



Tioga County Development Corporation

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MEDIA RELEASE

TIOGA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

May 12, 2008

New Business in Tioga County Receives \$150,000 *TCEZ* RLF Loan

On Wednesday, May 7, 2008 the *Tioga County Development Corporation* closed a ***Tioga County Enterprise Zone (TCEZ)*** Revolving Loan Fund loan to Gehman's Ornamental Iron - North Voice Communications located in Knoxville, Pennsylvania. The \$150,000 loan will be utilized to purchase machinery and equipment along with start up costs. Jason Gehman, Vice President/Chief Information Officer stated, "The Tioga County ***TCEZ*** RLF is playing a major part in making North Voice Communications a world class Contact Center with highly competitive pricing. Due in part to low interest rates from the ***TCEZ*** RLF, North Voice can offer quality Order Entry, Customer Service, and complete Answering Service for both the telephone and the web, with quality local agents, for less than other national or outsourced contact centers."

North Voice Communications is a Call Center that houses 24 to 48 agents along with administrative and training staff to handle inbound calls for a wide array of clients. The call center is located in Knoxville, Pennsylvania in renovated space at 206 South First Street. Startup of North Voice Communications was driven by a partnership with a Memphis, Tennessee call center that needed overflow and percentage call handling. North Voice Communications officially began operations on May 1, 2008.

In February 2007 the *Tioga County Development Corporation* received designation of the ***Tioga County Enterprise Zone*** through the State. The ***TCEZ*** is comprised of seventeen (17) municipalities throughout Tioga County which encompasses twelve (12) Areas eligible for EZP activities. Located in these 12 Areas are twenty-seven (27) industries. The municipalities and Areas have been strategically selected to participate in the ***Tioga County Enterprise Zone*** along the primary highway network including: US Route 15 (future I99), PA Route 49 and US Route 6.

"The Enterprise Zone Program is a grant program designed to assist financially disadvantaged communities in preparing and implementing business development strategies within municipal Enterprise Zones. It is a private sector-driven program, compatible with public sector purposes and designed to increase the quantity and quality of available job opportunities within an Enterprise Zone." The purpose is to create a positive, business-friendly economic climate, in a particular geographic area, to stimulate industrial growth and expansion which will improve the overall economy of the EZP.

For more information, applications or assistance on the *Tioga County Revolving Loan Fund* Program or other financial assistance, contact Lillian Smith, *TCDC* Economic Development Coordinator, at (570) 723-8232 or tcdc3@ptd.net.

PICTURE CAPTION

Pictured from left to right (Back Row) Amy Hastkins, Citizens & Northern Bank; Amy Wherle, Citizens and Northern Bank; Annika Gehman; Kate Gehman, North Voice Communications; Jason Gehman, North Voice Communications Vice President/Chief Information Officer; Dale Schoonover, North Voice Communications. Left to Right (Front Row) Robert J. Blair, *TCDC* President/CEO; Wendy Swartz, Wendy S. Swartz CPA & *TCDC* Director; Aiden Gehman; Grant Gehman, North Voice Communications CEO; Mary Lou Gehman, North Voice Communications; Jeanine Freeborn, North Voice Communications and Lillian Smith, *TCDC* Economic Development Coordinator



LEDA
Agent for Tioga County

