

What Does the Term “ONWARD” Mean to You?

At last week’s first Greater Springfield Partnership (GSP) board meeting of the year we all participated in an exercise regarding what the term “ONWARD” means to each of us. We did this as a way of looking back at all that was accomplished in the previous year and then turning the page to 2022 and pressing on. Here is a list of the thoughts shared by the board on this year’s GSP theme:

Moving Forward	Building Up
Determined	Positive Momentum
Undeterred	Keep Going
Never Give In	Grateful But Not Satisfied
Strategic Intentionality	Positive Change
Forward Progress	Journey On

The views listed above serve as a reminder of where we have been and help to point us in the direction we must go in the coming year. 2021 was an interesting time as we all tried to figure out what the new normal might look like as we all journey on. Our team continues to enjoy unprecedented successes even in the face of a continued pandemic. We are a veteran team that is working to help lead the efforts of creating a better business ecosystem by building a more sustainable, vibrant community for Greater Springfield’s future.

Here are a few of the accomplishments of 2021:

- Launched the largest brand name change in our organization’s history from The Chamber to the Greater Springfield Partnership (GSP).
- Introduced a completely revamped GSP website which includes interactive content for members.
- Attracted Surati Sweet Mart, a Toronto CA based company, to locate the company’s first United States manufacturing operation at the former Rittal building. The company will invest \$16 Million and bring more than 100 jobs to the Springfield site.
- Attracted Gabe’s largest distribution center to PrimeOhio II. The \$90M project will bring 1,000 jobs to the new industrial park.
- Winner of the Workforce & Talent Award at the Mid America Economic Development Council Conference in Chicago for the Magnify Workforce Videos and You Science Program.

- Successfully worked with Clark County Government and our State Representatives to pass an additional 1 percent accommodations tax to be collected by the Clark County Convention Authority in support of existing convention venues with hopes to build a future event center.
- Winner of 7 Ohio Tourism Association/OACVB statewide marketing awards in recognition of our COVID-19 response marketing, event campaigns, website, visitor guide and broadcast tv ads.
- Continue to lead downtown wayfinding and public mural art committees that have added new murals, wrapped utility boxes, and branded signage highlighting key attractions throughout downtown and in ring neighborhoods.

Despite the pandemic, 2021 was full of many blessings and momentum is taking hold within our community. We are thankful for our community leaders who are working with us to build a more vibrant community. In 2022, we plan to keep our focus on the 8 pillars included in our strategic plan and continue to work with key community stakeholders to help make Clark County the best place to live, work, and play. We now have the wind at our backs. Oh, the places we will go...

ONWARD!