

New Akron Call Center May Employ 1500 / WCPN.org

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Topics: [Economy](#)

↓ [Download](#)  [RSS](#)  [Short URL](#)  [Share](#)



[Share](#)

Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic introduced what he portrays as the city's latest economic development coup – a new call center in a depressed area that the company claims will eventually employ 15 hundred people. Ideastream's Bill Rice reports.

Photo Gallery



[Click to launch gallery](#)

Mayor Plusquellic stood with Robert Madden, president of Plus One Communications, which is opening in the long-vacant Firestone Bank building on the city's south side. Madden's wife, Jill Bacon-Madden, bought the building from the city for two dollars, and the two spent about five million dollars in renovations and equipment.

Madden said the new company is already training to begin operations in July with about 30 employees. After that it will hire about 60 new workers per month for what Madden describes as high-level information technology support.

Madden: "We like people to have some qualifications in the information technology sector, if you don't have those qualifications we will tell you where to get those qualifications, if you are a medium, half-way there, we will probably train you to get to where you need to be to fulfill the job obligations we have".

Madden said the company is currently taking applications.

Akron spent about 1.5 million dollars to restore the area immediately surrounding the building, now renamed the Verge Building. It's just down the street from another development project – the new Bridgestone-Firestone tech center, which that company agreed to keep in Akron in exchange for tax incentives and infrastructure improvements.