

# 2006 Annual Report







## 2006 Annual Report

Tunkhannock Viaduct is a concrete deck arch bridge that spans Tunkhannock Creek in Nicholson, Pennsylvania. The bridge, containing about 167,000 cubic yards of concrete and 1240 tons of steel, is the biggest and most impressive concrete bridge in America. It was opened in 1915.

The bridge was built by the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad and was designed by Abraham Burton Cohen.

The bridge was built as part of the Clark's Summit-Hallstead Cutoff, which was part of an ambitious program of the Lackawanna Railroad to revamp a winding and hilly system. This rerouting was built between Scranton, Pennsylvania and Binghamton, New York. This bridge and the Martins Creek Viaduct near Kingsley were considered the engineering wonder of their time. All 13 piers were excavated to bedrock, which was up to 138 feet below ground level. Almost half of the bulk of the bridge is underground.

### Our Mission

To help businesses expand their markets, generate employment, improve the local economy, and plan for the future development of the Northern Tier Region.

### Our Vision

To be a leader in developing people, businesses, and communities for a globally competitive region.

## Full Commission

### Bradford

Brian Canfield  
Janet Lewis  
William Farley  
Sharon Kaminsky  
Doug McLinko  
Fred Robinson  
Nancy Schrader  
Ray Stolinas  
Paul Sweitzer

### Sullivan

Pamela Arthur  
Fred Fiester  
Wayne Gavitt  
Craig Harting  
Mike Hufnagel  
Norm Miller  
Betty Reibson  
James Rogers  
Philip Snyder

### Susquehanna

Roberta Kelly  
Jeff Loomis  
William Ord  
Dennis Phelps  
Tom Swan  
Robert Templeton  
Maryann Warren

### Tioga

Bob Blair  
Erick Coolidge  
Mark Hamilton  
Fred LaVancher  
Lindsey Sikorski  
Sue Vogler  
George Wheeler  
Jeff Wilson

### Wyoming

Stark Bartron  
Peter Butler  
Mike Castellano  
Anthony Litwin  
Thomas McCullough  
Judy Mead  
Richard Schwoebel  
Paul Weilage  
Bill Miner

## 2006 Advisory Committees

### Economic Development

Pamela Arthur	Robert Blair
Eric Brown	Brian Canfield
Dan Close	Fred Fiester
Mike Hufnagel	Sharon Kaminsky
Jacqueline Lawrence	Jeff Loomis
Alex Freid	Jack Ord
Betty Reibson	Lindsey Sikorski
Chris Smith	Robert Templeton
Anthony Ventello	Mary Worthington
Maureen Dispenza	

### Rural Area Transportation

Mike Castellano	Wayne Gavitt
Mark Hamilton	Michael Hufnagel
Roberta Kelly	Fred LaVancher
Anthony Litwin	Norm Miller
William Ord	Clyde Robbins
Nancy Schrader	Raymond Stolinas, Jr.
Tom Swan	James Weaver
Paul Weilage	

### Workforce Investment

Brenda Abplanalp	Sam Anderson
Robert Blair	Lori Bogadin
Peter Butler	Judy Cooper
Vance Coover	Karen Cosner
William Farley	Craig Harting
Chip Cummings	Fred Jackson
Sandy Voda	Paul Kreisler
Tom Kurosky	Janet Kovalich
Josh McGroarty	Jody Neary
Brenda Roberts	Fred Robinson
Karen Russell	Gerald Schaffer
Richard Stetz	Loren Stone
Charles Stringham	Sherry Spencer
Terri Zimmerman	Mark Hamilton
Brad Oman	

### Local Loan Review

Donald Abrey	Robert Blair
Carl Chambers	Bob Champion
Thomas Chesnick	Fred Fiester
Max Little	Stark Bartron
Thomas McCullough	Sheryl Potocek
James Rogers	Richard Schwoebel
Richard Soden	Mary Ann Waddington
Jeffery Wilson	



## A Report to the Region

Dear Friends,

It is our pleasure to present the 2006 Annual Report. The year 2006 was comprised of many positive changes. Agriculture and tourism lending has continued to increase, the I-99 Corridor project is seeing vast expansion and the Local Land Use, Transportation and Economic Development strategies are off to an impressive start. Of course there are continued downtown beautification projects and feasibility studies for business expansion projects.

The year 2006 also saw beneficial changes to the way NTRPDC is interacting within our five counties. By decreasing our executive meeting schedule from ten to six annually, it is allowing valuable time to meet with commissioners, advisory committee members, legislators, and various concerned citizens on a one-on-one basis. By doing this, we feel that we are strengthening information exchange within the region and hope to encourage stronger interaction.

The floods of 2006 caused major impacts on each individual county. NTRPDC was able to acquire a \$1,050,000 National Emergency Grant to aid these communities. Through the help of CareerLink offices, we were able to establish crews to help with streambed clean-up and debris removal. These crews were comprised of dislocated workers, many of whom were unemployed for long durations. The crews received training certification in first aid/CPR, chainsaw technique, and OSHA. The positive feedback we continue to receive from various communities is impressive.

In conclusion, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the NTRPDC staff, executive and advisory committees and to each of you who continue to increase to prosperity of the Northern Tier Region through your efforts.

Sincerely,



Kevin D. Abrams  
Executive Director



Judy Kraft Mead  
Chairperson



# 2006 Funding Sources

## Federal

Appalachian Regional Commission		
Enterprise Development	\$285,000	
Local Development District	90,000	
U.S. Department of Commerce		
Economic Development Administration	52,000	
U.S. Department of Defense		
Procurement Technical Assistance	53,000	
U.S. Department of Transportation		
Federal Highway Administration	162,000	
U.S. Department of Labor		
Workforce Investment Act	3,214,000	
PA National Emergency Grant	1,050,000	
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	<u>1,945,000</u>	
Total Federal		6,851,000

## State

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation		
Rural Transportation Program	13,000	
Department of Community and Economic Development		
Enterprise Development	886,000	
Business Retention and Expansion Program	62,000	
Export Development	60,000	
KOEZ	28,000	
Department of Labor and Industry	<u>312,400</u>	
Total State		1,361,400

## Local

County Contributions	<u>60,000</u>	
Total Local		<u>60,000</u>

**Total Program Funds** **\$8,272,400**



## Loan Program Impact

Borrower	Retained Jobs	Created Jobs	Loan Amount	Leveraged Amount
Tice Dairy Farm	2	0	\$146,000.00	\$200,000.00
A J Quiz LLC	0	20	\$38,000.00	\$180,000.00
Countryside Furniture	2	2	\$100,000.00	\$192,500.00
Ja-Jen Farm Partnership	3	0	\$38,000.00	\$0.00
Y-Run Farms, LLC	13	13	\$112,000.00	\$168,000.00
Four Friends			\$200,000.00	
Holdren's Precision Machining	6	5	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Hutchinson Brothers Partnership	4	0	\$200,000.00	\$825,000.00
Summerhouse Grille	10	9	\$25,000.00	\$61,000.00
Divya, Inc.	7	4	\$100,000.00	\$315,000.00
VanBlarcom Farms	7	10	\$200,000.00	\$315,500.00
Aaron Yoder Contracting Inc.	3	2	\$62,500.00	\$65,000.00
Suburban Ready Mix Concrete	3	5	\$200,000.00	\$300,000.00
GRIMKOW Farms, Inc.		4	\$200,000.00	\$405,000.00
Wickizer Lumber Co., Inc.	24	2	\$75,000.00	\$60,000.00
Montrose Publishing	32	10	\$90,000.00	\$90,000.00
The Brie Marie Inn	1	8	\$45,000.00	\$237,250.00
Sherwood Retirement & Personal Care Home	11	1	\$25,000.00	
Call of the North Gift Shop	7	1	\$25,000.00	
Joanne Kizer Real Estate		2	\$25,000.00	
Feusner Dairy Farm	2		\$140,000.00	\$205,577.00
<b>Total jobs retained and created</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>98</b>		
<b>Total loans closed</b>	<b>21</b>			



## Entrepreneurs Thrive with Loan Program Assistance



Matt Severson, Chef/Partner and Marilyn Anthony, Chef/Owner, The Summerhouse Grill. *Photograph by Michael Poster.*

Small businesses are creating a big impact on our region. 2006 saw a surge in activity for entrepreneurial development, from unique start up businesses to expanding businesses.

**Holdren's Precision Machining** is located in Ulster, Bradford County. They use their precision tool

and die capabilities to create and repair parts for many local manufacturers as well as local farmers and small businesses. They recently used NTRPDC financing to purchase property and machines for an expansion, creating three full-time and one part-time job.

**Countryside Furniture** is a start up company that creates high end hand made furniture sold to The American Heirloom, a wholesaler operated by Zimmerman Chairshop. The American Heirloom company sells to high end furniture stores such as Thomas Seeley. Our loan program was used to help purchase property and construct a new workshop, increasing the efficiency on the production line. The project will result in the retention of two jobs and the creation of two jobs.

**The VanBlarcom Farm Partnership** is a second generation farm operation. The brothers operate a dairy facility milking 300 cows on four

"Finances for our project came from our own investment, a small group of local lenders, and a key loan from NTRPDC. Along with the loan came NTRPDC's encouragement and support, invaluable assets for a start-up business."



**The Summerhouse Grill**  
*Photograph by Michael Poster.*

farms. The partnership was awarded a CAFA permit to expand their agriculture opportunities from just dairy to pork production as well. The Partnership is responsible for the production of over 41,000 sows per year. The economic impact of the project benefits the local economy with the creation of 15 to 20 additional jobs. The Commonwealth's First Industry Fund was used to help with the financing of this large project.

**The Summerhouse Grill** opened its doors to restaurant patrons in Montrose last summer. They used the loan program to help renovate a 1920's carriage house into a bistro style restaurant that features seasonal, local ingredients. Their commitment to cooking with local ingredients has increased the viability of local farms and has educated their customers about Buy Fresh, Buy Local.

