

January 2013

The Chamber @WORK

Doing what most people think just happens!

306 N. Main, McPherson, Kansas 67460 • Phone: 620-241-3303 • www.mcphersonchamber.org • Visit us on Facebook

The staff and board of the McPherson Chamber of Commerce wish the McPherson area a Merry Christmas and a very happy, successful and prosperous 2013!

Welcome to the Chamber!

Sides Investments
P.O. Box 406
McPherson, KS 67460
Contacts: Clinton & Kim Sides
Phone: 620-242-4835

As real estate investors and property managers, Clinton & Kim Sides have been active in the McPherson community for 30 years. They have commercial and residential real property in a wide variety of sizes and price ranges.

ChamberChecks are the Perfect Gift!

Available for the general public for purchase at the McPherson Chamber of Commerce, the ChamberChecks are a convenient gift for anyone. Chamber member participants are: A5 Western, Robert J. Arnold, O.D., Artshirt-Gear for Sport, Associates in Family Care, Brooklyn & Co., Brown's Shoe Fit, Bruno's Wood-fired Pizzeria, Burgett's Furniture Inc., Clayworks at Disability Supports, Ken Cotton, DDS, CT FIT 24, Farmers Insurance Group (Mike Bowyer), Elyria Christian School, Five Star Cellular, Graber's Ace Hardware, Hopp's Sound & Electric, Integrated Health & Wellness Center, LLC, Jantz Lumber and Hardware, Inc., Jessica Griffith, Certified Massage Therapist, Jim's Appliances of Imman, Knackies Meats & Sweets, Krehbiels Specialty Meats, Little Caesars-McPherson, McPherson Dental Care, McPherson Business Solutions, McPherson Eye Care (Drs. Goering & Hageman), McPherson Family YMCA, McPherson Hospital Gift Shop, MMac Printer, Mower Medic, Inc., Mutual Tele Communications, M & W Commercial Cleaning, Pizza Hut - McPherson, PrairieStar Health Center, Esther V. Rettig M.D., P.A., Save 'N Share, Sears of McPherson, Sound of the Heartland Chorus, Sounds Great, STEPMC, Stull Gallery & Auction, Take Shape for Life, The Village Geek, The Well, The Cocks Nook, Time Out Sports Bar & Grill, TTI Electrical Services, Tod Emerson (Action Realty), Tres Amigos, Venable Jewelers, Walgreens-McPherson, Wallace Chevrolet, Wal-Mart-McPherson, Wichita Mid Continent Airport.

ChamberCheck orders will need to be picked up by 12:00 on December 24.

Leadership McPherson Alumni Lunch & Learn

The January Lunch & Learn will be located at the McPherson Law Enforcement Center, 1177 W. Woodside on Wednesday, January 16, 2013 beginning at 11:30 a.m. The program will be the Emergency Management Agency with Dillard Webster, Director. We will then tour the Women's pod of the Law Enforcement Center. Lunch will be catered in and the cost is \$12. Leadership Alumni, please call in your reservation to the McPherson Chamber of Commerce at 241-3303 by Tuesday, January 14, 2013.

2012 Leadership McPherson Class Announce Project

To develop care packs for McPherson County youth who are removed from their homes in emergency situations is the mission of the 2012 Leadership McPherson Class. Members of this year's class presented their class project, Mac Care Packs, to the McPherson Chamber of Commerce Board of Trustees, Chamber members and guests at the class' Celebration Lunch held Tuesday, November 13 at the Best Western Holiday Manor Convention Center. The lunch marked the completion of the class' leadership curriculum offered by the McPherson Chamber of Commerce that began this past summer.

Each year the Leadership McPherson class is tasked with forming a project that will ultimately benefit the youth of McPherson County. Through community research and county contacts, the 10 members of the 2012 Leadership McPherson Class learned that approximately 60 children (across multiple demographics and for varying reasons) in McPherson County are removed from their homes because of emergency situations each year. These children are then processed by local officials and either sent with extended family members or to emergency foster care out of area.

