

# Vantage® Center, Meadville



**P**ennsylvania is known for its many inventions of household items like bifocals, the stove, the typewriter—even paper towels. In 1932, Talon Inc., the world's original zipper company, moved its headquarters to Meadville, Crawford County, in the northwest corner of the state. It was here that the zipper was invented and produced for more than 60 years until the company closed its doors in 1994.

The property was later donated to the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Meadville. However, before it could be developed, contamination left behind from manufacturing processes such as painting, degreasing, pickling and plating had to be addressed.

The former Talon site is located within an Enterprise Zone. 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, assuring the site is safe for residential uses. The redevelopment authority 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, medical school, dental school and several hospitals that work together to share costs of new services and technology. Vantage® serves Pennsylvania as well as 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 in 2008, the company purchased and closed on the 66,000-square-foot former Talon Plant #7 building along with 11 acres from the redevelopment authority.

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



**"Vantage® was founded in 1985 right here in Meadville, Pa. It felt right to keep our headquarters here, and this location has proved to be a perfect fit for our organization."**

Gerald P. Alonge, CEO  
Vantage® Healthcare Network

