

# OUTLOOK

**GREAT BEND**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

DECEMBER 2023  
VOLUME 102 NO. 12

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

business journal

1921



YEARS 2021



**GREAT BEND**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



*Shop Local & Win*

**SHOP LOCAL. SUPPORT LOCAL.**

Scan Here to  
Submit Your Receipt!

- SPEND AT LEAST \$20 WITH A CHAMBER MEMBER IN ONE TRANSACTION
- EMAIL A PICTURE OF YOUR RECEIPT TO [SHOPLOCAL@GREATBEND.ORG](mailto:SHOPLOCAL@GREATBEND.ORG)
- INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER WHEN SUBMITTING RECEIPTS
- EVERY TRANSACTION TOTALING AT LEAST \$20 IS AN ADDITIONAL ENTRY
- WINNERS DRAWN LIVE ON FACEBOOK - DECEMBER 21ST @ 10AM



The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce invites holiday shoppers to shop locally during the 2023 holiday shopping window. To incentivize consumers, the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce will be giving away Chamber Gift Certificates to those entered to win during their "Shop Local & Win" campaign. This campaign was first introduced in 2021 and returns for 2022 starting on Small Business Saturday, November 26th.

Chamber president and CEO Megan Barfield reminds consumers of the impact their dollars have, "Every dollar spent in our local communities with our local business owners allows our businesses to keep their doors open and continue serving our trade area.

With prices going up, and shipping delays, we know consumers may be more cautious with their spending this holiday season, but shop owners are working harder than ever to stock their racks and shelves in hopes that what is being spent can be done so inside their stores here locally."

Winners will be drawn live on the Chamber's Facebook page, December 21st at 10AM. Consumers can find a list of chamber members by viewing the Membership Directory at [www.greatbend.org](http://www.greatbend.org).

## Ribbon Cuttings!

### Meyers Enterprises Joins Chamber



Meyers Enterprises, a dynamic advertising agency based in Hoisington, Kansas, proudly announces its recent membership with the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce. The celebratory ribbon-cutting ceremony took place in November, marking a significant milestone for the company since joining the chamber in June.

Owner Dakota Meyers, at the forefront of this innovative venture, expressed enthusiasm about becoming an integral part of the local business community. "We are thrilled to be a part of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and look forward to contributing to the growth and success of our community," said Meyers.

Meyers Enterprises specializes in media buying, placement, and optimization, offering a full spectrum of advertising services that drive sales and leads through platforms such as Google and Meta Ads. With a focus on measurable customer acquisition, the agency stands out for its expertise in both digital and traditional media.

"We pride ourselves on being a full-service advertising agency that can enhance your

return on investment and save you money," remarked Dakota Meyers. "Whether you're looking to boost online sales, drive traffic to your storefront, generate B2B leads, or fill open roles, Meyers Enterprises has the expertise to deliver results."

The agency's proficiency extends across various advertising platforms, including Google, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, and Twitter. Additionally, Meyers Enterprises assists businesses in maximizing the value of traditional local placements such as TV, radio, and billboards.

"The name 'Meyers Enterprises' is more than just a label; it symbolizes our commitment to Hoisington, our unwavering presence, and a revitalization of our community. It represents our roots and the kind of company we are—a company you can rely on," Dakota Meyers emphasized.

To learn more about Meyers Enterprises visit their website at <https://www.meyersenterprises.com> or call 316-214-9346.

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## Committed to Caring for the Great Bend Community

Providing the Great Bend community greater access to the resources of the only academic health system in Kansas. Together, we are committed to ensuring the continued well-being of this community, close to home.

[kansashealthsystem.com/greatbend](http://kansashealthsystem.com/greatbend)

### SMALL BUSINESS SEASON

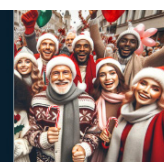
Shop Local



Dine Local



Enjoy Local



## Welcome to Dazzle Dog Day Spa & Boutique!



Dazzle Dog Day Spa & Boutique proudly announces its membership with the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony held in November. The community warmly welcomed the upscale pet grooming establishment, located at 2606 10th St., Great Bend.

