

Print Mania receives \$20K expansion grant from EDCCC

By JOE PHELPS
Siftings Herald

The move across the street from its current location on Main Street — along with a grant from the Economic Development Corp. of Clark County — Print Mania will be able to expand and create 15 new jobs for the county.

Print Mania currently employs 18 people. After the Beehive thrift store moves to the new Group Living, Inc., headquarters, which is currently under construction, then Print Mania will move in and

allow the City of Arkadelphia to begin work on the Royal Theatre.

Shawnie Carrier, executive director of the EDCCC, provided Lonnie Jackson, owner of Print Mania, a \$20,000 grant Thursday. Under the contract with the EDCCC, the business will have 36 months to create the 10 jobs — a \$2,000 per job credit with a total payroll of \$152,360 and a total capital investment of \$339,000.

Jackson said the grant will help the business during the move across the street. "We currently use

every bit of space we have" at 625 Main St., and some supplies and goods have to be stored in another building in downtown. Moving to where the Beehive is now, Jackson said, will allow Print Mania to expand and create jobs since there will be more space for employees and equipment.

He provided no comment Thursday as to whether or not the expansion would include creating new products. "I couldn't say at this time."

The EDCCC held a special meeting in February to grant money to Print

Mania and the Amity-based K&P Cabinet Door and Millwork for each manufacturing company to expand. K&P was awarded a \$30,000 grant to provide 10 full-time positions, and was presented with the check in March.

There was some discussion then about making sure granting Print Mania would be legal. The EDCCC, which then only had five voting board members, was questioned by former State Rep. Tommy Roebuck, who served as an

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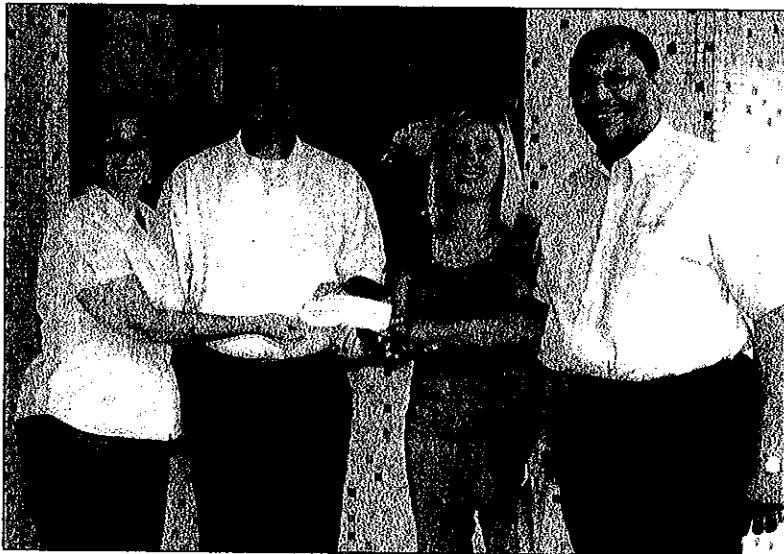
advisory board member. He said the board should make sure granting the money complies with the state Constitution. "There are a lot of people looking at us closely. We need to make sure both companies qualify for the grants."

Print Mania met legal requirements to receive the grant money under its

NAICS manufacturing code, according to Carrier.

"The EDCCC is excited for the opportunity to serve downtown Arkadelphia and help an existing manufacturer expand and create jobs in Clark County," Carrier said. "We look forward to more opportunities and we will continue to serve the county."

Euodias Goza, chair of the EDCCC, said, "I'm excited to have an experienced person like Lonnie Jackson in this effort, and I'm excited about this grant to enhance our effort to work with existing industries, and let them know we're excited that we're introducing this ... to help them in the future with planning and growth."



The Economic Development Corp. of Clark County gave Print Mania a \$20,000 grant Thursday for industry expansion. Pictured, from left, is Regina Jackson and Lonnie Jackson, owners of Print Mania, Shawnie Carrier, executive director of the EDCCC, and Euodias Goza, chair of the EDCCC.

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