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Merry Marketplace retail expo to showcase Pensacola businesses

General public is invited to invest in Pensacola and shop local

PENSACOLA, Fla. – Nov. 29, 2016 – The Greater Pensacola Chamber is kicking off the holiday shopping season with its inaugural Merry Marketplace retail expo on Thursday, Dec. 8 from 1 to 7 p.m. at the Pensacola Grand Hotel, 200 E. Gregory St. The event will showcase merchandise provided by local boutiques, shops and stores.

The public is invited to shop for unique and personalized gifts offered by a variety of vendors. Attendees will have the opportunity to bid on holly wreaths in a silent auction, take selfies with Santa and socialize at the Jingle and Mingle after hours with the Leadership Pensacola Class of 2017.

“Merry Marketplace was designed to promote local businesses and the value of shopping small this holiday season,” said Clay Ingram, President and CEO of the Greater Pensacola Chamber. “When we shop small, we invest in our community’s future and make a huge impact on our local economy.”

The Chamber is collaborating with two local nonprofit organizations – Manna Food Pantries and United Way of Escambia County. Admission to the event is free with the donation of one non-perishable food item to benefit Manna Food Pantries. Each vendor is decorating a wreath to display in the lobby at the event. Wreaths will be judged and awarded, and then placed in a silent auction. All silent auction proceeds from the holly wreath contest benefit United Way of Escambia County.

“It is important to remember those less fortunate, especially our friends and neighbors, during the holidays,” added Ingram. “We are proud to partner with Manna Food Pantries and United Way of Escambia County to collect non-perishable food items and raise funds that will be distributed back into our community.”

What: Merry Marketplace retail expo

When: Thursday, Dec. 8, from 1 to 7 p.m.

Where: Pensacola Grand Hotel, 200 E. Gregory St.

Admission: Free with the donation of a non-perishable good to benefit Manna Food Pantries

For more information, visit PensacolaChamber.com/Events/Merry-Marketplace or the [Facebook event page](#). To become a sponsor or vendor, contact Caitlin Okrzesik at (850) 438-4081 or cokrzesik@pensacolachamber.com.

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About the Greater Pensacola Chamber

Founded in 1889, the Greater Pensacola Chamber is driven to create a climate of growth and success, to ensure economic prosperity and to enhance the quality of life in Greater Pensacola. The Pensacola Chamber Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, oversees Leadership Pensacola and completed Vision 2015, a five-year plan for job creation that brought more than 8,000 jobs to the area within three years. These initiatives take a strategic approach to regional growth and community building with the goal of building a healthier, better-educated workforce;

continuing to advance the region's economic positioning; and improving community infrastructure. For additional information, please visit pensacolachamber.com, facebook.com/pensacolachamber, linkedin.com/company/greaterpensacolachamber or follow [@pcolachamber](https://twitter.com/pcolachamber).