Having joined the chamber in August, Dazzle Dog Day Spa & Boutique is a labor of love for owner Gidget Hagan, a seasoned dog groomer and realtor with a unique vision for pet care. Originally from Alaska, where she operated a successful dog grooming shop, Gidget and her husband relocated to Great Bend, KS, two years ago to be closer to family.

Gidget's passion for dog grooming led her to establish Dazzle Dog Day Spa & Boutique, a haven for pets that prioritizes their comfort and well-being. Her dedication to creating a stress-free grooming experience is evident in her Fear Free Certification, a commitment to ensuring that every furry friend enjoys the grooming process.

"I have always hated that the dogs just had to be forced to 'endure' being groomed,"

says Gidget Hagan. "By getting my Fear Free Certification and practicing it on my own dogs, I know it works and is the answer to what I've been looking for. It may take more time and cost a bit more, but in the long run, it is 100% better for our pets."

In addition to fear-free grooming practices, Dazzle Dog Day Spa & Boutique introduces the Iv San Bernard Skin Care System for pets, a revolutionary approach to pet esthetics. Gidget is currently undergoing certification as a pet esthetician through their program, with a focus on providing solutions for skin issues such as itching, dryness, and more.

Dazzle Dog Day Spa & Boutique offers a range of services aimed at pampering pets and addressing their individual needs, including baths and brushouts, full grooms, pawdicures, paw balm, and more.

Operating hours are Monday to Friday, 9 am to 4:30 pm, and Saturdays by appointment. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit Dazzle Dog Day Spa & Boutique or call 620-797-9999. Find them on Facebook or Dazzledogs spa.com.

## Outlook Business Journal

A monthly publication of the

# GREAT BEND

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1125 Williams, Great Bend, KS 67530

Phone: 620-792-2401 | www.greatbend.org

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Barry Bowers, Spectrum CPA Partners

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Khrista Thexton, USD 428

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Megan Barfield, President/CEO

Jaimee Beckwith, Member Engagement Specialist

Julie Mazouch, Office Assistant

Ashley Hickman, Office Manager

## MAKE YOUR NOMINATIONS

BUSINESS  
OF THE  
YEAR

CITIZENS  
OF THE  
YEAR

NEXTGEN LEADER  
OF THE  
YEAR

SCAN



GREAT BEND  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

save the date

102ND ANNUAL AWARDS

THRU DEC. 15TH

SATURDAY  
FEBRUARY 24TH

CORINTHIANS HILL EVENT CENTER

GREAT BEND 2023



# HAPPY *Holidays*

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THESE WONDERFUL HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS GOING ON IN GREAT BEND!

## FREE ICE SKATING DOWNTOWN

Jack Kilby Square  
Thurs/Fridays - 4-8pm  
Sat./Sundays - 1-6pm

## TRAIL OF LIGHTS

Various Locations In Town  
Open Nov. 26 - Jan. 1  
Free to Drive

## VISIT SANTA & SANTAS AROUND THE WORLD

1223 Main Street  
Thurs/Fri: 4-6pm, Sat/Sun 1-6pm  
[www.santasaroundtheworld.com](http://www.santasaroundtheworld.com)

## CHRISTMAS CRAFT MALL

3101 Lakin Ave.  
Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 1pm-6pm  
Opens Nov. 13 - Closes Dec. 23rd.

## DOWNTOWN CHRISTMAS WINDOWS

Participating Businesses  
Starts Nov. 25 through Dec. 31st  
Shop Local & See the Beauty!

## DOLLEY TROLLEY RIDES

Reserve your tickets online &  
Take a Ride on Dolly Trolley  
starting at RePerks Coffee.

## HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS FESTIVAL

November 25, 2023  
Join us downtown in Jack Kilby Square  
for the lighted Parade at 5:30 & MORE!

## GOLDEN BELT MODEL RAILROAD DISPLAY

1405 Main Street  
Go see the wonderful Model  
Railroad Display!

## CARRIAGE RIDES AT BRIT SPAUGH

Dec. 15-16 & 22-23 Only - Join  
Chris Clausen & horses in Brit  
Spaugh Park!



