

# The Tellico Plains Chamber of Commerce



# Our Mission

*To assist and focus on improving the growth of all Tellico Plains businesses while contributing to the community spirit of cooperation that will be recognized within Monroe County and East Tennessee*

# **A Vision for the Future using the Best of our Past**

- Tellico Iron Works
- Location of two Cherokee Tribes
- Tellico Plains Logging Industry
- Tellico Rail Operations
- Slate Mining
- Tellico Cotton and Textile Mills
- Stokely Brothers Canning Operations
- Hunting and Fishing Camps
- Indian Olympics held every year
- World War Two Concentration Camp

# Businesses are embracing the past

Tellico Grains Bakery



# Setting the Base for Long Term Growth

- Branding
  - *Tellico Plains – A Vintage Mountain Town*
- Identification – Trademark key points
  - “*Gateway to the Cherokee Skyway*”
- Planning
  - *Working on the latest technology to tell the story of the past and we look to the future*

# Vision to tell the history

Desire to contract with local artist to tell the history on the sides of buildings





# Revitalize Tellico Plains



# Becoming a Destination

- Telling our History
  - Kiosks for each period of history set in various businesses around town
  - Community activities that focuses on arts, crafts, and businesses in our town
  - Focusing on Hall's Museum to show the history (A museum men love)
- More events to draw Citizens and Visitors
  - EdFest
  - Cherohala Challenge
  - Regional Boy Scouts Jamboree
  - Road Rallies
  - Dance on the Square
  - Annual 50's – 60's - 70's Concert
  - NCAA Triathlon – In planning stages
  - CandleLight Walk
  - Dog Show for Nonprofessional dog owners – In planning stages
  - Lumberjack Competition

# The Cherokee National Forest Visitor's Center adds to the excitement of being a better partner within our neighborhood



Indian Boundary Lake, just off the Cherokee Skyway in the Cherokee National Forest

# Developing for the Growth of our Youth

- Incorporated a 501-C3 organization – Tellico Plains community Foundation
  - Designed to accomplish what the Chamber can not
  - Offer an avenue to focus more on community than on businesses
  - Vehicle to focus on individual growth of the youth to give them hope for the future

# Education

## Saves Children and Saves Society

- 82% of prisoners are high school dropouts.
- It costs over \$30,000 per year to incarcerate a prisoner in Tennessee
- Tennessee ranked 10th in growth of total incarcerated felons between 1990 and 2000. Projected 10-year growth rate is 32.4%.
- In 2004, 75% of Tennessee 4th graders were reading below the proficient level.
- In 2000, Tennessee ranked 49th in per child education funding.

*Statistics from BB&T - 2006*

# We want to change this Statistic

- Every 28 minutes a baby was born into poverty.
  - **Tennessee ranked 41st in median income in the nation.**
- Every 43 minutes a baby was born to a teenage mother.
  - **Tennessee ranked 40th in the nation on teen birth rates**
- Teen childbearing costs US taxpayers almost \$7 billion per year.

70% of teen mothers drop out of school and are twice as likely to be dependent on welfare.

## If WE Do Nothing:

- Expect to pay \$35,000 - \$64,000 a year per incarcerated juvenile
- Expect to lose \$58,930 in state and federal taxes per high school dropout
- Expect to pay as much as \$500 million per year on needs for families started by teens

OR. . .

# **We can Dream BIG and strive to make a life long impression on today and tomorrow's youth**

- By providing organized training supported by other non-profit foundations
- Give people hope for a better future
- Reduce the drop out rate by 30% in one year
- Increase self esteem that will decrease the teen pregnancy rates
- Offer study programs by retired professionals to volunteer in homework, music, and learning skills training
- Take away idle time and give purpose to lives

