



SEWEDA

Southeast Washington Economic Development Association

WHAT HAS YOUR EDA BEEN DOING SINCE THE PANDEMIC STARTED...

With the start of the pandemic shutdowns in March of 2020, SEWEDA has been boots on the ground assisting small businesses all throughout Asotin, Garfield, and Whitman Counties.

SEWEDA is a 501C3 non-profit organization. We started the pandemic with a staff of 2, added a staff member in June, and added one more in September. SEWEDA is not a staff heavy organization. When this started I relied on my Executive Board (Dean Kinzer, Brian Shinn, Justin Dixon) to allow SEWEDA to use its' own reserve fund to get money out immediately to businesses with critical needs. I thank and credit them for their support and faith in me and SEWEDA with allowing us to utilize those funds. During this time we answered the calls, put in the time during nights and weekends, and many miles, as we all walked through these difficult uncharted waters of a Global Pandemic, with rules and resources often changing by the hour.

To date we have issued grants to 422 businesses, retaining over 2000 jobs throughout this region, with a total of \$3,269,131. WE ARE NOT DONE YET! These funds were attained by SEWEDA through multiple avenues. The support of Washington Dept. of Commerce, Governors Strategic Fund, Asotin, Garfield and Whitman Counties and Commissioners, City of Pullman, City of Pomeroy, City of Lacrosse, and the Asotin County Health Dept. And members of the SEWEDA Board.

We have kept businesses from shutting their doors in towns with a population less than 500 to cities with larger populations. A lost business or two in a small rural town can be the loss of a town. The gratitude and appreciation of the business owners, and the tears shed, will live in us at SEWEDA long after we are gone from here. We have not just helped the business and the people who own and work at those businesses, they have taught us! We have learned the most important thing to keeping these businesses alive and thriving is often just being there, and being hands on to get them through. We are wearing many different hats as we deal with the many needs during these difficult economic times. I am proud of the sacrifices, and support SEWEDA has made to be there for so many businesses and communities. Our job is not done yet and we will be fighting for resources to give to those businesses throughout Asotin, Garfield and Whitman Counties.

Dawn Smith – Executive Director

Jack Peasley – Managing Director Garfield Co. – Rural Whitman County

Dovie Willey – Director of Grants

Suzy McNeilly – Managing Director – Whitman County

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