The processing of the children can mean hours of uncertainty, often with nothing for them to do except dwell on the situation. These children most likely are hungry, bored, lonely and scared. As a result of these findings, the class developed the concept of Mac Care Packs.

"It is our vision to provide comfort to these children in the hours of uncertainty between the emergency and foster care by giving them a back pack with basic comfort items included," said Scott Barkley, member of the 2012 Leadership McPherson Class and NCRA employee. Other class members demonstrated to attendees at the November luncheon that the packs will contain age appropriate items such as a journal, a coloring book with crayons, a bottle of water, a snack, a puzzle or hands-on game and a stuffed animal. Members of the 2012 Leadership Class are now accepting donations for these care packs. The group has begun an effort to establish a long-term fund with the McPherson County Community Foundation. Checks, corporate matches or other gifts can be made payable to the Foundation at 206 S. Main, McPherson, in care of Mac Care Packs. In the near future, the class will organize item donation drives throughout the community in hopes of filling packs for January distribution.

"We are so incredibly fortunate to live in a place that will embrace and support a program like Mac Care Packs," said Ben Wil-

son, a 2012 leadership class member and employee of Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, Chtd. "From the moment we started down the path that led us to creating Mac Care Packs, we have received nothing but positive feedback and encouragement from the community. Our leadership class is excited about the opportunity to provide yet another avenue for the generous residents of McPherson County to provide comfort and care to youth in need," Wilson said. Please feel free to contact the 2012 Leadership McPherson Class with questions about Mac Care Packs or the experience of Leadership McPherson in general. Those class members are Scott Barkley, NCRA; Ayda Dossat, Home State Bank & Trust; Sandy Ide, Sunflower Bank; Nathan Miller, City of McPherson Parks Department; Sara Nason, McPherson Chamber of Commerce; Dr. Jack Stanfield, Integrated Health & Wellness Center; Jacob Strecker, The Cedars; Frances Stucky, K-State Research & Extension; Ben Wilson, Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, Chtd.; and Nancy Young, McPherson College. The McPherson Chamber of Commerce will offer enrollment for the 2013 Leadership McPherson Class in the new year. To learn more about Leadership McPherson, stop by the Chamber office at 306 N. Main, call 620-241-3303 or visit www.mcphersonchamber.org. Many photos of this year's class sessions are posted on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mcphersonchamberofcommerce.

From the McPherson Chamber of Commerce



Jennifer Burch
Executive Director

Brad Eitls, McPherson Industrial Development Corporation and myself attended the Industry Credential Tour at Excide Corporation in Salina

hosted by the Salina Chamber of Commerce. Representatives from the Kansas Department of Commerce spoke about the value of 3rd party industry credentials to business and industry in Central Kansas.

How do industry credentials help you as an employer?

- Provides a standardized metric for validating the skills and competencies needed to be productive and successful in entry-level positions in your work environment
- Leans your Human Resources methods, reduces guess work in the hiring process and minimizes risk
- Uses national industry standards developed by business for business and gives you a strong voice in ensuring the education system is focused on the needs of the employer
- Improves your hiring processes to result in a qualified, technical workforce that drives productivity improvement and company performance
- Allow businesses to be very clear on what skills you require for entry employment. You and your company can impact the quality of our current future workforce by asking for industry credentials

2013 Farm Forum

Plant the Seeds of Succession

You are invited to the 2013 Farm Forum "Plant the Seeds of Succession" sponsored by the McPherson Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture Committee on Wednesday, **January 23, 2013 - 6:30 a.m.** at Perkins Restaurant. Jonie James is the Agriculture Agent for the McPherson County Extension Office as well as the new Chair for the Farm Forum planning committee.

ing the skills and competencies needed to be productive and successful in entry-level positions in your work environment

• Leans your Human Resources methods, reduces guess work in the hiring process and minimizes risk

