



Empire State Development



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Contact:

Austin Shafran (ESD) | ashafran@esd.ny.gov | (800) 260-7313

Laura Magee (ESD) | lmagee@esd.ny.gov | (800) 260-7313

Marshall Ciccone (Light 4 Life Candles) | marshciccone@gmail.com | 315-457-3198

LIGHT 4 LIFE CANDLES, LLC TO ESTABLISH CENTRAL NEW YORK OPERATIONS IN FORMER CANDLE MANUFACTURING FACILITY

Up to \$5 million investment, including a \$250,000 ESD grant will go toward purchase of machinery and equipment, reuse and expansion of a vacant manufacturing facility and 60 full-time jobs

Empire State Development today announced that Light 4 Life Candles, LLC will acquire a portion of the former Will & Baumer Candle Company facility in Liverpool, New York and begin candle manufacturing operations at the site. Assisted by a \$250,000 capital grant from ESD, Light 4 Life Candles, along with Syracuse Gateway Holdings, plans to make an investment of up to \$5 million. Greater Syracuse Business Development Corporation, a private not-for-profit economic development financing agency, in partnership with the Onondaga County Civic Corporation, has also approved \$200,000 of financing and the Central New York Regional Economic Development Corporation (CNY EDC) has approved an additional \$116,000 of financing.

These funds will allow the company to purchase and rehabilitate the vacant 200,000 square-foot facility, construct an additional 10,000 square feet of distribution space, and purchase and install new machinery and equipment. Approximately \$16,000 from CNY EDC will go toward installing high energy efficient equipment. The project is expected to create 60 new, full-time jobs.

“This is a great example of tactical investment. The funds given to this company will repurpose unused commercial real estate in the area, provide jobs to 60 residents of Central New York and revive a flagging industry for the benefit of future generations,” said Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Kenneth Adams. “The State’s investment in Light 4 Life Candles is exemplary of our efforts to realize the greatest possible return on our investment and provides a strategic blueprint for reuse.”

“We have completed Phase One of this endeavor and have started production,” said Light 4 Life Director Yatish Chandra. “We are now in the development stages of Phase Two which will be the purchase of additional equipment that will allow us to produce other types of candles.”

“Having worked at Will & Baumer for the last 30 years it was definitely a major letdown when they moved out of the facility,” said Marshall Ciccone, Light 4 Life Candles President and former president of Will & Baumer. “To now have a new candle company in the same facility taking advantage of the infrastructure that exists for candle making is, on the other hand, very uplifting. This brings about new opportunities for employment and future business in an endeavor that Syracuse has long been noted for. I wish to thank all those that had any part in getting this accomplished.”

The introduction of Light 4 Life Candles, LLC indicates the revitalization of the candle industry in Central New York, made possible by implementation of new manufacturing techniques that will result in lower cost production, thereby allowing the company to compete with less expensive, mass-produced foreign imports.

Light 4 Life plans to focus its manufacturing on vessel-filled candles—typically glass jars. This process requires a unique, high-speed automatic manufacturing machine. Among the machine’s many features is its ability to use smaller “injections” of paraffin to make a candle—a much more efficient technique compared to the old “gravity feed” method. This state-of-the-art equipment will significantly reduce all by-hand operations, allowing for greater production at considerably lower cost.

Greater Syracuse Business Development Corporation (GSBDC) and Central New York Enterprise Development Corporation (CNY EDC) issued the following statement: “Greater Syracuse Business Development Corporation and Central New York Enterprise Development Corporation were pleased to participate in Phase One of the financing package for this company and help reestablish candle manufacturing as a key industry in Central New York.”

Empire State Development Central New York Regional Director James Fayle said, “New equipment will allow for new product line development within this transitioning industry, heralding new life to the candle making industry in the Syracuse area. Through its investment in a new facility and updated equipment, Light 4 Life Candles is well-positioned to help reestablish Central New York as a candle manufacturing hub in New York State and we wish the company every success in this endeavor.”

Town of Salina Supervisor Mark Nicotra said, “Seeing the Will and Baumer facility come back to life is a huge win for the Town of Salina. With that facility being the gateway into Salina, its rebirth sends a welcome message to travelers entering the Town. The Town of Salina is extremely proud to have worked with Light 4 Life Candles in providing the assistance needed to begin producing candles again. Light 4 Life Candles is another example that Salina is open and accessible to new businesses.”

New York State Senator and Finance Chairman John A. DeFrancisco said, “The rehabilitation of the Will & Baumer Candle Company building into Light 4 Life Candles will add 60 manufacturing jobs to our local economy, and put life into a vacant building. In recent weeks, I have been making more and more announcements about new jobs coming to our area. Brining new jobs to Central New York has always been, and will continue to be my number one priority.”

Assemblymember Sam Roberts said, “Investment in local businesses, like Light 4 Life Candles, is a vital step towards strengthening the economy and making sure our region’s skilled and diverse workforce has the jobs it needs. The expected full-time jobs resulting from the company and state investments show the value our region has to offer and exemplifies our efforts to support the retention and creation of new jobs.”

Onondaga County Executive Joanie Mahoney said, “This is wonderful news for Onondaga County and we are pleased that Light 4 Life is locating in Central New York. We have a great history of candle making and are happy to expand the industry. With their new state of the art technology, Light 4 Life illustrates the innovative spirit of those in our community.”

Empire State Development (ESD) is New York’s chief economic development agency (www.esd.ny.gov). The mission of ESD is to promote a vigorous and growing economy, encourage the creation of new job and economic opportunities, increase revenues to the State and its municipalities, and achieve stable and diversified local economies. Through the use of loans, grants, tax credits and other forms of financial assistance, ESD strives to enhance private business investment and growth to spur job creation and support prosperous communities across New York State. ESD is also the primary administrative agency overseeing Governor Cuomo’s Regional Economic Development Councils and the marketing of “I Love NY,” the State’s iconic tourism brand. For more information on Regional Councils and Empire State Development, visit www.nyworks.ny.gov and www.esd.ny.gov.



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