

The Chamber *December 2021* Business Journal

Community ~ Growth ~ Leadership ~ Vision

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

Member Spotlight

Built-Mor
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Built-Mor is a locally owned and operated business. Their experts at Built-Mor Restoration are IICRC Certified in water damage restoration. Also, the carpet cleaning technicians have over 10+ years of experience.

Contact Built-Mor today.

Encouraging Young Entrepreneurs at YEC

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce is excited to host the 4th annual Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge (YEC) and the opportunity it affords to inspire local students and encourage community engagement. As a NetWork Kansas Entrepreneurship Community, the McPherson Chamber of Commerce organizes the Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge (YEC) to help develop the entrepreneur mindset of our youth.

The 2021 YEC will be held at the McPherson Community Building, 122 E. Marlin, on Wednesday, December 15th. Students from Chris Strathman's MHS Entrepreneur Class will showcase their business ideas and gain valuable experience "pitching" their business proposals.

The competition will consist of three parts, a written business plan called an executive summary, a tradeshow booth, and a 4-minute presentation. All three parts will be evaluated and scored by a panel of judges. The YEC competition will help students gain experience with organizational skills, business planning and public speaking.

The public is encouraged to attend the YEC between 9:00-11:00 am at the McPherson Community Building and visit with the students at their tradeshow booths. Your interest in their ideas will be refreshing for them. Your questions about their product or service will help them iron out key details, and your encouragement may be the boost they need to launch their business in McPherson!

Exposing young people to entrepreneurship helps them develop an entrepreneurial mindset and allows them to explore entrepreneurship as a viable career path and a way to enhance their community. If only one student is inspired to open their own business now or in the future, that's one more independent business impacting our community.

Take time to stop by the Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge tradeshow booths from 9-11 am on Wednesday, December 15th and show your support to the young entrepreneurs.



Debbie Hawkins
Executive Director, McPherson
Chamber of Commerce

The Gift of Presence

"Your presence will always mean more than any presents ever could." -Lovable Quote.

In the busyness of the holidays and the self-imposed pressure of finding the "perfect" gift, take a moment to think "what would the most meaningful gift be for you to receive?"

My current fictional book selection has a conversation between an Instagram influencer who only takes promotional pictures of her boxed and ready to prepare food, and the chef that is hired to fix the meal. The chef remarks that the ultimate goal isn't the food itself, but the process of preparing the food together, the conversations, the experience, and quality time spent with others.

Which brings my thoughts back to meaningful gifts for the holidays. Why not give the gift of presence AND support our local businesses and organizations? For example, purchase tickets to an upcoming performance at the McPherson Opera House so that you and the recipient can enjoy a special experience. Sign up you and your child for a fun class at McPherson Classical Coaching Academy. Give your friend the gift of a painting class offered by the McPherson Family YMCA, or manicure together at Integrity Salon & Spa, or Creative Hairlines Salon and Spa. Another great idea is a cooking class at The Cooks Nook or pick up a soup mix from there and invite your friends over to enjoy. How about purchasing your favorite board game from The Village Geek, or MacOpoloy from the McPherson CVB and give it to someone so that you can play together? Pick your neighbor up for a morning coffee and chat at Craft Coffee. Take your family to Bingo at the American Legion, on a treasure hunt at The Ark Antiques and Flea Market, or volunteer together at the Community Christmas Dinner. Load up the car with hot cocoa and drive through Lakeside Park, past the Community Christmas Tree and around town while singing to Christmas carols. Stop at Nooks and Crannies Floral to pick up a beautiful bouquet for grandma and then stay and play cards. Pick out the perfect book for the grandkids at Twice Told Tales so that you can read it to them over and over.

I think you have already thought of several ideas of your own. Enjoy the magical feeling of giving the gift of your presence. Those will be the treasured gifts and will forever be meaningful to the recipient, and the giver.

Holiday Promotion "McPherson...Where Santa Shops" Continues

Only a few more opportunities to enjoy the holiday events that the McPherson Chamber of Commerce and McPherson Main Street organized with the participation of our members.

