



Mercer County: Better Together

Success through collaboration.

#MCBT

MCBT Cultivates Partnerships, Enables Investments in Year of Development, Growth and Impact

Mercer County, IL – December 28th, 2018 – 2018 saw Mercer County: Better Together (MCBT) provide a total impact of over \$1 million to Mercer County through collaborative efforts. Residents, stakeholders and decision-makers helped MCBT grow and make an impact in the following areas in 2018:

Development

- Completed the *Mercer County Strategic Plan*, enabling current and future investments into Mercer County; since March, 32 of the plan's 70 identified actions have been either initiated or completed.
- Cultivated new cost and resource-sharing partnerships among communities through collaborative processes.
- Launched a Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) program; over 200 businesses have been surveyed.
- Identified potential signage gaps through completion of countywide wayfinding signage survey.

Growth

- Gained 501(c)(3) nonprofit status on July 3rd, making donations to MCBT tax-deductible.
- Implemented a housing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Mercer County Health Department, strengthening countywide partnerships and decreasing organizational overhead for MCBT.
- Currently creating the *Geographic Field of Interest Fund* to support future projects or initiatives in Mercer County that are identified through collaborative efforts.

Impact

- Facilitated a \$150,000 investment for public parks and recreation projects through a collaborative process; an additional \$57,637 will be invested into Mercer County businesses to complete project work.
- Enabled \$100,000 in technological advancements for Mercer County CUSD #404 and Sherrard CUSD #200.
- Linked key mental health stakeholders, leading to \$560,000 in federal funds to build the *Mercer County Mental Health Action Program (MHAP)*; MHAP created two jobs and currently serves over 36 residents.

MCBT engaged with over 750 Mercer County residents in 2018 through planning and outreach; volunteers from across Mercer County committed over 522 total hours to MCBT efforts. For more information on MCBT or the *Mercer County Strategic Plan*, contact MCBT at the information below or visit www.mcbettertogether.org.

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