They chose Montrose because they wanted to be part of the revitalization efforts by creating a restaurant celebrating locally grown foods, and offering guests a true taste of Susquehanna hospitality. An entrepreneur looks for supply and demand when choosing a business location. "In Montrose, we saw exceptionally high quality locally grown foods, potential employees with a strong work ethic, and an underserved restaurant scene," said Marilyn Anthony. "The Montrose Restoration Committee had been working for years to revitalize the downtown by supporting small businesses and encouraging tourism," she added.

Some of the highlights of Summerhouse purchases from local farmers include:

- 195 dozen fresh as can be eggs
- 450 whole pasture raised chickens
- 100 pounds of exquisite micro lettuces
- 35 pounds of incredible honey
- 12 gallons of pure amber maple syrup
- 80 pounds of varietal onions from one small supplier
- 5 pounds of locally grown and blended beautiful herbal tea

**A renovation workbee at the Summerhouse Grill.**  
*Photograph by Michael Poster.*



“We appreciate very much the funding assistance you give to businesses like ours. It is a great benefit to help with training our group to achieve more efficiency.”

*Holdren's Precision Machining*

“The NTRPDC staff would have to work very, very hard to improve the service and help they have already given. It is a pleasure to be associated with an organization like NTRPDC.”

*Timberscombe Farms*

“Excellent staff of professional people to work with”

*Hoffman New Yorker*

“The process was easy, the paperwork was brief, and the turnaround was fast. All my questions were answered and the overall interaction was great.”

*Gannon Associates*

“As the Safety Director of the company I find that training is a must but very costly. The grant money made available was very helpful and appreciated.”

*Knowlton & Sons Masonry*

## Small Grant Provides Big Benefit to Businesses

In 2002, NTRPDC decided to find ways to expand our assistance by developing programs to help retain businesses in the region. We soon learned that one of the most prevalent issues involved employee training.

The Small Business Training Grant program provides a \$1,500 matching grant to employers with 100 employees or less. “The maximum employment used to be fifty, but we increased it to help meet the needs of more small businesses,” said Laurie Lentz, who administers the program. “The affordability of training is an issue for small businesses. This grant helps them leverage their money so they can improve their workforce,” added Lentz.

The matching grant helps pay for registration and tuition fees, lodging, airfare and transportation costs. Since the program began, it has provided 228 grants to businesses totaling \$172,915. Grantees are reimbursed after submitting appropriate receipts.

## Client Survey Results

Annually, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development asks our core business clients how satisfied they are with our services.

When asked about the timeliness and value of assistance, we received a 100% approval rating. When asked about the quality of the services received, clients responded with a 98% approval rating.

In addition to our business clients surveyed through the state system, we now survey our municipal and other clients to gauge their satisfaction with our other services. The results continue to be overwhelmingly favorable, with 100% satisfaction on the timeliness, quality and value of services provided.

While we are of course very proud of these results, we continue to try to improve our offerings and provide the region with the best value possible for every public dollar spent.

## Information Technology Program Provides Assistance to **146 Municipalities**



“I have always found NTRPDC (to be) very helpful and very prompt in answering questions. The workshops/seminars I have attended have been very informative.” *Ararat Township*

“Ward Township is a very small municipality and without the grants we would not have been able to get the computer and software we so desperately needed. Thank you so much for providing this program.” *Ward Township*

“(Staff) was very helpful in getting the information and forms to us quickly. Great job!” *Apolacon Township*

“Timing was very quick and very friendly.” *Falls Township*

“NTRPDC has always been helpful, not only in \$ but also with good advice and guidance. Keep up the good work!” *Troy Borough*

“How can I even begin to describe how much our municipality appreciates this grant? It rates better than ‘very satisfied.’ It is absolutely wonderful!” *Smithfield Township*



## Achieving Results in the Northern Tier

NTRPDC continues to serve as an effective and efficient network to deliver business and community development services and programs to our five county region. Our board continues to recognize the value of working together regionally to maximize the use of our scarce federal and state resources.

During 2006, NTRPDC provided financial and/or technical assistance to 92 small and medium sized businesses. Sales for this core group of clients totaled just under \$690 million. Government sales for the year are listed at just under \$30 million, and export sales came in at just over \$46 million for the year. All told, this impact resulted in support for over 2900 jobs.





# Business Retention

## In the Northern Tier

Statistics indicate that most new employment results from the expansion of existing businesses. In fact, studies have found that 60 to 80% of all new jobs in a community are created through existing firms, and not through attracting new businesses.

Since 1997, Pennsylvania has operated the most aggressive Business Retention and Expansion program in the country. The program is designed to bring resources together to help retain and grow existing businesses in the Commonwealth. In the Northern Tier Region, one-on-one visits are conducted with various businesses throughout our five counties by NTRPDC staff and partners in each county. So far, a total of 1,242 business visits have been conducted. Referrals have resulted in industry-specific equipment trainings, web page development, computer training, marketing skills, as well as assistance from NTRPDC's business financing and other assistance programs.

