

Great Game of Huddle Notes November 20, 2018

Cindy Stein opened today's Huddle and introduced Chris Coulter, Greene County Administrator, who shared with everyone some of the highlights from a recent Community Leadership visit in Chattanooga Community.

This is an annual trip that local community leaders have taken for over 20-years, with prior visits in such areas as Greenville, South Carolina; Huntsville, Alabama; Boise, Idaho and Omaha, Nebraska to name a few. Community members attending these visits represent a number of local businesses, such as Missouri State University, Drury University, City Utilities, City of Springfield, local school districts, airport employees and board members, as well as Springfield Chamber of Commerce staff. On the most recent visit to Chattanooga, approximately 80 community members were in attendance.

Statistical comparisons between Springfield and Chattanooga are:

- Springfield population 167,000+ vs Chattanooga population 179,000+
- Springfield metro workforce population 230,000+ vs Chattanooga workforce of 280,000+
- Springfield healthcare employ 15,500 vs Chattanooga healthcare employing 16,160
- Springfield manufacturing employ 12,600 vs Chattanooga manufacturing employing 22,000
- Springfield IT employ 4600 vs Chattanooga IT employing 4900

The goal of such relationship is for Springfield community members to have a vision of what other communities are doing in a number of areas that may consist of: economy, housing, outdoor activities such as parks and trails, art scene, education, etc., with the focus on the potential redevelopment and preservation in areas of need. Ensuring that the local community is taken care of is of high importance by "investing and living locally," Chris Coulter stated. He went on to state that with most of the communities that the Leadership Team has visited, the unique quality is that they "stay focused on one particular task" and with a public partnership, both the private and public sectors worked together for the good of their local community in order to make sure that the ultimate plan was accomplished.

The full report for the Chattanooga visit should be completed in December and posted on the Springfield Chamber of Commerce website. Until then, to obtain more information regarding prior Community Leadership Visits across the United States, you can visit: [Community Leadership Visits](#)