

Johnson City/Jonesborough/Washington County Success Story

SPC Manufacturing Co.



In November of 1997, **Kim Schneider** moved herself and SPC Manufacturing Co. to Johnson City, TN. “I had grown tired of the big city life of **Chicago, IL** and started looking for a better quality of life” She first purchased 15,000 sq. ft. in downtown, renovated the buildings into an up to date manufacturing facility as well as a 2500 sq. ft. loft where she resides.

SPC Manufacturing Co., founded in 1980, is a full service sewing and printing facility that designs custom textile products such as sales cases, luggage, totes, pouches etc. for their clients needs. “We take projects full circle through conceptualizing to production.”

“I looked at different states and locations for several months. I figured if I was going to move an entire sewing facility as well as myself, I wanted to be sure it was a move that I would financially benefit from as well as enjoy my life. Financially, the biggest areas of benefit are the property taxes, the utilities and the general cost of real estate. The taxes are 35% of Chicago’s and the utilities are approximately half the cost because of the **TVA** rates. I also figured that with this area in the past being such a textile region, I would find the skilled workers for production I would need. **All this was true.**”

Logistics and being in a central location in the U.S. is another key reason Kim selected Johnson City. “Most of the cloth for raw materials comes from the east and south. When I analyzed my clients’ locations, we ship mostly east, south and Midwest so we’re only a couple days away from them. We have very few clients on the west coast. Most likely there are sewing plants much closer to them.” “I also enjoy the proximity to trade shows etc. We are right between New York, Atlanta and Charlotte. These are all big trade show areas. Atlanta is a 4-5 hour drive. Charlotte, from 3 to 3.5. I have to fly to New York, but it is an easy shipping point and commute as well as is Chicago.

Personally, I absolutely love living here. It is such an easy life compared to large cities. I enjoy the mountains and lakes. I can leave downtown and be at the top of a mountain by a beautiful, clean lake in 20 minutes. You can be across town in 15 and with the Tri-City Regional Airport about 20 minutes away, you can fly anywhere necessary. Art and music is also a very important part of my life. There are several venues downtown that I regularly attend as well as the short ride over the mountain to Asheville, NC to see bigger names and shows.

“Another thing I absolutely love is the weather. **A longer summer, mild winters and the four season climate I can appreciate.** I remember reading somewhere that we average only 19 days a year above 90 degrees. There is low humidity because of the mountains. I think when you think *Tennessee*, you automatically think Nashville and their summers are too hot for me! Too humid! And you can usually wear a sweatshirt at Thanksgiving! I've only had to wear my Chicago winter coat down here twice in the 8 years I've lived here.” “Johnson City is unique to Tennessee as it is nestled on the edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The Johnson City area is an absolutely beautiful relatively undiscovered area and a great place for business relocation.”

“I am a passionate supporter of downtown” Schneider said. I am one of the original founders of the Friends of Olde DownTowne, a grassroots volunteer group who has been instrumental in forwarding downtown. “One of my most demanding roles in downtown has been the coordinator and champion the first four years of the Blue Plum Festival, Johnson City’s art and music festival held in June every year. The festival is organized entirely by volunteers and brings in approximately 70,000 people and is a major economic engine for downtown. It is financially supported by local businesses and citizens, who have the same visions for downtown... a place to live, work and play.” Kim’s other involvements include the Hands On! Regional Museum and the Johnson City Public Library.

Johnson City is fortunate to have SPC Manufacturing Co. among its growing sector of newer business and companies and **Kim Schneider’s civic efforts** and community involvement are making a huge difference in the emerging entertainment district in downtown Johnson City.

SPC Manufacturing Co. is a custom sewing and printing plant who manufactures a wide **variety of products**. From a line of miniature totes for the packaging industry; to large, heavy duty courier bags and covers for security companies. Other areas assisted by SPC include:

- * *Advertising Specialties and Gifts*
- * *Sports and Travel*
- * *Banking and Office Products*
- * *Electronics*
- * *Tool and Hardware*
- * *Automotive & Marine*

SPC is known for **fresh, innovative ideas**. When working on a new design, you’re working with design experts. We take personal pride in our products and this is evident in each and every job that we complete. Some of the services you may expect are:

- * *Product development and design*
- * *Small and large runs*
- * *Preproduction samples*
- * *Multi-color imprinting*
- * *Packaging and fulfillment*

For information about SPC Manufacturing Co., visit our web site at www.spcmfgo.com.