Success is measured by the results of these referrals. For example, a business liaison met with Ajax X-Ray, Inc. in Sayre, and revealed they were interested in developing a website. A referral was made to PENNTAP and NTRPDC, who met with the business to discuss their needs. After helping them select a developer, work began on their website which is now helping them market their business.

Hoffman New Yorker, located in Dushore, required employee training. After the visit with the company, a referral was made to NTRPDC. As a result, the company received a Metals Incumbent Worker Training Grant and had twelve employees trained in a new process.

With businesses stretching their budgets to the limits these days, the Business Retention and Expansion Program visit process helps them save time and money by making them aware of technical assistance, training dollars and business financing programs.



## Workshop Helps Businesses with Website Dynamics

The Export Program and Information Technology Program worked jointly this year to present a workshop entitled “Making Your Website Work for You.” This workshop for small businesses covered the topics:

- E-Marketing 101
- It's the World Wide Web but is your website worldwide? Make your website International.
- If you build it, will they come? No! Create a Search Engine friendly website.

The workshop was held in Montrose, Troy, and Wellsboro. Future sessions are being planned for 2007.



Workshop attendees learn valuable tips on website development.

“Every local business with a website should have been there. All parts of the workshop very helpful...”

“Very informative and knowledgeable...”

“I learned several things from each presentation that will help my website.”



## 2006 Annual Meeting

The 2006 Annual Meeting was held in Montrose, Susquehanna County. Outgoing chairman and Susquehanna County Commissioner, Jeff Loomis was presented with a plaque and photograph that was featured in the annual report. Musician Van Wagner entertained guests with his original songs about coal mining, trees, and rural life.

This year, two businesses were presented with Business of the Year awards. Two categories were recognized, a manufacturer and a non-manufacturer. R&T Technologies, Inc. won as the manufacturer. A plaque and a \$1,500 check was given to President John Terefencko and Vice-President Michael Reed. Located in Canton, R&T manufactures parts that are engineered and machined with precision to meet each of their customer's needs. They started out with seven employees and eight customers. Today, they have thirty-five employees and forty-nine customers.

Pictured Left to Right: Art Putnam, John Terefencko, Lisa Dean, Dennis Murray, and Michael Reed from R&T Technologies, Inc.





Lori and Jerry Bogedin and their daughter receive the Business of the Year award as a non-manufacturer from Executive Director Kevin Abrams.

Mr. Terefencko and Mr. Reed credit their success to their employees. "We are deeply honored, and believe this award is a well deserved compliment to our talented and creative employees," said Mr. Terefencko. The future is bright for this company. An on-site expansion is planned within the next year. In fact, they plan to use their award money to help with site development work.

Twigs Restaurant and Café, won as the non-manufacturer. A plaque and a \$1,500 check was presented to owners Jerry and Lori Bogedin. Located at 1 East Tioga Street in Tunkhannock, Twigs has grown into one of the region's best restaurants with the best cuisine. The food on their extensive menu is freshly prepared by professionally trained chefs and served in their quaint dining areas. It takes a lot to make a restaurant thrive and the Bogedins' managerial style and love for the community is directly related to their success. They work together with their staff to support the community through fundraisers and donations of money, food, and time. "Jerry and I have tried to actively be part of our community...we are part of this town, its people, their lives and their hopes and dreams," said Lori Bogedin. The Bogedins also credit their staff for their success. Many have been with Twigs from the start or for many years. A majority work part-time while working their way through college.

Van Wagner performs at the 2006 annual meeting.



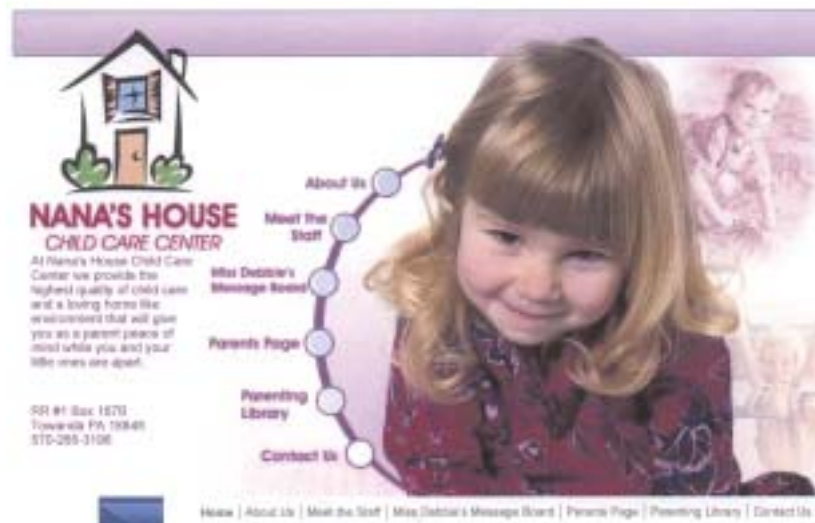


# Website Development for Local Businesses and Municipalities

The Information Technology Program continues to impact both local government and small businesses through grants, training, and technical assistance. In 2006, 80 local governments received grants totaling \$37, 988 and 26 small businesses received website grants totaling \$14,652.

