



The mission of the Chamber of Commerce is to promote progressive community and economic development to benefit Chamber members and the North Iowa region.

The Chamber of Commerce  
cordially invites you to

## Plaid Tidings OPERATION THANK YOU

Thursday, December 15  
4-6PM

Commerce Center  
9 N Federal Ave  
Mason City, IA

Sponsored by:



Thank you to 98.7 KISS Country/103.7 The  
Fox for highlighting Business After Hours  
on its stations!

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## Happy Holidays!



Warm holiday wishes from the Chamber Team!  
Noah Harris, Colleen Frein, Robin Anderson, Allyson Krull, Isaac Bartz

## Operation Thank You - December 15

**Operation Thank You** is Thursday, December 15! This is the day Chamber staff and volunteers make stops at member businesses to say "Thank You," "Happy Holidays," and to deliver the 2023 Membership Packet containing the 2023 Membership Directory, Membership Certificate, **CMO (Chamber Member Only)** cards for employees, and other pertinent membership information. Packets also contain some special items from our packet sponsors!



Since packets are hand-delivered to local members, volunteers are needed to help with distribution. Packets are sorted by neighborhoods, making it possible to deliver 5-6 in about an hour. This is a great way to meet Chamber member businesses! Please call the Chamber office at 641.423.5724 to volunteer for **Operation Thank You**.

Chamber members are invited to stop by the Commerce Center from 4-6PM for **Business After Hours** to enjoy food, drinks, and networking. Premier Chamber member, First Citizens Bank, is the **Operation Thank You** co-host. This year's theme is "Plaid Tidings," so be sure to don festive plaid attire! Chamber staff is looking forward to spending time with members to celebrate the holiday season.



Thank you Packet Sponsors:



## New Members

### BARE SUGAR SPA & SALON

Jessica Glenn, Owner  
124 N Delaware Ave  
Mason City, IA 50401  
(641) 201-8999  
baresugarspa@gmail.com  
baresugarspa.com

Bare Sugar offers premier salon services as well as rejuvenating spa treatments. They have been providing services for the ladies (and gentlemen) of North Iowa since 2017 and are located in downtown Mason City.

### BUSINESS LADIES OF IOWA NETWORKING GROUP

Jessica Tierney, Director  
16025 300th Street  
Mason City, IA 50401  
(641) 425-6294  
xanddrew@msn.com  
thebling.org

So much more than just socializing! BLING focuses on helping women build connections in the community, both professionally and personally.

### QPS EMPLOYMENT GROUP

Ian Anderson, Sales Executive  
634 S Monroe Ave  
Mason City, IA 50401  
(641) 423-1292  
ian.anderson@qpsemployment.com  
www.qpsemployment.com/locations/detail/qps-mason-city

Employee-owned staffing and recruiting firm dedicated to bringing people together, to form lasting relationships across, a diverse field of professional and organizational enterprises.

### RIVER CITY CHURCH

Brian Rezendes, Lead Pastor  
1631 4th St SW #120  
Mason City, IA 50401  
(641) 903-5519  
info@rivercitychurch.co  
www.rivercitychurch.co

River City Church is life-giving, non-denominational church in Mason City that exists to help people Know Jesus, Experience Freedom, Find Community, and Discover Purpose.

## From the President

### *A Love Letter*

**A**s I prepare to retire, I'm ambivalent. I love my job and I love North Iowa, so it will be difficult to move away...even from the snow. When I was hired in 2001, things in Mason City were very different. We set out to muscle-build this organization: to get our financial affairs in order, build our political capital, and provide much-needed leadership to a community in turmoil. Once we accomplished these things, we turned our focus to community and economic development activities to move North Iowa forward. We've been doing just that—to the best of our abilities—ever since.



Robin Anderson  
President & CEO

I love this work, but I won't miss it. Because in the end, it's all about the people.

I **will** miss:

- our amazing team at the Chamber. I know they'll continue to thrive under Colleen Frein's leadership. Look for them to accomplish big things!
- all the talented co-workers I've had the pleasure to know through the years in banking and at the Chamber. Many have gone on to new challenges right here in North Iowa.
- the business leaders who comprise our boards and committees. We are fortunate to attract the region's best business minds to our volunteer leadership. The lessons I've learned from them, and the FUN we've had—simply AMAZING.
- the colleagues I've met across the state and across the country. Elected officials and their staffs, state and federal agency officials, chamber/economic development professionals, local government elected leaders and public servants, non-profit volunteers...these relationships have sustained me during good times and bad.
- all the people who travel with the Chamber. Strong bonds form through shared experiences in foreign countries.