EXPLORE GREAT BEND  
[www.exploregreatbend.com](http://www.exploregreatbend.com)

# HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS IN DECEMBER

- 1... Barton County Community College Holiday Concert, Barton Fine Arts Auditorium, 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM
- 1... Legion Family Membership Drive/Dinner, Post 180, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
- 2... GB Fire/EMS Department Holiday Extravaganza, 3111 10th St., 5:00 PM – 11:00 PM
- 2... Dilly & Doc, 1119 Main St., 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
- 3... Holiday Home Tour, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
- 4... Hamburger Night, 1011 Kansas, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
- 7... Holiday Band Concert, Great Bend High School, 7:00 PM – 8:20 PM
- 7... Chamber Coffee: Credit Union of America, 4708 Main St., 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM**
- 8... Central Kansas Community Choir Concert, First Methodist Church, 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM
- 8... Chicken Fried Steak, 1011 Kansas, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
- 9... Ellinwood Hospital Foundation Christmas Gala, St. Joseph Parish Center Ellinwood, KS, 5:30 PM – 10:00 PM
- 9... Holiday Open House, Heartland Farm 1049 CR 390 Pawnee Rock, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- 13... BCYP Party with a Purpose, hosted by BCC, Shafer Art Gallery, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- 13... Orchestra Concert, GBHS Auditorium, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- 14... Chamber Coffee**
- 14... Basic Excel Training, BCCC Technical Building, 8:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- 14... Christmas Dinner & Open House, Great Bend Senior Center, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
- 16... FCC Family Craft & Cookie Fair, First Christian Church, 5230 Broadway Ave, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- 16... Life Line Screening, Great Bend Church of Christ, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- 17... Vespers (A Capella Concert), GBHS Auditorium, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- 18... GBHS Choir Concerts, GBHS Auditorium, 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM
- 21... Chamber Coffee: Golden Belt Community Foundation, Prince of Peach Parish Center, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM**
- 22... Chili Cheese Dogs, 1011 Kansas, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
- 22... Military and First Responders Night Out, 916 Williams, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- 25... Merry Christmas / Happy Holidays – Chamber Office Closed Christmas Day & Dec. 26th
- 29... Fried Chicken Friday, 1011 Kansas, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
- 31... New Year's Eve

## RECURRING EVENTS:

- Great Bend City Council Meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, City Hall, 1209 Williams, 6:30 pm  
Barton County Commission Meetings, Tuesdays, Barton County Courthouse, 1500 Kansas St., 9am.
- Santa's Around the World, 1223 Main St., November 26 – December 22  
Golden Belt Model Railroad, 1405 Main St., November 26 – December 22  
Christmas Craft Mall, 3301 Lakin Ave, November 19 – December 23

STAY INFORMED AT [GREATBEND.ORG](http://GREATBEND.ORG)

SCAN QR CODE



LIST OF EVENTS

**GREAT BEND**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**WELCOME**  
to Our **NEWEST**  
Chamber Members

## SMOKY HILL FEEDLOT INC.

Douglas Harter, Owner  
549 R Road  
Pawnee Rock, KS 67567  
doug@wyrice.com  
(620) 792-2465  
**Agricultural**

## WYRICA ADVENTURES LLC

Douglas Harter, Owner  
549 R Road  
Pawnee Rock, KS 67567  
doug@wyrice.com  
(620) 792-2465  
**Rental Property / Recreation**

## FARMERS UNION MIDWEST AGENCY - TRINA SMITH

Tsmith@fumainurance.com  
2015 Forest Ave. Ste 101|Great Bend  
(620) 617-9977  
**Insurance Services**

## WANT TO JOIN?

If your company is interested in joining the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, fill out the online application on [www.greatbend.org](http://www.greatbend.org).

Beat the Winter Blues with a 

# SNOWBALL DROP

**JAN 13**

## and...Snack & Stroll

Join Great Bend Alive, a vibrant Main Street Community, in celebrating downtown businesses at our upcoming event—Snack & Stroll for Savings on January 13th!

**Downtown Store Participation:** How to Participate: Be open during these hours and offer exclusive discounts, gift cards, and/or prizes for the Snowball Drop.

