

RICHLAND AREA CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CHAMBER LINK

JUNE 2024



Chamber Golf Classic

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Digital Skilling: Opportunities for Mid Ohio

Angie Cirone

MRA Educational Foundation Director



I furiously used the up arrow to catch the mole running across the screen. Then the down arrow; and a quick right arrow. A middle school student coded a whack-a-mole game using Microsoft's MakeCode Arcade during a Code a Carnival Camp at the NC State Kehoe Center in June. Soon after, laughter echoed down the hallway as the 25 students set up traditional carnival games enhanced with a micro:bit pocket-sized computer to make the game shake, light up, or keep score. Parents and community members played the carnival games and learned about the coding experience.

The Chamber's Microsoft TechSpark grant funded the Code a Carnival Camp along with several other opportunities. Microsoft is investing in local communities across the U.S. and Mexico with the goals of fostering digital skilling and employability, broadband expansion, and helping organizations thrive. The Chamber is fortunate to represent Ohio in this fellowship. With the \$100,000 investment over two years, our focus is computer science education, digital skilling, and career pipelines for local organizations.

During the 2023-2024 school year, we launched several K-12 initiatives including:

- Girls Who Code community partnership that allows schools and organizations to access curriculum and resources for 3rd-12th grade coding clubs. Sign up is free at girlswhocode.com/apply. So far, we have 37 students enrolled across three clubs in Richland County.
- Career Pathways in Technology workshop between ES Consulting and Ontario High School that can be replicated for other districts.
- 179th Cyberspace Wing Electronics for Beginners Camp for 13 high school students. Students learned Arduino programming and used a kit to program fans, security systems, and light switches, for example.
- Shawshank Showdown presenting sponsorship which introduced FIRST Robotics to Richland County through a high school competition with 19 teams from Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Michigan with 5 to 15 students each. Elementary and middle school programs were included as well.
- Support of Richland County's Teacher Technology Bootcamp in partnership with Mid-Ohio ESC and Ashland University. 10 teachers visited six technology-oriented businesses and made presentations about how they will incorporate technology into their curriculum.

A cybersecurity speaker series and certificate are in development with the Ohio State University at Mansfield to help community members understand the citizenship and economic impacts of cybersecurity on Richland County.

We're seeing businesses become engaged with our initiatives and students become more aware of the many technology pathways available to them. We are interested in working with additional partners for the 2024-2025 school year. Let's work together to invest in computer science education and digital skilling to develop pipelines of talent and a thriving local economy.

See page 14 for pictures.

What I Wish I Had Known When I Started My Career

REGISTER

Brigette Burnell has practiced law for over 20 years in both private practice at a major international law firm (working in the United States and China) and as in-house counsel for investment banking and manufacturing. For the past 10 years she has worked in Gorman-Rupp's corporate department where she serves as Executive Vice President and General Counsel. In this role she oversees all legal and human resources matters for Gorman-Rupp's family of eleven companies around the world.

- Gain insights into starting and advancing your career.
- Learn from real-world experiences in international law and corporate leadership.
- Discover strategies to enhance your work experiences.
- Uncover valuable lessons from a seasoned executive and legal expert.

Please join her as she shares "What I wish I had known when I started my career," which will provide insights for those starting their careers, as well as those looking to enhance their work experiences.

SPONSORED BY:



JULY 17, 2024
11:45 am - 1:00 pm

DLX | Kobacker Room
28 N. Main St.
Mansfield, OH

BRIGETTE BURNELL
Executive VP & General Counsel,
Gorman-Rupp Company



JULY SCHEDULE

LIVE PERFORMANCES | FOOD TRUCKS*
MECHANICS BANK | 2 S. MAIN STREET | MANSFIELD
ALL PERFORMANCES WILL BE HELD 11:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M.

JUL 12	Ordinary Elephant	Black Willow*
JUL 19	Tom's Kitchen Table	Eshelman's Table*

Come early or stay later and enjoy the courtyard.
Our courtyard is open every Friday over lunch.

