



For Immediate Release

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Round Barn to Rehab Historic Niles Church

NILES, Mich.— Round Barn, a Michigan beer, wine, and spirits producer, received Niles City Council approval on Monday for a tax abatement to rehabilitate the historic Grace United Methodist Church into a restaurant and a tasting room for Round Barn beverages. It will be Round Barn's third location, the first in the Niles city limits.

The approved abatement will freeze the current taxable value of the property for the duration of 10 years, as it is estimated to cost over \$1.3 million to rehabilitate and adapt the church to meet state restaurant and tasting room laws. Cornerstone Alliance provided guidance through the abatement process and was on-site during the commission meeting to answer questions.

"We are delighted Round Barn is growing in Niles," said Ryan Millin, Niles Community Development Manager. "This investment in the city is a wonderful addition supporting our economic development efforts. It is expected to add 15 permanent jobs when the restaurant/tasting room is complete, in addition to the jobs of those accomplishing the renovation construction."

The abatement freezes the taxable value of the building and exempts the new investment from local taxes. The school operating tax and the State Education Tax (SET) are still levied on the new investment. Once the terms of the abatement are completed, the property will be reassessed, providing an increased tax value to the city.

Matthew Moersch, owner of Round Barn Winery, said, "Niles is a great location to expand our operations and directly serve more people who enjoy our beverages. It's a significant growth milestone for us. Cornerstone Alliance efforts were significant in facilitating the application process with The City of Niles and providing strategic guidance to support this expansion project."

"Niles City Councilmembers understand the value of encouraging business investments within the city, and how to make the process as smooth as possible," said Zach Vaughn, Cornerstone Alliance Director of Community Improvement. "Round Barn found a great location here in Niles and the City worked closely with us to develop a path toward project achievability. These collaborative efforts continue to prove Berrien County is a great place to grow business."



For more information about Round Barn, visit www.roundbarn.com. To learn more about Cornerstone Alliance and its economic development efforts in Southwest Michigan, visit www.cstonealliance.org.

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About Cornerstone Alliance

Cornerstone Alliance is a non-profit, investor-governed economic development organization focused on employment opportunities, private sector capital investments, and expanding the local tax base in Michigan's Great Southwest. We are your access to specialized business support, particularly in economically underperforming areas.

Editor's Note: The Round Barn and Cornerstone Alliance logos are included for your use.