- Uses national industry standards developed by business for business and gives you a strong voice in ensuring the education system is focused on the needs of the employer
- Improves your hiring processes to result in a qualified, technical workforce that drives productivity improvement and company performance
- Allow businesses to be very clear on what skills you require for entry employment. You and your company can impact the quality of our current future workforce by asking for industry credentials

In addition to the industry credentials, the Kansas WORKReady! Certificate is a nationally recognized certificate that measures skills in

In years past the Farm Forum has been a platform for bringing the business and agriculture sectors together for a presentation that is of interest and benefit to both. This year will be no different. We have scheduled Lance Woodbury, a consultant and author, who will be speaking on estate planning and farm succession planning. In addition to the valuable information that Lance will be presenting, we will also be recognizing Todd and Janell Harmen as Farm Family of the Year and Friend of Agriculture award given to Norlan Ferguson.

Assistance is needed in underwriting the cost of the breakfast as well as other ex-

three area: reading, location information and mathematics and certifies individuals as Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze.

How the Kansas WORKReady! Certificate helps you as an employer?

- Provides you the confidence of knowing the applicants specific strengths
- Shows you the proof of the candidates skills
- Time saving in screening employees

"We have partnered with KANSASWORKS to help us recruit for several positions. The Kansas WORKReady! Certificate has really helped us evaluate the skills of the applicants and identify the very best candidates from the applicant pool." —John-Marville, HR Manager (McPherson).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 241-3303. Brad at MIDC - 245-2521 or Kasi Morales - Go McPherson at 245-2514.

penses associated in the planning and presentation of this event. We are asking for sponsors to assist in underwriting a portion of the breakfast to keep the cost to those attending to \$5.00 per person. As a sponsor you/your business will be listed on the "Plant the Seeds of Succession" program that will be distributed to those attending.

Reservations and sponsorships need to be received by Thursday, January 17, 2013, by calling the Chamber office at 241-3303 or emailing at chamber@mcphersonks.org. Thank you for your support and hope you will be able to join us on January 23, 2013.

From Our Family ... To Yours

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2012 - 2013 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

President- Dell Reese • President Elect – Dr. Brandon Trost

Treasurer – Jaymie Rothrock • Past President – Greg McCullough

Directors: Chad Clark, Scott Johnson, Gena Strathman, Richard Ragan, Anna Ruxlow, Troy Short, Corey Hoover, Ted Olde

Mission: to work as an organization of individuals, businesses and professionals to enhance the economic, civic and cultural interests of the McPherson area.

chamber events Dec. 2012/Jan. 2013

December	
20	9:30 a.m. Chamber Weekly Coffee at McPherson Senior Center, 112 E. Euclid
24	12:00 Christmas Eve - Chamber office to close
25	Merry Christmas 9:30 a.m. Chamber Weekly Coffee & Ribbon Cutting for Assured Occupational Solutions - new location! 400 W. 4th, Suite 5 (use west side entrance)
31	12:00 New Years Eve - Chamber office to close
January	
1	New Years Day - Office closed
2	12:00 Leadership Board of Trustee @ Chamber
3	9:30 a.m. Chamber Weekly Coffee at Brooklyn & Co. - 213 N. Main
9	7:30 a.m. "What You Should Know About Health Care Reform" @ The Well.
10	9:30 a.m. Chamber Weekly Coffee at Chamber, hosted by Take Shape for Life
15	7:00 a.m. Agriculture Committee @ Perkins
12:00	Community Development @ Chamber
16	11:30 a.m. Leadership McPherson @ Chamber
	Alumni - Lunch & Learn at the McPherson Law Enforcement Center - Program: Emergency Preparedness Program 4:00 p.m. Women's Event Committee @ Chamber
	9:30 a.m. Chamber Weekly Coffee @ Sterling House, 1460 N. Main
23	6:30 a.m. Farm Forum @ Perkins Restaurant
	12:00 noon SAMI @ Chamber
	9:30 a.m. Chamber Weekly Coffee @ Perkins Restaurant, 211 E. Kansas
	11:30 a.m. Chamber Board @ Chamber