**Snack & Stroll:** Treat shoppers to a small snack for an extra delightful shopping experience.

**Goal:** Let's collect 400 total discounts, gift cards, and prizes! Email your promotion details to [marketing@gbedinc.com](mailto:marketing@gbedinc.com) ASAP! There are also GB Alivers talking to businesses to see how you would like to participate.

**Snowball Drop Details for Shoppers:**

**When:** January 13th, 11 am

**Where:** Inside the Crest Theater

**What to Expect:** Jack Frost will be dropping snowballs—each numbered 1-400.

**Redeem Your Snowballs:** Exchange up to 3 snowballs per person for exciting discounts, gift cards, and **PRIZES!**

**Pop-Up Shop Inside the Crest:**

The Crest Theater will host a Pop-Up Shop featuring vendors from outside downtown. Time: 10 am - 2 pm

**Where:** 1905 Lakin, GBK

**Details to be a vendor:**

<https://www.gbedinc.com/event-details/winter-blues-pop-up-market-the-crest-theater>

**After the Snowball Drop:**

Enjoy Trolley rides, make stops for Hot Cocoa, and continue your delightful Snack & Stroll while exploring the unique offerings of downtown.

Follow the fun and updates on [Facebook.com/GreatBendisAlive](https://www.facebook.com/GreatBendisAlive).

New Hire?  
New Service?  
Submit the  
NEW Here!

SCAN ME



No formal press release? No communications department? No problem! Simply scan and let us know what's going on in your business, and we'll do the rest!

## HOLIDAY SHIPPING DATES

SMALL BUSINESS SEASON



### DOMESTIC MAIL

Ground Advantage	First Class Mail	Priority Mail	Priority Mail Express
DEC 16	DEC 16	DEC 18	DEC 20

### INTERNATIONAL MAIL

CANADA

First Class Package International	Priority Mail International	Priority Mail Express International
DEC 6	DEC 6	DEC 13

AUSTRALIA/NZ

First Class Package International	Priority Mail International	Priority Mail Express International
DEC 6	DEC 6	DEC 13



### DOMESTIC MAIL

Ground	DEC 13
3 Day Select	DEC 19
2nd Day Air	DEC 20
Next Day Air	DEC 21



### DOMESTIC MAIL

FedEx Ground Economy	DEC 13
FedEx Ground®	DEC 19
FedEx Home Delivery	DEC 19
FedEx Express Save	DEC 19
2Day® 2Day AM	DEC 20
FedEx SameDay	DEC 22



**BARTON**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**SHAFFER**  
ART GALLERY

**YP**  
BARTON COUNTY  
Young Professionals  
LEAD, NETWORK, VOLUNTEER

YOU ARE INVITED TO

*Party with a Purpose*

13 | 6:00  
Dec | PM

The Shafer Art Gallery

BCYP MEMBERS WILL BE ASKED TO DONATE ITEMS TO BUILD PACKAGES FOR CHILDREN SERVED BY CENTRAL KANSAS CASA, INC. ATTENDEES ARE ASKED TO BRING ITEMS TO FILL THESE BAGS. YOUR ASSIGNMENT WILL BE PROVIDED FOLLOWING YOUR RSVP.

Think like an entrepreneur

# ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSET

**Great Bend Economic Development** is excited to announce another partnership with NetWork Kansas, a collaboration aimed at empowering Barton County residents to think like an entrepreneur through the upcoming “Entrepreneurial Mindset” classes. Following the success of IGNITE Rural Business, a program that showcased the community’s enthusiasm for entrepreneurial ventures, the demand for further education in this field has been on the rise.

With generous support from NetWork Kansas, the classes will be made more accessible, keeping the costs down for participants.

Led by co-facilitators, Jim Correll, Executive Director of the Innovative Business Resource Center, and Shelly Peacock, a local entrepreneur and past mentor with the IGNITE Competition, the classes aim to equip participants with the essential skills and mindset required for successful entrepreneurship.

The weekly classes are scheduled to begin on January 10 and will run until February 21, excluding February 14. Sessions will be held every Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Great Bend Economic Development Offices, situated inside the Great Bend Events Center.