North Iowa is a special place to live and raise a family. Many times, "work friends" became "real friends"...and in the friendship department, my cup runneth over. I'll miss:

- the friends we made sitting on gym bleachers, bag chairs, hockey & figure skating benches, in boats at sailing races, and in auditoriums at plays and concerts.
- my running buddies, who got up at the butt crack of dawn to accommodate my work schedule, as we trained for marathons.
- volunteers we worked alongside at fundraisers, Earth Day clean-ups, concession stands, fundraisers, ballot issues, non-profit boards, and more fundraisers.
- my "chemosabes" who took turns sitting with me during chemotherapy every Friday for six months, and transitioned to "coffee-sabes" to distract me during twice-daily radiation. And prayed. And believed. Five years and counting.
- a wide circle of friends we've had the honor to hang out, commiserate, and celebrate with through the years.

Finally, I'll follow the advice of a friend with a rambunctious son. Whenever he went to a friend's house or birthday party, she always reminded him to say he was SORRY before he left. Good advice. If I have offended you, hurt your feelings, or invoked your anger in my 42 years here...I am sincerely sorry. I want nothing but the BEST for the people of North Iowa. Always.

Onward.



## CEO Conversations

**W**HKS President and CEO, Fouad Daoud, will serve as the speaker for **CEO Conversations** from 12-1PM on Thursday, December 8 at the Commerce Center.

Daoud arrived in the U.S. in 1982 after he was accepted into the undergraduate civil engineering program at Iowa State University. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in the summer of 1985 and obtained his Master's degree in the summer of 1987. Following graduation, Fouad was hired as an entry-level Structural Engineer at WHKS & Co. in Mason City by its then-President, Frank Schmitz. Years of hard work, perseverance, and commitment saw Fouad transition from an entry-level engineer at WHKS in 1987 to its President and CEO in 2004. Fouad held various positions along the way, including Engineer Intern, Design Engineer, Project Engineer, Project Manager, Department Head, and Vice President.

Daoud has a vast array of leadership experiences which he will cover during his **CEO Conversations** session on Thursday, December 8.

**CEO Conversations** is sponsored by First Citizens Bank and features accomplished CEOs who share advice and experiences with a small group of participants looking to further their careers. Registration is \$20 and includes lunch. Find more details or register online at [masoncityia.com](http://masoncityia.com), or contact Noah at the Chamber ([nharris@masoncityia.com](mailto:nharris@masoncityia.com) | 641.423.5724).



Fouad Daoud  
WHKS Engineers,  
Planners & Surveyors

## Sled Donations for YIELD Project

Each year, **YIELD** students complete a Community Impact Project as a graduation requirement. This year, the class wanted to tackle a timely project that would be fun for kids in Iowa winters. After reviewing a variety of ideas, they found a "free sled library" concept that had been implemented in other communities. Not only will this offer a fun winter activity for North Iowans, but it will help provide sleds to visitors or to those who may not already have access.

The students researched other cities with sled libraries for opinions and best practices. They also consulted with Mason City city staff and presented their project to the Mason City Park Board for approval of installation of two sled racks – one at the East Park Sledding Hill and one at the Georgia Hanford Sledding Hill. Students will construct the sled "shed" racks with assistance from the Mason City High School woods shop instructor and will work with city staff to make sure sleds are stocked in the racks and that broken sleds are removed from the sites.

**YIELD** students are seeking gently used sleds or monetary donations to purchase new sleds for the project. Various forms of sleds/saucers are welcome, however, any with metal runners will not be accepted. Donations can be dropped off at the Commerce Center in Mason City (9 N Federal Ave) between 8AM-4:30PM Monday-Friday until December 14. The Sled Sheds will be installed by late December.



**YIELD**  
Youth Investing Energy  
in Leadership Development

## New Members (cont.)

**SLUMBERLAND FURNITURE**  
Mitchell Knudsvig, Senior Selling  
Store Manager  
3649 4th St SW  
Mason City, IA 50401  
(641) 423-1712  
[mitchell.knudsvig@slumberland.com](mailto:mitchell.knudsvig@slumberland.com)  
[www.slumberland.com](http://www.slumberland.com)

Their mission is to improve the life of each customer through their products, service, and company values.



