

# The Chamber Business Journal

November 2021

*Community ~ Growth ~ Leadership ~ Vision*

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## Congratulations and Welcome New Members

**Trinity Home Health & Hospice, LLC**  
104 E. Iron Avenue, Salina, KS 67401  
Phone: 785-268-3900  
Website: [www.trinityunitedllc.com](http://www.trinityunitedllc.com)  
Facebook: [trinityhospice](https://www.facebook.com/trinityhospice)

**Trinity Home Health & Hospice, LLC** is a locally owned and operated, faith-based provider, serving surrounding areas, which exceed Medicare standards by seeking accreditation through Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC). They strive for excellence by having highly attentive hands-on care. **Trinity Home Health & Hospice** is committed to being present before, during, and after the need for hospice care providing nurses, therapists, social services, and chaplain available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**Safehope**  
122 W. Marlin, Suite 208, McPherson, KS  
Phone: 316-803-1800  
Contact: **Kimberly Ratzlaff**  
Website: [safehope.net](http://safehope.net)  
Facebook: [Safehope](https://www.facebook.com/safehope)

**Safehope** based in Newton, KS, provides advocacy and support to all survivors, and secondary victims of domestic and sexual violence in Harvey, Marion, and McPherson counties. They create a safe environment for survivors to understand the resources and options available to them and get supported as they begin to heal from the trauma. **Safehope's** services are available 24-hours a day, seven days a week. They serve those who are survivors/victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and stalking at no charge. Services meet the needs not only for victims seeking emergency shelter but also for outreach victims and their families in **Safehope's** rural service area for crucial outreach services.

**Sheets - Adams Realtors**  
1605 N. Main St., McPherson  
Sausa Friesen  
Cell: 620-921-5792

**Facebook: Sausa Friesen, Sheets-Adams Realtors**  
Sausa is an "Okie" by birth but has spent most of her life in Kansas. She attended Kansas State University during the great Bill Snyder years, where she studied Marketing and International Business. She moved to Inman in 2003, where she has been very involved in Inman and the surrounding communities over the past 18 years. Sausa and her husband Greg own a Custom Forage Harvesting business, along with being co-owners of 365 Sports Complex in Inman. Business is a huge part of Sausa's everyday life, but her favorite activities involve those that include her husband and their two teenage children. Sausa's business knowledge, along with her passion to help others, is a dynamic combination when it comes to helping you buy or sell your home

**Kayla Phillips**  
Cell: 620-245-6379  
Facebook: [Kayla Phillips with Sheet-Adams, Realtors](https://www.facebook.com/KaylaPhillipsRealtor)

Kayla Phillips has been an agent since 2017. She is a member of the National Association of Realtors, Kansas Board of Realtors, and Prairie Land Realtors.

Kayla grew up in Inman, Kansas. After graduation, she moved to Manhattan and attended Kansas State University, and obtained her bachelor's in business management with a minor in marketing. Kayla married Wade from Lewis, Kansas in 2015 and they reside in Hutchinson. Kayla has always taken a great interest in real estate. Please call Kayla for all your real estate needs

**Stoney Strange**  
Cell: 620-241-6340  
Facebook: [Stoney Strange Sheets-Adams Realtors](https://www.facebook.com/StoneyStrangeRealtor)

Stoney Strange has been an agent with Sheets-Adams for three years. In those three years, he has enjoyed the whole process of helping clients in the buying and selling process. Stoney enjoys meeting new people and learning where their journey in life is taking them. He has been married to his wife, Tamara, for 26 years. They have lived in Inman for 27 years, where they raised three wonderful sons. Stoney is also employed at CHS Refinery and was a number 1 operator at the OIP for 28 years, until recently when he took a different job at the Conway pipeline and terminal center, where he will finish his career.

**Tam Strange**  
Cell: 620-242-6646  
Facebook: [Tamara Strange Sheets-Adams Realtors](https://www.facebook.com/TamaraStrangeRealtor)

Business owner turned stay-at-home Mom, turned empty nester, turned Real Estate agent! Tam has lived in rural Inman for 27 years. She has been married to Stoney for 26 years and has raised three boys. She is a former Inman Booster Club VP and Treasurer. Tam is a member of the Inman Lions Club and the American Legion of McPherson. It seems like she is always volunteering for something! Tam loves fishing and the outdoors and says, "There is nothing better than a campfire with friends!!"

