

*Annual Awards  
Celebration*

MADISON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2024

A man wearing a dark cap and a grey jacket is focused on washing a piece of produce under a running faucet in a stainless steel sink. In the background, another person is visible, and the setting appears to be a farm or a community kitchen with large windows showing trees outside. The overall lighting is warm and natural.

**“Whether it’s through  
medicine or fresh  
produce, our goal is  
to keep people healthy.”**

**Mikkal H.**, Farmer at Community Farm

When you think of healthcare, you probably picture hospitals, not farms. But at Community Health Network, we believe the well-being of our community starts long before you set foot in one of our buildings. For caregivers like Mikkal, giving people access to healthy foods, and even teaching them, how to grow and prepare them is an important part of our mission. You see, delivering exceptional care doesn’t start in our hospitals, it starts in our communities.

Learn more at [eCommunity.com/simplydelivered](https://eCommunity.com/simplydelivered)



**Community Health Network**  
EXCEPTIONAL CARE. **SIMPLY DELIVERED.**

# Clayton Whitson

*President & CEO  
Madison County Chamber  
of Commerce*

## Welcome Message



Welcome to the 2024 Madison County Chamber of Commerce's Annual Awards Celebration! It's a pleasure to have you all here as we come together to recognize the incredible contributions of businesses and individuals that shape the culture of Madison County, making it a wonderful place for everyone. While we usually have our focus on the future, tonight is a time to reflect on the past year's achievements.

In 2023, the Chamber experienced remarkable growth welcoming a record 114 new members to the Chamber family while adding many new offerings including our merger with the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, healthcare career pathways, highlights with our Madison-Grant Student Tours, and our involvement with the Madison County Bicentennial celebrations. Throughout the year we witnessed the birth of numerous success stories that have left a positive impact on Madison County.

Our events have been nothing short of spectacular, featuring speakers who have shared valuable insights and inspired us all to reach greater heights. From Indiana Destination Development Corporation CEO Elaine Bedel, to Inside Indiana Business's President Gerry Dick, we were committed to providing high value events with a focus on improving our business climate. We owe a debt of gratitude to the entire Madison County business community for their unwavering support of our events, which resulted in record attendance for both our Power Up and FAB series.

More exciting news is on the horizon as we are just getting started with the rollout of new programs for 2024, but for now, let's revel in the joy of celebrating the achievements of our outstanding citizens and businesses, as we continue to strive for a brighter and more prosperous future for Madison County and beyond!

