

# NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **NEW DIRECTOR HIRED FOR COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SAINT JOSEPH**

St. Joseph, MO -- After a two-month search, the Community Alliance of Saint Joseph has hired a new director. Tama Wagner will take over the role on March 4, 2019.

The Community Alliance of Saint Joseph promotes a shared vision for the community through collective input from citizens. It aims to optimize the community's potential and enhance its quality of life, maximizing resources to resolve issues through collaboration, cooperation and commitment.

A new priority of the Community Alliance is to lead the Imagine St. Joseph 2040 plan. This initiative gathered research and input from St. Joseph residents in 2018 to form a plan to improve St. Joseph in the years to come.

"My family and I are committed to St. Joseph, I am eager to dig in and help move the Imagine St. Joseph 2040 plan forward to build a prosperous future for our little corner of the world," Wagner said.

Wagner, a longtime resident of St. Joseph, has a strong background in strategic marketing and community engagement. Currently the marketing manager at LifeLine Foods, she brings branding and management experience from Truman Medical Center and Mosaic Life Care, as well as political experience in the State of Kansas, where she served as Press Secretary for two statewide office holders.

The combination of leadership, strategic planning and advocacy experience made Wagner right for the job, said R. Patt Lilly, President and CEO of the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce.

"We're eager for Tama to use her experience to continue our governmental advocacy on behalf of the Alliance and to put the Imagine St. Joseph 2040 plan into action," Lilly said.

The Imagine St. Joseph 2040 plan has the goal to improve the future of St. Joseph for current residents' children and grandchildren.

"I have eight grandchildren, six of whom live and attend school in St. Joseph. I have a very personal reason for helping move the Imagine St. Joseph 2040 plan forward, and to working hard to serve the Community Alliance," Wagner said.

She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism from Kansas State University and a Master of Business Administration from Baker University. She is replacing Steve Johnston, who retired at the end of December after serving in the role for more than 10 years.

The Community Alliance partners include the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce, City of St. Joseph, Buchanan County, St. Joseph School District, St. Joseph Convention and Visitors Bureau, Mosaic Life Care and Missouri Western State University.

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