

# **MEDIA ALERT**

**JULY 21, 2009**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

FROM : Belmont County Dept. of Dev. / C IC

Contact: Sue Douglass, Executive Director....740-695-9678

The Belmont County Department of Development / Community Improvement Corporation ( DOD/CIC ) is joining resources with the Muskingum County Business Incubator (MCBI ) program. Under the direction of the MCBI and the leadership of its director Carol Humphreys, a 9 county partnership has created business assistance HUBS. The HUB project focuses on a county location where business owners and operators can find related education, support and mentorship. In Belmont County, that is now the St.Clairstville office of the DOD/CIC.

The HUB site is a collaboration of diverse professional organizations who serve local businesses in Southeastern Ohio. Each HUB office will make the initial assessment for participating businesses and align specific wants and needs with the best appropriate professional resources to fulfill those requests.

A gradual rollout of services and activities will begin in Belmont County on July 31, when Jessica Sherman, MCBI Regional Coordinator joins DOD/CIC Executive Director Sue Douglass on a tour of local business locations.

In the coming weeks, more detailed activities will be outlined. For additional information, please call Douglass at 740-695-9678; Humphreys and Sherman at 740-453-3649.

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Notes from Sue Douglass, DOD/CIC

Date: July 21, 2009

RE: DOD/CIC as an MCBI Hub center

- The DOD/CIC is the prime contact for business in Belmont County; this hub designation enriches our resources and enhances our facilitation capabilities in assisting local business operations
- Businesses of all types and sizes are encouraged to participate. It remains a voluntary program, which can be customized to serve start-up, existing, and /or on-going business issues. Owner/operators are encouraged to call the DOD/CIC for more information
- The gradual roll-out of services will be governed by the wants and needs expressed by local businesses
- While there will be fact-finding and data gathering, information given to the HUB will be contained within the HUB, using guidelines from each business.
- The emphasis is on support and productivity: what can we do to help you do your best? Problem-solving is key to successful operations
- At the planning meetings of the HUB members, the emphasis was on sharing for solutions: no need to reinvent the wheel! As issues were discussed, the responses were “here is my idea...take it!” We chose a path of walking with each other, rather than over each other.
- This HUB project is and will remain a work-in-progress as it responds to the “living” business community.

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