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# VIEWS & VISIONS

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**Jamie Colecchi**  
Mon Valley Alliance  
and Mon Valley  
Alliance Foundation

Jamie Colecchi is the Chief Executive Officer of the Mon Valley Alliance and Mon Valley Foundation, where he previously served as Director of Operations and Development from 2020 – 2022. Colecchi has served on several boards and commissions, most notably on the board of directors of the Twin Rivers Council of Government, Steel Valley Authority, Borough of Glassport Planning Commission, Community Loan Fund, Glassport Community Development Corporation, South Hills Amateur Hockey Association and Ringgold Hockey Association.

# Developing the Mon Valley

## Industrial Development

The Mon Valley Alliance (MVA) and The Mon Valley Alliance Foundation (MVAF) trace their roots back to 1965 when a group of business leaders in Donora, Pennsylvania formed the Mon Valley Progress Council to respond to the economic impact that resulted from the announcement of the first permanent shutdowns of United States Steel Corporation at its Donora facilities.

The organization attracted new businesses from a variety of industries that created jobs and new economic opportunities at the Donora Industrial Park. MVA has continued to focus on the mission of attracting new businesses to the Mid Mon Valley by developing three additional business parks – Rostraver Airpark, Speers Industrial Park, and Alta Vista Business Park. These successful parks are now home to numerous businesses that provide jobs for thousands of residents.

## Business Development

Over the years, MVA has expanded its capabilities to provide programs and services to businesses growing or locating in the Mid Mon Valley.

- MVA is a Certified Economic Development Organization by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and can provide low-interest financing through the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA).
- MVA worked with DCED to establish the Mid Mon Valley Regional Enterprise Zone (REZ). Businesses located in the REZ that invest capital in a business expansion project can apply for state tax credits. In



In addition, the Enterprise Zone program gives an advantage to entities located in the REZ that are seeking state funding over entities that are not located within an Enterprise Zone.

- MVAF created a Microloan Program to provide low interest loans of up to \$50,000 to businesses starting or growing in four Pennsylvania counties – Washington, Westmoreland, Fayette, and Greene Counties.

## Community Development

MVA recognizes Community Development as an important part of its mission by supporting projects that improve the quality of life for residents.

As an example, MVA engaged with the Borough of Charleroi to identify potential opportunities for redevelopment of former industrial riverfront properties. The MVA, in partnership with the borough, county, and state officials, provided the leadership and management to redevelop Phase I of the former Charleroi High School Football Stadium into an improved public boat launch, parking, and riverfront park. Plans are in development to complete the redevelopment of the remaining four acres. This project demonstrated that building capacity within a community is vital to success all around and will continue to pay dividends down the road.

## Looking Ahead

MVA and MVAF have several projects under development:

- MVA recognizes the emerging opportunity that renewable sources of energy can provide in developing land and communities; particularly taking advantage of properties that do not lend themselves to shovel-ready or pad-ready sites. MVA has

taxes and subsequently donated it to the Mon Valley Alliance. MVA then acquired additional property adjacent to the site, and demolished all the structures on both sites, resulting in a parcel large enough to construct a new 6,300 square foot office building that can accommodate a single user or up to four smaller users in a code-compliant, move-in ready space with onsite parking. Construction is expected to begin in

Center. The business resource center will serve as a place for businesses to engage with nonprofits, educational and government services. It will also serve as the headquarters for the Mon Valley Alliance and the Mon Valley Alliance Foundation. The building will be renovated to include a hotel-style lobby for business meetings, a media room, conference and training rooms and electronic meeting areas.

## “Mon Valley Alliance and Mon Valley Alliance Foundation are on solid footing and will continue to evolve to meet the needs of the businesses, communities, and residents in the Mid Mon Valley area.”

begun the process of developing a moderately sloped, south-facing parcel of land in the Alta Vista Business Park as a 1.5-Megawatt Solar Farm. A direct beneficiary of this project will be the Pigeon Creek Sanitary Authority (PCSA), with reduced utility costs as a primary consumer of the produced solar energy, which will help reduce the operational costs of the PCSA and ultimately benefit the rate payers in the community.

- The greatest asset for any community is people. Attracting new residents, businesses, and visitors into our communities is the only way to increase their strength. Redeveloping the blighted and underdeveloped properties into new useable properties will draw people. A blight removal project in the Borough of Charleroi at Second and McKean Street is well underway. The Charleroi Area School District acquired property for delinquent

the fourth quarter this year. When complete, the new building will serve as the gateway to Charleroi and spark additional redevelopment.

- MVAF purchased a former bank branch in Monongahela from Community Bank at a deep discount. Financial assistance provided by the Washington County Community Foundation and Washington County Local Share Account will allow MVAF to create a Business Resource

The future is bright for the Mid Mon Valley Region of Pennsylvania. Mon Valley Alliance and Mon Valley Alliance Foundation are on solid footing and will continue to evolve to meet the needs of the businesses, communities, and residents in the Mid Mon Valley area. We invite you to visit our website, [www.monvalleyalliance.org](http://www.monvalleyalliance.org), or give us a call at 724-565-5639 if you are interested in locating to the Mid Mon Valley or if you have any questions about our services. 

