

2009 CHAMBER MEMBER BENEFITS

THE MOST IMPORTANT INVESTMENT YOU MAKE IN YOUR BUSINESS

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES – Networking with other members and business leaders in the community is one of the most important ways to get people to do business with you. Members are encouraged to attend Chamber activities so that they can meet other local business people to exchange business cards and information.

- ❖ **OPEN HOUSES, BUSINESS AFTER HOURS, RIBBON CUTTINGS, AND GROUND BREAKINGS** are all activities that provide opportunities for Chamber volunteers to welcome new members. The Chamber provides special three-foot scissors and red ribbon for the ceremony at no cost to the business. A photo advertisement will run in an upcoming issue of the Giddings Times and News free of charge provided the business has advertised prior to the event. **Value-\$150.00**
- ❖ **DISCOUNTED RATES ON CHAMBER EVENTS** - Members receive reduced rates when they attend Chamber sponsored events such as the annual Chamber Banquet. **Value-\$150.00**
- ❖ **GET INVOLVED** – Members and their designated employees are welcome to join Chamber committees as a service to the community. This community was built by business members giving of their time to the Chamber. **Priceless**

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES - Members are introduced to the community through many avenues of advertisement which include print, email, and through calls to the Chamber office.

- ❖ **REFERRAL NETWORK** - The Chamber receives calls from the public either asking for a confirmation that a business is a chamber member or requesting a referral for a specific type of business. The Chamber staff gives the caller the number for every member business listed in a specific category when asked for a referral. **Value-Priceless**
- ❖ **BROCHURE DISPLAY** - Chamber members can bring a quantity of brochures or promotional literature about their business to display in a special display case located in the chamber lobby. The Chamber receives visitors each day who come by the office to gather information on Giddings and it's local businesses. **Value-Priceless**
- ❖ **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP/VISITORS/RELOCATION GUIDE** - Each member receives one free alphabetical listing and up to three categories in the annual guide. The guide is distributed to more than 3,000 persons per year through requests for relocation and visitors packets, and in hospitality or visitors bags. **Value-\$100.00**
- ❖ **ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS** - We receive requests for hospitality and/or visitors bags to be made for conferences, reunions, meetings, and bus tours which will include brochures, business cards, and promotional items. Bags requested in 2006 - approx. 1200. **Value-Priceless**

BUSINESS MAIL - Members receive discounted rates on the following office products or service.

	Value for	Members	Non-Members
• Membership Mailing List		25.00	Not available
• Bulk Mail Stamp – For use by member businesses to take advantage of the reduced postal rate.		Value-\$175.00	

- ❖ **MAILINGS FROM CHAMBER** - All members receive a monthly newsletter, as well as invitations to all Chamber functions like Business After Hours, Quarterly Luncheons, Annual Banquet, New Member Receptions, Membership Meetings, and other special activities. **Value- \$175.00**

- ❖ **NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING** – The Chamber will publish a monthly newsletter. Chamber members may advertise in the newsletter with a business card size ad for \$50 per month. Businesses can reserve their ad space for three months, six months, or one year.
- ❖ **NEWSLETTER LISTING OF NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS** - When a new member joins, the member's business name, address, and phone number will appear in the Chamber newsletter under the "Welcome New Members" section. Also, all members who renew their membership will be listed by their business names in a special section entitled "Renewing Members". **Value-\$175.00**
- ❖ **MEMBER-TO-MEMBER PROMOTIONAL PACKETS** - Each month, members are invited to drop off copies of 8 1/2" x 11", unfolded pieces of literature promoting their businesses and/or offering a discount to fellow Chamber members. This material will be included in our monthly newsletter that is delivered to all Chamber members. **Value-\$175.00**

DIGITAL SIGN - Chamber members will receive an economical way to advertise with the Digital Sign. New members will receive one week **FREE** advertising. Special pricing is available for monthly, quarterly, and yearly advertising packages. **Value-\$100.00**

WEBSITE - Chamber members are listed on the website alphabetically. **Our website has been viewed by over 32,000 since July 1st, 2008.**

- ❖ Google Calendar is our own community calendar where events in the community are listed free of charge to all groups and organizations. **Value-\$1200.00**
- ❖ Advertise your company on the website. Your logo with a link to your website will help visitors find you quickly. Call for prices. **Priceless**

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE RESOURCE CENTER - Materials are available at the Chamber office to assist those interested in starting up a new business or furthering their business growth. **Value-\$199.00**

- ❖ Statistical and Demographic Information - Giddings demographics are constantly being updated from sources such as the U.S. Census, the Texas Workforce Center, the City of Giddings and various private research firms.
- ❖ Business Development Roundtables – SBA and Giddings Economic Development Corporation have with the GACC to provide employee training, speakers, and learning materials for roundtables. **Three per year valued at \$600.00.**

GIDDINGS MAPS – The Chamber has city and county maps on hand to distribute to members or visitors to our community. Maps are provided as a service to the community.

Tangible Value to Members Only- \$3224.00

Intangible Value to Members Only- Priceless

If you have any questions regarding these benefits, please call the Giddings Area Chamber of Commerce at 542-3455.

**All benefits highlighted are provided by the Giddings Area Chamber of Commerce as opportunities for our members. However, the Board of Directors, having approved these benefits, is in no way endorsing one member's products or services over another.*