## Be Our Guest

**T**une in Friday mornings to the Chamber "Be Our Guest" program at 8:40AM on KRIB 1490 AM, courtesy of Alpha Media.

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| December 2  | Bare Sugar Spa & Salon<br><i>Jessica Glenn</i>                     |
| December 9  | QPS Employment<br><i>Ian Anderson</i>                              |
| December 16 | Business Ladies of Iowa Networking Group<br><i>Jessica Tierney</i> |
| December 23 | River City Church<br><i>Brian Rezendes</i>                         |
| December 30 | Mason City Family YMCA<br><i>Tammy Hertzell</i>                    |



## Membership Renewals

**Congratulations to the Chamber members celebrating membership anniversaries in December.**

### **Seventy Plus Years**

**MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center (71)**

### **Sixty Plus Years**

**O'Brien Moving & Storage (64)**

### **Fifty Plus Years**

**Stifel (52)**

### **Forty Plus Years**

**Hy-Vee East (46)**

### **Thirty Plus Years**

**Subway (34)**

**Mason City Public Library (33)**

**Elderbridge Agency on Aging (31)**

**Jaspersen Insurance & Real Estate (30)**

### **Twenty Plus Years**

**CG Public Health (24)**

### **Fifteen Plus Years**

**Farmers State Bank (19)**

**Nora Springs Insurance (18)**

**Golden Grain Energy LLC (18)**

**Eternity Wireless (16)**

### **Five Plus Years**

**Tierney Properties (9)**

**Buck's Recycling LLC (8)**

**Healthy Harvest of North Iowa (7)**

**Aventura World (7)**

### **One Plus Years**

**Jophiel Arts Studio (4)**

**HRS, LLC (Herold-Reicks**

**Surveying) (3)**

**Alzheimer's Association (3)**

**Buck's UPI Inc (3)**

**Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW Post 733) (3)**

**Router12 Networks LLC (3)**

**Discount Tire (2)**

**RCP Investment (1)**

**Fairfield Inn & Suites (1)**

**Brick & Tile LLC (1)**

**The Window Source of Mason City (1)**

## The State of North Iowa - January 19

**T**he *State of North Iowa* will be held from 8-10AM on Thursday, January 19 in the space formerly occupied by Younkers at Southbridge Center in Mason City.

This year's event will feature an update on the Main Street Experience and the Hyatt Place Hotel from Main Street Capital, as well as a presentation on Clear Lake's Destination Iowa project by Clear Lake City Administrator Scott Flory, and a presentation on Mason City's Destination Iowa project by Mason City City Administrator Aaron Burnett.

*The State of North Iowa* is an opportunity to hear directly from local leaders on strategic projects intended to help the region grow. This event complements the *Vision North Iowa* strategic planning efforts.

Registration is \$25 and includes a light breakfast. Contact Noah Harris for details (nharris@masoncityia.com | 641.423.5724).

Sponsored by:



## Picture Day - January 5

Whether on a business card, website, or social media, a person's headshot may be the first thing potential clients see. This is an opportunity for Chamber members to ensure they are putting their best "face" forward. **Picture Day** is scheduled from 8:30AM-1:30PM on Thursday, January 5 at the Commerce Center. Best Impressions Photography will take professional headshots to use for business cards, company newsletters, online profiles, and more.

The \$55 fee includes the professional sitting fee for the headshot and a digital copy of the photo. Each participant will take three photos and select one of the three for retouching.

To register, visit [masoncityia.com](http://masoncityia.com) and select the 15-minute time slot of your choice. A confirmation email will be sent the week of the event with additional details.

*Best Impressions*  
PHOTOGRAPHY

## Holiday Gift Ideas

The Chamber offers a variety of merchandise items to make the perfect holiday gift! These items can be found in the Chamber's online store with the option to ship or pick up at the office. Check out the store at [business.masoncityia.com/store](http://business.masoncityia.com/store).

|   |      |
|---|------|
| "Mr. Toot" lapel pins                         | \$5  |
| "Mr. Toot" ornaments (suitable for engraving) | \$10 |
| Mason City Afghans                            | \$50 |



## Chamber Welcomes Isaac Bartz

Mason City native Isaac Bartz joined the Chamber team in November as Service & Operations Associate. He replaces Zoie Papouchis who resigned to pursue her art career full-time.

