

# FCDC NEWS

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## FCDC Member Feature



It is always exciting to feature one of our FCDC members. I am proud to share with you this week as we feature American Eagle Outfitters. This company is an outstanding member of our community and we are proud to list them among our membership here at the Franklin County Development Council.

American Eagle was founded in 1977 with the opening of their first store in Novi, Michigan. They started out with an emphasis in merchandise for outdoors sports such as hiking, mountain climbing, and campaign. In 1991 a change in leadership at the company resulted in the company finding its current niche. Providing quality casual clothing targeted for 15 to 25-year-old males and females has served them well. They continue to add lines and options for their customers.

The first distribution center was located in Warrendale, PA. In 2001 American Eagle opened a second retail distribution center in Ottawa, now known as "Ottawa 1." In 2006 a groundbreaking ceremony was held for a second distribution center in Ottawa to handle the direct to consumer orders. Ottawa 2 began operation in May of 2007.

Here in Ottawa American Eagle has 800 full time associates. The two distribution centers total 1,225,108 square feet. Inside those spaces are approximately 35 miles of conveyor. AE maintains a safe, clean, and healthy work environment. They have provided on site nurses during the COVID crisis. In addition, they relaxed attendance policy for employees that were worried about coming into work and all associates were given 2 paid reward days during the pandemic. While being supportive of their workforce, they have also supported our community.

During the COVID crises American Eagle has been a leader in community support. They provide food to their employees by purchasing food from Subway, Smoked Creations, Pizza Village, and Pizza Time. They donated meals to emergency personnel, COF, Meals on Wheels, and Advent Health. They donated \$50,000 to the city of Ottawa to provide relief funds for local area businesses. They have touched many lives in our community.

American Eagle is a true asset to our community. I know all of our FCDC members and the community at large join me in saying THANK YOU American Eagle for choosing to do business in Franklin County!

***It is a GREAT day to live in Franklin County!***

***Paul Bean***

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