Cookies With Santa

- 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

- Saturday, December 18th "Abominable" will be shown at 7:00 pm.
- Thursday, December 23rd "Dolittle" will be shown at 7:00 pm.

Candy Cane Cash Shop local to check off your Christmas list and get registered to win! Shop at participating stores until Dec. 31, 2021 and earn points to 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 5 boxes marked on your form, fill out your contact information and drop it in a registration box.

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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.



Celebrating McPherson

Get ready to celebrate 150 years of McPherson! The McPherson Chamber of Commerce is excited to be a part of the many community organizations working together to plan an amazing year of celebrations throughout 2022.

150th Celebration Events

- Chamber Connections- January 6th at 9:30 am @ McPherson Community Building
- Progressive Dinner- January 13th, from 5:30-8:00. The evening will include entertainment, appetizers at the McPherson Museum, dinner at the McPherson Community Building and dessert at the McPherson Opera House. Limited tickets available for \$50 each can be purchased at the McPherson Opera House.
- Time Capsule Opening- May 28, 2022
- Community Picnic- September 25, 2022
- Live Concert- TBA

Stay Informed

Join us through 2022 to celebrate McPherson's sesquicentennial. Get updates for events, history, and entertainment at:

- Facebook: McPherson150
- Twitter: 150McPherson
- Instagram: McPherson_150
- Call: 620-241-3340
- Email: Director@visitmcperson.com

Just in Time for the Holidays

- **May Basket Ornament**- Each one is handcrafted by the talented folks at The Clayworks, these special 150th anniversary ornamental May baskets are perfect stocking stuffers. At \$10 each, only 150 will be available.
- **Commemorative Coin**- A special collection for McPherson's anniversary as we celebrate 150 years of service, education, community, and growth. Each coin is \$10 and are in limited supply.
- **MacOpoly** -Looking for another holiday gift idea? MacOpoly is here!!!

Celebrate the City of McPherson's 150th anniversary with this collector's item. Just \$45. Games will be in limited supply. A huge shout out to all the sponsors that helped make this happen. Get your copy and own the city!

- All 150th items are available for purchase at the McPherson Convention and Visitors Bureau office, 1111 E. Kansas, or call 620-241-3340. Cash or check only.

Proceeds go to celebrations planned in 2022!

ChamberChecks Keep Holiday Shopping Local

ChamberChecks are a unique and appropriate gift for anyone on your gift list. The McPherson Chamber of Commerce offers ChamberChecks year-round to business and individuals who wish to give the perfect gift to employees, relatives, friends, teachers, co-workers, bus drivers, even Cousin Eddie!

Stop by the McPherson Chamber of Commerce, 306 N. Main to purchase ChamberChecks in any denomination. You can also call ahead 620-241-3303 and we will have them ready for you to quickly pick up.

By purchasing ChamberChecks you are supporting local businesses and investing back into our community.

ChamberChecks are easy to order and fun to give. Check out all the participating businesses where ChamberChecks can be used: A5 Western, American Legion Post 24, Artshirt-Gear for Sport, Browns Shoe Fit-McPherson, CK Pharmacy-McPherson, Culver's Wines & Spirits, Dacus Auto Body, Dillon's-McPherson, Clayworks, Domino's-McPherson, Dr. Ken Cotton DDS, Elysium Studios, Esther V. Rettig MD PA, Farley's Bar & Grill, Flat Branch Home Loans, Graber's Ace Hardware, Heartbeat Coffee, Integrity Salon & Spa, Jantz Lumber and Hardware, JAR Performance Automotive, Julie Johnson Studio & Event Center, Knackies Meats & Sweets, Krehbiels Specialty Meats, La Belle, Legacy Eyecare, McPherson Classical Coaching Academy, McPherson Eye Care, McPherson Family YMCA, Midway Motors Supercenter, Nook's & Crannies Floral, Partners in Family Care, Pizza Hut-McPherson, Ristorante Italiano Di Famiglia, Safehope, Save-N-Share, Sheets-Adams Realtors, Shoe Sensation-McPherson, Simply Good, Stupka Chiropractic & Wellness Center, Sunflower Mercantile, The Ark Antiques & Flea Market, The Cook's Nook, The Hanging Leaf, The Locker Room

Nutrition & Energy, The Stone Chimney, Tractor Supply Co., Trinity Home Health & Hospice, United Rentals, Venable Jewelers, Walk-In Chiropractic Clinic, Walmart-McPherson.



