

Jindal: People, not numbers, tell story



Mark Rainwater

Sara Reese stood with Gov. Bobby Jindal during his address at the ribbon cutting ceremony for DG Foods.

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DG Foods will employ over 300 people and be responsible for another 900 indirect jobs. The company has invested almost \$10 million in an 88,000-square foot facility that will ultimately process over 250 million pounds of chicken annually.

But Gov. Bobby Jindal said the success stories of DG Foods' location in Bastrop comes from its employees. Speaking at a ribbon cutting held at the plant Thursday afternoon, Jindal singled out Sara Reese, an International Paper employee who was without work for two years after the company closed its Louisiana Mill.

"Do you know how tough it would be to get up every day when you're struggling to pay your bills and looking for work?" Jindal said. "She told us she truly thanks God for DG Foods. She said that DG Foods has given many who were unemployed in this area a chance to work again. Her words about DG Foods kind of capture the reason we're all here today: Bastrop needed DG Foods."

Duffy McKenzie, president of the Hazelhurst, Miss.-based company, thanked Jindal and the staff of Louisiana Economic Development for putting together a multi-layered incentive package that helped seal the deal for the company's selection of Bastrop as the site where it would expand.

"We are excited to be here in Louisiana, specifically in Bastrop," McKenzie said. "We look forward to a long, profitable relationship."

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