewood Alumni Foundation**

Our clientele is made up of businesses located exclusively in the Greater Cleveland Metropolitan Area. Having been a Lakewood resident most of my life, I had a great appreciation for the City of Lakewood and the businesses that play a role in making it such a diverse and charming place to live, work and play. As such, it seemed an obvious decision to join the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, since doing so provided me with an opportunity to network and grow business locally. However, joining also gave me an outlet to take an active role in activities that could directly benefit the City of Lakewood and the many businesses that call it home. From the very first event I attended, I found that there was a strong drive within membership to promote pro-Lakewood activities and focus on mutual growth and development for all members. It wasn't long before my attendance at events had begun to lead to relationship building that turned into business opportunities. Beyond that, there has been the added benefit of attending the luncheons, workshops, and after hours events which always feature speakers, activities, and food that represent the best of what the city has to offer. To date, the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce has been one of my greatest sources of productive relationship building, new business opportunities, and professional skills development since joining the Chamber in September of 2014. **Marty Foster, Account Executive, Conexo Communications**

When I was first opening my business many ideas were floating through my head but since I was new not only to owning a business but also to Lakewood, I felt completely lost as to where to begin. So my first step was to join the Chamber. I figured it was a good way to meet people and maybe even get some patients. But then I just didn't do it. The Chamber Director paid me a visit at my office and I thought she was just the nicest lady ever but once again I just didn't join. Then I met a man named Larry Faulhaber and he invited me to a Chamber meeting. This was my chance to attend a meeting as a guest, still within my comfort zone. I attended that meeting and joined shortly after because I really liked what everyone had to say about the Chamber, the Chamber staff, and most especially Lakewood. I wanted to get involved and so that is what I did. It's been crazy at times since my business doesn't always end at happy hour time of day but I know all the time and effort has helped me not only in business (yes, I did get some patients from the Chamber) but also as a person. I have learned a ton about Lakewood while being a member and that has helped me feel like this is the best place to call home for my business AND my family. **Allison Norris DC, Norris Family Chiropractic**

Hospice of the Western Reserve felt it was important to join the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce as it allows us to further educate the community about our mission and the services we offer. As a community-based nonprofit agency, Hospice of the Western Reserve provides an unsurpassed range of care for patients and their families. Our care extends to the community at large, as well. We are able to support people with one-on-one counseling and community bereavement support groups. We respond to local schools and workplaces after a death has occurred, and we host public ceremonies to honor and thank our community's veterans. Being a member of the Chamber of Commerce allows us collaborative opportunities so that we may better serve the local community. Our membership has been invaluable. **Lisa Carrigan Tomm, Clinical Team Leader & Site Coordinator, Hospice of the Western Reserve**

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce provides our company with the opportunity to access information and services while networking on behalf of our customers and employees. **Suzanne Metelko, Owner, Computer Systems Development Services**