In the event of inclement weather,
visit [MyMechanics.com/LiveatLunch](https://www.mymechanics.com/LiveatLunch) for updates.

*Food truck items available for purchase



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RICHLAND AREA CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
GOLD
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Milliron Auto Parts

Milliron Auto Parts strives to be North Central Ohio's leading source for used automotive parts and buyers of scrap automobiles. Our company takes pride in our experienced sales staff, competitive pricing and high quality product. With our relentless effort in providing accurate part descriptions and part availability we are confident that our customers receive a quality product in a timely manner.

At Milliron Auto Parts we box and protect all of our product from the time it is removed from the vehicle to maintain the integrity of the parts we sell. We hope you will see the difference and choose Milliron's as your used parts supplier!

Thank you to our renewing members!

BOOST & EXCEL

Buckeye Imagination Museum
Der Dutchman Restaurant
Ontario Mall, LLC.

Interested in enhancing your
member benefits?

Contact Jennifer at (419) 522-3211, or jwagner@richlandareachamber.com

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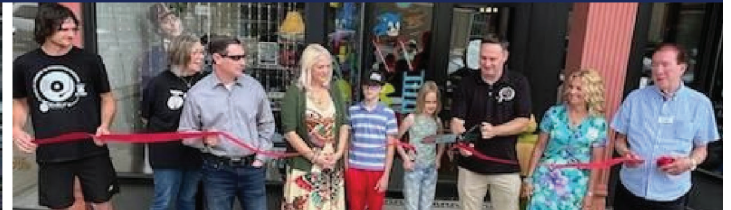
Selah Beauty
Sentec Systems, LLC.
The National Lime & Stone
Company
Transformation Network
Whitaker's Natural Market
Wilson Family Realty

Renewals reflect paid dues received from 06/01/2024 through 06/27/2024

JUNE RIBBON CUTTINGS



MANSFIELD TIRE BROS
Grand Opening



OPERATION FANDOM & BLACKBIRD RECORDS
Grand Reopening



LEADERSHIP UNLIMITED CLASS OF 2024
Capstone Project Completion

JUNE MEMORABLE MOMENTS



INSTITUTE FOR ORGANIZATION MANAGEMENT



AMBASADOR SOCIAL



TEACHER TECH BOOTCAMP



CODE A CARNIVAL

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS- SHELBY-MANSFIELD KOA



13th Annual Earth Stewardship Take Pride Contest

The Earth Stewardship Celebration, now in its 28th year, invites local groups, businesses, government agencies, neighborhoods, churches, non-profits and residents the opportunity to be a part of Planting Pride in all of Richland County by conducting a project from April 1st – August 1st.

What is the Take Pride! Earth Stewardship Contest?

- Earth Stewardship participants take before and after photos of their project and submit the photos by August 4th.
- Projects are “judged” by a panel of judges who include leaders in our community, businesses, and residents.
- Awards are given to the top 3 places in each category. (Categories include: Businesses, Government, Neighborhood, School, Church/Non-profit organizations).
- Plus voters get to choose the **People’s Choice Award** by casting their “vote” via our Facebook page. Scan this code to visit our page and see some of our previous years projects.



Presenting the Star Award

In an effort to recognize each village/city within Richland County for their projects, our judges will also choose the **“Star Award,”** for each community.

How does this work? Here’s an example:

- The City of Ontario has 4 schools, 2 civic groups, and 6 businesses who register and complete a project throughout the months of April and July. One of those projects will win the Star Award.

And yes – a **Star Award** will be presented for **each village and city** in Richland County that registers a project.

- Does your business, church, organization have more than 1 location in Richland County?

Each location may register a project for the Earth Stewardship Celebration. (You can start a “friendly competition” amongst your locations and city/village).

What is a project? A project may include but is not limited to: Litter clean up, tree plantings, beautification projects, butterfly gardens, rain gardens, energy efficiency project, recycling project, native plant/pollinator gardens, removal of graffiti, paintings, park projects and more. (Think curb appeal and the environment). Visit the Earth Stewardship Celebration Facebook page to see some past projects and participants.

