

22nd ANNUAL 15 UNDER FIFTEEN

Ben Ladage Auctions

Bramley Funeral Home

Café Moxo

Chatham Seamless Gutters

Compass for Kids

Phoenix Collision

Pilates Studio of Springfield

RE/MAX Professionals

Rose Aesthetics &
Wellness Clinic

Solid Rock Youth
Transitional Services

Springfield Art Association

Storyteller Studios

The Greater Springfield
Chamber of Commerce

Three Twigs Bakery

Up and Running Services



This is the 22nd 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, and one of this year's recipients is a repeat winner. The recipients represent a wide variety of industries, and some have been in business for decades, 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 that 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: 2010

Owners: Ben and Kim Ladage

Employees: 12

Services: auctions

13575 State Route 4, Auburn
217-652-0924

PROFILE

Ben and Kim Ladage started Ben Ladage Auctions in 2010 after Ben attended the Missouri Auction School. "Over the next few years, I conducted a handful of live auctions while working for other local auctioneers," he said. Ladage became a full-time auctioneer in 2016 after purchasing a building in Auburn. "As the business grew, we expanded into online auctions as well, and today we conduct around 80 auctions a year."

Ben Ladage Auctions is a full-time, full-service auction company that serves sellers throughout

central Illinois and buyers from around the world. He specializes in personal property, farm equipment, real estate, antiques and collectibles while conducting a variety of auction types. As a licensed real estate broker, he also provides clients with a one-stop solution for integrated real estate and auction needs.

"Ben Ladage Auctions delivers a streamlined and professional auction experience from start to finish, while also providing the flexibility to meet the unique needs of each client," said Ladage.



Ben Ladage Auctions

LEFT TO RIGHT: ERIC ZUERCHER, BRAYDEN HICKSON, YVONNE GUIEB-WOOD, EMILY BARNETT, BEN LADAGE, ZACH SCHMITT, ERIC "ACE" BRITZ. NOT PICTURED: MADISON CHUNES, SUSAN COOK, GREG SMITH, DAVE BATES, JOE POWELL

PHOTO COURTESY BEN LADAGE



UNITED COMMUNITY BANK
The Leader of Community Banking

SNAPSHOT

Established: 1924
Owners: Tim Bramley, Sarah Bramley Jones, Tyler Bramley
Employees: 3
Services: funeral home

11 N. First St., Divernon
217-628-3612
550 E. Jackson St., Auburn
217-438-3288

PROFILE

Chester and Pearl Bramley opened the doors of Bramley Funeral Home in Divernon in June of 1924. Eventually their son, Charles, joined the family business and worked beside his father as they served the growing needs of their community. In 1991, Charles' son, Tim, became part of the family business, which allowed them the opportunity to expand and add a second location in Auburn. Today, Tim owns the business along with his children, Sarah Bramley Jones and Tyler Bramley.

As one of the last family-owned funeral homes in the area, the Bramleys pride themselves on

the compassion and care they have given to the grieving families of Divernon, Auburn and surrounding communities over the past 100 years.

"It speaks volumes for a business to be able to thrive for 100 years," Tim said. They recently purchased a new building in Divernon that boasts both a chapel and a reception area. "Since the original opening 100 years ago, we've seen the funeral industry evolve and change. We take every effort to learn and grow along with the times in order to best serve each family's unique needs," he said.



Bramley Funeral Home

TYLER BRAMLEY, SARAH BRAMLEY JONES, TIM BRAMLEY



Café Moxo

BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: LAGARDO DEAN, TREY TAAPKEN, LUKE MURPHY, CARL GIBBONS JR., KEVIN THOMAS

MIDDLE ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: BRANDON HUGHES, PATRICK MEDLEY, MARK FORINASH, CHAD MARCUM

FRONT ROW: BAKER FORINASH

SNAPSHOT

Established: 2007
Owners: Mark and Shawna Forinash
Employees: 10
Services: restaurant

411 E. Adams St.
217-788-8084

PROFILE

Mark and Shawna Forinash opened Café Moxo in early 2007, a quick-service restaurant with owners passionate about food, service, employees and the community.

"In theory, Café Moxo started when I was a young boy standing beside my mom in the kitchen on countless occasions," Mark said. "I can honestly say the majority of my knowledge today comes from innocent times in the kitchen with an incredibly influential role model to drive my current passion

for food and service."

Consistency and service play a large role in the success of Café Moxo. "We want to get to know you, as it's always been more than just a meal," Mark said. "We have been around long enough to see the circle of life and we love sharing your stories and happiest times around our table. Any perceived success that we may have is only measured by the opportunity that we have to open our doors to you daily."



