

20th ANNUAL 15 UNDER FIFTEEN

Absolute Concrete

**All In One Laundry
Center & Services**

Capital Elite Athletics

**Community Foundation for
the Land of Lincoln**

District 23 Boutique

Emerson Press

First Electric Motor Shop

Indigo Restaurant

Intertwine Loc Design

Just The Basics Mobile Bar

MBK Construction

**Midwest Mission
Distribution Center**

Music Therapy Connections

**Pure Performance
Fitness Center**

Street Art Customs



15
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under
FIFTEEN

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN SMALL BUSINESS

This is the 20th year that *Springfield Business Journal* has partnered with United Community Bank to recognize 15 outstanding small businesses in the local area. To qualify, a business must be located in Sangamon or Morgan county, have been open for at least two years and have 15 or fewer full-time employees. A business is eligible to be recognized again after five years. The recipients represent a wide variety of industries, and some have been in business for decades – including two multi-generation family businesses – while others are much newer. What they have in common is that each of these business owners is passionate about their company and providing a service to the Springfield area.

If reading these profiles makes you think of another small business who deserves recognition, you don't have to wait to make a nomination for next year's 15 Under Fifteen. To submit a nomination and view a list of previous selectees, visit www.springfieldbusinessjournal.com and click on the awards program tab.

SNAPSHOT

Established: 2006
Owner: Michael Sinks
Employees: 2
Services: Concrete

217-741-2330

PROFILE

Michael Sinks started Absolute Concrete Inc. in spring 2006 and currently serves as the president of the company. After graduating from University of Illinois Springfield, Sinks worked full time for his father, who owned a construction company, before going out on his own.

"After 10 years of full-time employment with my dad, I was ready for a new challenge," said Sinks. "I saw a need in the Springfield area for a concrete company and decided to start Absolute Concrete."

The company replaces concrete driveways, porches, patios and sidewalks and also pours concrete for new construction. "We work for residential, commercial and

municipal clients," said Sinks. "What makes Absolute Concrete stand out is the quality and care we put into every project. I have been in the construction and concrete business full time since 1995. I bring more than 25 years of building and concrete knowledge to every job."

Sinks' brother, Gary, works with Sinks on every project and has over 25 years of building and concrete knowledge as well, so there is close to 55 years combined concrete and construction experience at Absolute Concrete Inc.

"We know what it takes to turn out quality projects year after year," Sinks said.



Absolute Concrete

BACK: MICHAEL SINKS, FRONT: GARY SINKS

Photos by Josh Catalano

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15

SNAPSHOT

Established: 2019
Owners: Pamela and Robert Frazier
Employees: 9
Services: Laundromat

**801 South Grand Ave. East,
 Springfield
 217-544-5058**

PROFILE

All In One Laundry Center was founded by Pamela and Robert Frazier six months prior to the pandemic. The couple also owns All In One On-Site Wash & Detail, which specializes in exterior cleaning for homes and commercial building exteriors, fleet services and construction cleaning.

"We would visit the laundry center daily to clean our shop towels. We knew the owner, who asked if we would like to purchase it, and we did," said Pamela.

All In One Laundry provides a safe, clean environment with large

screen TVs, free Wi-Fi, an ATM, and even an area for children. "You never thought you could actually enjoy doing laundry, but All In One makes it a lot more fun," said Pamela. "There is always an attendant on duty, large-capacity machines and sanitized washes with every load."

All In One Laundry is trusted by hotels, restaurants, health care facilities, assisted living and retirement communities, gyms and churches. They offer drop-off and pick-up as well as delivery service.



All In One Laundry Center

LEFT TO RIGHT: PASSION BAILEY, NINA HUNT, PAMELA FRAZIER, ROBERT FRAZIER, REBEKAH MEYERS, AMANDA RUPP

SNAPSHOT

Established: 2019
Owners: Boadu Adomako
Employees: 8
Services: Gymnastics

**530 N. Dirksen Parkway,
 Springfield
 217-744-2500**

PROFILE

Owner Boadu Adomako helped start the original Capital Elite All Stars in 2006 and served as the head tumbling coach for 11 years. He continued to teach for two more years after Central Illinois Athletics bought the program and was finally able to fulfill his dream of owning his own gym in 2019.

