

Diplomat Pharmacy Brings Hundreds of New Jobs to Flint

The people of Flint need jobs—good jobs that will allow them to raise a family. As the State and National economies struggle, here in Flint we have cause for hope and celebration. Diplomat Pharmacy, the sixth-largest specialty pharmacy in the nation, has relocated its world headquarters to the Great Lakes Technology Centre. Flint was chosen as the site of the expansion over communities in Texas and Ohio according to Diplomat President and CEO Phil Hagerman because “this is an opportunity to reinvent and revitalize a community.”

With the move comes the creation of hundreds of new jobs. Diplomat Pharmacy hired about 100 new employees in 2010. The 350,000-square-foot facility on Flint's south side now employs 300 workers and has plans to add another 200 this year. The company has long-term growth in mind. They look to hire an additional 1,000 new employees over the next five years and create 4,000 new jobs in Flint over the next two decades. The majority of the new jobs will pay an average \$37,000 a year plus benefits. These are good jobs that will provide a solid foundation for Flint's families and will be a building block of Flint's 21st century future.

Diplomat Pharmacy is a family owned business that got its start in Flint over 34 years ago and has expanded across the Midwest to cities such as Grand Rapids, Cleveland, and Chicago. They provide medications and patient support to people across the country who suffer from diseases such as cancer, HIV, and multiple sclerosis.

The specialty pharmacy industry is growing an average of 15 to 20 percent a year and Diplomat Pharmacy is growing at three to four times that rate. They posted \$600 million in business for 2010 and the company has set a \$1 billion in prescriptions goal for the years ahead. In 2010, Diplomat Pharmacy was recognized as one of the nation's fastest-growing companies by Inc. Magazine and President and CEO Phil Hagerman was also named Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year for the Michigan and Northwest Ohio Region.

In January of this year, Diplomat Pharmacy began a \$12 million redevelopment project at their new home at the Great Lakes Technology Centre. The project nears completion. When the dust settles, they will have added an in-house day care center, state-of-the-art compounding laboratories, a training center, a software development and data center, and a national patient call center.

Diplomat Pharmacy's investment in Flint's future has encouraged further growth and redevelopment. In September of 2010, the Insight Institute of Neurosurgery & Neuroscience announced plans to invest \$18-million and create up to 120 new jobs at their home in the Great Lakes Technology Centre and to create a research incubator for the development, testing and manufacture of new technologies for neurosurgery and patient treatment.

Through these private investments, the Great Lakes Technology Centre has become a medical and life science campus that represents progress toward diversifying Flint's economy. The campus, which was previously a General Motors Fisher Body factory, is a model brownfield and auto factory redevelopment. The new jobs and investments are important milestones on Flint's road to recovery. They bring new opportunities for Flint's citizens and sustainability to our community.