**Julie Johnson Studio & Event Center**  
110 S. Main St.  
Phone: 785-227-5593  
Contact: **Julie Johnson**  
Website: [juliejohnsonphotographyks.com](http://juliejohnsonphotographyks.com)

**Facebook: Julie Johnson Photography - Your Family as Art**

In September 2021, local photographer Julie Johnson fulfilled a dream by opening the doors to the **Julie Johnson Studio & Event Center** at 110 S. Main Street. Once she saw the large, industrial space, she knew she had found the studio space to house her thriving photography business, which includes Julie Johnson Photography and Julie Johnson Boudoir. **Julie Johnson Photography** specializes in newborns and families, creating artistic and emotive images for families to treasure. To Julie, the most important aspect of family photography is to accurately portray who someone is. She loves capturing kid's personalities on camera. Julie continues to educate herself by seeking out experts in her field, taking classes and participating in specialized workshops. She emphasizes the need for training in newborn safety when handling parent's most precious gift. Julie believes investing money, time and practice has allowed her to take her natural talent to "the next level."

**Julie Johnson Boudoir** gives women the luxury boudoir experience and end product to help them discover the beauty already within. Julie Johnson Boudoir is dedicated to making women feel beautiful, confident, strong, and proud to be female. Julie Johnson Boudoir offers a unique boudoir portrait experience to women of all shapes and sizes that is customizable to their needs.

In addition to the studio space, **Julie Johnson Studio & Event Center** is an upscale and trendy event venue that requires little to no effort by the hostess. The space is ideal for small, intimate gatherings such as baby showers, bridal showers, and parties. Julie has designed the studio to showcase the structure, lighting, and space, resulting in a chic, unique venue with an eclectic vibe. With a flexible, open floorplan, the layout can be configured in a variety of ways to make the event one to remember!

## Leadership and Lifelong Friendships

The Leadership McPherson Class of 2021 graduated on November 3rd with a celebration luncheon at the McPherson Opera House. All eleven class members, their families and co-workers, Leadership McPherson alumni and the Leadership Advisory Committee all attended to show their support, and to hear what the Leadership McPherson Class of 2021 has planned for their class project.

Leadership McPherson has been a professional development program of the McPherson Chamber since 1982 and is one of the oldest leadership programs in the state of Kansas. With over 400 Leadership McPherson Alumni, the impact that they have made individually and collective in our community and beyond is incredible!

The Leadership Advisory Committee, made up of alumni, is passionate about facilitating Leadership McPherson each year to develop effective leadership, open minds to perspectives that surround issues facing our community, give participants the skills to move organizations and businesses forward, and enable participants to become more visionary leaders. But what I consider the BONUS of taking Leadership McPherson is the lifelong friendships that are formed. The Leadership McPherson curriculum involves being willing to be vulnerable and working outside of our comfort zones, and ultimately building trust.

I enthusiastically tell everyone about my AMAZING 2009 Leadership Class, the priceless experience, and the special friendships that many of us still share 12 years later. Sadly, my classmate Reed Hardgrave passed away recently. Reed was the ornery one of the bunch and had such a positive attitude that you couldn't help but smile whenever he was around. After our class graduation, Reed continued to give of his time and talents though his involvement in the Leadership Advisory Committee. To steal a sentiment from his co-worker "Reed challenged everyone to do better!!"

So, although the Leadership McPherson class is focused on developing effective leaders, to me, it has always been about the opportunity to cultivate lifelong friendships, and I truly hope that the 2021 class has experienced this too.

I always tell everyone that I had such an incredible experience and would love to take the Leadership McPherson Class EVERY year, and in a way I get too. Helping to facilitate the classes and getting to be a part of their journey is a blessing.

As part of the curriculum, the class is tasked with planning and implementing a class project to put their leadership skills into action, and to benefit the youth of McPherson. This year's class had several great ideas and found that the hardest part is narrowing down the focus. I encouraged them to go gather information on what is already being offered for youth and where they feel the gaps are. They worked as a team and after discussing many areas that could make an impact in the community, the class determined that mental health was the concern they wanted to pursue. Details about the 2021 Leadership McPherson Class project and the progress they have made will be published soon.

