

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
IN ANNAWAN, ILLINOIS

An Abstract of

A Thesis

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by

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ABSTRACT

Annawan, Illinois is a rural community some may even call it a bedroom community. Towns similar to Annawan are fighting to thrive in today's economy and competing with neighboring communities in similar socio-economic backgrounds. Some communities let the economic restructuring take hold of their communities, but not Annawan. Annawan is a strong well-planned community ready to take on whatever economic challenge may come their way.

Community leaders of Annawan, Illinois in collaboration with the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA) participated in a strategic visioning process called *Mapping*. Upon completion of the *Mapping* process Annawan sponsored an eleven-month community and economic development internship through the Peace Corps Fellows Program at Western Illinois University. The projects were based on the goals and objectives set by community leaders during the *Mapping* process. The main areas of focus were beautification, promotions and tourism, and economic development.

Through dedicated involvement of community leaders a community and economic development corporation was formed and not-for-profit status was established forming Annawan Community Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC). Continuously working on the original focused areas of *Mapping*, ACEDC and its dedicated Board of Directors and members worked on projects contributing to the community vision that will continue to inspire the success of Annawan and the development efforts.