# **ANNUAL AWARDS CELEBRATION**

**6PM-7PM**  
Cocktail Hour

**Welcome**

**A word from our President & CEO**  
Clayton Whitson

**Presenting Sponsor**  
Community Hospital of Anderson

**Annual Awards Sponsor**  
Harrah's Hoosier Park Racing & Casino

**2024 Anniversary Awards Recognition**

**MCC Leadership Circle Recognition**

**Non-Profit of the Year Award**

**Entrepreneur's of the Year Award**

**AU Falls School of Business/  
Dickmann Scholarship Award**

**Chairman's Award**

**Public Servant of the Year Award**

**Community Impact Award**

**Keith Pitcher Character  
in Business Award**

**President's Award**

**Closing Remarks**



## **MCC BOARD MEMBERS**

**Bev Joyce**  
Board Chairman

**Kris Zinzser**  
Past Chair

**Jennifer Hall**  
Vice Chair

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Secretary

**Thomas Wunderlich**  
Board Member

**Colin Skidmore**  
Board Member

**Anna Hinton**  
Board Member

**Deca Williams**  
Board Member

**Kirk Klabunde**  
Board Member

**Tom Bannon**  
Board Member

**Jeff Graham**  
Board Member

**Gina Brisco**  
Board Member

## **CHAMBER STAFF**

**CLAYTON WHITSON**  
PRESIDENT & CEO

**PATTY LOVINS**  
DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP & EVENTS

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# 2024 AWARDS

25  
YEAR

BESTWAY DISPOSAL  
CODY HOOKER - EDWARD JONES INVESTMENTS  
AMY TURNER STATE FARM AGENT

30  
YEAR

HARRAH'S HOOSIER PARK  
MANCINO'S

40  
YEAR

RALPH SIPES, ATTORNEY AT LAW

45  
YEAR

L.M. PRODUCTS  
ESTEP-DOCTOR & COMPANY  
LOOSE FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATORY

55  
YEAR

JAM PRINTING

60  
YEAR

SONITROL OF ANDERSON

75  
YEAR

BROWN INSURANCE GROUP

# 2024 AWARDS

90  
YEAR

INDIANA FARM BUREAU INSURANCE AGENCY  
STAR PHOTO DIGITAL ARTS

95  
YEAR

ANDERSON MEMORIAL PARK  
BROWN BUTZ DIEDRING CHAPEL

130  
YEAR

ASCENSION ST.VINCENT

135  
YEAR

ROWLAND TITLE

140  
YEAR

MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

145  
YEAR

ANDERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY





**CASA**  
**Court Appointed Special Advocates**  
*Annette Craycraft, Executive Director*

**Non Profit**  
**of the Year**

CASA: Making a Difference – One Child at a Time

Being in the middle of a court case can be terrifying, no matter what age you are. But it's really scary for a child. That's where a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) steps in. CASA volunteers are the child's voice in the court. A CASA volunteer is appointed by the Judge to champion the best interests of abused and neglected children by thoroughly examining a child's case and making recommendations to the Judge. Volunteers are trained to advocate, investigate, evaluate, and monitor with respect to what is in the best interest of the child. CASA volunteers help assure abused and neglected children move into safe, permanent homes where they can thrive. These children, who have been caught up in the legal system through no fault of their own, deserve to have their voice heard in court. National History CASA is a national volunteer program

founded in 1976 by Judge David Soukup. He saw a recurring problem in his courtroom and was concerned over making decisions about abused and neglected children's lives without sufficient information. To ensure he was getting all of the facts and the best interests of each child was being represented, he came up with an idea that would change the lives for thousands of children. He obtained funding to initiate a program to use trained community volunteers to speak for the best interests of these children in the courtroom; the Court Appointed Special Advocate program. In 1978 the National Center of State Courts selected the Seattle program as the "best national example of citizen participation in the juvenile justice system." This recognition, along with a foundation grant, resulted in the replication of the Seattle CASA program in courts across the Country. In 1982 the National CASA Association was formed to direct CASA's mission and national presence. By 1984 the National CASA Association received financial support from the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In 1985, President Ronald Reagan presented the National CASA Association with the President's Volunteer Action Award for "outstanding volunteer contribution, demonstrating accomplishment through voluntary action." The American Bar Association officially endorsed the use of CASA volunteers to work with attorneys to speak for abused and neglected children in the court in 1989.

If you would like to volunteer or are interested in learning more about the CASA program, please visit [eastcentralcasa.org](http://eastcentralcasa.org). To become a Court Appointed Special Advocate, you must be a minimum of 21 years of age, successfully pass criminal background checks, and make a commitment to complete 30 hours of training and to serve with the program for a minimum of one year.



## **Gary and Darla Sallee** **Entrepreneur's** **of the Year**

Gary and Darla Sallee stand as a dynamic duo, weaving together threads of entrepreneurialism and a commitment to community betterment. Their collective journey includes resiliency, innovation, and a shared vision for uplifting Anderson.

Gary's career spans over four decades, rooted in a foundation of legal expertise and entrepreneurial spirit. With a Bachelor of Science in Criminology from Indiana State University and a Juris Doctor from Drake University, Gary's path led him to blaze trails in both the legal and entertainment arenas.

From his early days practicing law across multiple states to his pioneering ventures in entertainment management and event production, Gary's leadership has played an important role in shaping Anderson's cultural landscape. Darla, his partner, brings her own brand of brilliance to their collaborative efforts. With a background in social work and a deep-rooted passion for community service, Darla infuses their ventures with empathy and purpose. From her pivotal role in revitalizing The Toast Café to her visionary leadership at Cirque du Sallee (producing Jingles and Wrecked), Darla's touch is evident in every corner of Anderson's revitalization.

Together, Gary and Darla's partnership and collective vision make them more than entrepreneurs; they are architects of community transformation.



