

**STEVE YOULL**

Senior Staff Administrator  
Human Resources  
Midwest Express Group

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Midwest Express Inc. was created in 1987 to help with automobile manufacturing at the Marysville, Ohio, Honda plant. The company is made up of several sites, located in Ohio, Indiana, Alabama and South Carolina. The Midwest Express Group provides several transportation services ranging from yard, shuttle, long haul, miscellaneous, air cargo and brokerage.

**WHY THE COLUMBUS CHAMBER?**

Midwest Express Group has been a member of the Chamber since 2008. Steve Youll, senior staff administrator in Human Resources, said that membership allows Midwest Express the ability to tap into countless resources that the Chamber provides.

For example, even though the company is located nearly 50 miles from downtown Columbus in Union County, the Chamber connects them with the broader business community through programs, advocacy efforts and communications. One advantage Youll touched on was that membership “makes us feel closer to Columbus.” The Columbus Chamber focuses its efforts on the entire eight-county Columbus Region.

**THE RESULTS**

Midwest Express makes the most of its investment with the Chamber. As an active member of the Columbus Region Logistics Council (CRLC), an initiative of the Columbus Chamber,

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the company has the opportunity to serve as a catalyst for the growth of the region's logistics capability. By serving on the Council's Workforce and Business Environment committees, the Midwest Express team helps strategically move forward an industry that is critical to the region. Council membership allows the Midwest Express Group an opportunity "to interact with other logistics thought leaders and discuss issues affecting their industry," as well," Youll said.

Business-friendly policy is also important to Midwest Express. Youll said the Chamber's government relations programming provides a platform for company executives to come into contact with public officials and decision makers, which allows them to know their "voice is being heard."

Youll also pointed to the many networking events hosted by the Chamber and the CRLC as being a very beneficial service that allows him and his fellow staff members to discover leads on potential customers--along with services and opportunities that their organization could leverage.

## ADVICE

Youll said, "The Chamber provides businesses and organizations opportunities to tap into valuable resources."

According to Youll, the Chamber website is a useful source of information that can be advantageous to businesses. He visits the site frequently to stay informed about any logistics industry news, as well as to review the Chamber's economic analysis resources to ensure his business can best plan for the future.

His advice to prospective and current Chamber members is "You get out of it what you put into it. Become involved with committees and programs."

It's something that he and Midwest Express has done since 2008, and plans to continue to do in the future.

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