Christmas in McPherson Schedule

Wednesday, December 19 - 6, 7 and 8:00 p.m. Holiday Trolley Light tours, advanced tickets available @ The CVB, 306 N. Main

Thursday, December 20 - 6:00-7:30 p.m. Cookies and photos with Santa at Creative Hairlines Spa & Salon, 207 S. Main

Saturday, December 22 9:00-10:30 a.m. Cookies and photos with Santa at Clayworks at Disability Supports, 107 N. Main
6, 7 and 8:00 p.m. Holiday Light Trolley tours, advanced tickets available @ The CVB, 306 N. Main
Strolling Carolers from Elyna Christian School

We're Gonna Make You An Offer You

Can't Refuse

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce and Hutchinson Community College have joined together in offering classes that can help you, your employees and your business. With an offer like that, it would be a crime not to invest in your "associates" and "the business."

Beginner Excel

Excel is an electronic spreadsheet program whose options for manipulating numbers have made it the most popular spreadsheet program.

Thursday's - 3:00 to 5:00
\$28 Chamber members/\$38 non members per session
January 17 - Getting Started
January 24 - Formatting a Worksheet
January 31 - Charts
February 7 - Formulas
February 14 - Managing Data
February 21 - Using Tables
February 28 - Finding & Filtering Data
March 7 - Extracting Data

Advanced Excel

More advanced usage of the software.

Friday's 11:00 to 1:10 (Lunch provided)
\$35 Chamber members/\$45 non members per session
March 15 - More Formulas
March 22 - More Functions
March 28 - Spring Break
April 5 - Analyzing data using Formulas
April 12 - Creating Functional Charts
April 19 - Managing Data Using Tables
May 3 - Using Goals Seek and What If Analysis
May 10 - McPherson Co. All Schools Day
May 17 - Analyzing Data with Pivot Tables and Pivot Charts

Microsoft Publisher

A desktop publishing tool that can be a great asset to any business. Design all types of office documents, labels, postcards, flyers, calendars, programs, menus, etc.

Friday's - 11:00 to 1:10 p.m. (Lunch provided)
\$35 Chamber Members/ \$45.00 for non Members per session
January 18 - Flyers & Posters
January 25 - Business Cards, Postcards, Invitations
February 1 - Brochures & Menus
February 8 - Calendars, & itineraries
February 15 - Forms: Employment Applications, Questionnaires, Subscriptions
February 22 - Newsletter
March 1 - Merged Sales Letter, Name Tags, Certificates
March 8 - Web Pages

Reservations for each of the sessions must be received by the Wednesday prior to the class day.

Contact the Chamber at 241-3303 or email chamber@mcphersonks.org to make your reservation.
Each track is eligible for (1) hour college credit by attending 7 of 8 sessions in one track.

One-on-One Business Counseling Available

The Kansas Small Business Development Center will have an Outreach Center Consultant at the McPherson Chamber of Commerce office located at 306 N. Main from 9:00 to 4:00 on the following days:

Monday's
January 14, February 11, March 11, April 15, May 13, June 10, July 15, August 12, September 16, October 21, November 18 and December 9.

The KSBDC offers FREE individualized, confidential, and comprehensive business consulting at no charge to its clients. Any existing small business or individual interested in needing counseling in areas of: marketing and sales, accounting, financial analysis and cost control, personnel, inventory control, business start-up or acquisition, business liquidation or sale, strategic planning, and many other areas. One hour long appointments are available beginning at 9:00, 10:00, 2:00, 3:00 and 4:00 and can be made by calling the McPherson Chamber of Commerce at 620/241-3303.

Where Santa Shops and Gets Candy Cane Cash!

Shop at these participating Chamber and Main Street members and get your Candy Cane Cash stamps for the \$500 drawing: A5 Western - 102 N. Main, Artshirt Gear for Sport - 211 N. Main, Brooklyn & Co. - 213 N.