# ANDERSON UNIVERSITY

**Baylee Nees**

*Falls School of Business*

**Dickmann**

## **Scholarship Award**

Baylee Nees is a business analytics major at Anderson University, with a deep love for the arts, including drawing, painting, and making music. These artistic pursuits enrich her perspective in business analytics, allowing her to approach problems with a blend of creativity and analytical thinking. Baylee resides in Anderson, Indiana along with her husband. After graduation she looks forward to pursuing an MBA at Anderson University and is excited about combining her passion for the arts with her business acumen to create innovative solutions in the business world.





**Kris Zinzser**  
**Chairman's**  
**Award**

Born and raised in Anderson, Kris graduated from Anderson High School in 1992. Following a decade in Milwaukee, where he pursued higher education at Marquette University, Kris established an Engineering Firm in 2002, specializing in heavy-duty vehicle electronics. In 2015, he sold the business and returned to Anderson with a dual mission: to apply his acquired business acumen to assist Howard Webb Insurance and Real Estate in navigating Madison County's evolving landscape, and to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of the local business community, fostering recovery and growth.



**Marissa Skaggs**  
**Public Servant**  
**of the Year**

Marissa Skaggs serves on the Pendleton Town Council, and is in her second year as President. Marissa was raised in unincorporated Fall Creek Township and is a proud graduate of Pendleton Heights and Indiana State University. Prior to joining the Town Council in 2020, Marissa served in a variety of volunteer roles including the Paramount Heritage Foundation Board of Directors; the Anderson Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors; the Madison County Community Foundation's Women in Philanthropy Committee; and was awarded the Boy Scouts of

America Sakima District Great Expectation Award in 2012 and Athena Community Shining Star award in 2015.

As President of the Pendleton Town Council, Marissa believes in honoring Pendleton's historical significance, while managing the planned and intentional growth of the Town; maintaining accountability and transparency in government; and supporting citizen-led initiatives, boards, and commissions. Marissa has been married to Andy Skaggs since 2005, together they share a son Ezra, and reside on Pendleton's west side.



## **Amy McCurry** **Community Impact** **Award**

Amy McCurry is a lifelong resident of Alexandria Indiana and a graduate of Alexandria Monroe High School. Amy is a wife to Chris, Mom to Xavier, mother-in-law to Morgan, and is loving her newest role as Grams to her Grandson Everette. Amy has a love for her community and relishes the idea of Everette growing up in the small town she cares for so deeply.

Before following her passion, for both becoming a servant leader and dreaming of opening a new business, Amy served the public by working in the medical field for over 30 years. She and her husband, are now the proud owners of The McCurry'Osity Shop, a successful retail shop in downtown Alexandria, offering gifts and apparel that promote the community and area schools. They are also active real estate investors, owning four commercial buildings, in hopes of bringing revitalization to the downtown area. Amy serves her community in many capacities.

She is a member of the Alexandria City Council, representing District 4, Vice President of Alexandria Main Street, Secretary of the Alexandria Redevelopment Commission, and a board member for the Anderson-Madison County Visitor Bureau. Amy is also active with Women Supporting Women, Alexandria. She recently completed the Community-Based Action Plan Program, through the Madison County Community Foundation, allowing her to collaborate with like-minded individuals, working to serve and promote their communities. Amy's desire to give back to her community is the driving force behind the work she does. In her free time, Amy enjoys attending sporting events and spending time with family and friends.





## **Rob Sparks**

*Madison County Corporation for Economic Development*

## **Keith Pitcher**

# **Character in Business Award**

Rob Sparks is a lifelong area resident of Anderson, Indiana. Rob worked a variety of roles in retail for 20 years before becoming self-employed in the real estate rental and rehab field in 1995. Focusing on buildings in Anderson's Historic District, Rob developed several projects in the late 1990's.

In 2004, Rob was asked to serve as Chairman of the Board of Works and Deputy Mayor for the City of Anderson. While employed at the City, Rob assisted MCED on numerous projects during his four-year term, including the Nestlé USA project. In late Fall of 2007, the MCED Board of Directors offered Rob the position as Executive Director, which he accepted.

During his tenure at MCED, Rob's focus has been on attraction. Rob has had the opportunity to travel extensively and network with existing company headquarter operations, regional and national real estate professionals, as well as expand new international business contacts on behalf of the community.