Chatham Seamless Gutters

LEFT TO RIGHT: JESSICA AND CRAIG DAVIS, TRENT KRUS, IAN OSBURN, TYLER HULCHER

SNAPSHOT

Established: 2007
Owners: Craig and Jessica Davis
Employees: 5
Services: gutters

P.O. Box 502, Chatham
217-816-5653

PROFILE

Craig Davis and his wife, Jessica, began Chatham Seamless Gutters in 2007. Craig learned the business from a high school friend, and years later, the two went to work for another business. "That company shut down its gutter division, so I decided to buy my own equipment and work with contractors I had known previously," said Craig.

For the past 17 years, the couple has continued to maintain great relationships with contractors and customers as they strive to meet everyone's needs and provide the best service, no matter the request.

"I won't turn down the smallest of jobs if I can work it in the schedule," said Craig.

SNAPSHOT

Established: 2011
Director: Molly Berendt
Employees: 14
Services: nonprofit

1201 S. Fourth St.
217-691-8103

PROFILE

Founder and CEO Molly Berendt began Compass for Kids in 2011. Compass for Kids is a nonprofit created to provide support to youth who were not being served by existing programs and services in the Springfield area.

"The mission of Compass for Kids is to provide academic and social-emotional support to empower children and families underserved by our community," Berendt said. "Compass for Kids

stands out as one of Springfield's best small businesses because our community-based model, organizational culture, core values and leadership provide the strong foundation for an excellent, impactful organization with a positive reputation. Additionally, our emphasis on data and measurable results proves our programs are effective, high-quality and impactful for participants."



Compass for Kids

BACK ROW, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: BRANDY STABLER, CHRISTY FREEMAN-STARK, STACEY AUSTIN, VYVYAN WESLEY, KIELEY HENDRICKER, LYNETTE HAYS
FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: KATHY SEADLER, SHELLY KINNER, SARAH OGLESBY, MOLLY BERENDT, TAYLOR MULLIN

SNAPSHOT

Established: 2006
Owners: Matthew Milkint and Tressa Hartman
Employees: 12
Services: automotive, storage units

4047 W. Jefferson St.
217-546-7227

PROFILE

Siblings Matthew Milkint and Tressa Hartman began Phoenix Collision in 2006 following the tornadoes that hit Springfield. "Matthew was working for Bill Mathew Auto Body when the tornado came through Springfield," Hartman said. "Upon learning they would take a year or more to rebuild, he decided to start a shop of his own and asked me to partner with him."

By the fall of 2006, the company was up and running. Location and word of mouth helped the business grow over the next several years. The business now utilizes all of the space available on the Phoenix Collision property,

including a storage unit business.

Satisfied customers and referrals are important to a small businesses like Phoenix Collision. "We have always believed in word-of-mouth referrals being the best business model for growth," Hartman said. "We pride ourselves on both high-quality work as well as handling the (insurance) claims process for our customers to make it as easy as possible on them."



Phoenix Collision

LEFT TO RIGHT: TRESSA HARTMAN, JOE COMPTON, TREVOR MOORE, ELDON SULLIVAN, CAROLYN RUSH, MICHAEL SWEET, JASON RIDGEWAY, CLYDE MORRIS, ERIC RUBLE, JAMES MORRIS, OLIVE (SHOP PUPPY), MATTHEW MILKINT, NICK HOWELLS. NOT PICTURED: FRANK TWINING



Pilates Studio of Springfield

LEFT TO RIGHT: BAILEY SULLIVAN, KIRSTEN WRIGHT, TAYLOR STRATTON, KRIS KLEIN, MANAR BAKIR, ARICA CARTER, TARA MCANARNEY AND PAT MCVARY.
NOT PICTURED: DANA SAID, CLORITA KENNY AND CARRIE WARD

SNAPSHOT

Established: 2006
Owners: Kirsten Wright and Tara McAnarney
Employees: 11
Services: fitness center

1305 Wabash Ave.
217-891-0280

PROFILE

Pilates Studio of Springfield is a full-service Pilates studio offering individual and group instruction. Co-owners Kirsten Wright and Tara McAnarney have been running the studio for more than 18 years. They currently employ 11 instructors, eight of whom are full-time.

"We have 14 reformers and multiple other apparatuses for our clients to train on," McAnarney said. "We are not just in the physical-fitness business, but we are truly in the personal relation-

ship business. Our clients quickly become our friends and their total well-being becomes our top priority."

Wright and McAnarney have always had a passion for helping people reach their fitness and health goals. "After we discovered Pilates and saw its benefits for ourselves, we decided that we wanted to create a space where people felt welcomed and inspired to see what Pilates could do for them," McAnarney said.



