

GROWTH REPORT 2013

Clear View of Growth At Classical Optical

YOUNGSTOWN – Classic Optical Laboratories Inc. has set its sights on a busy 2013, coming off a year that saw increases in sales, revenues, employment and investments in the company.

“In 2012, the company manufactured in excess of 600,000 pairs of custom prescription eyeglasses,” reports Dawn Friedkin, chief operating officer. Daily production increased from 1,800 orders per day in 2011 to 3,000 a day during the fourth quarter of 2012, she says.

The increase in demand led the company to add a second shift to its operations in March and hire more than 50 new full-time employees, she says.

During 2012, more than \$2 million was invested to complete the final phase of a five-year project to fully automate the laboratory, Friedkin says. “The upgrades included the installation of cutting-edge, modern, computerized lens-production equipment,” she says.

The company recently completed its corporate office relocation into a 5,600-square-foot addition connected to its plant at 3710 Belmont Ave.

Cohen Welcomes Young Accountants

CLEVELAND – The public accounting firm of Cohen & Co. Ltd. spent 2012 helping privately held companies identify opportunities for their businesses in a rebounding economy while counseling them about an uncertain tax climate, says Frank Dixon, a certified public accountant and tax partner in the firm’s Youngstown office.

To keep up with the addition of new clients, the firm welcomed one of its largest classes of young accountants. More than 30 new hires and interns started in late December and earlier this month. Another 25 new hires and interns are scheduled for the second half of 2013 across the firm’s six offices.

One of Cohen’s key achievements in 2012 was its rise in the ranking of top accounting firms in the nation — climbing to 82nd last year from 90th in 2011, as reported by Accounting Today. The firm also was named an Inc. 5000 company as one of the nation’s fastest-growing private companies.

Inspiring Minds Gets Community Support

WARREN – Inspiring Minds started 2013 with a new brand, new partners, and a new set of expectations, says its founder and executive director, Deryck Toles.

The nonprofit organization sponsors a variety of programs designed to help disadvantaged young people achieve their potential. New initiatives include programs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics; professional development; summer enrichment; and health and wellness.

Inspiring Minds was also able to meet its annual goal of having all seniors graduate from high school and choose to continue their education at universities and trade schools.

More than 35 new program and financial partnerships were formed in 2012, the highest year for support.

Hospice Serves 4,000 At Inpatient Center

NORTH LIMA – For more than 30 years, Hospice of the Valley has worked to give the terminally ill dignity and support their families, says Liz McGarry, director of development/marketing.

While remaining at home is the goal of hospice care, it isn’t always possible, so Hospice of the Valley offers an inpatient care center that has served more than 4,000 in just over six years.

The staff includes nurses, social workers, care aides, grief counselors, chaplains and trained volunteers. “Emphasis is on pain management and symptom control,” McGarry says.

Tippecanoe Capital Opens for Business

CANFIELD – Tippecanoe Capital Management opened its doors last August, reports its founder, John Stewart, who spent three years as a financial adviser at Edward Jones here before launching his company.

“My investment strategies are created with the express purpose of achieving a decent rate of return without taking a lot of risk,” he says. “We’re trying to focus on consistently hitting singles here – no swinging for the fences in an effort to get rich quick.”

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