Capital Elite Athletics is a cheer and tumbling facility that trains kids from ages 2 through college students. "We take pride in teaching in a fun atmosphere while focusing on technique, discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship and confidence," said Adomako. "Mental strength is a huge part

of our cheer and tumbling, and it's one of the best things to see students discover what they are capable of."

Capital Elite offers a variety of programs including tumbling lessons, competitive cheerleading teams, cheerleading camps, tumbling camps, stunt clinics, gym rental, choreography for cheerleading squads and open gyms.

"My goal was simply to provide high-quality training and show why tumbling and cheer is a sport and requires great athleticism and mental toughness," said Adomako.



Capital Elite Athletics

LEFT TO RIGHT: JEREMY HOWARD, ISIS THOMPSON, BOADU ADOMAKO, ARI TONEY, MALINE MURPHY. NOT PICTURED: TAJIA WEST, JR. (COACH) AND SONYA WILLIAMS (RECEPTIONIST)



Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln

FRONT ROW: HALEY WILSON, KIM ECK, STACY REED, MARCIA SHORT, BETSY WEIDNER; BACK ROW: JOHN STREMSTERFER, SARAH HELM

SNAPSHOT

Established: 2002
President/CEO: John Stremsterfer
Employees: 6
Services: Nonprofit

205 S. Fifth St., Suite 530., Springfield
217-789-4431

PROFILE

"The mission of the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln is connecting people who care with causes that matter," said John Stremsterfer, the president and CEO. "We manage over 288 charitable funds with a collective asset value of over \$60 million in charitable funds, and in 2021 alone gave away over \$5 million in grants to the community. We are the community's foundation."

The Community Foundation

is a byproduct of the Sangamon County Foundation that was founded in 1924 by three Springfield-area banks to provide financial resources to local charitable causes. The foundation was a leading supporter of organizations for eight decades before it was decided that they needed to evolve in order to better serve their organizations. The Community Foundation is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

SNAPSHOT

Established: 2013
Owners: Michelle Tjelmeland
Employees: 3 (full-time)
Services: Retail

830 South Grand Ave. West,
Springfield
217-679-1352

PROFILE

District 23 Boutique began as a shopping-for-a-cause movement, and its mission has always been the same: to help people hear. "All of our proceeds benefit The Cochlear Implant Awareness Foundation and help provide education, information, resources and cochlear implant equipment to those in need," said owner Michelle Tjelmeland. "The Cochlear Implant Awareness Foundation is an organization that provides the gift of hearing to those in need."

With three full-time and 13

part-time employees, District 23 Boutique offers a hand-curated collection of fashions, accessories and gifts that Springfield's most fashion-forward shoppers have come to love. "We provide a one-of-a-kind shopping experience that will have you looking great and feeling even better," said Tjelmeland. "Be sure to check out the Rabbit Hole inside District 23 for vintage, nostalgic and one-of-a-kind pieces that you won't find anywhere else."



District 23 Boutique

BACK ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: JACKIE KELLY, MICHELLE TJELMELAND;
FRONT ROW: EMMA HOOD, JOAN CARNDUFF, JANE HART

SNAPSHOT

Established: 1968
Owners: Leonard and Jane Emerson
Employees: 7
Services: Printing

103 W. Dodd St., Divernon
217-628-3441

PROFILE

Leonard and Jane Emerson started Emerson Press in 1968 when the company Leonard was working for was going to close. "Some of the accounts and customers I was working with at the time encouraged me to start my own business, and with the support of my wife, Jane, we took the plunge," said Emerson.

