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MAIN STREET WADSWORTH RECEIVES 2023 MAIN STREET AMERICA ACCREDITATION

[Wadsworth, Ohio (April 28, 2023)] – Main Street Wadsworth (MSW) has been designated as an Accredited Main Street America™ program for meeting rigorous performance standards. Each year, Main Street America and its partners announce the list of Accredited programs to recognize their exceptional commitment to preservation-based economic development and community revitalization through the Main Street Approach™.

“We are very proud to acknowledge this year’s 862 Accredited Main Street America programs, and their steadfast dedication to nurture economically and culturally vibrant downtown districts,” said Hannah White, Interim President & CEO of Main Street America. “The increase in the size and impact of our network speaks volumes to the power of the Main Street movement to respond to the needs of local communities and drive innovative solutions.”

In 2022, Main Street America programs generated \$6.2 billion in local reinvestment, helped open 7,657 net new businesses, facilitated the creation of 29,174 net new jobs, catalyzed the rehabilitation of 10,688 historic buildings, and leveraged 1,528,535 volunteer hours. On average, for every dollar that a Main Street program spent to support their operations, it generated \$24.07 of new investment back into their downtown communities.

Collectively, 2 million people live or work within the boundaries of designated Main Street America districts. An estimated workforce of 1.1 million people contribute their skills and expertise to advancing the missions of these historic downtowns and commercial corridors.

MSW’s performance is annually evaluated by Heritage Ohio, which works in partnership with Main Street America to identify the local programs that meet rigorous national performance standards. To qualify for Accreditation status, communities must meet a set of rigorous standards that include commitments to building grassroots revitalization programs, fostering strong public-private partnerships, nurturing economic opportunity for small businesses and entrepreneurs, and actively preserving historic places, spaces, and cultural assets.

In 2022, MSW saw 11 new small businesses open downtown and received a statewide award for its First Friday events. MSW's Design Team Mural Program commissioned two large art murals featuring a celebrated local musician and a giant cardinal, the state bird of Ohio. Started in 2020 and continued into 2022, MSW has coordinated the City of Wadsworth's Downtown Improvement Grant to assist building owners with beautification projects. In addition, Main Street Wadsworth provided 14 free downtown events and 16 farmers markets to the community, bringing over 20,000 visitors downtown. MSW also continued its initiative to add downtown Wadsworth to the National Register of Historic Places, which is anticipated to be completed in Summer 2023. In 2022, Main Street Wadsworth tracked \$646,038 in total combined public/private reinvestment downtown, 16 completed façade renovation projects, 3,450 donated volunteer hours (valued at \$98,040), 65 new jobs, and a 100% first floor occupancy rate.

"I am so proud of our board members, stakeholders, building owners, business owners, volunteers, Friends, and Sponsors for their dedication to turning our downtown into a vibrant district and destination" stated Adrienne Patrick, Main Street Wadsworth Executive Director. "National accreditation tells our community that our program is doing the things it needs to do to get real results, grow, and build momentum. It is our charge to make things happen and to do the right things at the right time for the right reasons. Achieving 100% storefront occupancy in 2022 is one of many positive indicators that tells us that our downtown's future is bright."

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ABOUT MAIN STREET WADSWORTH

Founded in 2016, Main Street Wadsworth is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to the revitalization of historic downtown Wadsworth through preservation-based economic development. One of only 21 accredited Ohio Main Streets, Wadsworth's volunteer-powered grassroots organization uses Main Street America's Four-Point Approach™ of Design, Economic Vitality, Promotion, and Operations to enhance quality of life for residents and support downtown small businesses. Wadsworth, Ohio is the fastest-growing city in Medina County and the third fastest-growing city in Northeast Ohio. more information, visit mainstreetwadsworth.org.

ABOUT MAIN STREET AMERICA

Main Street America leads a movement committed to strengthening communities through preservation-based economic development in older and historic downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts. For more than 40 years, Main Street America has provided a practical, adaptable, and impactful framework for community-driven, comprehensive revitalization through the Main Street Approach™. Our network of more than 1,600 neighborhoods and communities, rural and urban, share both a commitment to place and to building stronger communities through preservation-based economic development. Since 1980, communities participating in the program have generated more than \$101.58 billion in new public and private investment, generated 168,693 net new businesses and 746,897 net new jobs, rehabilitated more than 325,119 buildings, and levered over 33.7 million volunteer hours. Main Street America is a nonprofit subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information, visit mainstreet.org.