Isaac greets Commerce Center visitors and callers at the reception desk, splitting his time between the Chamber and the North Iowa Corridor EDC. For the Chamber, Isaac will administer the quarterly C2ER Cost of Living process, coordinate services to maintain the Commerce Center building and grounds, monitor inventory and supplies, schedule room rentals, and provide administrative assistance to the North Iowa Builders Exchange.

Isaac is a graduate of Mason City High School and attended two years of classes at NIACC. Prior to his position at the Chamber, Isaac worked for Target for more than three years and has more than five years of customer service and retail experience. In his free time, Isaac is an amateur photographer. He also enjoys being outdoors and spending time with family and friends.



Isaac Bartz  
Service & Operations  
Associate

## Chamber Bowl 2023

Save the date for the 30th annual **Chamber Bowl**, February 15-17, 2023!

**Chamber Bowl** will look a little different this year. Due to league timing, this annual 9-pin winter bowling event will be held from 12-4PM, with registration at 11:30AM.

For more information on how to register a team for this popular event, contact Noah at [nharris@masoncityia.com](mailto:nharris@masoncityia.com) or 641-423-5724!



## Breaking Glass Recap

Robin Anderson served as the speaker for November's **Breaking Glass Women's Leadership Series**. Robin has led the Chamber as President & CEO since 2001, and will be retiring in January of 2023. Robin believes it is important to look at a job as a reason to help build your community and the people who live in it.



"The world needs dreamers and the world needs doers.  
But above all, the world needs dreamers who do."  
— Sarah Ban Breathnach

## Anderson Retirement Party

The Chamber is honoring Robin Anderson's retirement after nearly 22 years of leading the organization. Members and friends are invited to celebrate her many years of service positively impacting North Iowa.

A Retirement Open House is taking place from Noon-4PM on Thursday, January 5, 2023 in the Third Floor Event Room at the Commerce Center (9 N Federal Ave).

Help wish Robin well in her retirement!



## That's a Wrap!

The Chamber's placemaking efforts are supported by the Chamber Foundation. As funds are available, more of the highly-visible utility boxes are wrapped. These boxes, located in Central Park, were wrapped last month.





*Experience the art of hospitality*

# NORTH IOWA BREW PASS

## Presented by Visit Mason City

Discover some of the best hand-crafted beer in the state while exploring the unique taprooms of several North Iowa breweries, including two in the heart of downtown Mason City. Collect points at each location to redeem for a FREE North Iowa Brew Pass t-shirt!



## HOW IT WORKS



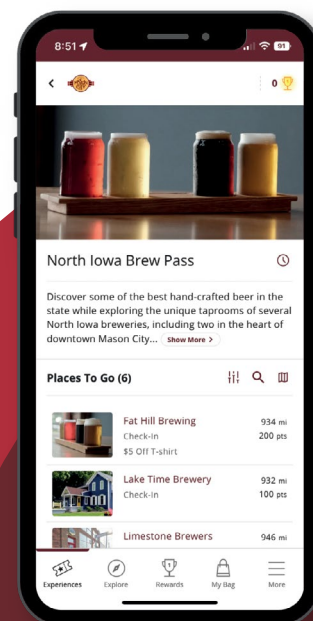
Receive a text or e-mail with a link to your passport



