

## STEPHENS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR:

#### INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL RECRUITMENT



*Developer Day tour of Caterpillar, Inc.*

line were at 80% at the fiscal year end.

- The Attraction & Recruitment committee determined 4 industry sectors to target: automotive, plastics, metal fabrication & furniture, and food & beverage processing.
- 15 site consultants were contacted for leads in the targeted industry sectors.
- The Attraction & Recruitment committee made visits to the offices of Georgia Allies (GDEcD, GPC, GEMC, ECG, Atlanta COC) for leads in targeted industry clusters.
- 8 GEDA events were attended.
- SCDA joined the Northeast Georgia Economic Development Partnership, an organization which is being founded with neighboring counties to promote the region.
- We attended an ICSC Trade Show event in Atlanta.

- SCDA held six “Developer Day” events giving statewide project managers an in-depth look at Toccoa-Stephens County’s assets and economic needs. These 6 events involved a total of 47 statewide developers and 107 locals.
  - A direct mail and telephone campaign was developed as a way to contact selected plastics and food producing companies.
  - GDOT’s rights-of-way acquisitions for the GA-17 widening project from the Toccoa Parkway to the Franklin County



*Toccoa-Stephens County Day at the Capitol*

**EXISTING INDUSTRY RETENTION & EXPANSION:**

- 40 personal visits to existing industries were conducted.
- Business Spotlight Luncheons (jointly with the Chamber of Commerce) continued.



*Art Glass House demonstration*

- SCDA sponsored an industry team at the annual Chamber of Commerce golf tournament.
- Wilbros Organic Recycling opened in the former Coats American facility, adding 13 jobs to Stephens County.

- Currahee Welding added a new operation, Currahee Waste Products, which manufactures residential rear loaders and added 10 jobs.
- Currahee Group, a defense products manufacturer, opened with 3 jobs.
- Pak-Pro announced an expansion which added 8 jobs.
- Trachte announced a 7-job expansion.

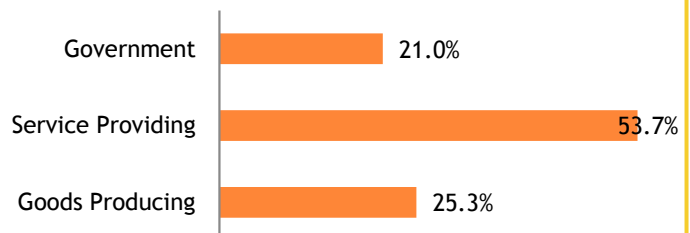


*Residential rear loader, Currahee Welding*

**INFRASTRUCTURE:**

- Following nearly three years of research, the Infrastructure Committee made recommendations to the City of Toccoa for the protection of the Lake Toccoa watershed.
- Representatives from the City and County commissions and SCDA advocated the appropriation of \$8M for the Toccoa-Stephens County Infrastructure Improvement Plan. This involved trips to discuss the TSCIIP with local representatives in Washington, D.C. and Atlanta.
- The Committee began the process to help the City of Toccoa pursue regional water supplier status.

**Stephens County Industry Mix, 2009**  
Source: GA Dept. of Labor



- GEFA Clean Water State Revolving Fund financing was applied for to fund the Hayestone Brady Business Park sewer project.

### **PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT:**

- Engineering planning for Hayestone-Brady Business Park was completed; the contracts were awarded to Cedar Farms & Construction for the Water & Sewer Project and to Simpson Trucking & Grading for the road project. The bids came in low enough to include extension of the road and utility lines. A groundbreaking ceremony was held June 8, 2010.



- The SCDA moved into a new office after several years of searching for suitable locations.
- The Product Development Committee explored the GRAD certification process, which is planned to be implemented in the Hayestone Brady Business Park.
- SCDA explored financing options to join the North Georgia Network fiber optic ring in Northeast Georgia.
- The Product Development Committee continued its efforts to assist with County and City in their blight eradication efforts.

### **COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING:**

- SCDA arranged an advertorial placement in *Trade & Industry* in 2009.
- The expansion of wastewater treatment and collection capacity continued, including planning and construction on Eastanollee Creek's expansion to 2mgd.
- SCDA helped host Toccoa-Stephens County Day at the Capitol in February, which brought awareness of the County's needs and assets to legislators in Atlanta.
- Funding was gained through OneGeorgia and the FAA for the Toccoa-Stephens County Airport upgrades, including a terminal building, new fueling station, and new ramp to generate more airport traffic.
- The SCDA website was further upgraded and the SCDA Marketing Committee produced an industry-focused video for the website. SCDA was covered multiple times via stories and articles on AM 630 WNEG and the Toccoa Record. SCDA also published and distributed online eletters.
- SCDA started a facebook page which now has 110+ fans. SCDA regularly blogs on its fan page.



**WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT:**

- Stephens County was declared a “Georgia Work Ready” certified community in November.



*Georgia Work Ready Certified Community award*

- Work continues on the recertification process, for which the community received a \$10,000 grant.
- The Work Force Development committee worked to support the GED scholarship program with SELF (Stephens Education-Literacy Foundation).
- SCDA supported the job fair efforts of the GDOL, Chamber and others.
- SCDA maintained partnership with Stephens County Schools, North Georgia Technical College, and Toccoa Falls College. The SCHS

seniors took the Work Ready Assessment in January, with 171 seniors (86 percent of the 2010 graduating class) now Work Ready certified.

**SCDA BOARD:**

- SCDA worked to maximize meaningful volunteer engagement, holding a planning retreat with 40 local leaders in August. A committee was added to increase the number to 6: Attraction & Recruitment, Existing Industry Retention & Expansion, Infrastructure, Product Development, Communications & Marketing, Work Force Development. 4 new committee chairs were recruited.
- Members of the Board spoke to various organizations as well as media (newspaper, radio, and magazine) within and outside of the Toccoa-Stephens County community to better inform the public of SCDA’s activities.

LABOR FORCE & POPULATION		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Stephens Labor Force</i>	<i>Total Stephens Population</i>
<b>2000</b>	12,544	25,480
<b>2009</b>	13,481	25,700

*Source: GA Department of Labor*