The following websites were created or enhanced through the small business training grant.

- [www.nanashousechildcarecenter.com](http://www.nanashousechildcarecenter.com)
- [www.hawkhouserental.com](http://www.hawkhouserental.com)
- [www.newoods.com](http://www.newoods.com)
- [www.caregiversworld.com](http://www.caregiversworld.com)
- [www.mastersconcrete.com](http://www.mastersconcrete.com)
- [www.bishopfuel.com](http://www.bishopfuel.com)
- [www.tcginsurance.com](http://www.tcginsurance.com)
- [www.allnaturalbeefco.com](http://www.allnaturalbeefco.com)
- [www.wysoxsandandgravel.com](http://www.wysoxsandandgravel.com)
- [www.hoffman-newyorker.com](http://www.hoffman-newyorker.com)
- [www.corbettmotorsinc.com](http://www.corbettmotorsinc.com)
- [www.bicera.com](http://www.bicera.com)
- [www.systemsinnovationsinc.com](http://www.systemsinnovationsinc.com)
- [www.timberscombefarm.com](http://www.timberscombefarm.com)
- [www.rt-technologies.com](http://www.rt-technologies.com)
- [www.northwoodsgiftshoppa.com](http://www.northwoodsgiftshoppa.com)
- [www.golis.com](http://www.golis.com)
- [www.eplersbandb.com](http://www.eplersbandb.com)
- [www.shabbyrue.com](http://www.shabbyrue.com)



## State and Federal Investment Helps

# Economic Development Projects

Due to scarce infrastructure and difficult topography, vacant and shovel ready sites are hard to come by in our region. Thanks to funding from the Department of Community and Economic Development's Business in Our Sites Program, a major business park is under development in Tioga County.

The Tioga County I-99 Business Park development is being spearheaded by the Betterment organization of Mansfield. After construction, over fifty acres of land will be available for development. NTRPDC provided technical assistance by preparing a \$175,000 planning grant and a grant and loan application in the amount of \$3,705,785. The funds will be used to develop an access road to the site, sewer and water extensions, and other necessary infrastructure.

The site is located parallel to SR 15 in the Borough of Mansfield. The land was owned by the Dorsett family for years until they agreed to allow the Betterment Organization of Mansfield to option the property for carefully planned development of a business park consisting of commercial and light industrial development.

NTRPDC also assisted Canton Borough Authority by securing a \$285,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission to help with its waterline improvement project in the borough of Canton. The funding helped supplement other federal and state money to replace over 25,000 feet of water mains and the construction of a water storage tank.

## Procurement Program

# Impact

NTRPDC provides assistance to businesses interested in selling their product or service to federal and state governments and prime contractors. Our technical assistance helps businesses tap into the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world.

NTRPDC's Procurement Program Clients attained \$21,093,593 in government sales with 236 contracts awarded in calendar year 2006.

### Contracts Awarded to Procurement Clients:

Mark Whitehead Electrical Contractor, Inc.
Gladding Braided Products, LLC
HTM Precision Machining, Inc.
McCall Masonry
Montrose Publishing Co., Inc.
Nestor's Service Center
Nickerson Construction
Osram Sylvania Inc
R & T Technologies, Inc.
Spectrum Electrical Services, Inc.
Staver Hydraulics Co., Inc.
The Ronco Group



## Rural Transportation Improvement Projects

### 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program

In July the State Transportation Commission approved the 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the region. This short-term plan contains the projects that will move through the engineering and construction phase over a four year cycle through completion.

Projects include the River Bridge in Ulster, Bradford County, which broke ground in 2006 and the Montrose Section of PA 706 in Susquehanna County, which is in Preliminary Engineering stages for reconstruction and realignment. Other projects include highway and bridge projects within Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga and Wyoming Counties.

### Equipment Shows

Lazy Brook Park in Tunkhannock, Wyoming County and Alparon Park in Troy, Bradford County were the venues for this year's equipment shows. Over 90 vendors participated with 725 attendees from municipalities in northeastern and central Pennsylvania.



### Local Training Assistance Program

The Local Training Assistance Program (LTAP) provides training to municipal officials and employees in the maintenance of local roadways and bridges. The LTAP program is a partnership between NTRPDC, PennDOT and Pennsylvania Association of Township Supervisors. During the first year, 152 local officials and employees were trained during seven courses.



Vendors from northeastern and central Pennsylvania showcase their products at the annual equipment shows held in Wyoming and Bradford counties.



