

There are a lot of great things regarding economy going on in our community

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There continues to be a lot of negative news regarding the economy, and for the most part, it is accurate and warranted.

That said, there is a lot of good economic activity as well, but often it happens "under the radar screen." Given my perspective as a community banker, I have the privilege to witness the many success stories in our region. While there continues to be reason for real concern regarding the economy, there are a substantial number of positive stories in our region as well.

A few examples of the many success stories in Northern Colorado include:

> Colorado CustomWare is a homegrown property-tax-assessment software company. They now employ more than 100 people and are set to more than double revenue in 2010.

> Integware is a medical and process integration software company. In five years, they have grown from 15 employees to more than 120 plus.

> Eldon James is a 23-year old specialized plastics manufacturing company that continues to grow with multiple expansions during the last five years.

> Spirae started in 2002 as a company to create renewable energy infrastructure. Through customer growth, they have doubled in revenues during the last three years.

> Our local La-Z-Boy furniture retailer continues to be recognized as one of the top producers in the nation.

> Cornerstone Mortgage started this year and is already poised to be one of the top mortgage originators in the state.

> McCauley Constructors started in 2005 and have already grown to \$15 million in revenue.

> Premier Employment's revenue is up 50 percent this year with 11 new hires.

Businesses and entrepreneurs are not the only ones excelling in this economy. The nonprofits serving our community continue to make huge strides forward. A few examples:

> In just three years, Northern Colorado Active 20-30 has raised more than \$700,000 for youth-serving charities.

> United Way of Larimer County has in a very short period of time built one of the top De Tocqueville programs in the nation.

> Women Give started in the fall 2006 and have already generated more than \$360,000 in charitable donations.

> Partners Mentoring Youth has doubled the number of youths it serves during the past four years.

This is by no means a comprehensive list. There are hundreds more examples of companies, nonprofits, investors, individuals and entrepreneurs that are finding ways to survive and thrive during the Great Recession. Keep this in mind the next time you read or hear negative economic news. There are also lots of great things going on in our community.

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