



DON ENTERPRISES, INC.'S ELM STREET PROGRAM DESIGNATED AS A 2025 ACCREDITED PROGRAM BY MAIN STREET AMERICA

New Castle, PA — DON Enterprises, Inc.'s Elm Street Program 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 designated programs to recognize their exceptional commitment to preservation-based economic development and community revitalization through the Main Street Approach™.

Main Street America recognizes two tiers of national designation — Affiliate and Accredited. These designations are a powerful advocacy tool, signaling to local stakeholders, as well as city, state, and national funders, that a Main Street program has an established position within a nationwide movement with a 45-year proven track record of generating impressive economic returns, building local capacity, producing welcoming and inviting communities, and creating lasting impact.

“Main Street America is proud to recognize this year’s 821 Accredited Main Street America programs for their commitment to building strong and vibrant communities,” said Erin Barnes, President and CEO of Main Street America. “Their tireless efforts show what’s possible when engaged leaders work together to shape places that reflect the people they serve. The continued impact of our network shows that the Main Street movement remains a powerful force for positive transformation.”

DON Enterprises, Inc.'s performance was evaluated through assessments conducted by the organization’s personnel and board of directors, and Pennsylvania Downtown Center (PDC), which works in partnership with Main Street America to identify local programs that meet rigorous national community evaluation standards.

These standards provide the Main Street America network with a strong foundational framework to review progress, recognize strengths, understand trends, and identify strategies that move Main Street programs forward. To qualify for Accredited status—Main Street America’s top designation tier—communities must demonstrate a proven track record of achieving outcomes in alignment with the Main Street Approach and exceptional performance in six areas: broad-based community commitment to revitalization; inclusive leadership and organizational capacity; diversified funding and sustainable program operations; strategy-driven programming; preservation-based economic development; and demonstrated impact and results.

In 2024, Main Street America programs generated \$7.65 billion in local reinvestment, helped open 6,324 new businesses, facilitated the creation of 33,835 new jobs, rehabilitated 10,126 historic buildings, and logged 1.9 million volunteer hours. On average, for every dollar that a Main Street program spent to support its community operation, \$21.73 was reinvested into its downtown and commercial corridor.

In 2024, DON Enterprises, Inc.'s Elm Street Program organized ten community meetings, during which community leaders gave presentations. The program organized four community events, as well as provided support for other agencies with their events. Additionally, the program hosted four community cleanups and restructured its steering committee to improve efficiency. The program also analyzed Potential Rating Index for Zip Markets (PRIZM) reports, conducted surveys, and gathered additional data to help Elm Street, as a designated community, better understand, engage, and serve the residents. The program is also completing a successful Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Façade Program. Furthermore, two staff members now serve on the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) Public Participation Panel and are actively participating in discussions related to local and regional planning efforts.

“One of the many great advantages of the Main Street America Designation is networking with other similar communities that have faced the same challenges, allowing us to compare notes and share ideas, which greatly enhances the success rate for both small and large projects,” said Kenny Rice, Elm Street Manager. “Another advantage is the Main Street America resources and newsletters, which inform us about matters we may not have considered.”

ABOUT DON ENTERPRISES, INC.

DON Enterprises, Inc.'s mission is to build a more diverse and inclusive community through programs, services, and revitalization initiatives that create housing and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities and others, which allow them to increase their independence and fully integrate into society.

The Elm Street Program is a neighborhood revitalization initiative designed as a comprehensive approach to long-term neighborhood sustainability. The program is funded by the Department of Community and Economic Development and facilitated by the PA Downtown Center.

For more information, please visit eastsidegrove.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, the Main Street Movement has resulted in \$115.42 billion reinvested locally, 181,647 net new businesses, 815,895 net new jobs, 345,801 buildings rehabilitated, and 37.3 million volunteer hours. Main Street America is a nonprofit subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information, visit mainstreet.org.