Thomas Beyer, Pennsylvania Trade Representative, Germany; Christine Perneski, North Central RPDC; Steve Sabbatini, Bradford Forest Products; Sue Swanson, AHUG; Dave Whitten, Bingaman Lumber; Isabella Rinaldi, Translator; Wayne Bender, PA Hardwoods Development Council; Mrs. Bender; Chad Rimbey, Export Development Program Manager.

## Hardwoods Opportunities in Italy

*ZOW Italy* is established as one of the world's leading trade fairs for the furniture manufacturing sector. Northeastern Italy is also home to 30% of the world's furniture production and represents a sizeable opportunity for Northern Tier companies. The *ZOW* branding is a new concept in wood industry trade shows that emphasizes people and communication instead of elaborate displays in order to keep the focus on developing new business.

NTRPDC partnered with the Allegheny Hardwoods Utilization Group and the North Central Pennsylvania Export program to promote the region's hardwoods companies to the Italian market, which has been overlooked in recent years due to the attention showered on the emerging markets in Asia. However, Italy remains the fourth largest market in the world for Pennsylvania hardwood lumber. Seven Northern Tier companies took advantage of this marketing opportunity: Barefoot Flooring, Benedict's Antique Lumber & Stone, Bradford Forest, CraftMaster Manufacturing, Cummings Lumber, Deer Park Lumber, and Oak Hill Veneer.

With its targeted regional focus, the *ZOW* trade shows are an excellent venue for small and medium-sized hardwoods companies interested in developing a specific market or two instead of the larger and more expensive wood industry trade shows that attract worldwide attendance. In addition, the Italian furniture industry is less price-driven and oriented more toward quality and functionality, which are the strong selling points of Pennsylvania hardwoods.

## Emergency Grant Funds Flood Cleanup

In June 2006, the Northern Tier Region was hit hard with unprecedented flooding. Creeks clogged with debris from flooding from the previous year caused major property damage in all of our five counties.

NTRPDC received \$1,050,000 in National Emergency Grant funding from the U.S. Department of Labor to help clean up along publicly owned creeks and streams and other public property in an effort to alleviate damage caused by future flooding.

Because each county is unique, we relied on the conservation districts, emergency management departments, municipal officials and affected landowners in each county to determine the priority sites for clean up.



Left: “Before and after” pictures capture the results of extensive debris removal from local creeks and streams. From top to bottom: Apolacon Creek, Little Meadows Borough; Mann Creek, Richmond Township; Apolacon Creek, Little Meadows Borough.





Members of the original Wyoming County crew gather with others involved in the project to receive a donation from Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

The project required the hiring of 9 crews and 126 temporary employees including a flood program manager, fiscal assistant and on-site crew leaders who worked from October 2006 through April 2007. Since the funding provided by the U.S. Department of Labor, the ultimate goal was to provide unemployed individuals with an opportunity for work, training, and hopefully full-time employment. During the hiring process, priority was placed on dislocated workers from the flooding of June 2006, dislocated workers, or long-term unemployed individuals. Each crew member earned \$10.00 per hour and crew leaders earned \$12.00 per hour and all received necessary safety and clothing allowances.

Each temporary employee also participated in a comprehensive orientation session and certified training courses such as OSHA, CPR, and a two-day chainsaw safety course through the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and the Game of Logging program, which includes a Level 1 and Level 2 certification. Each crew member also spent a minimum of four hours a month in each county's respective CareerLink center, attending workshops and participating in job searches, resume writing, interviewing techniques and computer classes.

In addition, this project helped to leverage additional local dollars including a \$15,000 donation from Wal-Mart as well as \$1,200 of in-kind donations from equipment operators through many municipalities.

“There are five bridges on Sugar Hollow Creek that I cross before I reach my home. Three of those bridges were wiped out due to debris blocking the flow of water. The crews...worked on clearing the creek for weeks. I watched their progress every day and they worked non-stop to clear hundreds of trees and debris. Their work was crucial to preventing more flooding on Sugar Hollow Creek.” —Judy Cooper

## Emergency Grant Funds Flood Cleanup

*Crews removed debris from flooded creeks and streams throughout the region.  
The following is a list of sites as of the publishing of this report.*

### Wyoming County

The crew in Wyoming County was the first to begin training and work. The original eight all were enrolled in the PA CareerLink system at the time. The crew started work September 25. A second crew began work in November.

**Exeter Township** – Whitlock Creek, Mill Creek

**Eaton Township** – Sugar Hollow Creek, covering three miles of stream that destroyed multiple bridges and homes; Leonard's Creek at Rte 309/29 split

**Monroe, Eaton Township, Forkston** – Root Hollow Road, covering nearly five miles of stream that damaged multiple homes

**Meshoppen Township** – Meshoppen Township Building to Benniger Hill, Meshoppen Creek, Williams Road Bridge area

**Tunkhannock Township** – Swale Brook

**Tunkhannock Borough** – Swale Brook

### Susquehanna County

Susquehanna County suffered the worst and most complete damage of the region. The county's first crew began working on October 9.