The company is beginning its 54th year in business and it is due to the service and quality extended to

their loyal customers. "The business model is not only delivering a good product, but we also have a friendship and concern for our customers' goals," said Emerson. "Our longevity can be attributed to a good staff, including three of our five children, and a loyal 'adopted' child, Michelle Waite, who has been with us for over 20 years." This has helped in an ever-changing industry that is more challenging than ever before.



Emerson Press

LEFT TO RIGHT: PRENTICE EMERSON, MICHELLE WAITE, LEONARD EMERSON, STEPHANIE EMERSEN MCDANNALD, BRETT EMERSON

15/15



First Electric Motor Shop

BRAD DELUKA

SNAPSHOT

Established: 1950s
Owners: Brad DeLuka and Brandon Rebbe
Employees: 4
Services: Motor service and sales

1130 W. Reynolds, Springfield
217-698-0672

PROFILE

Brad DeLuka and Brandon Rebbe purchased First Electric Motor Shop in 2021. It was started in Springfield in the 1950s and operated from numerous locations in the early years. In 1972, the business was moved to Reynolds Street, where it has been ever since. DeLuka is the third-generation family member to own First Electric, which is part of the reason the two decided to purchase the business.

"We provide parts to electrical and HVAC contractors for every-

thing from small one-horsepower blower motors up to 200-horsepower pumps," said Rebbe. "At the same time, we provide service and sales to farmers across the Midwest region for farm duty motors and bin fans." First Electric also repairs and sells pool pumps, power tools and restaurant equipment.

"Purchasing this business was a decision to keep a legacy going that provides good service to our community in an age where human interaction and good services are disappearing," said Rebbe.

15/15



Indigo Restaurant

LEFT TO RIGHT: NICOL RIDLEY (SERVER), DEMETRIUS DORSEY (KITCHEN), LINDSEY EYRE (SERVER), ZACH ELSTON (KITCHEN), SEAN HAILEY (CHEF), NICOLE LUFKIN (SERVER), HANNAH TURNER (SERVER), SAMAH NOVEL (OWNER), JOHN BATES (SERVER), MIKE NOVEL, COURTLAND HILSHER (KITCHEN), JOHN OSTERHUBER (BARTENDER), GARRET PATE (KITCHEN)

SNAPSHOT

Established: 1998
Owner: Samah Novel
Employees: 9
Services: Restaurant

3013 Lindbergh Boulevard, Springfield
217-726-3487

PROFILE

Indigo Restaurant was opened in April 1998 by Springfield native Kevin Boehm, who went on to found the Boka Restaurant Group and win the James Beard Award for Outstanding Restaurateur in North America. Samah Novel purchased the restaurant in 2010.

Indigo Restaurant specializes in French, contemporary, American and Asian cuisine. "We are central Illinois' premier fine dining establishment and event space,"

said Mike Novel. "We strive to create food experiences that are honest, inclusive and memorable.

"We take pride in our world-to-table concept, and we are dedicated to bringing the best products from around the world right to your table. With an ever-changing menu including filet mignon, Canadian lobster, sea bass, chops and many more entrees, we guarantee you will taste the difference."

SNAPSHOT

Established: 2020
Owners: Jenaya Gant and Angel Macon
Employees: 2
Services: Hair services

901 Clocktower Drive, Suite 17,
Springfield
217-269-5836

PROFILE

Intertwine Loc Design was founded by Jenaya Gant and her mom, Angel Macon, as a hair salon specializing in Sisterlocks and elegant lock artistry.

"Initially, I had only one client, my mom. I became a legally registered business in 2020 and my clientele has been growing ever since," said Gant. "Our salon suite is one that cultivates a peaceful environment that is ideal for customers who value interpersonal interactions with their stylist."

The company believes in the inherent beauty of natural hair and takes a holistic, educational approach that promotes strong and healthy locks. Sisterlocks is a registered trademarked locking system that differs significantly from traditional locking methods.

"As a Sisterlocks practitioner, I enjoy sharing my knowledge and skills of this unique hair management system. I am committed to serving as your hair advocate," said Gant.



