

LAKE NORMAN REGION

N O R T H C A R O L I N A

LAKE NORMAN REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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Contact: Jerry Broadway/Charity Pitman
Phone: 704-992-2300

Fifth Third Foundation Grants \$15,000 to Lake Norman Regional Economic Development Corp.

HUNTERSVILLE, N.C. – The Fifth Third Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, trustee, presented a \$15,000 grant today to Lake Norman Regional Economic Development Corporation (LNREDC), the organization’s largest 2009 contribution to date.

“The Fifth Third Foundation is pleased to award this grant to Lake Norman Regional Economic Development Corporation, especially during such a challenging economy,” says Bill Connolly, Business Banking Executive, Fifth Third Bank, North Carolina. “Organizations like LNREDC drive economic development efforts in the community by bringing new industries and jobs to the Lake Norman region as well as help existing industries grow and prosper,” adds Connolly.

“We are so grateful to The Fifth Third Foundation for this generous contribution,” says Craig Norfolk, Chairman, Lake Norman Regional Economic Development Corporation. “The \$15,000 grant comes at an opportune time for the organization and region. The slow economy makes it more important than ever that we focus funding on keeping existing industries and jobs and marketing to new companies interested in the region,” Norfolk points out. “Focusing on economic development efforts as a team through Lake Norman Regional Economic Development Corp. has made and continues to make an enormous positive impact on our community,” says Norfolk, “not just in bringing new capital investment and jobs to the region by

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recruiting new industries, but also in fostering collaboration and communication for economic development through the towns and supporting existing industries,” he adds.

Lake Norman Regional Economic Development Corporation (LNREDC) is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization organized in 2003 as a collaborative effort by the towns of Cornelius, Davidson and Huntersville. Since inception, Lake Norman Regional EDC has brought over \$63 million new dollars to the region by recruiting new businesses and helping existing industries expand. The organization worked with Prairie Packaging to locate 240 new jobs and a \$48 million total investment in the region and helped existing industry Newell Rubbermaid with a \$7.55 million expansion and 320 new jobs. With Lake Norman Regional EDC’s support, existing industry Microban International also completed a successful \$8 million expansion providing approximately 45 new jobs.

Fifth Third Bancorp is a diversified financial services company headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Company has \$120 billion in assets, operates 16 affiliates with 1,307 full-service Banking Centers, including 92 Bank Mart(R) locations open seven days a week inside select grocery stores and 2,341 ATMs in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Florida, Tennessee, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Georgia and North Carolina. Fifth Third operates five main businesses: Commercial Banking, Branch Banking, Consumer Lending, Investment Advisors and Fifth Third Processing Solutions. Investor information and press releases can be viewed at www.53.com. Fifth Third's common stock is traded on the NASDAQ(R) National Global Select Market under the symbol "FITB."

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