Main, Brown's Shoe Fit - 118 N. Main, Clayworks at Disability Supports - 107 N. Main, Creative Hairlines Spa & Salon - 207 S. Main, CTFit24 - 119 N. Main, Guys 'N Gals - 106 N. Main, Hopp's Sound & Electric - 214 E. Euclid, Mattress Haven - 310 N. Main, MiniMacPrinter - 312 N. Main, SassyBags - 302 N. Main, The Cook's Nook - 219 N. Main, The Village Geek - 116 N. Main, The Well - 101 N. Main, Venable Jewelers - 214 N. Main, Daylight Donuts - 122 N. Main, Oh Yarn It - 221 S. Main, Stitches Quilt Shop - 102 S. Main, The Bookshelf/The Hidden Closet - 206 N. Main.

DQ Grill & Chill Winners

Every month DQ Grill & Chill, 1435 N. Main provides 1 lucky chamber member a FREE treat. This month's lucky winner is Wise & Reber. Congratulations to the staff at Wise & Reber, L.C. Enjoy your special treat! Thank you to Karen & Roger Horn for providing this opportunity for our Chamber members.



From the United Way of McPherson County

Anne Kirchner
Director

Like many across the nation I have been intrigued by the story of a New York police officer assisting a homeless person by gifting him with a pair of boots. A photo taken by a tourist quickly went viral after being posted on the internet. The photo highlighted the officer's compassion as he knelt next to the man sitting barefoot on the busy street side.

Several days later sources revealed the man was not homeless. He had access to an apartment in the Bronx that was paid for with rent vouchers, social security and military veteran benefits. Family members confirmed the man was a veteran who over the years had refused assistance

from family and service organizations.

I was astounded by the comments posted on Facebook and throughout public media. Do homeless people deliberately chose a lifestyle of emptiness? Do the homeless abuse "the system" to meet their needs? Are homeless shelters really making a difference? Are we as a society being conned by the homeless?

These are complex questions with even more complicated answers. I appreciate the discussions that have evolved related to this photo. But I am also saddened to think one incident has caused us to doubt whether or not there is a need to assist others experiencing hardship.

For me the most powerful part of this story is the police officer's willingness to act upon impulse. He sensed there was a need, and he responded with the spirit of compassion. Whether in New York City or McPherson County, random acts of kindness bring hope for a better world. What better lesson can we learn?



From McPherson Convention & Visitors Bureau

Anne Hassler
CVB Director

Group tours are an area of tourism that we are continually trying to develop at the Convention and Visitors Bureau. Many tours are put together by banks as a perk for their customers. Some are put together by agencies or communities that cater to seniors. One of my favorite groups to work with is Jim and Cindy's Tours out of Wichita. McPherson is a frequent stop on mystery tours Jim and Cindy put together. Mystery tours often include towns like McPherson that are an unexpected surprise for those who sign up. I guess if they labeled the tour McPherson Tour, not many would come, which is too bad because there are plenty of fun things for groups to do here. Jim says he likes to come to Mac "because you ladies are always so helpful" but since he's brought groups to see the Opera

House, the auto restoration program, the historical tour, the kitchen gadget demo at Cook's Nook and a tour of the community building, he questioned whether he should keep including us. Challenge accepted Jim.

I arranged for local musician Steve Jirak, who is a guitar instructor at Bethany College, to play for the group at The Well followed by a tour of The Clayworks and One Door North. They loved it and Jim said it was the best entertainment they'd had in over 400 mystery tours. (Big thanks go out to Steve, the staff at The Well and Amber Potter at Clayworks.)

While the group was here they did some shopping and went away with a favorable impression of McPherson, one that they will hopefully share with others. The CVB is here to help plan your next group getaway, convention or reunion. We can pull together information, line up entertainment, give welcome bags, print name tags and help with registration. Why not get your organization to hold its next meeting in McPherson and show off your hometown? We are less than 4 hours from any town in Kansas, have incredibly affordable hotel rooms and convention facilities and a town like no other. Contact Cindy Kinnaman or me at (620) 241-3340.

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