

Small Business Month: Celebrate in May, Support All Year

Amanda Clasen- Community Vitality Agent
May 2025

The month of May marks Small Business Month, a time dedicated to recognizing the powerful role small businesses play in our communities and our economy. While they may be “small” in size, their impact is anything but.

Across the country, small businesses account for nearly half of all private-sector jobs. They’re run by our neighbors, friends, and family members—the people who know us by name, remember our usual orders, and go the extra mile to serve. But behind every small business is a story of hard work, risk, and perseverance. Entrepreneurs invest time, energy, and resources—not to mention heart—into their dreams. Many wear multiple hats, juggle uncertain finances, and navigate ever-changing market demands. And still, they show up every day to keep their doors open, often with a smile.

This month is an opportunity for all of us to say *thank you*. We can do that by choosing to shop local, spread the word about our favorite businesses, or even leave a positive review online. These seemingly small actions add up and can make a world of difference.

If you're a small business owner—or thinking about becoming one—there are excellent local resources available to help you succeed:

- **Your Local Chamber of Commerce**
Offers networking opportunities, business education workshops, and promotional support.
- **Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Pittsburg State University**
Provides free business consulting, startup assistance, and help with business plans and funding. Our local SBDC is housed at Pittsburg State University with branches located across Southeast Kansas. If you are considering starting a small business, I encourage you to start with a conversation with SBDA.
- **Network Kansas**
Connects businesses with grants, loans, and local incentives designed to foster growth. Network Kansas collaborates with communities, support organizations, and local leaders to drive economic development. They offer a variety of loan options to support entrepreneurs as they begin or expand their business journey.

Whether you're launching a new venture or growing an existing one, these resources are here to help—and they're just a phone call or a click away.

As we celebrate Small Business Month, let's remember that when we support small, we strengthen all. The success of local businesses is closely tied to the well-being of our communities. Let's continue to invest in that success—not just in May, but all year long!

For more information, please contact Community Vitality Agent Amanda Clasen at any Southwind District office or amclasen@ksu.edu.

