



Press Release

For Immediate Release: Monday, April 13, 2020

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McLaren Hospital Lapeer saves lives with industrial sewer Patriot Manufacturing

LAPEER, Mich - Beginning Monday, April 13, 2020, Patriot Manufacturing, an industrial sewing company from Almont, Michigan will begin production of pleated procedure masks for their newest customer McLaren Lapeer Region (MLR). The Lapeer Development Corporation (LDC), Lapeer County's county-wide economic development organization, helped broker the relationship as a result of a conversation between Chris Candela, president and CEO of MLR and LDC Executive Director, Quentin Bishop. This project will result in the manufacturing of 250,000 pleated procedure masks and the employment of 22 new workers at Patriot. Both organizations are located in Lapeer County and employ local residents.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic healthcare administrators across the country took inventory of their equipment and crisis response plans. Chris Candela, respected by many in the healthcare industry for his attention to detail, proactivity called upon the LDC in early March to identify Lapeer County manufacturers that may be able to produce personal protective equipment or PPE.

"The outpouring of support from our community has been amazing. So many different businesses, organizations and individuals have stepped up to help anyway that they can," said Candela. Patriot Manufacturing has helped us ensure the safety of our employees and patients by providing desperately needed surgical masks. Patriot Manufacturing stepped up without hesitation and was able to adapt their production process to make these masks to help keep our heroes safe. We cannot thank George Mansour and Bill Welch enough for their support and dedication.

The economic slow-down has impacted all sectors of industry and rurally based manufacturers are feeling it now more than ever. With fewer resources and compromised supply chains, companies like Patriot were considering serious cutbacks or potentially a devastating business loss.

George Mansour, partner and co-owner of Patriot Manufacturing, was grateful for the LDC's ability to close the communication gap and broker a successful project.

"The LDC was instrumental in our success at Patriot Manufacturing. It was through Quentin's proactive connection with McLaren that helped us overcome what could have been a potentially devastating business loss that we may not have recovered from," said Mansour.

"The most important factor in this win for Lapeer County is that critical resources were deployed seamlessly amongst many partners," said LDC Director, Quentin Bishop. "It highlights our community's ability to come together and accomplish great feats."

GST Michigan Works, an active leader in employment services, led by CEO Jody Kerbyson, is familiar with Patriot and its history of providing skilled employment to Lapeer County residents.

"This collaborative effort is what helps projects like this happen," said Kerbyson.

The Lapeer Development Corporation is a not-for-profit county-wide economic development agency providing strategic guidance and financial resources to Lapeer County businesses of all sizes. Businesses in need of support may contact the LDC by email at quentin@lapeerdevelopment.com or call directly at 810-667-0080.

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