Over the last 17 years Madison County has seen more than 9,500 jobs added or retained, 5 million Square Feet of buildings leased or built, and nearly \$4 Billion dollars invested. The international approach has assisted in making Madison County home to 19 international companies from 9 different countries.

Rob, and his wife of over 40 years Shelly, have two adult children who both live in Anderson, along with his four grandsons. Rob is still setting fitness goals with cycling, swimming, and weight training. A classic car enthusiast, he helped his son Jon rebuild a 1970 Nova and Rob has now added a 1936 Buick to the family.

Rob is also a supporter of early childhood development and is involved in several local and regional boards including: The Anderson Impact Center, Anderson University Engineering Advisory Board, Anderson Housing Authority, Inc., City of Anderson Revolving Loan Fund Committee, Madison County Council of Governments Technical Committee, Indy Chamber Regional Strategic Council, and Indy Partnership Board.

*Congratulations Honorees  
and Recipients*



Mayor Thomas Broderick, Jr.

*Proud Sponsor of the  
Madison County  
Chamber of Commerce  
2024 Awards*

**2024  
APD  
Block  
Parties**

**May 11  
Walnut Park  
June 8  
Jackson Park  
July 20  
May Park  
August 3  
Pulaski Park  
September 14  
Harmon Park**

*Congratulations*

to the Businesses and Individuals honored tonight  
for your contributions to our community.

**The Herald Bulletin**

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St. Vincent**

**CONGRAT  
ULATIONS**

to Gary & Darla Sallee

on winning  
**Entrepreneur  
of the Year!**





# 2024 EVENT CALENDAR

## JANUARY

17 POWER UP WITH THE CHAMBER

## FEBRUARY

9 FEMALES ACTIVE IN BUSINESS  
21 POWER UP

## MARCH

7 ANNUAL AWARDS  
13 ALEXANDRIA POWER UP  
14 JOB FAIR - ANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL  
20 POWER UP WITH THE CHAMBER  
28 WAKE UP WITH THE CHAMBER

## APRIL

8 ECLIPSE EVENT  
12 FEMALES ACTIVE IN BUSINESS  
17 POWER UP WITH THE CHAMBER

## MAY

15 POWER UP WITH THE CHAMBER  
23 WAKE UP WITH THE CHAMBER

## JUNE

7 FEMALES ACTIVE IN BUSINESS  
18 POWER UP WITH THE CHAMBER  
26 ALEXANDRIA POWER UP

## JULY

12 GOLF CLASSIC WITH  
HEART OF INDIANA UNITED WAY  
17 POWER UP WITH THE CHAMBER  
27 TASTE OF MADISON COUNTY

## AUGUST

9 FEMALES ACTIVE IN BUSINESS  
21 POWER UP WITH THE CHAMBER  
22 WAKE UP WITH THE CHAMBER

## SEPTEMBER

18 POWER UP WITH THE CHAMBER  
25 ALEXANDRIA POWER UP

## OCTOBER

11 FEMALES ACTIVE IN BUSINESS  
16 POWER UP WITH THE CHAMBER  
24 STATE OF THE COUNTY

## NOVEMBER

6 ALEXANDRIA POWER UP  
20 POWER UP WITH THE CHAMBER

## DECEMBER

5 WAKE UP WITH THE CHAMBER  
13 FEMALES ACTIVE IN BUSINESS

**ONLY OUR SIGNATURE EVENTS ARE INCLUDED IN  
THIS CALENDAR. MORE EVENTS WILL BE ADDED  
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!**

**REGISTER ONLINE  
[WWW.MADISONCOCHAMBER.COM](http://WWW.MADISONCOCHAMBER.COM)**

TO USE MEMBERSHIP-INCLUDED TICKETS OR SPONSOR AN EVENT,  
CALL PATTY LOVINS, MEMBER SERVICES/EVENTS DIRECTOR, AT 765-642-0264  
***SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR MOST EVENTS, CONTACT MCC FOR DETAILS***





*Congratulations,  
Award Recipients!*

**mcc**  
**MADISON COUNTY CHAMBER**

**CONNECT. GROW.** *Innovate*



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