For those conducting a litter clean up, we have a limited supply of bags, gloves and disposal of the litter collected)

How do we become involved?

- Recruit your volunteers.
- Choose your project.
- Register your project by filling out the enclosed registration form or register online at:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1pTyCUzZXl4Etl43oY69PyklfGA-cTxB2m0W7G5aFvRU/edit>

- Scan here to register.



Deadline for registration is August 1, 2024. Deadline for photo submission is August 4, 2024.

ALL Volunteers will be entered into a drawing for prizes at the Earth Stewardship Celebration Awards Ceremony on September 6th.

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a brown cardigan over a yellow t-shirt and a dark apron, stands in a bakery. Behind her are shelves filled with various donuts and pastries. A purple banner is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Big health benefits for **small businesses**



You put everything you have into your business. And we put everything into creating high-quality health insurance plans for you and your employees. We've partnered with the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development and Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE) to offer a unique benefit option for small businesses like yours. The COSE Benefit Plan is a multiple employer welfare arrangement (MEWA) that allows businesses of 1–50 to experience rate stability, savings and the same great health benefits that large corporations have. Bundle your health plan with our dental, vision or life plans for a fully integrated benefits package.

Contact your broker | COSEBenefitPlan.com



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Business After Hours

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business

August 15, 2024 | 5-7pm
286 E. Piper Road, Mansfield, OH 44905

Door Prizes

- Professional Headshot Session at DRM
- 419 Barbershop Gift Certificates
- Richland Carrousel Park Tickets
- Mohican State Lodge - Stay Certificate
- Landoll's Mohican Castle - Stay Certificate
- City Grille Gift Cards

Mid-Ohio Limosine will meet you at our designated parking location and bring you the rest of the way.

It's sure to be an enjoyable evening to get out and network.

HOSTED BY



FOOD TRUCKS



2 complimentary
beverages

ACTIVITIES

Pickleball & Cornhole
by:



OTHER ACTIVITIES

Ping Pong
Free Throw contest



REGISTER NOW!



RICHLAND AREA CHAMBER
GOLF
Classic

Presented by:



OhioHealth

**Below are the results from the 32nd Annual Chamber Golf Classic!
Congratulations to all the prize winners!**

First Place: **Wallington & Bauer**

Second Place: **Specialized Pipe Technologies**

Third Place: **Avita Health Systems**

Special thanks to all our golfers, sponsors, prize contributors, and volunteers for making this event possible. This is one of our most popular events because of you! Last but not least thank you to our friends at Westbrook Country Club for a wonderful day on your beautiful course!



Our Proximity Contest Winners:

Longest Drive (Must be in the Fairway): Nate Looney, Northwestern Mutual

Closest to the Hole on 2nd Shot: Darren Heuss, Avita Health Systems

Longest Putt: Ben Hoffman, Koorsen Fire & Security



Professional photos taken by Braxton Daniels III,
Studio 45 Multimedia
(419) 989-7047
<https://www.facebook.com/Studio45Media>





Program Day Sponsor:

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Charles P. Hahn, CFP®

The final LU program day of the year focused on beautification. The class split into two groups to complete beautification capstone projects throughout the program year. June 13 was a day to celebrate their completion. The alley at 47 E. Main Street, Shelby became a space for gathering and celebration with a beautiful mural, bench, and lighting. Visitors can enjoy the new plants at Lexington's Patriot Park and the NECIC Urban Farm on Bowman Street. In the afternoon, the class discussed the highlights of each program day and the action steps they will take during a sketch debriefing session with Allison Pence.



Learn more about program days at facebook.com/LeadershipUnlimited.





The LU Class of 2024 graduated on June 13 in a beautiful ceremony at Kingwood Center Gardens. Chad Whittington, President and CEO of the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts, gave the commencement address about key leadership lessons. Guests learned about each program day and the class capstone beautification projects. Andrea Wildenthaler, of Richland Public Health, offered remarks about her experience as a participant.

