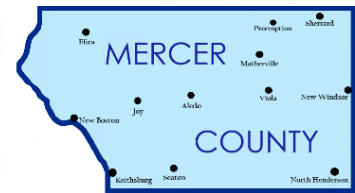




Mercer County Better Together

Connect. Promote. Educate.



MCBT Makes Impact in 2019 Via Service, Outreach, Advocacy

Mercer County, IL – January 17th, 2020 – Throughout 2019 Mercer County Better Together (MCBT) leveraged resources, relationships and the power of collaboration to improve the vitality of Mercer County. From legislative advocacy to downtown planning, MCBT continues to serve the county and its residents as a hybrid community and economic development organization.

Here are a few of the ways MCBT made a local impact in 2019, by the numbers:

- **6.2:1 ROI** (return on investment) / \$77,753.75 invested into MCBT, resulting in output of \$479,310
- **\$479,310 value** brought to Mercer County through projects and programs
- **\$135,000 for downtown Viola** via planning partnership with University of Illinois & Extension
- **\$120,000 in tech upgrades** in Mercer County, Sherrard and United school districts
- **1,650+ meals served** to those in need through the *Loving Hands Food Ministry*, a partnership with the Alledo United Methodist Church and the Mercer County Health Department
- **392.25 volunteer hours** by Mercer County residents
- **103 events** in Mercer County promoted via MCBT website and social media platforms
- **101 children enrolled** in *Dolly Parton Imagination Library* children's literacy program
- **11 upgrades** to park or recreation facilities, across nine Mercer County communities
- **FIRST** state-level advocacy on behalf of Mercer County and its communities

"We have a unique opportunity to serve Mercer County in a variety of ways," said MCBT Executive Director Kyle McEwen. "Our scope of work is much broader than the typical community development or economic development organization, but we're grateful for that. Our holistic approach to development puts us ahead of the curve. MCBT exists to improve the vitality of Mercer County and we're eager to take the next step in 2020."

As one of the only organizations in the state with a hybrid focus on both community and economic development work, MCBT is uniquely positioned to partner with a variety of entities, organizations and agencies on projects and programs. Unlike many of its counterparts around the state, MCBT is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, which means donations to MCBT are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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