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Press Release - For Immediate Release

## **Kinexus Group Announces Van Buren County's First Economic Development Organization, Market Van Buren**

**PAW PAW, Mich.-** In response to the ever-changing economic climate, Van Buren County and Kinexus formed its first ever economic development organization (EDO). Market Van Buren was formed to respond to the dynamic market place needs of both the private and public sectors.

South Haven Mayor Scott Smith, who is a member of the Board of Directors, stated, "The future of South Haven and Van Buren County will be decided by whether we proactively and aggressively market ourselves as a place businesses can grow and people can flourish. We see this organization as an important vehicle for achieving both."

The Board of Directors composition is made up of 14 individuals representing the business, education, non-profit, municipal and county government sectors live or work in Van Buren County and have a stake in making sure its future is sustainable. They voted to formalize its legal structure and begin operations on October 26.

"As someone who grew up in Van Buren County and currently leading a business in southwest Michigan, I see the presence of an economic development organization made up of both businesses and local leaders as very crucial for the future of our community," said Tom Stanek, Regional Director of Owen Ames Kimball and Market Van Buren Chairman.

Market Van Buren's Executive Director, Zachary Morris said, "For the last two years we have employed a very sound, traditional economic development program. We realized it was time to change the model, engage more people, find public and private investors, to have a greater impact in our county."

Kinexus Group began working with Van Buren County in 2014, administering the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). Over the last five years, Kinexus Groups has had an economic impact of over \$24.5 million for Van Buren County, including 17 expansion and retention projects that resulted in 110 jobs created and 124 retained.

For more information about Economic and Community Development in Van Buren County, contact Zachary Morris at (269) 927-1064, ext. 1188 or visit [www.MarketVanBuren.org](http://www.MarketVanBuren.org).

Kinexus Group is an organization that invests its time and resources into inspiring positive economic change one individual, one business, and one community at a time. For more information, visit [www.Kinexus.org](http://www.Kinexus.org), follow us on Twitter @KinexusGroup or “like” us on Facebook @KinexusGroup.

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