Check-in at included locations to qualify for prizes



Allow the pass to validate your location when prompted for easy check-in



<https://visitmasoncityiowa.com/brew-pass/>





DECEMBER 2022

## SAVE-TH-DATE UPCOMING HOLIDAY FUN

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### PRESIDENT

**Steve Bailey**, Century 21  
641.424.9400  
steve.bailey21@gmail.com

#### VICE PRESIDENT/SECRETARY

**Tessa Trout**, MercyOne  
641.430.6607  
tessa.trout@mercyhealth.com

#### TREASURER

**Jaclyn Meier**, First Citizens Bank  
641.425.3475  
Jaclyn.Meier@myfcb.bank

**Diane Arndt**, Reflections  
641.424.7001  
diarndt12@gmail.com

**Melissa Fabian**, Simply Nourished  
Mason City Youth Hockey Assoc.  
701.212.5566  
melissafabian@yahoo.com

**Jeremiah Frein**, Principal Financial  
504.720.2723  
freinjeremiah@gmail.com

**Jason Geving**, Edward Jones  
515.320.3945  
Jason.Geving@edwardjones.com

**Abigail Lee**, Lee Realty  
641.512.2208  
leerealtyiowa@gmail.com

**Tim Schupick**, Schupick + Associates  
641.425.7926  
tim@schupickcpas.com

#### CITY LIASON

**Steven Van Steenhuyse**  
641.421.3626  
svansteenhuyse@masoncity.net

#### PAST PRESIDENT

**Kevin Sullivan**, First Citizens Bank  
641.420.6084  
Kevin.Sullivan@myfcb.bank

### *Jingle Mingle Pub Crawl* SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>

Whether you're naughty or nice, it's time to get into the holiday spirit! Join Main Street Mason City for the Jingle Mingle Pub Crawl on Saturday, December 10th, 6 PM-10 PM. Throw on your most festive attire, grab your friends, and come jingle 'til you tingle!

#### REGISTRATION: \$25 per person

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- A good time with hundreds of the jolliest bunch of elves this side of the North Pole.
- 10 complimentary ax throws at The Country Axe.
- A complimentary slice of pizza at The Corner Pizza & Alehouse.
- Exclusive food and drink specials at participating locations and an exclusive Jingle Mingle gift.
- Official Jingle Mingle Pub Crawl map to help guide you to all participating locations.
- Official entry into drawings for gifts and prizes throughout the night.



SCAN HERE >>  
FOR MORE INFO



### Learn more at [www.mainstreetmasoncity.com/events](http://www.mainstreetmasoncity.com/events)

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:** Alpha Media - home of KGLO News, Star 106.1, 93.9 The Country Moose & 1490 & 96.7 KRIB, First Citizens Bank, The OFFICIAL 98.7 KISS Country & 103.7 The Fox, Christie Door Store, Young Construction, Reflections Salon Mason City, The Country Axe, and The Corner Pizza & Alehouse.



### *Skate with Santa* SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>



Join Main Street Mason City & Mason City Youth Hockey Association downtown on Sunday, December 11th from 1 PM-4 PM for a community skate at the Mason City Arena.

**COST:** Donation of one non-perishable food item or cash donation per person. Proceeds will be donated to the Hawkeye Harvest Food Bank.

Bring your own skates or free rentals will be available with food bank donation. Skate rentals sponsored by Mason City Youth Hockey. (Time limits will be in effect for skates)



## QUALITY OF LIFE PROJECTS TAKE ACTION

**A RECENT INCREASE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS** for North Iowa will benefit current and prospective residents. "Our communities are really on the move," said Chad Schreck, President & CEO of North Iowa Corridor Economic Development Corporation. "It ties back to the Vision North Iowa plan developed about five years ago. Those discussions made it clear that local businesses and citizens wanted to see more amenities and housing. With planning and input, we're now seeing great progress. We've been working to make it happen, and these are the results."

Schreck said he's appreciative of city and county leadership for making all these decisions, which involved lots of time and investment. In October 2022, Mason City and Cerro Gordo County were awarded \$4.5 million towards a large-scale plan to improve outdoor recreation here. The funds came from the Destination Iowa grant program through the Iowa Economic Development Corporation (IEDA). Gov. Kim Reynolds earmarked \$100 million from the federal American Rescue Plan Act for "transformational" projects to encourage tourism and boost the quality of life in the state.

Officials worked with members of North Iowa Human Powered Trails and Mason City Activity Living and Transportation Commission to develop the Bike North Iowa plan, which aims to make this region a biking tourism destination. Proposed improvements include construction of more single track trails; a bike park and pump track for mountain biking; connections between existing city and county trails; trailside amenities; and improvements to a rural campground on the Prairieland Trail. The total plan is estimated to cost almost \$12 million over the next two years.

The City of Clear Lake is expecting to hear before the end of the year whether it secured its own Destination Iowa grant, with a Surf District redevelopment plan to capitalize on the tourism draw of the Surf Ballroom and the lake.

