

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

ST. JOSEPH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

EXECUTIVE IMMERSION

This program, held in January, gave executives an inside look at how our community works. *"I came away with a much bigger understanding of St Joe, and I really appreciate the chance to learn and network," said Mark McCully, CEO American Angus Association.*

TEACHER EXTERNSHIP

Held in July, the Teacher Externship Program had teachers spend four days exploring local employers so they could use the experience in the classroom.

UNCOMMON LIFE NETWORKING

Throughout the year a variety of events were held to help introduce new residents to the community. One that was particularly successful was a partnership with the School District and Mosaic Life Care, where we were able to introduce international teachers and medical professionals.



TWO MAJOR GROUNDBREAKINGS

Ground was broken on two major developments in the workforce development arena, in which the Chamber has been working on with our partners. We helped secure funding from Altec to match state dollars for the expansion at Hillyard Technical Center and we've been involved in forming the partnership between Missouri Western State University and North Central Missouri College that has resulted in the new CTAC, or Convergent Technology Alliance Center.

**New
Projected Jobs**

96

**Average
Annual Salary**

\$52,186

Total Capital Investment

\$92 Million

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

BioZyme, Inc.

\$50 million capital investment

BlueScope Buildings North America

\$22 million capital investment

Altec Industries, Inc.

\$10.5 million capital investment, 3 new jobs

Precision Metal Works, LLC

\$1.2 million capital investment, 5 new jobs

Triumph Foods

88 new jobs, \$152,000 capital investment

Economic Development Grants

The Department of Economic Development Industrial Site Grant of \$2.5 million for water loop and sanitary sewer in Eastowne Phase II was awarded, as was \$2.7 million in the Governor's Cost Share Grant for new commercial roadway from Pickett Road at Riverside east to U.S. Highway 36 (Craigs Way). Total project cost estimated at \$6 million.

ADOPT-A-BLOCK PROGRAM

More than 55 companies have adopted a block near their facility or a block in need in an effort to clean up St. Joseph's appearance. This is an effort that aligns with the Imagine St. Joseph 2040 program.

HOUSING INITIATIVE

The Chamber and St. Joseph Community Alliance have partnered to develop more workforce housing in St. Joseph. In September a community meeting was held at the former Humboldt School for community feedback. This is one of many ways the Chamber is trying to address housing needs.

QUALITY OF LIFE MARKETING

Because we know people don't decide where to work just because of the job anymore, the Chamber has ramped up its marketing efforts to promote St. Joseph's quality of life. Ten articles have come out so far with Livability promoting St. Joseph as a great place to live and 10 more are coming out in 2024.



EVENTS CONTINUE TO BOUNCE BACK

With the pandemic firmly in our rearview mirror, Chamber events are making strides with participation. In 2023, both the Donut Dash and Shop St. Joseph had more participants than ever before. This is a testament to the firm footing both events have in the Chamber repertoire, as well as staff work and promotion.

In addition, the Chamber was able to host a special event this year. St. Joseph hosted the **Hawthorn Foundation**, which is a highly diverse group of statewide leaders dedicated to the economic prosperity of all Missourians. The Hawthorn meeting was held in conjunction with Chiefs Training Camp and was very successful in highlighting St. Joseph as a great place to live and conduct business. Gov. Parson attended the event.



MEMBERSHIP DEPT HIGHLIGHTS

The Chamber added more than **100 new members in 2023**.

TRC Fundraising Success -- this year volunteers raised the largest amount ever, \$811,483, which was \$141,000 over the goal

The Chamber expanded its **Small Business Week** programming in 2023 to include a week's worth of events, giving small businesses plenty of learning and networking opportunities.

We've also been hosting **Small Business Owner Roundtable Discussions**, which have proven valuable to those who attend.

The Chamber also expanded on its **Member Appreciation** activities by enlarging the celebration from a day and messaging to multiple days and ways of us saying thank you to our members and volunteers.

We hosted more than 60 ribbon-cutting and **award celebrations** for local businesses.

The Chamber has seen **growth in its volunteer base**, at a time when many volunteer organizations are struggling. Our Diplomats Club is up to 189 members.

Membership staff and volunteers increased the number of **Member Crawls**, visiting even more members in their place of business.

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

For those of you who know me, you know that I have an entrepreneurial spirit, a strong belief in the future of our community and hope for the boundless opportunities that displaying kindness provides. This is why serving as Chairman of the Board for the St. Joseph Chamber was such a good fit for me in 2023.

During the year, the staff and board focused on collaboration with other community entities and businesses on a variety of issues to improve matters today and plan for an even better tomorrow. Community appearance, a lack of workforce housing and infrastructure improvements were just the tip of the iceberg of what was tackled in 2023. You can read in detail about a lot of the work accomplished in other pages of this Annual Report.

St. Joseph received a couple of new titles last year, including being named by Site Selection Magazine as the 18th top city in the nation to start a small business. As a small business owner myself, I can attest to St. Joseph being a great place to start and operate a small business. Smart business owners join the Chamber because it has so many offerings to help young businesses succeed. When I came to St. Joseph in 2013, one of the first things I did was join the Chamber and I'm so glad I did. The environment was welcoming and supportive and just 9 years later, I was Chairman of the Board. Talk about a business community without closed doors.

St. Joseph also was named one of the best places to live in Missouri by Livability.com. As someone who has lived elsewhere, I see all that St. Joseph has to offer. That's something people who have lived here all their life sometimes miss. St. Joseph has problems that active community members are working to fix. Other communities have similar, and even worse, problems.

Our residents should be proud to be "Made with Uncommon Character." We have so many things to be proud of - in our people, places and amenities. I'm excited about the projects I've worked on as Chairman of the Board and I look forward to continuing to be active with the Chamber in the future. Our Chamber is a guiding force in the community for thoughtful change in the right direction. I hope you continue to join me in the progress.



DON TOLLY
OWNER/PRESIDENT
TOLLY & ASSOCIATES, INC.

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman of the Board: Don Tolly, Tolly & Associates

Chairman-Elect: Ashley Albers, Nor-Am Cold Storage

Secretary/Treasurer: Scott Gann, Scott Gann Construction

President & CEO: Natalie Hawn, St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce

Directors:

Jonathan Arens, Altec Industries, Inc.

Rall Bradley, News-Press NOW

Jody Carlson, Missouri American Water

Col. John Cluck, 139th Airlift Wing, Mo. Air National Guard

Kelly Crawford, E.L. Crawford Construction, Inc.

Pat Dillon, Mosaic Life Care

Dr. Gabe Edgar, St. Joseph School District

Todd Joe, John Joe Insurance

John Josendale, City of St. Joseph

Kevin Kelly, LifeLine Foods

Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy, Missouri Western State University

Carrie Koelzer, Evergy

Amy Kotwani, Americas Best Value Inn

Terri Modlin, Felix St. Specialty

Scott Nelson, Buchanan County

Kyle Phillips, Herzog Contracting Corp.

Dennis Pinkelman, Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.

Nancy Potter Lyle, Murphy, Taylor, Siemens & Elliott P.C.

Amy Ryan, Commerce Bank

Mark Woodbury, General Counsel, Polsinelli

Brett Carolus, Immediate Past Chair, Hillyard Companies

Brian Shewell, Diplomats Club Representative, Pizza Ranch

ADMINISTRATION

Since its inception, the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce has been the catalyst for economic growth and development in Northwest Missouri. The Chamber's mission is "to create an environment that allows business to thrive and the community to prosper."

Chamber membership is an investment that not only can help better your business, but supports initiatives that sustain and improve the quality of life in St. Joseph. Thank you for your support.



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