Congratulations to the Leadership McPherson Class of 2021. May your leadership journey continue to be meaningful and impactful, and may you always remember the KLC principles "Leadership is an activity, not a position. Anyone can lead anytime, anywhere. It starts with YOU!"

- Abigail Morgan- McPherson College
- Aly Weyand- Emprise Bank
- Dan Bumgarner- Multi Community Diversified Services
- Erica Rivera- The Cedars
- Jason Cummins- McPherson Police Department
- Hannah Howard- Adams Brown
- Kaila Bell- Ferguson Production
- Karolyn Moore- McPherson Housing Coalition
- Kristen Montgomery- McPherson Center for Health
- Tammy Welch- The Cedars
- Tifanie Becker- Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk & Loyd

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**Troy Glidden - Director**

# 2020 - 2021 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Craig Druecker-Midway Motors Supercenter, Lenny Favara-Central Christian College of Kansas, Tiffani Floyd-Four Seasons Realtors/ Culvers Wines and Spirits, Becky Goss- McPherson County Community Foundation, Matt Grieb-CHS McPherson Refinery Inc., Ryan Hicks- Farmers Alliance Mutual Insurance, Lauren Hughes-Wise & Reber L.C., Kendra Oakes-Peoples Bank and Trust, Jeff Reitz- JAR Performance Automotive, Courtney Rierson-Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk and Loyd, Patricik Romm- Integrated Health & Wellness Center, Eric Wicker-Viega LLC.

## McPherson “Where Santa Shops!” 2021 Holiday Promotion Events



The McPherson Chamber of Commerce and McPherson Main Street partner to bring you a delightful holiday experience in McPherson. Spend time visiting the welcoming McPherson stores in search of the ideal gifts or enjoy the family friendly events we have planned.

**The 2021 Open House Weekend** was a success with stores decorated for the holidays. Shoppers were offered tasty treats and special promotions from the participating stores, the first weekend in November. Don’t fret, there are plenty more days left to check off your shopping lists and support local businesses large and small.

**The Snowball Drop** on November 4th kicked off the holidays. Santa and helpers tossed numbered snowballs to the crowd at the Community Building. Adults then exchanged their lucky “snowballs” for shopping-related prizes like coupons and gift cards to encourage shopping locally. Santa was present to greet the kiddos. Check out photos from the 2021 Snowball drop on the McPherson Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.

**Girls Night Out** in McPherson is **Thursday, November 18**. Shop from 4-8pm for special deals and get double Candy Cane Cash points. Various stores that will be featuring special food, prizes, and sales just for you! There will be wish lists to fill out and fun for all. Girls Night Out will conclude with a social at Ristorante Italiano, 204 N. Main, from 8-9pm. A fun way to finish out the evening with refreshments, games, LOTS of prizes as we play “What’s in YOUR bag!” We have gift cards, jewelry, gift baskets and more to give away! Cash bar and menu will be available for order as well.

Specials from participating stores are listed on the Girls Night Out Facebook event page. Participating stores: *A5 Western, Brooklyn & Co. The Cook’s Nook, Artshirt Gear for Sport, Graber’s Ace Hardware-McPherson, Sunflower Mercantile, Venable Jewelers, Integrity Salon & Spa, The Clayworks at Disability Supports, Easy, Greenthumb Wholesale, Hidden Closet Bookshelf, Creative Hairlines Salon & Spa, Kansas Hempire- McPherson, La Belle, Twice Told Tales, Pip’s Dice & Games, Julie Johnson Photography and Event Center, Nex-Tech Wireless, CT Fit 24 Tanning, 24/7 Travel Store- McPherson.*

We appreciate the generous donations for Girls Night Out prizes from these sponsors: *Sunflower Mercantile, Venable Jewelers, Rinse & Roll, Artshirt, Greenthumb Wholesale, Creative Hairlines, Kansas Hempire, Twice Told Tales, Pip’s Dice & Games, McPherson Community Theatre, Nex-tech Wireless, Stitches Quilt Shop, CT Fit Tanning, 24/7 Travel, Scooters’, The Cook’s Nook, Hidden Closet Bookshelf, Krehbiels Specialty Meats, The Stone Chimney, Shoe Sensations, Brooklyn & Co, Integrity Salon.*