The list of other current and ongoing development projects in the area continues:

- Groundbreaking took place recently on "River II," a second Talon Development housing project adding 93 units in downtown Mason City. Schreck said Talon's first complex here has been at or near-capacity since opening in 2020. Residents typically include young professionals, employees of city businesses, and older people who have downsized housing, according to Schreck.
- DEV Partners is working with the city on a new 11-unit row home project on an empty lot at the corner of N. Federal and 2nd St NW, and received an IEDA Workforce Housing Tax Credits in September.
- Renovations are creating upper-story apartments in downtown areas, including above Simply Nourished and Edward Jones Investments in Mason City and above Charlie's Soda Fountain in Clear Lake.
- Groundbreaking for the "Everybody Plays" playground was held in Clear Lake this fall, to construct an accessible, all-inclusive park for families.
- Groundwork is underway at Emerald Edge, a development near Interstate 35 in Clear Lake that will include housing around a new Hy-Vee grocery and gas station.
- Ridge Development is building 8 twin homes and 16 single-family houses on property just north of Clear Lake State Park.
- Mason City is moving forward on a RiverWalk along Willow Creek, connecting east and west sides of town, after receiving several state and private grants.
- Footings are going in for a new terminal building at Mason City Airport.
- Clear Lake's new Wellness Center and Mason City Schools' addition of a field house and natatorium in the past year add to the area's amenities.

"As people look at communities to decide where to live, people want recreational amenities, they want a high quality of life," Schreck said. "Every person lives someplace for a different reason, but this is what most people look for, at a bare minimum. And they need options in housing types. We need all types, because people want to be able to choose."

An update of the Vision North Iowa county-wide comprehensive plan has begun, and opportunities for public input will be provided with initial public workshops December 7th and 8th.

"We know businesses need help with recruiting. Our communities have great quality of life and low cost of living, and are committed to continuing to improve it. And to keep people here, we also need good schools, government, and businesses. We're proud of the collaboration our organizations and communities have built up, and are excited by the results."

CHAD SCHRECK

PRESIDENT & CEO

[cschreck@northiowacorridor.com](mailto:cschreck@northiowacorridor.com)

SHAUN ARNESON

VP, EXISTING BUSINESS & PROJECT MANAGEMENT

[sarneson@northiowacorridor.com](mailto:sarneson@northiowacorridor.com)

JOYCE MARTIN

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

[jmartin@northiowacorridor.com](mailto:jmartin@northiowacorridor.com)





## North Iowa Businesses Compete in Fall 2022 Venture School Launch Day

The NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center hosted Venture School Launch Day on Thursday, November 17, 2022. The Fall 2022 Venture School cohort competed in person after attending classes virtually for 7 weeks of training, customer discovery, and developing their business model alongside local entrepreneur coaches. A panel of local judges selected First, Second, and Third Place winners, and two Honorable Mention awards.

**First Place** – Bethany Fisher, Trendy Pineapple Boutique, Garner, IA. Awarded \$1,500 prize.

**Second Place** – Brittany Bock, A Kneaded Break, Charles City, IA. Awarded \$1000 prize.

**Third Place** – Davin McLeod and Jared Herrmann, WhiteGlove, Mason City, IA. Awarded \$500 prize.

**Honorable Mention** – Kole Witte, Northern Roots Landscaping, Manly IA; and Michael Hook, Elegant Countertops, Garner, IA. Awarded \$250 prize.

The University of Iowa Venture School is a premier statewide program for entrepreneurs and is built from a streamlined curriculum developed by the National Science Foundation I-Corps at Stanford University and the University of California, Berkeley. Venture School emphasizes real-world entrepreneurship and innovation based on leading edge curriculum. Teams will accelerate the startup process by testing their business model



LtR: Brittany Bock; Bethany Fisher; Davin McLeod; Kole Witte; Michael Hook

hypotheses immediately. They get out of the building to talk to customers, partners, and competitors, rather than relying on statistics and secondhand market research.

Each team is assigned a local entrepreneur as their coach. On Launch Day, participants compete for seed money with the top team winning \$1,500. In addition, eligible teams may compete for cash awards at the state level during the Venture School Launch Day at EntreFEST in Iowa City on June 8-9, 2023. The cost for the course is \$299. Contact Mary Spitz at [mary.spitz@niacc.edu](mailto:mary.spitz@niacc.edu) with questions.

Applications for the Spring 2023 Venture School will open in January. Visit [www.pappajohncenter.com/ventureschool](http://www.pappajohncenter.com/ventureschool) for more information.

