

Anderson business celebrates one year, 130 jobs

By Mike Ellis, Rick Spruill

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ANDERSON — One year after Cross Country Home Services Inc. opened a call center in Anderson, the company has announced it has created 130 jobs for the local economy during that period of time.

“We’re happy to report that our relationship with the Anderson community is an overwhelming success,” said Joseph Icardela, CEO of Cross Country.

Icardela credited the quality of Anderson’s workforce as key to the company’s success in a short period of time.

“We’ve been fortunate to attract high-quality, ‘ready-to-work’ employees, and form excellent relationships with state, county and local officials,” he said. “Everyone has gone the extra mile to achieve so much in one year.”

The call center, a \$3 million dollar renovation of an old Winn-Dixie supermarket at the intersection of Greenville Street and Rantowles Road, houses customer-service agents and sales specialists.

According to a statement issued by Cross Country, their Anderson employees have completed more than 50,000 hours of initial and recurrent job-related training.

Linda Segervall, spokeswoman for Cross Country, said the company anticipates hiring 220 more employees in the next two years.

“We are absolutely on track in terms of growth,” she said.

Cross Country’s expansion into Anderson represents one of two job-creating business enterprises announced by the Anderson County Office of Economic Development since October, 2008, said Burriss Nelson, Anderson County’s interim economic development director.

Nelson said the other expansion was an announcement by Orian Rugs in November, 2008 of their plans for an \$18 million expansion that would create roughly 45 new jobs.

In addition to the jobs created when the city welcomed Cross Country, Anderson Mayor Terence Roberts said that the efforts undertaken to revive neighborhoods have added another facet to the city’s economic development initiative.

“I’m very proud of our efforts in strengthening our neighborhoods,” Roberts said. “The

City has been awarded a grant from (the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program to acquire and rehabilitate foreclosed and abandoned units.”

Roberts said the homes, once rehabilitated, will be resold to first time homebuyers to stabilize neighborhoods and stem the decline of values of neighboring homes.



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