**Great Bend Township** – Along Dubois Creek from the Liberty border to Halstead Township, 7.5 miles; from the bridge on New York Avenue which includes an area where several homes were washed away; on Salt Lick Creek in Halstead to New Milford, 8.5 miles included home debris removal, Denton Creek

**Little Meadows Borough** – Apolacoon Creek, 2.5 miles; Dewing Creek

**New Milford Township** – Salt Lick Creek from Halstead to New Milford, 8 miles

**New Milford Borough** – Blue Ridge Park, Meylert Creek, Railroad property behind Borough workshop

### Bradford County

Two crews are working in Bradford County.

**Wyalusing Township** – Sugar Run from bridge east to McCarty's farm, 4.5 miles; Wyalusing Creek from Shaffer's farm to Wyalusing Borough border, 1 mile, to where the creek bends sharply and a very large deposit of debris was dropped threatening the borough.

**Orwell Township**

**Sheshequin Township**

### Tioga County

**Jackson Township** – Seeley Creek, Alder Run Creek, Bly Road Creek, Cook Road Creek, Fisher Road

**Richmond Township** – Ellen Creek, Brooklyn Road Creek, Mann Creek, Corey Creek, Lambs Creek

**Tioga Township** – Painter Run, Bear Creek, Barber Hollow

**Lawrence Township** – Mutton Lane, Harts Creek

**Sullivan Township** – Dewey Hollow Creek, Mainesburg Road Creek, Ashley Hill Road Creek

**Charleston Township** – Charleston Creek

### Sullivan County

While Sullivan County received minor damage compared to the other counties, one crew began working there late in the program.

**Colly Township** – Mehoopany Creek



# Community Development Projects

Many communities in this region lack the staff and time needed to access public financing for projects. We help by assessing a project and targeting the most appropriate sources of funding. Then we prepare and submit grant and loan proposals to help with shared municipal services, machinery and equipment, infrastructure, main street revitalization, parks and recreation, historic preservation, and emergency services.

It is usually the smallest projects that have the biggest impact. For example, this year, we helped access funding for six police cars. Other projects assisted with the purchase of municipal equipment and community parks. All are small projects that have a large impact on the safety and quality of our communities.

Recipient	Use of Funds	Source	Amount
Little Meadows Borough	Community Park	DCED	\$12,500
Wellsboro Borough	Elm Street Planning	DCED	\$25,000
Goodwill Fire Company	Fire Truck	PEMA Loan	\$150,000
Overfield- Northmoreland Police Dept	Police Car	DCED	\$15,000
Towanda Borough	Elm St Residential Reinvestment	DCED	\$300,000
Thompson Township	Municipal Truck	DCED Loan	\$64,920
Silver Lake Township	Municipal Truck	DCED Loan	\$116,000
Silver Lake Township	Police Car	DCED	\$31,000
New Milford Municipal Authority	Water Line Extension	PennSTEP	\$8,000
Duncan Township	Water Line Extension	PennSTEP	\$8,000
Blossburg Borough	Code Enforcement	DCED	\$14,000
Tunkhannock Township	Police Car	DCED	\$15,000
Nicholson Borough	Community Park	DCED	\$12,000
Tunkhannock Municipal Authority	Water Line Rehabilitation	PennSTEP	\$8,000
Oakland Borough	Borough Park	DCNR	\$32,000
Jessup Township	Grader	DCED Loan	\$23,000
Ward Township	Municipal Truck	DCED Loan	\$51,000
Exeter Township	Playground Improvement	DCNR	\$20,000
Mehoopany Township	Community Park	DCNR	\$26,000
Monroe Township	Community Park	DCNR	\$30,100
Mehoopany Township	Backhoe	DCED Loan	\$46,000
Warren Township	Community Building	DCED	\$35,000
Lanesboro Borough	Police Car	DCED	\$20,000
Uniondale Borough	Police Car	DCED	\$10,000
Liberty Township	Salt/Cinder Shed	DCED	\$20,000
Mehoopany Township	Police Car	DCED	\$10,000
Monroe Township	Municipal Garage	DCED	\$10,000



## Preparing Youth For Success

---

A Department of Public Welfare grant was used to augment Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding and to extend the availability of high-quality youth development activities. These investments have been viewed as prevention strategies that enable Workforce Investment Boards and Youth Councils to engage youth in programs and services that promote academic achievement and readiness for college and careers. Below is a summary of some of the projects that were developed in the region.

### **Job Fair – Towanda Junior/Senior High School**

Towanda Junior/Senior High School was the scene of a job fair which was open to high school students and adult job seekers. Attention was given to student needs of transitioning into the work world. Prior to the job fair, employability specialists went into the high schools to explain to students how job fairs work and to develop interviewing skills. Transportation to the event was made available to all participating schools.

### **Wyoming County Spring Scavenger Hunt**

The objective of this project was to familiarize students with small businesses and business strategies in Tunkhannock. This project helped students realize how small business impacts a community. The goal was to have each

student obtain or “hunt” for information from local businesses through the completion of a business questionnaire. The scavenger hunt included information gathering regarding vocational, political, building architecture, and business aspects of the town.