***How?***

***By getting partners to also  
Dream BIG!***

# Tellico Plains Community Area and Park Development Seven Year Plan

**Kid's Corner/ Life Center** – *Private Organization to sponsor funds*

Training area with computers  
Basketball/ Volleyball court  
Stage area for community youth program  
Music Training area  
Café  
Kid's and Community Pool  
Restrooms and private Shower areas  
Homework central area  
Daycare area for working mothers  
Senior Center  
GED Training  
Music Training for those who do not have access to  
instruments  
Self Esteem growth center  
Racquetball court (2)  
Exercise and Fitness Area  
Room for Free Medical Clinic

**Boy's and Girl's Club facility** – *They would sponsor funds*

**Batting Cages** – *Tellico Plains Chamber already owns four cages*

**Tennis Courts with Bleachers** – *Local School has no way for students to  
form a team*

**Soccer Fields with Bleachers (2) Youth Football Field**– *Police Association  
will help find Grant funds*

# Content of our Dream

- **River walk lighted walking and Bike riding trail** – *Need funds*
  - Resting benches overlooking the river
  - Flat bike trail next to walking trail
  - Exercise markers for fitness program
  - Wood rail fence on both sides of the walking trail
- **Covered Picnic Pavilions (5)** – **Need to locate funds**
- **Canoe and Kayak dock and entry area into Tellico River as presented by the BlueWay committee**
- **Parking for six bike trails as identified by the Greenway committee**
- **Event stage for community activities** – ***Barge Wagner knows of Grant Funds***
- **Dog Park and Training Center** – ***Personal Donations needed to build Canteen area - Need funds*** **Quality Restrooms for all programs -**
- **Miniature Golf Course** – **Need funds or Investment Monies**
- **Parking for all programs and to the downtown area** - ***Need funds***
- ***Walking tunnel under the Cherohala Skyway that connects to downtown***
- **Connection Walkway to current walking trail** – **Need funds**

# Our Immediate Need

- We have 41 acres available to the Foundation that is directly on the Tellico River
- Original price was \$3,000,000
- New price as of January 1, 2010 the new price is **\$1,000,000**
- Barge and Wagner Engineers have already donated land testing, water evaluations and utility studies

**We just need to secure the land to  
get the grants and projects in  
motion**

# How would the foundation maintain the park?

- There will be some user fees for
  - Football fields
  - Soccer fields
  - Canteen
  - Pavilion rental
  - 54 hole miniature golf course that resembles the Babcock lumber era and the early town of Tellico Plains
  - Concerts in the park
  - Movie night in the park
  - Some fees for use of the Community Life Center

# Naming Rights

- If we can find Someone or a Group to donate the funds for the land, the Foundation will name the park after that individual
- The Foundation would add this individual on the Board of Directors is so desired

# Why?

- We believe that educated youth will help build a strong community where people want to call Tellico Plains home
- We believe we can reduce crime due to idle time and pent up energy
- We believe that we can reduce the impact on society when we give youth a purpose, vision, and direction for their lives
- We believe it is time to break the cycle of low self esteem, acceptance of their plight, and desire for a better life

# **Tellico Plains**

**Needs the help of people who  
have a heart for others to  
improve themselves**

**A place to call Home**

# A Vintage Town to call Home

**Wellico Plains**



# Using technology to tell about our best history



# Preparing the Way!

- New Harley Davidson Motorcycle shop to Open this Spring
- New Charles Hall Museum addition is open
- Three new businesses have opened in the past 120 days and two more in the works
- Development of Greenway and Blueway areas with Monroe County. (Seven of ten Greenway trails are planned to cross through Tellico Plains)
- Establish planned focus on downtown (Return to the 1915 era in architecture and focused downtown planning)
- Tellico Plains 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday – July 4<sup>th</sup> 2011 (Group planning a full week of celebration in 2011)

# **Growth is Coming!**

**63% of new residents in the  
Tellico Plains area are from  
Florida**

# Why get involved?

The Tellico Plains Chamber of Commerce is an all Volunteer group of people who believe in the future of Tellico Plains and are dedicated to plan for our town to be a wonderful place to live, work, and play in East Tennessee.

*We need outside help to get the word out to the public and see a dream realized!*

## Spreading the message



And



# Tellico Plains

**Success is a team effort  
and we need you on the  
Team!**