

# WHAT IS A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE?

## A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS..

- a voluntary organization that unites the business and professional people in an effort to expand the economy of the area.
- business people concerned about improving the area they do business in, and are willing to do something about it actively.

Its strengths lie in the number and diversity of its membership. Both large and small businesses from virtually every profession are represented and influence investments in the Chamber. **THE MEMBERS ARE THE CHAMBER!** The more members the Chamber has, the better it can represent the business community. It accomplishes collectively what no business can do alone.

Today, Chambers of Commerce have become community organizations which recognize all the factors that affect the community and adjust its program accordingly.

## WHAT A CHAMBER IS NOT

### The Chamber of commerce is not...

- a department of the city, county or state government,
- a political body, a civic club or professional society,
- a social, service, welfare or charitable institution,
- a private advertising, publicity or public relations agency.

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## PURPOSE/MISSION

**The Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce  
is the voice of business in the community.**

Its purposes are:

- to unite, inform and represent business in Martin County
- to provide leadership on economic and political issues
- to promote a progressive and healthy business climate
- to provide efficient service to its membership, to general public and visitors
- to act as the “front door” to our community.

## IMPORTANT FACTS

These are some facts which you will find invaluable in speaking with membership prospects and will help give you a better overall understanding of your Chamber. The Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce:

- has 1,650 members
- is a not for profit corporation
- investment is 100% tax deductible as a business expense
- encompasses the entire Martin County area
- has a 9 member professional staff
- is the lobbying organization for general business in Martin County