

# JACKSON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



*“To develop and maintain an economic climate, which creates and retains jobs and enhances the quality of life for all citizens of Jackson/Madison County and West Tennessee”*

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Chamber is working to move Jackson forward**

Jackson, TN — The Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce officially launched its new capital campaign called Forward Jackson on Jan. 19 with the goal of raising \$3.8 million to create a minimum of 3,000 jobs in targeted business sectors, strengthen the community’s foundation and communicate with investors and the community at large. More than 100 people attended the kickoff event held in the Carl Grant Events Center at Union University.

Following a surprise performance by the North Side High School marching band during the program, campaign co-chair Danny Wheeler, President and CEO of Jackson Energy Authority, announced that \$2,320,000 million has already been raised for the campaign.

Although 61% of the fundraising goal has been met, Wheeler said there is still much work to be done.

“I urge all of you in attendance whose business or organization has not yet had a chance to make a financial investment in Forward Jackson to do so,” Wheeler said.

Campaign co-chair and chamber board chairman Kathy Watts said the campaign offers local businesses a chance to make an investment that will have a tremendous impact on the community in years to come.

The Chamber has collaborated with National Community Development Services (NCDS) to organize the campaign. NCDS provides fundraising campaign management for many types of nonprofit organizations such as chambers of commerce. All funds raised for the campaign will be accounted for and managed by the chamber under the guidance of its board of directors, executive committee and an established investors council, which will serve for the five-year duration of Forward Jackson from 2011 to 2016.

**About Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce:** The Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1905 – seven years prior to the United States Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber consists of a diverse and talented staff, an executive committee, dedicated volunteers, and more than 1,350 business members – all committed to growing the economy and quality of life for everyone in Madison County and the region. Governed by a board of directors, The Chamber is a nonprofit that concentrates its

efforts on economic development, which consists of marketing the area to potential employers, developing and enhancing minority and new business partnerships, workforce development, job creation, and the overall promotion of Jackson-Madison County as a great place to work, live, play and do business.

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