

- Twenty-eight distinctive and innovative entrepreneurs ranging from the individual employer to larger businesses sat down with HCBT/CEDA staff to chart paths of starting a new adventure or growing their current businesses. HCBT supplied **\$201,300** in revolving loan funds creating 30 new jobs and retaining another 105 jobs in 2019.
- Through the Northeast Iowa Regional Housing Trust Fund, in 2019 Howard County has invested **\$53,267** in direct benefits to improve our housing stock. In the last ten years, Howard County has invested **\$577,958.95** in housing benefits. NEIRHTF, a five county regional organization, has invested **\$3,489,254.03** in direct benefits to housing in the last ten years.
 - Howard County authored a **\$100,000** Residential Housing Demolition grant through NEIRHTF encouraging cities and counties to address nuisance properties with rebuilding those sites.
 - Cresco and Elma worked with developers to create stand-alone lots for single-family housing and Cresco has awarded a 3-acre nuisance property to a local company for a high-end housing development project.
- Strategic investments in Howard County: German Heritage Furniture expansion completed along Hwy 63 in Chester, Plantpeddler broke ground with their new \$3M expansion in Cresco, Upper Iowa Beef in Lime Springs began their \$7M expansion, and the new Trap Shooting Range outside Cresco continues to expand. Three service businesses and one restaurant opened in downtown Cresco and a restaurant in both Elma and Lime Springs re-opened under new management.
- HCBT/CEDA staff wrote and was awarded over \$32,000 in grant funds for various projects and events in Howard County. Staff also authored and was awarded a State of Iowa High Quality Jobs Program grant for Upper Iowa Beef in Lime Springs for nearly \$400,000.
- Assisted in the development and creation of a \$10,000+ marketing initiative with City of Cresco to encourage residents to sign-up for utility auto pay while benefiting local businesses.
- The latest tourism statistics show Howard County generated **\$5,060,000** in travel expenditures and over \$600,000 in local tax receipts. This reflects a 5.07% increase from the previous year. Our seven county NEITA region generated **\$180,120,000** in travel expenditures and \$2,800,000 in local tax receipts, reflecting a 5.9% increase from the previous year.
- The year 2019 saw over **\$37,000** in Cresco Chamber Dollars purchased. This includes the always popular *Jingle in Your Pocket* promotion sponsored by Cresco Bank & Trust and CUSB Bank. Over 7,000 Jingle tickets were distributed during this \$4,000 holiday promotion generating three quarters of a million dollars of business that stayed local.