

Cass County EDC Board of Director highlights Marie Rose.

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Photo submitted by Marie Rose

As a board member of the Cass County Economic Development Corporation (CCEDC), I consider it my obligation to earnestly listen to what is presented and to respond honestly. I try to use my previous board experience to help guide my thoughts and responses. The CCEDC is important to Cass County; we need more business and I take this role quite seriously.

I am married to Daniel Rose, a dentist in Pillager. We have five children, and 13 grandchildren. It is a fun bunch when we are all together!

I am a lawyer and have worked extensively in family law and criminal defense. I retired from domestic law a few years back to work internationally. I have helped small business in developing countries and have seen the difference it makes.

Small business, whether in America, the Middle East, Asia or Africa, will bring people out of poverty and help them to be self-sufficient. In these days of broke governments we need to look to our own initiative and creativity and not to government for our well-being.

Three years ago I was ordained with the Free Methodist Church and am a Chaplain with the Cass County Sheriff's Department.

I know first-hand the demands and joys of small business. I do the accounting for my husband's dental clinic that we started seven years ago. We have had some interesting years, however, I love the freedom having your own business offers. We are in charge of our life and make the decisions that are best for us and our business.

Tim Rice, president of Lakewood Health System (LHS), submitted my name as a potential board member, as I have served on the LHS board for five years. I have served a three year term with the CCEDC and will be retiring this year.

The educational programs CCEDC presents have been excellent. Meeting our legislators annually and learning about the implementation of the affordable care act from MNSure were very helpful. The level of expertise exhibited by board members is impressive. The board meetings were enjoyable and will miss them and the board members very much.

Businesses need to support CCEDC because it supports new business. New business means more business for those of us already in the area, it means more jobs for our population, it means greater income. All of these things are important.

The commitment and hard work of our executive director, Gail Levenson, have certainly paid off and we have had very good results with businesses. It is obvious that CCEDC would not have accomplished what it has without the level of experience and commitment that Gail brings.

Cass County has one of the lowest tax rates in Minnesota and in the future, it would be great to see more businesses locate in Cass County. The county will be better off with more businesses development.

We are not a high income county and we need more business to provide jobs. Further, I look forward to seeing what is coming down the pike for the CCEDC. As business grows, we all grow and are better for it.

The Cass County EDC is a local non-profit corporation. The Board of Directors are dues-paying members of the corporation and serve in a volunteer capacity.