### PAPPAJOHN CENTER STAFF

Candace Karsjens, Director

Brook Boehmler, North Iowa Are SBDC Director

Kelley O'Rourke, School Partnership Entrepreneurial Coordinator

Joyce Martin, Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Anthony Riesen, Innovation Workspace Coordinator

Mary Spitz, Administrative Assistant

[www.pappajohncenter.com](http://www.pappajohncenter.com)  
500 College Drive, Ste 120  
Mason City, IA 50401  
1-888-GO-NIACC or 641-422-4111

# Human Trafficking During the Holidays

While it's sobering to think about, human traffickers don't take a break during the holiday season. In the coming weeks, millions of travelers will be passing through areas where labor and sex trafficking could be occurring, such as hotels/motels, rest stops, gas stations, and restaurants. In 2020, the Iowa Attorney General's office identified 558 sex trafficking victims and 158 labor trafficking victims.

Iowa Businesses Against Trafficking (IBAT) is a statewide recognition and education initiative from the Iowa Secretary of State's office. IBAT strives to empower businesses to help in the fight to end human trafficking in Iowa through trainings and outreach. By joining, businesses are committing to **Learn Something** about human trafficking and **Do Something** to educate their community on this horrific crime. Since its launch on January 13, 2022 they've had **over 600 businesses become a member of IBAT**, and all Chamber members are invited to join.

Apply to IBAT at <https://ibat.iowa.gov/apply>

Another initiative is Safe At Home. This program, administered by the Iowa Secretary of State, provides survivors of trafficking, domestic violence, sexual abuse, stalking, and assault with a legal substitute address, mail forwarding, and confidential voter registration/absentee voting. For more information visit [SafeatHome.iowa.gov](http://SafeatHome.iowa.gov) or contact [SafeatHome@sos.iowa.gov](mailto:SafeatHome@sos.iowa.gov).

For more information, please contact IBAT at [ibat@sos.iowa.gov](mailto:ibat@sos.iowa.gov) or 515-725-0174.

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| 1. Mailed outside-county paid subscriptions stated on PS form 3541   | 94  | 90  |
| 2. Mailed in-county paid subscriptions stated on PS form 3541  | 585   | 565   |
| 3. Paid distribution outside the mails including sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other paid distribution outside USPS | 0   | 0   |
| 4. Paid distribution by other classes of mail through the USPS   | 0   | 0   |
| Total paid distribution (sum of 15b (1, 2, 3 & 4))   | 679   | 655   |
| Free or nominal rate distribution (by mail & outside the mail)   |   |   |
| 1. Free or nominal rate outside-county copies, on form 3541  | 0   | 0   |
| 2. Free or nominal rate in-county included on form 3541  | 20  | 20  |
| 3. Free or nominal rate copies mailed at other classes through USPS  | 0   | 0   |
| 4. Free or nominal rate distribution outside the mail  | 0   | 0   |
| e. Total free or nominal rate distribution (sum of 15d (1, 2, 3 & 4))  | 20  | 20  |
| f. Total distribution (sum of 15c & 15e)   | 699   | 675   |
| g. Copies not distributed  | 0   | 0   |
| h. Total (sum of 15f and 15g)  | 547   | 640   |
| i. Percent paid  | 97%   | 97%   |

17. Publication of statement ownership: if the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required; will be printed in the December 2022 issue of publication.

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Mason City Chamber-Publisher: Dec. 01, 2022.

## Ribbon Cuttings

### GROUND BREAKING The River II 2nd St SW



### NEW MEMBER Twenty Fore Seven Indoor Golf & Sports Lounge 519 4th St SW



### NEW MEMBER Bare Sugar Spa & Salon 124 N Delaware Ave



### NEW MEMBER Amour Vogue 4700 4th St SW, Ste F

## Wellness



### 5-2-1-0 Summit

The Iowa Healthiest State Initiative hosted the annual 5-2-1-0 Healthy Choices Count! Summit in October. The 2022 Summit featured speakers, panel discussions, and interactive breaks led by local and national speakers and experts. Sessions highlighted all facets of well-being.

"The 5-2-1-0 program stresses the importance of taking care of our physical, social and mental, and mental health," said Jami Haberl, Executive Director of the Iowa Healthiest State Initiative. "Enacting 5-2-1-0 in your school, workplace, community, or out-of-school program is an excellent way to make sure students, coworkers, and family are living their healthiest and happiest life."