Intertwine Loc Design

LEFT TO RIGHT: ANGEL MACON, JENAYA GANT

15/15



Just the Basics

LEFT TO RIGHT: JAMES SHUFF, JESSICA KNIGHT-CARNES, JULIAN REGAN, MADISON REGAN, CHRIS GREGURICH

SNAPSHOT

Established: 2017
 Owners: Madison Regan
 Employees: 4
 Services: Mobile bar

432 N. Main Plaza, Chatham
 217-381-8108

PROFILE

Just The Basics was created by Connie Regan, who had hopes of selling local craft beer at the farmers market as well as an alcohol catering business in partnership with Maldaner's Restaurant. Connie's daughter-in-law, Madison Regan, is the current owner.

"With Connie's unexpected passing, I was given ownership," said Regan. "She is greatly missed, but I am grateful every day for the opportunity to carry out her dream and share her legacy with my children

and the community she cared for so much."

Just the Basics is a full-service mobile bar offering unique and premium products. "We elevate your event bar experience by offering products from real people: brewers, farmers and winemakers that are all small business owners with an amazing product they want to share with the world," said Regan. "Gone are the days of basic bars. As much focus as your caterer puts into the food, that's what we bring to your bar."

SNAPSHOT

Established: 2004
 Owner: Marcus Kotner
 Employees: 3
 Services: Construction

217-553-0455

PROFILE

Marcus Kotner and a friend had a company called Illini Roofing before he decided to go out on his own. "After a few years of growing that company, networking and learning more about the construction industry, I started to evolve my skill set into finish carpentry," said Kotner. "This was during the real estate boom era. More and more construction opportunities started to present themselves, and I took a leap of faith and started MBK Construction & Remodeling."

The company is a full-service construction company that specializes in new construction, additions, remodels and custom-finish carpentry. "We have an extremely high conviction in quality first," said Kotner. "We take pride in our work and do what it takes to make the homeowner and clients happy with their decision to hire MBK Construction. Not only do we provide the best quality craftsmanship, we use quality products and the best subcontractors and suppliers in Springfield and the surrounding areas."



MBK Construction & Remodeling

MARCUS KOTNER

15/15



Midwest Mission Distribution Center

LEFT TO RIGHT: BRAD WALTON, CINDY CHASE, OYINDAMOLA "RUTH" OLAWPEO, SUE ZELLERS, MALLORY WEBSTER, CHANTEL CORRIE, LISA RIGONI, BARB HEDINGER, SARAH FRAZEE, PAT WRIGHT, GENE TURNER.
STANDING: RAMON ORITZ

SNAPSHOT

Established: 2000

Executive director: Chantel Corrie

Employees: 11

Services: Nonprofit

1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee

217-483-7911

PROFILE

Midwest Mission is a nonprofit started in March 2000 by Jack Travelstead, a United Methodist pastor who believed in serving people who need help. It is an ecumenical organization working with all people who want to show God's love to others in a practical way during their time of crisis.

"Midwest Mission partners with donors, volunteers, churches, businesses and organizations to bring the hearts and hands of God's people together to transform resources into humanitarian and disaster relief supplies around the world and

around the corner," said Lisa Rigoni, development manager. Their four core areas of outreach are disaster relief, education, health and micro-business.

In 2021, Midwest Mission served 1.8 million individuals in need, provided nearly \$6 million in aid and sent 250 domestic and 33 international shipments of supplies, and the organization is on track to exceed those numbers this year. "As of July 31, 2022, Midwest Mission has already sent 150 domestic shipments and 36 international shipments," said Rigoni.



Music Therapy Connections

LEFT TO RIGHT: JESSICA SMITH, RACHEL RAMBACH (FOUNDER/CO-OWNER), MOLLY ROBITAILLE, KATEY KRATZ (CO-OWNER), CICELY MCCAIN, EMMA HARMON

SNAPSHOT

Established: 2007

Owners: Rachel Rambach,

Katey Kratz

Employees: 7

Services: Music therapy, music lessons and classes

1234 Centre West Drive, Springfield

217-622-1626

PROFILE

Rachel Rambach, the founder of Music Therapy Connections, opened the business in fall 2007, right after finishing graduate school, where she received a master's degree in music therapy.