Course participants will engage in thought-provoking discussions, explore video content averaging one hour per week, and delve into the pages of “Who Owns the Ice House?”—a book featuring the inspiring journey of entrepreneur Clifton Taubert. The curriculum also includes insightful visits from local entrepreneurs, offering firsthand perspectives on the challenges and triumphs of the entrepreneurial journey.

Jim Correll emphasizes that the class revolves around eight key life lessons: Choice, opportunity, action, knowledge, wealth, brand, community, and persistence. “Our objective is to open our participants’ minds to a new way of thinking and approaching the challenges of business and daily life. By learning through the stories of successful entrepreneurs, we aim to showcase that there is more than one path to every destination in life, and a change in mindset can lead to great personal and professional fulfillment,” said Correll.

This course is open to adults of all ages, whether they are considering starting their own businesses, are already in business, or are simply seeking new approaches to problem-solving. The deadline to register for the classes is January 8th. Registration fee is \$100 per person, this includes dinner at the start of each class. As an added incentive, if registrants attend at least 5 sessions, they will receive a 50% refund.

For more information on course content, schedule, and attendance tuition reimbursements, please contact GBED Staff at 620-796-2407 or via email [marketing@gbedinc.com](mailto:marketing@gbedinc.com). Registration is also available online at [www.gbedinc.com/gettingstarted](http://www.gbedinc.com/gettingstarted).

## 4th Annual Barton County Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge seeking student participants and teacher champions

Great Bend Economic Development and the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce are excited to announce the return of the Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge (YEC) for Barton County students in 7th to 12th Grade. This unique opportunity empowers students to develop their entrepreneurial skills by creating and presenting innovative business ideas, with the chance to win cash prizes. The 4th Annual YEC judging and tradeshow is set for March 6th, 2024.

To make this program a resounding success, we are actively seeking Teacher Champions who are passionate about fostering entrepreneurship and guiding students through this enriching experience. Teacher Champions play a crucial role in mentoring, advising, and supporting students as they navigate the intricacies of developing a business plan and presenting their ideas.

“We believe in the power of education and entrepreneurship to shape the future of our community,” said Lee Ann June, Communications Director at Great Bend Economic Development. “The Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge is an incredible platform for students to explore their creativity and business acumen. We are inviting teachers to join us as champions, guiding and inspiring the next generation of entrepreneurs.”

Teacher Champions will have the opportunity to engage with students, collaborate with local businesses, and contribute to the overall growth of entrepreneurial spirit within the community. The commitment involves helping students refine their business concepts, offering guidance on presentations, and serving as a mentor throughout the challenge.

If you are a passionate educator looking to make a lasting impact on your students' lives and contribute to the economic development of

Barton County, we encourage you to reach out today. Learn more about how you can become a Teacher Champion, have a representative speak to your class, or explore other ways to get involved.

Participants in the Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge will have the opportunity to showcase their innovative business ideas through a tradeshow presentation, allowing them to interact with the public and present their concepts in a dynamic and engaging manner. During the tradeshow, each student team will present a formal 4-minute pitch to a panel of judges, highlighting the key aspects of their business plans. The competition will culminate with the announcement of winners and a total of \$2500 in prize money will be awarded to top-performing participants.

The breakdown of prize money is as follows:  
 First Place: \$1000 (and the opportunity to advance to the Statewide competition.)  
 Second Place: \$750  
 Third Place: \$500  
 People's Choice: \$250 (voted on by attendees of the tradeshow.)

For more information about the Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge or to get involved as a Teacher Champion or participant, go online to [www.gbedinc.com/yec](http://www.gbedinc.com/yec) or contact Lee Ann June, Great Bend Economic Development, Communications Director.



### BARTON COUNTY YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP CHALLENGE



Iron Therapy Training is excited to announce “Santa’s Slimdown: Unwrap Your Best Body,” a transformative workshop designed for busy professionals ready to prioritize their health and wellness. Those who jump on board will enjoy a savings of \$175 on the 4 week workshop.

