



SPECTRUM

CPA Partners, LLC

Expert Accounting Solutions with a Personal Touch



When Barry Bowers and his partners sat down to decide on a name for their new venture, they “didn’t want to just string a bunch of names together.” Instead, they wanted to convey their wide range of accounting services.

The word “spectrum” came to mind and caught the partners’ attention. The result was the opening of Spectrum CPA Partners LLC on Oct. 1, 2016, at 1400 Polk. “We thought ‘spectrum’ described the full gamut of our services,” Bowers said. “We also chose the word ‘partners,’ which refers to our clients – not those of us who are partners in the firm. We want to build relationships with our clients.

“From the beginning,” he added, “we have differentiated ourselves. Together, we have a deep range of experience and knowledge. But we are not so big that we lose the personal touch.”

That personal touch means clients may call anytime and talk with a real person, not a recording. “You are not just passed to person after person,” Bowers said. “One of us always answers the phone. When new clients come to us, this is what they are looking for. And they really appreciate it.

“We are partners and advisors,” he continued. “Clients can connect with us anytime by calling, emailing or just stopping by.”

Spectrum serves a mix of private businesses, non-profit organizations and individuals with accounting and income-tax services throughout Kansas and in other states. Currently, the smallest business is a one-person venture and the largest has 48 employees. “We have the capability of serving even bigger businesses,” Bowers noted. “But many of our clients are small businesses with one to 10 employees.”

Spectrum is the result of the merger between (David) Holste & Bowers LLC, an accounting firm that opened here in 2008, and Ray A. Cheely Chartered, a long-time local accounting firm. Cheely passed away in 2009 but four employees stayed with the firm. Two of those, David Zink and Cynthia Lockwood, became part of Spectrum.

“I would like to say our successful merger was the result of good planning. But it was just good luck,” Bowers laughed. “The merger went more smoothly than I would have ever imagined.



Barry Bowers, one of four partners at Spectrum CPA Partners, meets with one of his clients. Bowers is a certified public accountant.

“When I talk with other people about their mergers, I hear that our experience is a rarity. All the pieces came together because this really is an amazing group of people. They are caring, helpful and willing to learn. All of this makes a huge difference.”

There were five employees at Holste & Bowers; that number grew to 10 with the merger. The current 11 employees are: Holste, Bowers and Zink, all certified public accountants and partners; Lockwood, accountant and partner; Sheri Yager, Colleen Burton, Rick Warnken, John Lane and Tammy Nye, all staff accountants; Penny Dreiling, bookkeeper and receptionist; and Diane Poncin, additional receptionist during tax season.

“Everyone here is a long-time Barton County resident,” Bowers commented. “Some were born and raised here. Individually, we serve on many civic and non-profit boards. As an office, we deliver Meals on Wheels and sponsor Operation Christmas Child. We are always talking about how to be more involved.”

Spectrum’s service menu includes: payroll services; QuickBooks training; business consulting and planning; bookkeeping; income-tax services; investment tax planning; financial and estate planning; and human resources consulting.

“But we are always creating new services to help you succeed,” Bowers said. “If you need help with something that isn’t on the list, don’t hesitate to ask.”

The firm also keeps on top of ever-changing technology. “We hear that in just a few years, everything will be different,” Bowers said. “We have been here just 18 months and already there have been changes. The learning curve is huge. But it is exciting to be part of finding ways to make life a little easier for our clients.”

One example of making life easier is called Boss, which is an all-inclusive solution that offers relief from day-to-day accounting hassles, while providing 24/7 access to financial data.

“With the Boss system, we pay your bills, record your deposits, prepare payroll and payroll tax returns, furnish financial statements, produce W-2s, prepare tax returns and offer advice throughout the year,” Bowers explained. “You define your needs and we assess how Boss can be integrated.”

These are important services, he noted, especially for a business that reaches a point that there is no time for the basics of bookkeeping.

“All of us here want to help local and area businesses,” Bowers summarized. “After all, Great Bend is home. We are passionate about Great Bend and Barton County. If we can help small businesses be more successful, the local economy grows and more people are working.” —