"I had just started a full-time job as the first-ever music therapist at the Hope School, but I was getting phone calls about in-home music therapy services," she said. Rambach began taking on private clients and by 2011, her practice had grown to the point she began Music Therapy Connections on a full-time basis. Katey Kratz joined as co-owner

in 2014.

Music Therapy Connections' mission is to help people of all ages and abilities learn and grow through music. "What started as a side hustle with only a handful of clients has grown into a business that carries out this mission to hundreds of people throughout central Illinois," said Rambach. MTC works with infants, school-aged children, adults and seniors in the studio on Centre West Drive as well as in schools, specialized centers and assisted living facilities.



UNITED COMMUNITY BANK
The Leader of Community Banking

SNAPSHOT

Established: 2016
Owner: Jeremy Ferry
Employees: 1
Services: Fitness

320 S. Fourth St., Springfield
217-891-0691

PROFILE

"I wanted to create what I pictured as a welcoming gym that everyone could enjoy," Jeremy Ferry said of his decision to open Pure Performance Fitness Center. "From your 70-year-old wanting to start a strength training program to the most dedicated 20-something on a mission. I wanted them to have a place to call home."

Ferry has worked as a trainer for over a decade and spent that time learning how to work with individuals from all walks of life while

providing a fun environment. "It's a balancing act of getting to work and enjoying the company around us," said Ferry. "If you tell me what you'd like to accomplish, I'll give you the facts on how to get there."

Pure Performance is stocked with everything from quality machines to specialty barbells, and Ferry is proud of what he has accomplished, "I'm thankful for all those that have come through the doors and helped me make this place what it is today."



**Pure Performance
 Fitness Center**

JEREMY FERRY

15/15

SNAPSHOT

Established: 1998
Owners: Jonathan Clarke and Brandon Kates
Employees: 3
Services: Automotive tint, wraps, accessories

530 N. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield
217-744-2500

PROFILE

Street Art Customs opened in 1998 and the current owners bought the business in 2020. "Both of us are car enthusiasts and figured it would be a fun way to be around cars and show our passion for them in a new way," said Jonathan Clarke.

The business was originally just a tint shop but has since expanded, offering anything from automotive tint to full vehicle color change, custom wraps and accessories such as truck toppers, and side steps. They also install

XPEL paint protection film.

"Our newest addition is commercial and residential tint," said Clarke. "We believe we are one of Springfield's best small businesses because in our two years of ownership, we have been able to not only add employees but also start adding plenty of new services. We also have been able to give back to the community and be more involved with local events."



Street Art Customs

LEFT TO RIGHT: OLIVER PATTERSON (INSTALLER), JONATHAN CLARKE (OWNER), BRYAN BOOK (INSTALLER), BRANDON KATES (OWNER), MATT BECK (SHOP MANAGER)

15/15

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PREVIOUS SELECTEES

UCB
15
under
FIFTEEN
RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN SMALL BUSINESS

For a full list of past recipients
please visit: ucbbank.com/15u15

2021

The Alamo
Ashley's at Home Grooming
Axis Accounting Tax Service
Bailey Family Insurance
Bobby Shaw Building and Remodeling

Credit Pro Autos
Duct Dusters
East Side Marine Inc.
Pier 55 Lounge
Hellowater

Illinois Trucking Association
Jerk Shop Go
Keefner's
True Colors Floral
Who Does Your Hair?