Owner and Lead Trainer Aaron Raney invites the community to visit Iron Therapy’s new gym to experience the difference. “We’ve invested in our people and our equipment to bring Great Bend the very best in health and wellness. We do this by focusing on

## Sleigh with Santa’s Slimdown!

personalized training and expert coaching that offers full body transformations.”

What’s In Santa’s Workshop? Tailored Workouts for Busy Schedules, Nutrition Tips to Fuel Your Day, Personalized Coaching for Quick Results, FREE Movement Assessment: Identify Your Starting Point

Start NOW for a Fresh New Year! This is the perfect time to lay the foundation for a healthier, happier you in 2024.

Gift Yourself:

- Increased Energy
- Confidence Boost
- A Healthier, Happier You

Limited Spots Available! Don’t miss out on the chance to transform before the New Year. For more information, contact Aaron Raney at (620) 282-5119 or visit <https://gbrontherapytraining.com/>. Iron Therapy Training is conveniently located at 3124 10th Street, Great Bend.





## Barton County YEC

Great Bend Economic Development and the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce are thrilled to, once again, offer Barton County students (7th to 12th Grade) a chance to compete in our Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge! This challenge allows students to create a business and compete to win cash prizes. We need **business professionals** to help make this program successful. Mentoring on a specific topic makes your time commitment minimal. Connect with the next generation of the workforce. Reach out today to learn more and see how you can help!

### PRIZES

**THIRD PLACE - \$500**  
**SECOND PLACE - \$750**  
**FIRST PLACE - \$1,000**  
 + People's Choice - \$250

**March 6**

[gbedinc.com/yec](http://gbedinc.com/yec)

**TIME**

**11:00 AM - 1:30 PM**  
 Tradeshow begins at noon

**3111 10th St**

**Great Bend  
 Events Center**



**Contact:**

**Sara Arnberger**  
[director@gbedinc.com](mailto:director@gbedinc.com)  
**Megan Barfield**  
[mbarfield@greatbend.org](mailto:mbarfield@greatbend.org)

**YOUTH  
 ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
 CHALLENGE (YEC)**

**2023-2024**

Learn more at [www.gbedinc.com/yec](http://www.gbedinc.com/yec)



**75 YEARS OF "THE REC"**

It's been 75 years of FUN & PLAY spearheading events, creating innovative recreation programs and services, tournaments, the development of new recreation & park facilities and playgrounds, including the Great Bend Activity Center, MyBackyard Playground, Fitness Trail, & Veteran's Toddler Playground.

We love getting to LIVE, PLAY, & EXPLORE here in our community and we can't wait to see what the next 75 years bring.



Great Bend Rec 1214 Stone Street 620.793.3755 greatbendrec.com



**Stueders Festive Crew Challenge: Gift of Giving Edition**

Get ready for a jolly competition like no other!

**Presenting the Stueders Festive Crew Challenge: Gift of Giving Edition**, where the spotlight is on our incredible team members and the holiday spirit they bring. This year, we're giving you the power to vote for the most festive crew member at Stueder Contractors to not only win a \$50 bonus but also make their chosen charity the recipient of a grand \$250 donation in their honor.

**How It Works:**

Starting Monday, December 11, through Monday, December 18, for one week only, our Stueders crew will showcase their festive spirit.

Cast your vote for your favorite Stueders crew member by any or all of the following:

- Liking their photo on Facebook.
- Hearting their festive post on Instagram and posting the crew members' name in the comments.
- Sharing the post or tagging a friends to vote, too!
- Visiting Stueder's Showroom and casting your vote in person.

**Prizes:**

- \$50 Bonus: Awarded to the Stueders crew member with the most votes.
- Grand Prize Donation: \$250 in the Stueders crew member's name to the charity of their choice.

Let the friendly competition begin as our Stueders crew members go all out to spread holiday joy. Your votes not only determine the winner of the \$50 bonus but also decide which charity will receive the grand \$250 donation in the Stueders crew member's honor.

Mark your calendars and join us in celebrating the season of giving at Stueder Contractors, use the hashtag #StuedersHolidayChallenge to follow along with all the fun!

