

## *EDC partners with local government to benefit communities*

In these days of economic uncertainty, developing partnerships is vital. Public funding is limited, and services that traditionally depend on government have found it time to become creative. Building relationships between public and private partnerships combines resources to keep community services intact.

In economic development, private businesses and government officials have always found it necessary to work cooperatively to create jobs and capital investment. Businesses and government often form a nonprofit corporation to facilitate this. The Cass County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is an example of a community group that depends equally on private and public resources to be successful.

Over the past six years, 556 jobs have been created in Cass County using this public-private model. The total cost of this service equates to \$950 per job. Using this business model, 48 percent of the cost comes from local and county government. The remainder is derived from other sources. Essentially, the local government dollars are stretched to maximize the benefit to local communities.

More than \$55 million of capital investment has occurred in the past six years using assistance from the Cass County EDC. This will generate future new tax base to increase local government funds. Additionally the new jobs will decrease human services and unemployment expenses, further stretching local public funds.