

Freedom Electric, LLC

This veteran-owned electrical contracting firm has served the region for nearly seven years, building a reputation founded on discipline and a proactive commitment to community safety. As a growing small business that currently employs eleven people—with plans to expand further this year—the company prioritizes long-term stability and professional development. They demonstrate an uncommon level of investment in their workforce by fully funding four-year apprenticeships for their staff without requiring repayment, a practice that fosters high employee retention and technical expertise.

The organization's dedication to local welfare is evidenced by the donation of over \$200,000 in materials and labor to support small communities and assist residents facing electrical emergencies who lack the financial means for repairs. In response to a rise in local residential fires, the firm has also begun providing complimentary whole-home electrical inspections to help prevent future tragedies. Their philanthropic efforts extend to the next generation through consistent annual sponsorships of youth baseball, basketball, and football teams.

By combining essential safety initiatives with significant charitable contributions, the company operates as a pillar of support for the area. Their willingness to absorb the costs of both emergency service and professional education reflects a business model centered on the long-term flourishing of their employees and the community at large. Their eagerness to help where possible, especially in a challenging economy, distinguishes them as a deeply rooted and service-oriented local enterprise.

Great Deals Magazine

This local publication began in 2003 as a modest eight-page flyer and has evolved over 23 years into a 48-page bimonthly magazine. Under consistent local leadership, the magazine expanded its reach from 10,000 to over 15,000 homes, covering ten zip codes across the county. By prioritizing a "total market" distribution model—mailing to all residents rather than just paid subscribers—the publication ensured maximum visibility for local businesses and unmatched value for readers through curated coupons and offers.

The magazine's mission has always been rooted in a commitment to family-friendly content and community growth. Its leadership has been deeply embedded in civic life, maintaining active memberships in the Chamber of Commerce and various local service organizations, while sponsoring major community events like regional car cruises. A central philosophy of the business has been to "make a friend of every client," fostering a culture of mutual success between the publication and the local economy.

As the original founders transition the business to new local owners, the publication leaves a legacy of encouraging residents to shop locally. By providing a platform where small businesses can gain success and residents can find value, the magazine has served as a key driver of regional economic development. It remains a household staple that exemplifies how a dedicated media outlet can strengthen the bond between a community and its local commerce.

Junque in the Trunk

This organization supports approximately 80 individual vendors, providing a vital platform that allows local residents to realize their dreams of small business ownership. By offering a centralized marketplace, they lower the barrier to entry for entrepreneurs, creating a diverse shopping destination that fosters local economic growth. The leadership is noted for being exceptionally helpful to both the vendors who operate within the space and the customers who visit.

Beyond the daily retail operations, the organizers regularly plan events designed to promote the business while encouraging community fellowship. These gatherings transform the marketplace from a simple shopping venue into a social hub, strengthening the bonds between local creators and their neighbors. Their commitment to mentorship and collaboration has turned the business into an incubator for local talent, where aspiring business owners receive the support and visibility they need to succeed.

The combination of professional support for vendors and a welcoming, event-driven atmosphere for the public has made this establishment a beloved community asset. It stands as a testament to the power of collective entrepreneurship and the positive impact of a business that prioritizes the success and connection of everyone involved.

Altra Dry

This businesses growth is marked by substantial investment in industrial-grade structural drying equipment and a robust 24/7 emergency response infrastructure. This capability serves as a critical safety net for the region, ensuring that property damage does not escalate into long-term structural or health crises. The company offers tailor-made consulting, often providing individualized advice to homeowners on preventative maintenance and minor repairs. This "neighbor-helping-neighbor" philosophy has built a high-trust brand that prioritizes peace of mind during emergencies.

Community involvement is a cornerstone of the business's identity. The company maintains a structured charitable giving program that supports local residents and non-profit organizations, with a specific focus on financial wellness and community development. Furthermore, they are active participants in the regional economy through local sponsorships and partnerships that promote community growth. Their marketing efforts double as public service, focusing on community education regarding flood risks and preventative home care.

By remaining headquartered locally, the organization contributes to the regional tax base and provides skilled employment opportunities. Their resilience as a recession-proof asset, combined with their commitment to technological leadership and transparent service, makes them a standout example of entrepreneurial spirit. They have successfully bridged the gap between the high-tech capabilities of a national brand and the deep-rooted personal accountability of a local small business.