

Dwight Bowman Believes in Cornerstone Alliance

Dwight Bowman, founder and president of Ocean Clean Janitorial Services, feels as a local business owner in Michigan's **Great Southwest**, he has a responsibility to support the economic development efforts of Cornerstone Alliance. "The community's support of these initiatives is critical to its success," said Bowman. "When we all get involved in bringing economic prosperity to the area, there's a feeling of pride and ownership."

As an investor in Cornerstone Alliance, Bowman feels he has the opportunity to make an impact on Berrien County's economic growth. "One of the key components of Cornerstone Alliance is their ability to connect the community with new business opportunities through new industry investment or expanding the local business base. As an entrepreneur, I want the economy to strengthen and keep the dollars local; it is critical that the return on investment remain in the community."

Bowman, born and raised in Benton Harbor, MI, married and the father of two sons, attributes his keen business sense to his father, also an entrepreneur. Bowman was a CNC operator at Bosch Automotive Group for seven years and created his own future when he saw that downsizing was imminent. "My intuition told me that I needed to open my own cleaning business," said Bowman. "Often times at Bosch, I would work as a janitor and enjoyed organizing and cleaning up entire departments. Once the layoffs came, I decided it was time to do what my father had done."

In 2004, Bowman got his first client and started developing his entrepreneurial venture through networking, networking and more networking. "I was working 50 plus hours per week, going to school and starting a business," explained Bowman. "In 2004, I was the only employee, and today, I have 13 employees and over 20 clients. I'm looking to expand business in 2015. To be successful takes perseverance and finding mentors that will guide you in the right direction."

Bowman believes that as Berrien County's economic development organization, Cornerstone Alliance is working to create jobs and bring new business to the area. "All of us should be part of helping improve the economic performance of Michigan's **Great Southwest** as we work to transform our competitive landscape."



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Founder & President,
Ocean Clean
Janitorial Services

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