Each graduate received a certificate of completion. Michele Gies, of Richland County Board of DD, discussed the class of 2025. Jeff Parton, of Park National Bank Business, presented the 2024 Outstanding Alumnus Award to Donna Gimore, of Southern Title, based on her career excellence, civic engagement, and leadership skills. Congrats to the LU Class of 2024 - Best Class Ever!



Learn more about program days at facebook.com/LeadershipUnlimited.



SAVE on business needs!

Office Supplies

As a trusted benefit partner with the Chamber, Ritter's works with you to ensure your business workspace is clean, productive and safe! Save an average of 18% on business supplies you are already ordering with zero shipping or minimum order fees by joining the Ritter's Chamber program. Contact Nick Childs at (800) 545-8000 ext. 1125, for more information.



OHIO WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND EXPERIENCE MODIFICATION RATE (EMR)

An employer's experience modification rate (EMR), determined by the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC), significantly impacts the workers' compensation premiums an employer pays. A safer workplace with minimal workers' compensation claims results in a better-than-average EMR, whereas a workplace with numerous costly claims results in a worse-than-average EMR. Typically, a lower EMR translates to lower premiums paid to the BWC.

Determining EMR

The BWC calculates your EMR using historical payroll data, industry type, and claim costs. A company with typical claim costs for its size and industry will have an EMR of 1.0. Companies with lower claim costs will have an EMR below 1.0, while those with higher claim costs will have an EMR above 1.0. A lower EMR results in lower premiums compared to similar businesses, whereas a higher EMR results in higher premiums.

Benefits of a Lower EMR

A lower EMR increases the likelihood of qualifying for substantial discounts through group rating programs and group retrospective rating programs. These programs enable employers to collaborate for additional discounts or rebates on their premiums, with potential savings exceeding 50%.

Reducing EMR

An employer's EMR is based on past claims and historical payroll categorized by industry type. To lower your EMR, you must reduce claims and claim costs. The best way to improve your EMR is through a robust workplace safety program that prevents claims from occurring.

Strategies for Claims

If a claim does occur, several strategies can help reduce overall claim costs. Ensuring injured workers recover and return to work safely and quickly is crucial. Partnering with Sedgwick can help implement effective strategies to manage specific claims and keep costs down.

For any inquiries or support needed, reach out to Sedgwick's program manager, Paul Feck, at paul.feck@sedgwick.com.





MEMBER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

1899 - 2024

Join Us for Our 125th Anniversary Member Appreciation Luncheon!

Celebrate a momentous milestone with us! The Chamber is thrilled to mark its 125th anniversary, and we want to show our gratitude to you—our valued members. Join us for a special Member Appreciation Luncheon, a day dedicated to celebrating and thanking you for your continued support.

FRIDAY

23

11:00 AM to
1:30 PM

AUGUST

LOCATION: TBD

As a token of our appreciation, enjoy a delicious lunch, and connect with fellow members. Drop in any time during 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Please RSVP to help us prepare enough food.

WAYS TO REGISTER



1. Scan QR code
2. Our event calendar:
richlandareachamber.com
3. Call us at (419) 522-3211
4. Email Lisa Duckworth at:
lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com

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August 10, 2024

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Savor & Sip Auction

A CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS CULINARY IN OUR AREA!

Item Donation Form

October 22, 2024

5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

at the
Mid-Ohio Conference Center



Why participate? This event is a great opportunity to **highlight your business** and potentially get some new long-term customers! Some great ideas include: gift cards, baskets, trips, gas cards, chocolate, tickets to sporting events, etc.

☐ **Yes, I would like to donate an item to the auction!**

Business / Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Item(s): * _____

*** Item Enclosed? Y / N Need pickup between (dates)** _____

Value of Item: _____

Please respond by Friday, October 4:

**Mail to: Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development
55 N. Mulberry St., Mansfield, OH 44902**

Call: (419) 522-3211 Fax: (419) 526-6853

Email: lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com




Savor & Sip Auction and Food Tasting

Previous events have sold out at 500 guests!