As we head into the winter months, consider keeping a routine to ensure that you and your loved ones are staying as healthy as possible. Following the 5-2-1-0 method is a great way to stay on track!

- 5 servings of fruits and vegetables
- 2 hours or less of screen time
- 1 hour of physical activity
- 0 sugary drinks. More water!

The Iowa Healthiest State Initiative is focused on making Iowa the healthiest state in the nation. The Chamber is proud to work with the Iowa Healthiest State Initiative to implement more wellness efforts through the community, in hopes of creating a healthier state!



# Chamber Leadership

## Executive Committee

Evan Raulie, Board Chairperson  
*Smithfield*  
Dr. Paul Manternach, Chair Elect  
*MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center*  
Jane Fischer, Past Chairperson  
*Jane Fischer & Associates, LLC*  
Danielle Pace, Treasurer  
*Clear Lake Bank & Trust Co.*  
Kyle Bermel, Small Business  
Division Vice President  
*Metalcraft, Inc.*  
Phil Meekins, Government Affairs  
Division Vice President  
*CURRIES*  
Jessica Tierney, Workforce & Leadership  
Division Vice President  
*Tierney Properties*  
Todd Leet, Community & Membership  
Division Vice President  
*Thrivent - Todd Leet*

## Board of Directors

Michael Davis, *IOOF Home & Community Therapy Center*  
Jeremy Holman, *Kraft Heinz*  
Chris Jessen, *Heartland Asphalt, Inc.*  
Janet Johnson, *Globe Gazette*  
Matt Koch, *Sukup Manufacturing*  
Dr. Michelle LaCoste, *Animal Medical Hospital*  
Matt Leibbrand, *Stoney Creek Hospitality Corp.*  
Kevin Meyer, *First Citizens Bank*  
Amber Morud, *Charlie Brown Preschool & Child Care*  
Jessica Reith, *Cargill Protein*  
Jenna Sheriff, *Jane Fischer & Associates*  
Katy Showalter, *Window World of Mason City*  
Luke Weiss, *Hoover's Hatchery*  
Valerie Zahorski-Schmidt, *NIACC*

## Staff

Robin Anderson, CCE, IOM  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
[randerson@masoncityia.com](mailto:randerson@masoncityia.com)  
Colleen Frein, IOM  
Vice President & Membership Director  
[cfrein@masoncityia.com](mailto:cfrein@masoncityia.com)  
Allyson Krull, IOM  
Marketing & Leadership Development  
Director  
[akrull@masoncityia.com](mailto:akrull@masoncityia.com)  
Noah Harris  
Program Director  
[nharris@masoncityia.com](mailto:nharris@masoncityia.com)  
Isaac Bartz  
Service & Operations Associate  
[chamber@masoncityia.com](mailto:chamber@masoncityia.com)

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## Upcoming Events MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Professional Development

Thursday  
**December 8**

**CEO Conversations with Fouad Daoud** | Noon-1PM  
Board Room, Commerce Center | 9 N Federal Ave

### Networking Events

Thursday  
**December 15**

**Operation Thank You - Holiday Business After Hours**  
4-6PM | Co-hosted by First Citizens Bank  
Third Floor Event Room, Commerce Center  
9 N Federal Ave



### Get Involved/Committee Meetings

Tuesday  
**December 6**

**Ambassador Meeting** | Noon-1PM  
Third Floor Event Room, Commerce Center | 9 N Federal Ave

Wednesday  
**December 14**

**Agribusiness Committee Meeting** | 8-9AM  
Third Floor Event Room, Commerce Center | 9 N Federal Ave  
**Program Committee Meeting** | Noon-1PM  
Board Room, Commerce Center | 9 N Federal Ave

Thursday  
**December 15**

**Operation Thank You Packet Delivery** | 8AM-3PM  
Band Festival Room, Commerce Center | 9 N Federal Ave

Tuesday  
**December 20**

**Wellness Committee Meeting** | 3-4PM  
Farrer Room, Commerce Center | 9 N Federal Ave

Wednesday  
**December 21**

**Board Meeting** | Noon-1PM  
Third Floor Event Room, Commerce Center | 9 N Federal Ave

**The Commerce Center will be closed for the Holidays, Dec 24-Jan 3.**

## January 2022

January 5 | *Picture Day*

January 19 | *The State of North Iowa*