

The Richland Center Community Business Outreach Program recently toured the Richland Center Foundry, LLC. John Gerszewski, President and C.E.O., led the group in a discussion and tour of the foundry. The group was able to see firsthand the daily production and labor intensive work that goes on inside of the foundry.

The foundry was established in 1963 as an operating company of Schneider Fuel & Supply of Milwaukee. The Richland Center Foundry is currently owned by Guard Hill Holdings, LLC of New York, but it operates independently along with its sister companies Prospect Foundry in Minneapolis and Stainless Foundry and Engineering in Milwaukee.

The group learned the Richland Center Foundry produces Gray and Ductile Iron castings in sand molds for a variety of Industrial Customers producing equipment for the Construction, Power Transmission, Power Generation, Rail Power, and Ship Power industries among others. Their current production for these industries is approximately 500 tons of castings shipped per month. This equates to roughly 8000 pieces per month to customers primarily in the Midwest but also as far away as California.

Richland Center Foundry employs approximately 150 people spread out over a 3 shift operation Sunday evenings through Saturday mornings. The foundry estimates their 2011 fiscal year revenues will be \$22 million and that \$6 million will be distributed in wages. This fact alone makes a significant impact on the local economy.

The Richland Center Foundry is going strong and has plans to continue upgrading their facility and equipment. They maintained and survived during the recession with thanks to major market leaders and exportation. They are proof positive that hard work pays off!