

Innovative Re-packaging... and People

Innovation Village @ Rockingham (IV@R) is a magnet for professionals in food processing, biotechnology, information technology (IT), energy and other business sectors that need speed-to-market capabilities while demonstrating social responsibility.

GEORGE HOMAN II

President & CEO of Friendship Industries
and Cindy Simmers, Integrated Repack
and Logistics Employee

Cindy Simmers is an employee with a disability at Integrated Repack and Logistics. She repackages coffee creamer made by a major food processing company for distribution to retail outlets.

“Having this job and a steady income has helped me support my three daughters and improve our living conditions,” says Simmers. “It also has given me a purpose and peace of mind.”

Integrated Repack and Logistics is a partnership between Friendship Industries, a not-for-profit Employment Specialist provider of jobs and training opportunities, and InterChange Group, a logistics and transportation company. In InterChange’s 78,000 sq. ft. refrigerated warehouse, more than one hundred employees, including disabled and disadvantaged workers, receive on-the-job training and earn an income.

“The partnership aligns perfectly with our mission to employ persons with disabilities, and it allows us the opportunity to expand into the refrigerated packaging arena,” says Friendship’s President and CEO George Homan II.

“Friendship Industries has been providing repacking services for more than 40 years,” says InterChange’s President and CEO Devon Anders. “They provide the repackaging knowledge and labor, and we provide refrigeration and distribution services. From our location along I-81 and near I-66 and I-64, we can ship easily and quickly to East Coast and Midwest population centers.”

Friendship Industries' growing list of clients is indicative of its ability to be a competitive solutions provider. It successfully supports corporations as they meet their established business objectives while giving back to the community in an innovative manner.

Innovation Village @ Rockingham is infused with a strong community spirit and “can-do” optimism that helps great ideas move to reality. IV@R is a 365-acre master planned village being developed in three phases, allowing for the establishment of new facilities or campuses customized for each company’s specific needs.