### **Lending Library-Make and Take Lab**

Temporary Aid For Needy Families (TANF) funding was used to expand the Parent Lending and Learning Library at the Family Resource Center in Wyoming County. The library has a primary focus of language and literacy, important indicators of school success. The library promotes family literacy, math, social studies, and science skills that enhance the quality of education. Other county agencies such as Children and Youth Services, Communities that Care, and the Tunkhannock Area School District also have access to the resource materials.

### **Vosburg Neck Nature Day Camp**

The goal of the Vosburg Neck Nature Day Camp project was to expand the participation of TANF children in educational programming that could lead to roles as participating, productive, and caring adults. The Vosburg Neck Nature Camp project is part of a collaborative celebration of the nature, history, music, and

culture of the Endless Mountains. An important goal of the day camp is not only to educate students about stewardship and bio diversity of the region, but also to show how environmental employment opportunities are linked.

### Job Fair

TANF eligible youth participated in a Job Fair at Keystone College. The students were provided with transportation to the Fair which featured over 60 employers from various industries. The morning session for high school students featured employment opportunities within our region and discussions surrounding academic and career preparatory plans. Trade Union representatives were present to expose youth to the employment opportunities available in their respective occupational sector and identified industry clusters. The goal of this project was to expose students to interviewing and applications processes as well as expand their knowledge of potential career paths.



### Health Career Week Events

Tenth grade students in all school districts were encouraged to participate in the Health Career Essay Contest sponsored by the Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers. The students each wrote a persuasive essay about why they would choose a career in healthcare. The focus of this contest was to increase youth awareness of the more than 200 healthcare career options available in the state.

Our three regional winners all attend Susquehanna County Career and Technology Center:

- **First Place** – Jasmine Coleman from Elk Lake School District
- **Second Place** – Misty KarhnaK from Mountain View School District
- **Third Place** – Cassie Bencotter from Elk Lake School District

The girls were presented with Certificates of Achievement from the Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers and with new Apple i-Pods.

Also, Health Career Day events were held at Elk Lake High School, The Susquehanna County Career & Technology Center, the Towanda Junior/ Senior High School, and Penn College North Campus in Wellsboro. Nearly 700 students participated in hands-on activities, interacted with exhibitors, and listened to speakers in the healthcare industry.

## Staff

### Kevin D. Abrams

*Executive Director*  
abrams@northerntier.org

### Kim Barnes

*Deputy Director*  
barnes@northerntier.org

### Brian Baker

*Regional Planning Assistant*  
baker@northerntier.org

### Heather Bartholomew

*Executive Secretary*  
bartholomew@northerntier.org

### Rick Biery

*Regional Planning Program Manager*  
biery@northerntier.org

### Susan Coates

*Assistant Finance Director*  
coates@northerntier.org

### Theresa Cora

*Executive Secretary*  
cora@northerntier.org

### Gretchen Elwell

*GIS Coordinator*  
elwell@northerntier.org

### Sherry Felten

*Workforce Program Manager*  
felten@northerntier.org

### Jeff Field

*Network/Maintenance Manager*  
field@northerntier.org

### Melissa Fleming

*Workforce Program Manager*  
fleming@northerntier.org

### Jill Koski

*Economic Development Program Mgr*  
koski@northerntier.org

### Cynthia Krise

*Information Technology Program Mgr*  
krise@northerntier.org

### Laurie Lentz

*Business Development Assistant*  
lentz@northerntier.org

### Cindy Lundy

*Workforce Program Manager*  
lundy@northerntier.org

### Debbie Mathers

*Special Projects Program Manager*  
mathers@northerntier.org

### Kerry Meehan

*Procurement Program Manager*  
meehan@northerntier.org

### Paulette Potter

*Loan Program Manager*  
potter@northerntier.org

### Ken Reeves

*Finance Director*  
reeves@northerntier.org

### Chad Rimbey

*Export Development Program Mgr*  
rimbey@northerntier.org

### Tom Schill

*Community Development Program Mgr*  
schill@northerntier.org

### Frank Thompson

*Deputy Director*  
thompson@northerntier.org

### Karen Vaughn

*Fiscal Analyst*  
vaughn@northerntier.org

## Executive Board

### Judy Kraft-Mead

*Chairperson*  
Wyoming County Commissioner

### Janet Lewis

*First Vice-Chairperson*  
Bradford County Commissioner

### Erick Coolidge

*Second Vice-Chairperson*  
Tioga County Commissioner

### Wayne Gavitt

*Secretary*  
Sullivan County Commissioner

### Roberta Kelly

*Treasurer*  
Susquehanna County Commissioner



Dr. Maravene Loeschke, Mansfield University President, was the guest speaker at the NTRPDC Quarterly meeting in October. Dr. Loeschke poses with NTRPDC staff members who are Mansfield University alumni. Left to right: Melissa Fleming, Kevin Abrams, Dr. Maravene Loeschke, Jill Koski.