**The fine print:** The contest runs from Monday, December 11, to Monday, December 18, with a winning crew member announced on Tuesday, December 19. Cast your votes on Stueder's Facebook, Instagram, or in person at Stueder's showroom located at 3410 10th St. Great Bend, KS.

**BCYP Party with a Purpose - Dec. 13th!**

Grab a friend and join us for the annual Young Professionals Christmas Party with a Purpose on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 6p.m. The holiday party is one of the many ways YP members give back to the community, and this year's event is no exception! The "party with a purpose" combines holiday merriment with an opportunity to GIVE BACK to children in need in Barton County. This year's event is sponsored and hosted by Barton Community College with the Shafer Art Gallery as an additional host.

RSVP is required.

BCYP members will be asked to donate items to build packages for children served by Central Kansas CASA, Inc. Attendees are asked to bring items to fill these bags. Your assignment (and sizes, if applicable) will be provided following your RSVP.

After dropping off your contribution to these special packages, our event sponsors invite you to enjoy excellent food and beverages!

If you plan to attend and participate, please RSVP using this link or find our event on Facebook @bartonyp --> <https://forms.gle/egQwhy1xoXs5mv3x7>

After you RSVP, we will contact you via email about what item(s) to bring.

Anyone 21+ years of age who lives in the Barton County Area is welcome and encouraged to attend this free event! So invite a friend!

If you'd like more information about the YP group, visit [www.bartonyp.com](http://www.bartonyp.com) and like our Facebook page.



**QUALITY INTERNET SERVICE**

with **EVEN BETTER QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE**

**STAY CONNECTED CONFIDENTLY.**



Get started with



3700 10th Street, Great Bend

# Martinez Treats Young People, Spanish Speaker at The Center

The new therapist at The Center for Counseling & Consultation brings a couple of specialties to her new position that allow the non-profit agency to accommodate even more families.

Karla Martinez, a longtime Great Bend resident, focuses on children and young adults, ages 4-24, while also caring for all Spanish-speaking clients. "I just have a soft spot for our youth," Martinez said. "I have a strong belief that if they can find one person to connect with, we can change who they become as an adult. This is especially true if we catch them early."

For example, she noted, when a 4-year-old child participates in play therapy, "we can observe how they engage with their environment and help them build self-confidence. "If they can build a relationship with me – a complete stranger – they can connect with people outside of a therapy session as well." Martinez treats conditions such as depression, anxiety, anger and defiance. Parents are encouraged to take notice when a young person is distracted from their surroundings because of electronic devices and social media.

"This could result in a lack of relationship-building and not connecting with others," Martinez said. "Or a parent could notice that a child is just sad. Parents know when their kids need help. "I encourage them to take the first step to seeking professional guidance. The same goes for young adults. That first step can lead to new behaviors and habits. If you wait too long, it is more difficult."

Martinez compared therapy to the oil change in a car. Without the oil, the car can break down. "The same with therapy, which also is maintenance," she commented. "You might need to talk with someone weekly or maybe just once a month to touch base."

The therapist said she was attracted to The Center because it is an established agency with a good reputation for the services it offers. "They made it easy for me to want to join this professional team," Martinez said. "With my Spanish background and experience with kids, maybe I can help bridge a few gaps."

Martinez earned her bachelor's degree in social work in 2010 at Fort Hays State University and master's in social work in 2019 at The University of Kansas. She also earned an associate's degree in Spanish in 2010 at FHSU.

Her professional background includes: Great Bend High School Attendance Coordinator/Behavioral Health Interventionist; Social Worker Specialist at the Kansas Department for Children and Families in Great Bend; and Para-professional at Washington Elementary in Hays.

Martinez has collaborated with several school districts in The Center's four-county service area. She was also an Americorp member, working at Heart of Kansas Family Health Care in Great Bend; her focus was lowering obesity in children. Julie Kramp, The Center's executive director, said "Karla is a very enthusiastic presence. She is quite skilled and brings a positive attitude to her work with children and Spanish-speaking clients.

"In addition, she pitches in and helps her colleagues whenever needed. Karla is making a huge difference here." The Center for Counseling & Consultation is a Community Mental Health Center serving Barton, Pawnee, Rice and Stafford counties. Professionally trained personnel offer: individual and group therapy; marriage and family counseling; community-support services; community-based services; psychosocial rehabilitation; peer support; and medication management. The confidential 24/7 crisis hotline number is 800-875-2544.