In addition to the silent auction and live entertainment, attendees enjoy 20+ food vendors offering tasting samples!

<p>Presenting Sponsor \$4,000 Exclusive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 tickets included • Naming rights (Savor & Sip presented by...) • Guaranteed seating at a VIP table • Logo (small) on souvenir glasses (1 color) • Logo (1 color) on tote bags for attendees • Logo (large) on event banner • Opportunity to set up a promotional table at the event to hand out information • Company name/logo recognized on advertising • Company name listed on all press releases • Logo included in Chamber newsletter • Logo included in Chamber emails about the event • Logo on cover of "Tasting Menu" • Full page ad in the "Tasting Menu" (3.75"w x 10.5" tall) • Logo (large) on all event posters • Business recognized on stage & in announcements • Logo & link on event webpage • Logo shared on social media • Right of first refusal for next year 	<p>Souvenir Glass Sponsor \$2,500 Exclusive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 tickets included • Logo (1 color) printed on souvenir pub glass given to first 300 attendees, sponsors, & vendors • Guaranteed seating at a VIP table • Logo (1 color) on tote bags for attendees • Logo on event banner • Company name listed on all press releases • Logo included in Chamber newsletter • Logo included in Chamber emails about the event • Logo included in the "Tasting Menu" • 1/2 page ad in the "Tasting Menu" (3.75"w x 5"tall) • Logo on event posters • Business recognized on stage & in announcements • Logo & link on event webpage • Logo shared on social media • Right of first refusal for next year 
<p>Platinum Sponsor \$1,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 tickets included • Guaranteed seating at a VIP table • Logo (1 color) on tote bags for attendees • Logo (color) on event banner • Company name listed on all press releases • Logo included in Chamber emails about the event • Logo included in the "Tasting Menu" • Logo included on event posters • Business recognized in announcements • Logo listed on event webpage with link 	<p>Tray Sponsor \$700</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 tickets included • Company logo on all trays passed out at event to every participant • Guaranteed seating at a VIP table • Logo (1 color/small) on tote bags for attendees • Name on event banner • Company name listed on all press releases • Name included in Chamber emails about the event • Name included in the "Tasting Menu" • Name included on event posters • Business recognized in announcements • Name listed on event webpage with link
<p>Gold Sponsor \$1,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 tickets included • Logo (1 color/small) on tote bags for attendees • Name on event banner • Name included in Chamber emails about the event • Company Name listed in the "Tasting Menu" • Company Name listed on event posters • Business recognized in announcements • Company Name listed on event webpage with link 	<p>Silver Sponsor \$1,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 tickets included • Company name on tote bags for attendees • Name on event banner • Company Name listed in the "Tasting Menu" • Company Name listed on event posters • Business recognized in announcements • Company Name listed on event webpage with link

Sponsors also receive exclusive pre-sale opportunity before tickets are released to the general public.

Chamber members can also support this event and promote their business by contributing an item to the auction.
Contact Lisa Duckworth at 419-522-3211 or lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com.

LOCATION: Mid-Ohio Conference Center

DATE: Typically held in October

Promotion for Your Business

Audience: Area business leaders, professionals, support staff, general business crowd.

Advertising/Promotion via: Email Blasts, Social Media Posts, Newsletter Ads, Event Program, Event Banner & Event Posters



Celebrate Small Business!

