

# Vantage Center Meadville



Pennsylvania is known as the birthplace of many household items, such as bifocals, the stove, and the typewriter; even paper towels were invented in the state. Pennsylvania is also where the zipper was first invented by Talon Inc., the world's original zipper company, after it moved its headquarters to Meadville, Crawford County, in 1932. Nestled in the northwest corner of the state, the Talon Inc. facility produced their zippers for 60 years before the company closed its doors in 1994.

The property was later donated to the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Meadville. Before it could be developed, however, the city had to address the contamination left behind by the manufacturing processes, including painting, degreasing, pickling, and plating.

The former Talon site is located within an Enterprise Zone, a designation which affords it such benefits as state tax relief, abatement of real estate tax, and rebate programs. Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection worked with the redevelopment authority to facilitate cleanup of the brownfield property under the "special industrial area" provisions of Pennsylvania's Act 2 Land Recycling Program, ensuring that the site is safe for residential uses.

The redevelopment authority also received state funding for demolition of some of the structures on the property, clearing the way for its development.

Meanwhile, Vantage® Healthcare Network, a major employer in the region, was looking to expand and relocate its headquarters. The company is an innovative "virtual" network of a pharmacy, a medical school, a dental school, and several hospitals that work together to share the costs of new services and technology.

Vantage® serves Pennsylvania along with 11 other states and employs more than 350 people. Despite less environmentally challenging opportunities for expansion in New York and Ohio, Vantage® decided to keep its headquarters in Meadville and purchased the 66,000-square-foot former Talon Plant #7 building and 11 acres of land from the Redevelopment Authority.

Today, the site that sits at the gateway to the city, once little more than an eyesore to the community, is now home to the Vantage® Center. Hundreds of employees work in this clean, modern facility and help to fuel the resurgence of this small town and restore its quality of life.



Before



After