**Cookies with Santa** – Several opportunities to visit with Santa and capture memorable pictures.

- Thursday, December 2nd (5-6:30) @ Stupka Chiropractic, 114W Euclid.
- Thursday, December 9th (5-6:30) @ Emprise Bank, 201 E. Kansas Ave.
- Saturday, December 11th (9:30-11:00) @ Craft Coffee Parlor, 120 N. Main
- Saturday, December 11th (2-3:30) @ McPherson Classical Coaching, 206 N. Main
- Thursday, December 16th (5-6:30) @ Sunflower Mercantile, 106 N. Main
- Saturday, December 18th (9:30-11:00) @ Greenthumb Wholesale, 400 N. Maple
- Saturday, December 18th (2-3:30) @ Wendy’s, 610 N. Main
- Thursday, December 23rd (5-6:30) @ Clayworks, 107 N. Main

**Free Movies:** All movies are shown at the McPherson Opera House, 219 S. Main, and are free to the public.

- Sunday, December 5th “Sing” will be shown at 3:00 pm.
- Saturday, December 18th “Abominable” will be shown at 7:00 pm.
- Thursday, December 23rd “Dolittle” will be shown at 7:00 pm.

Movies are sponsored by these members: Artshirt-Gear for Sport, Clayworks, Creative Hairlines, Ellene McKean & Associates- *Linda Owens, Elliott Insurance Agency, Fox Chiropractic, Glidden-Ediger Funeral Home, Inc., Greenthumb Wholesale, H&R Block, Hutton, Kansas Hempire, Ken D. Cotton, D.D.S., KNGL/ KBBE Radio, McPherson Classical Coaching Academy, MTC Mutual Tele Communications, Nooks and Crannies Floral, Pip’s Dice & Games, Rinse and Roll Car Wash, Stockham Family Funeral Home, The Hanging Leaf, The Stone Chimney, Fox Chiropractic, Venable Jewelers.*

**Candy Cane Cash** – Shop local to check off your Christmas list and get registered to win! Shop at participating stores Nov. 1 through Dec. 31st and enter the Candy Cane Cash drawing. You could be the lucky winner of \$1,000 or \$500 in Candy Cane Cash to be redeemed for merchandise or services in any of the participating businesses. Winners will be drawn early January. For each \$10 spent at the participating stores, your Candy Cane Cash entry form will be marked, and once you have all five boxes marked on your form, fill out your

contact information and drop it in a registration box.

Candy Cane Cash participating stores: *A5 Western – 102 N Main, Artshirt-Gear for Sport – 211 N Main, Brooklyn & Co. – 213 N Main, Brown’s Shoe Fit – 118 N Main, CK Pharmacy – 200 N Main, Clayworks – 107 N Main, Creative Hairlines Salon & Spa – 207 S Main, Elizabeth Street Treasures – 316 E Elizabeth, Graber’s Ace Hardware – 319 N Main, The Hidden Closet Bookshelf – 206 N Main, Integrity Salon & Spa – 108 N Main, Kansas Hempire – 202 N Main, Krehbiels Specialty Meats – 1636 Mohawk Rd, La Belle – 123 N Main, McPherson Museum Gift Shop – 111 E Kansas, Nooks & Crannies Floral – 113 N Main, Pip’s Dice & Games – 118 S Main, Scooter’s Coffee McPherson – 311 N Main, Shoe Sensation- 2210 E. Kansas Ave., Simply Good – 301 S Main, Stitches Quilt Shop – 102 S Main, Stupka Chiropractic & Wellness Center- 114W Euclid, Sunflower Mercantile – 106 N Main, The Cook’s Nook – 219 N Main, The Hanging Leaf – 106 S Main, The Stone Chimney – 1500 E First, The Village Geek – 116 N Main, Twice Told Tales – 104 S Main, Venable Jewelers – 214 N Main*

In addition to these wonderful community activities, the holiday promotion includes TV advertising opportunities for the members of the McPherson Chamber of Commerce and McPherson Main Street. Be watching for the fun “McPherson -Where Santa Shops” KAKE-TV ads for our members listed below and see if you can spot Santa!