ROB MACKEY
Executive Director
United Way of
McPherson County

The McPherson County Christmas Project: Many Community Angels at Work

There is so much generosity during Christmastime. Though many people may be lonely or without much during the holidays, there are a lot of community angels at work. Many of them are a part of what is known as the McPherson County Christmas Project.

The McPherson County Resource Council was instrumental in bringing together several groups that were running programs to benefit people in need at Christmas. Christmas Project Coordinator Sharon Long has been involved since her arrival here in 2009. "A few years ago, we got all the organizations together," she said, "and decided that it would be beneficial to the residents who are in need if they didn't have to keep going to different places for help." Beneficiaries of the program go through a short interview confirming their eligibility (the program is limited to those whose income is at or below 150% of the poverty level).

Many people refer to this as the "Angel Tree," a Resource Council program to provide new clothing to children in need. But the Christmas Project encompasses so much more.

- *Toys for Kids*, an American Legion program to provide toys for children 12 and younger. Thanks to Teresa Rauh and all the helpers at the Legion.
- *Gifts for Teens* is operated by the McPherson Optimist Club. Jack Rader recruits many elves who do the shopping for youths ages 13 to 18.
- *Food Baskets*: Thanks to Olivia Fetsch and Denise O'Connor Munsey for taking the lead on this, and thanks to Connie Grennan for her support in past years.
- *Quilts for Babies* - We appreciate Cheri Honchu and the many members of the McPherson Quilt Guild who work year-round to ensure warm, cozy quilts for babies.
- *Books for Children* - And there's Kelsey Peterson, who raises the money to purchase books for kids on distribution day.

Community angels picked up tags at Emprise Bank, The Locker Room, McPherson County Co-op Credit Union, Rise Private Wealth Management and the Village Geek and went shopping to make sure there are presents under the tree for the youth. We appreciate their partnership in the Christmas Project.

Other shout outs go to Julie Holloway with Mt. Hope Sanctuary for securing Wal-Mart shoe and coat vouchers for the kids, Resource Council partner the McPherson County Council on Aging, and Kyle Buller and Jim Osland at Journey Church and the use of their building as a distribution center.

We couldn't make the Christmas Project happen without all this support. You do need a leader, and that is Sharon Long. She gives hundreds of volunteer hours to make sure that each year, as many people as possible are interviewed to confirm their eligibility. It's an amazing commitment by an amazing woman.

"I think it is a really great program," said our chief angel of the Christmas Project. "I am glad to see so many people in the county willing to help those in need. Because we usually have a lot of people step up to the plate and make financial donations and food donations and clothing donations. It's just neat. The whole county comes together for this each year."

Thank you, Sharon, for giving so much of yourself to help people in need. And Kristi Fowler with Horizon Real Estate Services is Sharon's very supportive employer, generously making the office available as a space for families to be interviewed.

We'd also like to thank to the team at Adams Brown who volunteered this year to help do interviews.

As part of the United Way, I've also been blessed to interview some of our 160 applicants, and they tell me they are very grateful for the help.

Monetary donations of any amount are welcome any time of the year and can be sent to the McPherson County Community Foundation at 1233 N. Main, McPherson, 67460. Their phone number is 620-245-9070, the website is mcpersonfoundation.org. Donations MUST be noted as being for the Resource Council.

Merry Christmas to all, and to all those who benefit from the McPherson County Christmas Project, a good night.

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