# Shoe Sensation collecting socks for military and veterans

Shoe Sensation, a regional chain of name brand family shoe stores, is hosting its 8th annual "Socks for Troops" fundraiser in all of their 200+ retail locations. Last year Shoe Sensation collected over 50,000 pairs of socks and hopes to continue the success of the program in 2023. This year, each store will be collecting socks for active-duty military personnel and/or local veterans in their communities. Shoe Sensation will have military approved socks for customers to purchase and donate in-store. Customers will receive 20% off socks purchased for a donation. Shoe Sensation locations will also serve as a drop off point for customers to bring in new socks they have collected on their own. \*

"It has been a tough year for everyone in our communities. This is no exception for the country's military personnel. A small gesture can go a long way in providing them with comfort during the holidays. We appreciate the sacrifices of our armed forces and their families make in their personal lives to protect our safety and our countries interests. This is one way we can show our appreciation to the men and women who serve in our armed forces and to our Veterans that have served our country," says David Bateman, Community Connections Director and creator of the Socks for Troops program for Shoe Sensation.

"Socks for Troops" will begin on November 1st and Shoe Sensation will continue collecting socks until December 31, 2023. Please see details below or visit your local Shoe Sensation for details on the specific supported charity or organization. For additional information about Socks for Troops or to find a Shoe Sensation near you, visit [www.shoesensation.com](http://www.shoesensation.com).

\*Sock donations must be brand new and donated in its original packaging. Shoe Sensation CANNOT accept used pairs of socks or socks without its original packaging.

**About Shoe Sensation:** The parent company of Shoe Sensation, Shoe Sensation, Inc. is a privately held corporation based in Jeffersonville, Indiana and operates over 200 retail stores in over 19 states. Shoe Sensation offers a large selection of men's, women's, children's and athletic footwear in a variety of national brands such as Adidas, Hey Dude, Clarks, Skechers, Crocs and more. Shoe Sensation is an easy-to-shop environment where store associates deliver exceptional customer service.

**Our Mission:** Our goal is to help non-profit companies thrive in their locations by partnering with them. We have various avenues through which we offer assistance, and we can customize a program specifically for any organization. We love giving back to the communities that support us; because we want to show our appreciation for helping Shoe Sensation, Inc. get to where it is today. As a growing company, we cherish opportunities to bring our communities together and make a difference.



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## CHAMBER COFFEE SCHEDULE

**Every Thursday | Doors Open at 9am | Program at 9:30am**

Tune in on Facebook or YouTube for Virtual Coffees

### December 7th **CREDIT UNION OF AMERICA** 4708 10th St

At Credit Union of America, our members have a wide array of services available including, but not limited to – checking, savings, loans (personal, home, auto) and credit cards. We offer competitive rates to all. Staying true to our roots, we have unique services and products specifically for educators and healthcare professionals.

### December 14th **TO BE ANNOUNCED**

### December 21st **GOLDEN BELT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S GREAT CHARITY GIVEBACK!**

**PRINCE OF PEACE PARISH CENTER - 4200 Broadway Ave.**

Giving Tuesday is a magical day of generosity for our four-county service area and beyond. Golden Belt Community Foundation and area nonprofit partners bring hundreds of donors from every community together for a single day of fundraising. Each year, this day raises more than \$300,000 for local charitable organizations.

### December 28th **NO CHAMBER COFFEE**

### January 4th **CHAMBER AMBASSADOR CLUB** **CHAMBER BOARD ROOM - 1125 Williams St.**

Meet the 2024 Chamber Ambassador Club during this Chamber Coffee! This year's club will be lead by Lindsey Bogner, Barton Community College's Executive Director of Institutional Advancement with Kris Sundahl, Edward Jones, serving as the club's Vice President.

Host a  
**CHAMBER  
COFFEE IN  
2024**



Reserve Your Spot Today!

Email: [marketing@greatbend.org](mailto:marketing@greatbend.org)  
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