



2022 Business Awards for Economic Impact



Eartha Brown opened her bakery in a strip center along Illinois St. in 2018, and her unique combination of taste and creativity made her business a success right from the start! Not even the pandemic could stop her progress, and in 2020 **EBrown's Bakery** was added to the Hall of Fame by Grace Hill Women's Business Center. Today, Eartha holds a seat on the Board of Directors for the Metro East Regional Chamber of Commerce.



Mark Hinrichs has a history of supporting startups across the Metro East. After launching **IMPACT Strategies** (one of the largest construction firms in the region) in 2002, he helped start Career Pathways of Southern Illinois to encourage and empower minority sub-contracting in this part of Illinois. Mark has previously served on the Board of Trustees for Southern Illinois University and he currently serves as an Advisor to clients of the Metro East Business Incubator (MEBI).



Tamala Malone saw opportunity in a vacant former restaurant in the Lincoln Trail District and convinced the owner to trade her sweat equity for a stake in the property. Despite onset of the pandemic and other obstacles, today her **Tree of Life Childcare Center** is meeting a city-wide need. Financial support granted by the City enabled Tamala to complete renovation of the building and she opened for business in the new location earlier this year.

The Business Awards program is an annual endeavor for the Business Alliance Commission (BAC), an advisory body established by the City of Fairview Heights. Each January, the BAC seeks nominations for Economic Impact Awards bestowed in March.