2024 Small Business of the Year Awards Nomination

To be considered for the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development Small Business of the Year Awards, the nominated business must:

- Be headquartered in Richland County
- Employ 250 or fewer full-time equivalent employees
- In operation for at least three years
- Have annual sales revenue of less than \$2M
- Demonstrate an active concern for the community

Eligible applicants will be judged on the following:

- Business History & Performance
- Staff Training & Motivation
- Community Involvement
- Customer Service
- Business Strategies & Goals

To be considered for the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development Non-Profit of the Year Awards, the nominated business must:

- Be headquartered in Richland County
- Total budget of \$2M or less
- In operation for at least three years
- Must be a 501c3 organization

Eligible applicants will be judged on the following:

- Collaboration with other organizations
- Employee Practices
- Financial Performance (diversification, income streams, rainy day fund, etc.)
- Customer Service
- Strategic Planning - long range

To nominate a business or organization, return this form OR email Lisa at lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com with your nomination selection(s), or complete online form at portal.richlandareachamber.com/form/view/23293.

Business Nominated: _____

Contact Person: _____ **Title:** _____

Nominee's Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Nominee's Telephone (day) _____ **Nominee's Email:** _____

Why are they deserving of the award (briefly):

Return to:

Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development | 55 N. Mulberry St. | Mansfield, OH 44902

Email: lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com

Deadline for nominations is September 6, 2024

FORKLIFT SAFETY IN THE WORKPLACE



Forklifts, also known as powered industrial trucks, are vital in various industries, from manufacturing and construction to warehousing and logistics. However, their operation poses significant risks if not managed properly. This guide outlines key safety measures to mitigate risks associated with forklift operations.

Pre-Shift Inspections:

- Conduct daily pre-shift examinations of forklifts.
- Report and correct any defects immediately.

Employee Training:

- Ensure operators complete required training and demonstrate competency.
- Training includes formal instructions, practical training, and evaluations.

Training Content:

- Understand engine operations, warnings, and precautions.
- Learn steering, visibility, stability, and maintenance.

Refresher Training:

- Evaluate operator competency every three years.
- Retrain if involved in an accident, operates unsafely, or if workplace conditions change.

Certification:

- Document operator training and evaluations, including names and dates.

Other Best Practices:

- Contact utility companies before excavation.
- Perform daily inspections and monitor for hazardous atmospheres.

Summary:

Forklifts are indispensable tools that can greatly enhance productivity, but they require strict adherence to safety protocols to prevent accidents. Regular inspections, comprehensive training, and proper certification are essential to ensure a safe working environment. Following these guidelines will help develop a robust forklift operation and training policy, reducing the risk of injuries, fatalities, and OSHA citations.

For assistance in identifying and addressing fall hazards in your workplace, please contact Andy Sawan, Risk Services Specialist at Sedgwick: andrew.sawan@sedgwick.com | 330-819-4728.

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Alumni Roofing

Founded in 1998, Alumni Roofing is a full service commercial roofing contractor providing commercial and industrial roofing solutions. Located in Lexington, Ohio, we provide service to much of north central Ohio, including the greater metropolitan areas of Columbus, Cleveland, and Akron. Our services include Preventative Maintenance Programs, Roof Health Assessments, Storm Damage Assessment, Roof Leak Investigation, Roof Replacement, Roof Restoration, Metal Fabrication, and Thermal Imaging. At Alumni Roofing, we are committed to quality, customer service, safety, and community. We look forward to serving your business.

UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

07/17/24 Women's Leadership Connection, Brigitte Burnell, DLX, 11:45am-1:00pm
 08/15/24 Business After Hours, DRM Productions, Inc., 5-7pm
 08/23/24 Member Appreciation Luncheon, TBD, 11:00am-1:30pm
 10/22/24 Savor & Sip, Mid-Ohio Conference Center, 5-7:30pm
 12/10/24 Small Business of the Year Awards Celebration 2024, Kehoe Center, 11:30am-1:30pm

Register for these events [HERE](#)
 or visit our event calendar at
www.richlandareachamber.com



Locations:

150 East Fourth St. Mansfield, Ohio 44902
 1650 E. Southern Ave. Bucyrus, Ohio 44820

Do you want to make a difference in people's lives?

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www.rniinc.com

or by stopping in at one of our locations



Our Mission:

"Empower people with developmental disabilities to live their best life by fostering innovative opportunities through community engagement."

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