

Greene County Experiences Economic Development Activity

Greeneville, TN – While the Global and U.S. economic climate continues to be depressed and uncertain, the Greene County Partnership economic development activity has increased in recent months. Over the last three months the Partnership has been active in fourteen projects. These include working with existing industry and businesses in addition to new potential employers. These projects consist of one job retention, two expansions, and eleven new start-up projects. They are in various stages ranging from responding to information requests to formal proposals being prepared for the prospects. While all of these will not result in additional employment, two were just successfully completed in the last month. They were the Donaldson Company, Inc. expansion and Huf, N.A. job retention.

Approximately two months ago the Greene County Partnership was contacted by Donaldson Company, Inc. concerning the possibility of expansion and additional jobs at the Greeneville facility. Donaldson was considering two other locations in addition to Greeneville for this expansion. A proposal was presented to Donaldson that resulted in their decision to expand the Greeneville facility. This will result in an estimated \$2 million investment and an additional 90 jobs for the Greeneville facility. This will increase their total employment from 98 to 188 by 2012.

In addition to the Donaldson project, the Partnership was also working with the local Huf N.A. company on a proposal to keep the Greeneville plant open and possible future growth. In June of 2009 Huf N.A. announced that it planned to close the Greeneville plant. Working with our partners, a proposal was prepared and presented to Huf management in June of this year. Huf announced in July it will continue to operate its plant in Greeneville, which currently employs approximately 205 and believes that the Tennessee plant will continue to be an important part of their future growth strategy.

On both of these projects the Greene County Partnership worked in concert with the State of Tennessee Economic Development Office, Greene County government officials, Town of Greeneville government officials, Tennessee Valley Authority, and the local Industrial Development Board. Many people from each of these organizations put a lot of effort into these and the other projects that the Partnership continues to work on. It was this teamwork and all the positive things our community has to offer that resulted in the additional jobs for Greeneville and Greene County.

Some of the remaining projects continue to be active and the Greene County Partnership remains optimistic that they will also result in additional employment opportunities. The Partnership continues to work to improve the current situation by improving relationships with all of our partners, increase our marketing activity in both the print and internet markets, and increasing our communications with our existing industry and businesses.

While we have seen some signs of improvement, the continued tough U.S. economy will make quick improvements difficult. The two projects that have been successfully completed are encouraging, and

will result in almost 300 jobs being created or retained in Greeneville and Greene County. We are very lucky to have two outstanding organizations such as Donaldson Company, Inc. and Huf N.A. in our community. Want to thank them very much for the confidence they have shown in Greeneville and Greene County in making their decisions.

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