RE/MAX Professionals

LEFT TO RIGHT: KADENCE FARRIS, BRE ZANGER, TAYLOR BENNETT, JIM FULGENZI, RON DUFF, SUZANNE DAUGHERTY, AMY RIDLEY, MARY POHLMAN

SNAPSHOT

Established: 1986
Owner: Jim Fulgenzi
Employees: 8
Services: real estate

2667 Farragut Dr.
217-787-7215

PROFILE

"RE/MAX Professionals has been serving Springfield and the surrounding counties since 1986 and has been a consistent recipient of various prestigious production awards for decades," said Jim Fulgenzi, who joined the company as an agent in 1995 and became the owner-broker in 2021. "We maintain the highest per-person production achievement year after year in our market."

The RE/MAX brand adds immediate credibility to both the new agent and to the veteran who relies on the technology, procedures and resources that have

been developed by the world's most productive real estate company. RE/MAX drives home the concept that its agents are, in a sense, running their own corner grocery store.

"Agents have at their disposal exhaustive training opportunities, the best client management software – which is integrated with AI solutions for trending client needs – and the most recognized real estate brand in the industry," Fulgenzi said. "Our teachings and training focus on client objectives and not commission totals."

SNAPSHOT

Established: 2021
Owner: Cori Jahns
Employees: 4
Services: medical spa

2525 W. Iles Ave., Suite C
217-679-1522

PROFILE

Cori Jahns opened Rose Aesthetics & Wellness Clinic in September 2021. The idea was born from a vision to provide personalized care in a more intimate setting. "After years in conventional medicine, I realized that the fast-paced environment often prioritized efficiency over meaningful patient relationships," Jahns said. "I wanted to create a space where patients could feel truly seen and supported on their wellness and beauty journeys."

Rose Aesthetics is committed to holistic well-being and individualized care. The staff

takes the time to understand each patient's unique needs and goals, tailoring treatments that deliver results while enhancing natural beauty. The business uses top-quality products and the latest techniques, all in a relaxing environment that fosters trust and comfort.

"We emphasize personalized care, taking the time to understand each patient's unique needs and goals," Jahns said. "This approach fosters a sense of community and trust, making every visit a fulfilling experience."



Rose Aesthetics & Wellness Clinic

LEFT TO RIGHT: KATIE ANDEL, MORGAN BURKE, CORI JAHNS, JEN LEMME

SNAPSHOT

Established: 2022
Director: Marscia Anderson
Employees: 5
Services: nonprofit

620 N. Walnut St.
217-572-1269

PROFILE

Solid Rock Youth Transitional Services started in 2022 under the leadership of Marscia Anderson, who comes from a family of social workers. "I went to my mom, who'd worked as a social worker, and told her I wanted to provide housing and supportive services for youth impacted by the foster-care system," Anderson said. "We were going to start Solid Rock together, but unfortunately she passed away from cancer before we could get started."

Solid Rock Transitional Services is an organization committed to

providing youth with the support and resources they need to thrive, as there is a great need for housing and wraparound support for those aging out of the foster-care system. "We are a business that is in the business of serving and caring for one of the most vulnerable populations in our society," Anderson said. "By supporting our youth, together we directly impact their future and the future of our community."



Solid Rock Youth Transitional Services

CHAMP ANDERSON, MARSCIA ANDERSON, LOREN TONEY, AMBER CHIAPETTO AND LARHONDA ANDERSON



Springfield Art Association

LEFT TO RIGHT: ASHLYN FREY, MARIO CLARKE, KATE ATKINSON, ALLYSON SHARPE, MAGGIE PACKMAN, MORGAN BEHNKE, BARBIE LAFRANCE, BETSY DOLLAR AND EBBA

NOT PICTURED: SARAH ADAMS, ERIN SVENDSEN, KAYE DEMLOW

SNAPSHOT

Established: 1910
Director: Betsy Dollar
Employees: 11
Services: nonprofit

700 N. Fourth St.
217-523-2631

PROFILE

The Springfield Art Association was created in 1910 as The Springfield Amateur Art Study Club. The club drew more than 100 members rather quickly. "There was a great deal of interest in the arts and the power of the arts to improve society overall," said Betsy Dollar, executive director. "They incorporated as the Springfield Art Association of Edwards Place and officially opened their doors for the first exhibition in the newly remodeled space in February of 1914."

The SAA offers visual art education, experiences, exhibi-

tions and events for all ages and abilities. "We are an anchor of the Enos Park neighborhood with Edwards Place being a piece of Lincoln-era history, as well as local art history, to be shared with locals and tourists alike," Dollar said. "We are a small but mighty team that works tirelessly to fulfill the mission of the SAA and make it a welcoming place for everyone to explore their imagination and creativity while building skills and confidence."



Storyteller Studios

LEFT TO RIGHT: ELI OMEN, KEVIN CHRISTENSEN, PAYTON MCCABE, WALKER DIAL, LYDIA STUEMKE, CHRIS COSTELLO AND JOSH HESTER

PHOTO COURTESY STORYTELLERS STUDIOS

SNAPSHOT

Established: 2013
Owners: Josh and Andrea Hester
Employees: 7
Services: video production

2025 W. Iles Ave., Suite B
217-331-6763

PROFILE

Josh and Andrea Hester, owners of Storyteller Studios, opened the business in 2013 with a simple goal of creating videos that tell real stories and make a difference. "After years of working in documentary film and corporate marketing, I saw the power of authentic storytelling and wanted to use that to help businesses and nonprofits connect with their audiences in meaningful ways," Josh said.