See these members advertised on TV: *A5 Western, Brooklyn & Co., The Stone Chimney, The Cook’s Nook, Artshirt-Gear for Sport, The Village Geek, Graber’s Ace Hardware, Sunflower Mercantile, Venable Jewelers, Clayworks, McPherson Classical Coaching Academy, Creative Hairlines, Kansas Hempire, Simply Good, The Cedars Wellness Center, Culvers Wines and Spirits, Stitches Quilt Shop, Brown’s Shoe Fit, The Hanging Leaf, & McPherson Convention and Visitors Bureau trolley rides.*

A complete list of Holiday Promotion Events can be found on the McPherson Chamber of Commerce website [www.mcphersonchamber.org](http://www.mcphersonchamber.org) under the Chamber Events Tab and Holiday Activities. Add them to your calendar and join us in the family friendly, festive activities in McPherson.



**ROB MACKEY**  
Executive Director  
United Way of  
McPherson County

## Happy Birthday Meals on Wheels!

In December of 1971, Church Women United in McPherson saw a need in the community: People who could not cook for themselves or easily get out for groceries due to age or infirmity. This committed group of women created Meals on Wheels in McPherson.

Fast forward to 2021, and Meals on Wheels is celebrating 50 years in December. It is a program run by a remarkable woman and a very dedicated board of directors and volunteers. Connie Grennan is the Meals on Wheels Director. “They saw that people sometimes need a little extra help with meals, either they’re recovering from an injury or an illness,” said Grennan, speaking of the women who first organized Meals on Wheels. “Sometimes people as they age, need extra help with their nutrition.”

Meals on Wheels delivers meals seven days a week which is unusual for a local MOW program (typically 5 days a week). As the meals are prepared at McPherson Center for Health, the program has the capacity to operate every day. “The hospital dietitian helps us out tremendously as she sets the menus for us,” said Grennan. “That also allows us to meet any dietary restrictions that they have. We have many times witnessed people getting stronger and healthier because they have one good solid meal a day.”

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the program. “All the meals are delivered by volunteers,” said Grennan. “It takes a tremendous amount of people to do this. We have six routes Monday through Friday, and on weekends, we have four routes each day. So, the volunteers work one day a week on a two month on, two month off rotation.” Grennan went on to say, “A volunteer will have about 10 meals on a route. And it takes less than an hour to deliver them.” And they are dedicated. “There are several people who have been here 20 to 30 years (and more) volunteering,” she said.

There are ancillary benefits in addition to the nutrition. Meals on Wheels also serves as a daily welfare check and allows people to remain in their homes.

Not everyone can afford the full price of a meal. That’s where United Way comes in. “United Way funding is very important to our program,” said Grennan. “There are times that people just absolutely cannot pay for their meal. And so we use the United Way funds to pay for those people. We don’t want to turn anyone down because of a financial situation. And so that’s where the United Way funding really comes in. We charge on a sliding scale according to a person’s income. So the other thing that United Way funding does is help us supplement the amount they pay to cover the cost of that meal.”

May 1, 2021, Connie Grennan celebrated 20 years as Meals on Wheels Director. “When I started, I wasn’t real sure why I was led here,” said Grennan. “But it didn’t take long to figure it out. It’s been a ministry to me. I enjoy being here. It’s just such a positive program, going in and helping people with their nutrition. The feedback I get from people... it just makes me believe this is where I belong. And so I figured out long ago that I could never leave here and do something else. My heart is here helping people.”

On behalf of United Way, we thank Connie for her commitment to and passion for Meals on Wheels, as well as all the volunteers on the front lines each day. We are a better community thanks to them.

The United Way Campaign in McPherson County is now underway. Please consider a donation online at [www.unitedwaymcpherson.org](http://www.unitedwaymcpherson.org) or send a check to United Way at P.O. Box 55, McPherson, KS, 67460.

To volunteer for Meals on Wheels, call Connie at 620-241-5238.



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