2020

Ayers Trucking
AZ-T-CA Mexican Grill
Bless'If Beauty Salon
By-Pass Auto Body
Chadilo's Mexican American Grill

Element Services
Kennedy Sue
Lake Springfield Tavern
Law Automotive
Sam's Best Brands

Springfield Dance
Springfield Monument
Springfield Select Auto Inc.
Troxell Financial
UNDERDOG Sports, Memorabilia & Games

2019

Dr. Lance Taylor D.M.D.
Eye Candy Boutique
Eye Candy Salon & Spa
Frisina Family Wellness
Johnson & Johnson Auto Services

ML Refrigeration
Prairie Wholesale Supply Co.
Propel Sliding Door Automation
Quiznos
Rambach Insurance Agency

Recon Techs Springfield
The Roost
Scoop Du Jour Ice Cream & Coffee Parlor
Serious Lip Balm
Wild Time Exotics

2018

Airman-Hires Funeral Home
Apple Barn
BSafe Home Inspections of Illinois, Inc.
Cleaning General Janitorial Services, Inc.
GoWeb1

Henry's Service Center, Inc.
Hilda's Antique Mall
Legacy Theatre
Maddy's Tavern
Mosquito Joe of Springfield

Nelson Resource Center
Rotherham & Rotherham & Company
Tacology 101
The Book Rack
The Rage Hair Studio & Spa

2017

All in One On-Site Wash & Detail
The Deb Sarsany Team
Monty's Submarines
Bailey Hardwoods & Woodworking, Inc.
Fire and Ale

Rogers HR Consulting
Best Expo, Inc.
Gypsy Dreamer, Gypsy Tribe & Gypsy Soul
Springfield Jr. Blues
Central States Fireworks, Inc.

Law Automotive, Inc.
Springfield Travel Shoppe, Ltd.
CrossFit XLT
Masco Packaging & Industrial Supply
Your Corner Office, Inc.

2016

Bramley Funeral Home
L.A. Burlon & Associates
Cooper's StrEATside Bistro
Dreammaker Bath & Kitchen
Fehring Ornamental Iron Works

Hill Meadow Apartments
Jan's Dance Studio
Nature's Select Pet Store
Kraig D. Osborne, DMD
PhysioTherapy Professionals

Prairie Dental Group
Sangamon Reclaimed
South County Publications
Taft Appraisal
Wiley Office Furniture

2015

AZ-T-CA Mexican Grill
Bath Planet
Capital City Crossfit
Chatham Dental Center
Cherry Berry Springfield

Curry's Family Pharmacy
Donald Staten DMD
Farmland Solutions
Gypsy Soul
Kyle Killebrew & Company

L&M Gym & Kids
O3 Internet Consulting
Phoenix Collision
The Chiropractors at Springfield Wellness Center
Zelle Title

2014

Boondocks
Café Moxo
Cookie Factory Bakery
Copperfree Outdoor Lifestyles
D&J's Café

Habitat for Humanity ReStore
Harry's Pharmacy
Jamie's the Diamond Mine
KB Consulting
Kinner Kennels

Kulavic's Auto Body
Lauterbach Tire
Maid-Rite
The Organized Home
Springfield Running Center

2013

Andrews Landscapes
Capitol Chiropractic Health Center
Country Market, Inc.
Craig Ladage Builders, Inc.
Dick's Shoe Repair

Gorham's, Inc.
Hoogland Center for the Arts
Lee O'Keefe Insurance Agency
Life Safety Resources
Marriott Real Estate Services

Paul Tree Farms
PhysioTherapy Professionals, LLC
Robert's Seafood Market
Thirdwave Data/Comm, Inc.
Velo Mine

2012

The Barkmeier Group, Inc.
Campo Realty, Inc.
Capital Area Association of Realtors®
Central Illinois Foodbank
Creasey Construction of Illinois, Inc.

Emerson Press
Flowers by Mary Lou
Harmony Limousine & Luxury Coaches
Long Bridge Golf Course
Martin Engineering Company of Illinois

Modern Mailing & Printing Services, LLC
Perrino & Associates, PC, CPAS
Rolling Meadows Brewery
Signature Event Rental
Walton & Associates Architects, PC

Member
FDIC

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