Storyteller Studios is a video production company with a focus on documentary-style storytelling. The Hesters are dedicated to

authenticity. "We don't just shoot video. We dig deep to understand our clients' stories and bring them to light in a way that resonates with people," Josh said. "Whether we're working with small businesses, nonprofits or national brands, we aim to create something that's not only high-quality but also impactful." Storyteller Studios has helped clients achieve real results, from growing their business to securing major contracts and raising critical funds.

SNAPSHOT

Established: 1869
President: Mike Murphy
Employees: 7
Services: business advocacy

501 E. Capitol Ave., Suite A
217-525-1173

PROFILE

The roots of The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce go back to 1869 when the Springfield Board of Trade was founded. The GSCC has been a driving force for the local business community, as it is committed to enhancing member success and advocating for their interests. "Each day, we strive to equip our members with the tools they need to thrive in a competitive landscape," said Mike Murphy, president and CEO. "Our dedicated team fosters an environment where businesses can truly flourish."

The GSCC was recently recognized, for the third time, at a national level with five-star ac-

creditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for its sound policies, effective organizational procedures and positive impact on the community.

"We're excited to build for the future through our RISE Springfield young professionals' program," Murphy said. "This initiative ensures that young professionals receive essential tools to become the business leaders of tomorrow. We also encourage them to engage with nonprofits, fostering a sense of community involvement that goes beyond mere residency. Together we're shaping a vibrant future for Springfield."



The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce

LEFT TO RIGHT: MELISSA HORN, TERI HILL, LISA SCHAFER, MIKE MURPHY, KRISTIN KERN, DAVID EARHART AND OLIVIA LOHSE



UNITED COMMUNITY BANK
The Leader of Community Banking

SNAPSHOT

Established: 2015
Owners: Tim and Emily Lewis
Employees: 8
Services: bakery and restaurant

2661 Chatham Road.
217-679-9112

PROFILE

Three Twigs & Co began selling homemade baked goods in May 2015 at the Old Capitol Farmers Market. In January 2019, the business opened its first storefront. Owners Timothy and Emily Lewis have a love for food, hospitality and connecting with the community. "This was a great way to get to do the things we love every day," Emily said. Three Twigs is a completely scratch-made bakery and brunch restaurant. "We wouldn't serve our guests anything we wouldn't serve our family at home."

According to Emily, faith and strength have gotten them through the tough times. "We have been open nearly a decade, making it through so many trials, including a global pandemic," she said. "Everything we do, we think of our team and our community. We pay well because we truly believe in doing everything to ensure those who keep our business going are taken care of. And we are constantly doing everything we can to be there for those in the Springfield community."



Three Twigs & Co.

LEFT TO RIGHT: RHONDA TEANEY (HOLDING SOLOMON), TIM AND EMILY LEWIS, ELMAH AND ESTHER IN FRONT.

NOT PICTURED: FULL-TIME STAFF AUSTIN MEYERS AND IAN SIMPKINS, PART-TIME STAFF BARBARA SWALES, ZALI RILAN AND ANNAH SHARP



Up and Running Services

LEFT TO RIGHT: CHRIS ROBERTS, ALLIE ROBERTS, JOSH CAMERON, DENNEY KING

SNAPSHOT

Established: 2016
Owners: Chris and Allie Roberts
Employees: 4
Services: small engine repair

312 Carroll St., Pawnee
217-625-2612

PROFILE

Chris and Allie Roberts opened Up and Running Services in 2016. Growing up, Chris always enjoyed working on small equipment, and he eventually decided to make a living out of it. Up and Running Services repairs and services lawn equipment and small engines. They are also Stihl and Toro dealers.

"Customers can now come to us to purchase new equipment along with having their older equipment serviced or repaired," Chris said. "We strive to offer great customer service and help the customer make a good decision when it comes to cost on repairs."

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS



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

2023

ACE Mechanical
ACTS, Inc.
CheckPoint Tire & Service
DeHeve's Tavern
Garvey Tubman Cultural Arts Center

Harry's Pharmacy
Height Media
Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery
Northern Lights Lounge
Nothing Bundt Cakes

Missy Grady Home Team-
The Real Estate Group, Inc.
The Village Tea Room and Gift Shoppes
TNS Detailing and Restoration
Tom Day Business Machines
Wooden It Be lovely

2022

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

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' It Beauty Salon
By-Pass Auto Body
Chadito'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. Burton & 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
CopperTree 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

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