



Made in Northwest Illinois Spotlights Jo Daviess and Carroll County Businesses



By Barbara Sue Grass, Program Coordinator for NWILED

Northwest Illinois Economic Development is known for sponsoring and orchestrating numerous community and business development programs such as lunch and learn workshops, an entrepreneurial boot camp called “Build It Grow It,” maintaining an online Jobs board, workforce development events such as Manufacturing & Trades Day and management of the Genz Small Business Development Fund.

But there are also many other side bars to all of these key NWILED functions. For example, the “Made in Northwest Illinois” spotlight series. This series, which originally launched in 2021, is a program that digs deeper into finding the many unique, diverse and often hidden business gems throughout Jo Daviess and Carroll counties. The spotlights are designed to give businesses an opportunity to tell their unique story with the help of NWILED.

The original idea materialized during the COVID pandemic from ABC’s “Made in America” series with David Muir who was spotlighting makers and manufacturers across the country. The narrative was always based around how the businesses started, their products, what made them

unique and their aspirations - all in an effort to show that manufacturing and production was alive and thriving even during challenging times.

“That series resonated with me,” said David Schmit, NWILED’s Regional Director. “At a time when the country was seemingly paralyzed with the COVID pandemic, I thought creating our own “Made in Northwest Illinois” series would be a great way to spotlight the makers and manufacturers in Carroll and Jo Daviess counties that were also uniquely thriving.”

Every year three to four businesses are sought out to be interviewed and showcased. Specific ways in which NWILED pushes the completed piece out is through an email blast, inserts in their local newspaper and inclusion on NWILED’s website and social media avenues, as well as microphone time at NWILED’s annual meeting. To date over 19 have been produced and all can be found on the NWILED’s website, www.nwiled.org, under the “Living Here” tab. The most recent highlighted businesses have been Chadwick Manufacturing in Chadwick, Shank’s Veterinary Equipment in Milledgeville, Fergedaboutit Vineyard & Winery in Hanover, S&K Packaging in East Dubuque, Galena Mill & Steel in Galena and Guide Line Industries in Scales Mound.

NWILED is continuing looking for new “Made in Northwest Illinois” candidates to spotlight. Anyone is encouraged to submit businesses in Jo Daviess or Carroll counties that have interesting and unique components that would benefit from the exposure. Suggestions can be emailed to info@nwiled.org or barbarasuegrass@nwiled.org.

For more information about Northwest Illinois Economic Development, go to www.nwiled.org. With 17 years in business, NWILED’s office is located at 1 Commercial Drive, Suite 2, Hanover, Illinois. Their phone number is 815-297-7361 and the organization has active accounts on Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram.