

The Barry County Economic Development Alliance understands the difficult economic struggles being felt by businesses across Barry County. Our number one concern is to retain the jobs that are currently in Barry County and maintain a high quality of life for the residents of the area. We will do what we can to serve as an advocate to cultivate regional partnerships to ensure business needs are being met. Additionally, we see an opportunity to continue to draw from the assets that we have in the County to encourage an entrepreneurial mindset and assist new entrepreneurs in starting businesses and provide guidance and innovative support for those businesses that are looking to reinvent themselves in a tough market setting.

The Barry County Chamber of Commerce relies on the strength of the membership to create an environment that will continue to provide our members with opportunities for networking and self-promotion. We are revamping our Chamber Barry Bucks gift certificate program to promote a Shop Local/Buy Local campaign encouraging local commerce. The Chamber is currently working in partnership with the Alliance to offer entrepreneur and small business training programs and will kick-off business after-hours, business round-tables and other peer-to-peer networking opportunities early in 2009. We will work hard to develop new value-added programs and services for our members.

The Chamber and the Alliance have partnered to build a new website that will be unveiled early in 2009 that will assist in driving internet traffic to our Chamber members, local recreational opportunities, community events and Barry County as a whole. Both organizations are active supporters of the HomeTown Partnership community development model and will continue to help in building a great community through grass-roots efforts of the HTP committees.