



# 2025 Year-in-Review

## Highlights of our achievements and community impact throughout the year

This was a defining year for the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce. Under the leadership of President & CEO Natalie Hawn, the Chamber delivered transformational progress in economic development, workforce and education, housing, government relations, entrepreneurship and community programming. This year brought national recognition, major business expansions, meaningful legislative wins, record event participation, and strategic partnerships that strengthened St. Joseph's future.

### ★ Organizational Excellence & Major Milestones

#### **U.S. Chamber 5-Star Accreditation (Fourth Consecutive Time!)**

The Chamber once again earned the coveted 5-Star Accreditation, placing St. Joseph among only 187 accredited chambers nationwide—and just five in Missouri. This ranking affirms strong operations, governance, financial integrity, and program excellence.

#### **105th Annual Banquet – One of the Largest Ever**

More than 920 attendees gathered for this community tradition as the Chamber reviewed the year, premiered major videos, celebrated 2024 leadership, and welcomed incoming Chair Scott Gann.

#### **Record-Setting Total Resource Campaign (TRC)**

The Chamber's annual volunteer-driven campaign reached new heights, finishing at \$903,023—nearly ten times the TRC's first-year total 21 years ago. Led by Chair Nancy Potter-Lyle and Campaign Director Tony Luke, this record-breaking result reinforces the Chamber's strong investor confidence.

#### **Strategic Planning for the Future**

At the September Board Retreat, Natalie led directors through ACCE's Horizon 2035 trends—including catalytic leadership, political fragmentation, technology shifts, and belonging. Directors discussed challenges, opportunities, and the Chamber's role as a community unifier.



# Economic Development

## Building a Stronger St. Joseph Together in 2025



### Economic Development Wins, Expansions & Competitive Projects

#### **Daily's Premium Meats Expansion**

(\$95 Million Investment + 90–115 Jobs)

Daily's selected St. Joseph for its next major expansion, which will double production capacity and increase the city's share of national bacon production to 5%.

#### **Schutz Container Systems Expansion**

(\$31 Million + 20 Jobs)

Schutz will expand its St. Joseph facility—its first among North American locations to add a new packaging product line.

#### **St. Joseph Regional Port Authority**

(\$2 Million)

The Port Authority invested by having a metal sea wall installed, which stabilizes the riverbank and increases barge loading efficiencies and opportunities to unload very heavy loads.

#### **Nortian Foodtech Facility**

(\$22 Million + 138 Jobs)

A new 160,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility will convert meat by-products into protein ingredients. This project includes land acquisition, significant equipment investment, and phased job creation.

#### **Steve Craig STJ Hotel Group**

(\$60 Million)

STJ Hotel Group will build two new hotels and one conference center on property at the corner of Woodbine Road and Frederick Avenue. The project will have approximately 253 rooms between the two hotels.

#### **R&W Towing & Recovery**

(\$2 Million)

R&W purchased 5.5 acres in Eastowne Business Park for a modern facility consisting of offices and indoor repair areas for equipment. The company will hire three new tow operators, with an estimated wage of \$90,000 to \$100,000.

### Year-End Figures

**New Projected Jobs** **253**

**Average Annual Salary** **\$63,820**

**Total Capital Investment** **\$213 million**

#### **AI J. Mueller Construction**

(\$565,000 + 2 Jobs)

The company added close to 2,000 square feet to its Mitchell Woods facility. The project increased office space, added a new conference room, and remodeled existing space. AI J. Mueller Construction added two new jobs with an average annual wage of over \$79,000.00.

# Leadership, Partnerships & Wins



## Housing Study, Roadmap & Implementation

Steadfast's full Housing Needs Assessment and Roadmap were presented to the Chamber Board and City Council, offering data-driven strategies for all income levels and housing types.

### UMKC School of Medicine Expansion

The Chamber helped our partners celebrate a major milestone: the opening of a new 22,000 sq. ft. medical education facility to address Missouri's rural physician shortage.



## Bryan Properties 178-Unit Development

For the first time in 21 years, St. Joseph secured a new apartment project. This development provides workforce housing near amenities, addressing critical housing needs.

### 139th Airlift Wing Advocacy

This year strengthened relationships with state and federal military leadership while continuing to advocate for the 139th Airlift Wing's transition to the C-130J model and future growth

### Legislative Wins Supporting Redevelopment

Two major policy victories—after years of Chamber advocacy—created new tools for revitalization:

- Land Bank reform
- Nuisance Act expansion to St. Joseph

These tools are now being actively taught through the Housing Task Force, including presentations by national redevelopment experts.



## Launch Pad – MTC Grant Awarded

The Chamber secured a Missouri Technology Corporation Infrastructure Grant to build The Launch Pad—a coworking, innovation, and entrepreneurial support center. A soft opening happened in December.



### Government Relations & Advocacy

The Chamber led meetings with legislators and department directors on the federal and state levels on top priorities: housing, education, childcare, and economic development.

# Events, Programs & Marketing



## St. Joseph Young Professionals (SJYP)

The Chamber launched a revitalized YP program with major turnout—over 70 attendees at the summer panel alone. More attended the remaining fall events.



## Uncommon Leadership Events

Multiple events provided opportunities for the community to meet new leaders from the City, SJSD, and MoWest. Other Uncommon Leadership events focused on summer interns getting to know St. Joseph.



## Workforce Development Initiatives

Always working to better the workforce of today and tomorrow in 2025 we hosted the Career Fair, the My Success Event (2,000 students), Manufacturing Day (the largest in Missouri) and coordinated teacher externships.

## Recruitment & Retention

The Chamber worked with a new consultant to start discussions with potential companies interested in relocating to St. Joseph. Talent recruitment, jobs board and retention marketing continued to run strong.

## Donut Dash – 400 Runners

The Donut Dash celebrated a big anniversary this year and maxed out at runners. This popular race benefits three local non-profit museums, which all received a record-breaking check because of the race's success.



## Small Business Engagement

Small businesses are the backbone of the community and the Chamber and we work to support them in a variety of ways. In 2025 we hosted 12 workshops, roundtable discussions, the Small Business Summit and Small Business Week, which featured educational and exposure events.



## Quarterly PFS (Partnership for Success) Meetings

Quarterly investor updates featured presentations from Port KC, city leadership, Herzog, Gray Manufacturing, and state partners — providing transparency and collaboration around major economic initiatives.

Thank you for your membership.  
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