

October 2018

## Home-Based Businesses: Is Working From Home For You?

Does working from home have its benefits? You bet. Rolling out of bed, walking down a short hallway, and arriving at your working space is highly convenient.

Home-based businesses come in all shapes and sizes, and people start them for many different reasons. For some, it's simply a hobby. Bringing in some extra spending money, doing it on evenings and weekends, mostly for fun.

For others, a home-based business can turn into a multi-million-dollar empire, whether it was their intention or not.

It's all part of the American Dream – starting or buying a small business, having a firm business plan in place and operating it from your home with dreams of growing and improving it over time.

For your home-based business to succeed, you must be self-motivated, passionate, and offer a product or service that customers want to buy.

If you'd like to run a business without leaving home, you're in good company. In fact, over 50% of U.S. businesses are based in a home, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration. ([Source](#)). Currently, we have eight home-based Chamber members.

Before starting a home-based business, it's important to look at the big picture to determine if it's right for you. ([Source](#))

On the plus side, it allows you to minimize the cost of overhead, enjoy plenty of flexibility, squeeze more time out of your day, and tax benefits of operating a home office can be lucrative.

On the minus side, having limited space in your home, difficulty separating work from family life, and issues with neighbors (possible zoning laws).

The bottom line, starting a home-based business allows you many freedoms and flexibilities to grow your business at your own pace and save you money on many fronts, which is helpful during your start up year.

### 5 Common (and Totally Untrue) Myths About Working From Home ([Source](#))

1. It's easier than working at an office. Certain aspects are easier. No constant distractions of ringing phones, annoying cubicle neighbors, or having your coworkers wandering into your office. You can take a break whenever you're feeling drained. You can even run out for coffee in the middle of the afternoon. But being on your own requires more discipline and determination. If you don't keep yourself on task, you'll pay for it later. Stick to a schedule.
2. It's not really "working". Many traditional workplaces measure productivity using the "butt in chair" method - if the boss sees you parked in your chair at 7:50 am and still there after 5 pm, they'll think you must be working hard. In reality, this can be far from the truth. Plenty of people can look like they're being productive. But what really matters is results. Working at home, you can actually find yourself working a lot harder. In addition, people who gravitate towards working at home are naturally self-starters who take their jobs very seriously.
3. You can do whatever you want, whenever you want. While it's true you'll be able to go to midday doctor's appointments you were not allowed to take as an office worker, that doesn't mean you can throw your to-do list to the wind and do whatever you want. Mornings and early afternoon are peak productivity times for many people. While you can pull a night owl shift and finish up a project at 2 am, many people won't do their best then. And if you have family members, it can also be easier to get your work done while they're away and the house is quieter. If you're able to keep yourself on task, you might be able to get away with the occasional free time to play hooky, but for the most part, your business depends on your dedication.
4. It gives you better work-life balance. When working the traditional 8 - 5, you're able to turn off your "work brain". Working at home, you may find yourself working more hours. Part of this comes from the hustling you need to do when starting and growing your own business. This comes from the fact that it's hard to balance work and life when there is no physical distinction between the two.
5. Anyone can do it. If you think that working at home will be a cake walk, sad to say you're on the wrong track. If you're the type of person who needs a little handholding to stay on task, being a traditional employee will be much easier. But if you like challenges to rise to, then you've likely got what it takes to work from home.

Featured Member:

# ThinkSpace IT

(a *creative* approach to technology)

## About ThinkSpace IT

Founded in 2013 by owner Jessa Erickson, ThinkSpace IT is a value-added MSP that enjoys being uniquely diverse as an IT provider across varied platforms. Their execution strategy incorporates proven methodologies, qualified personnel, and a highly responsive, proactive approach to managing IT systems.

"We constantly seek ways to improve what we are doing in order to serve the needs of our clients and improve upon the IT status quo. We are thrilled to be identified as one of the leading MSPs in the world," Jessa Erickson says.

Throughout its existence, ThinkSpace IT has earned a reputation as a local company that is constantly ahead of the IT game. The company's services are designed to simplify and proactively manage networks for small & medium sized businesses (SMBs), government, and educational institutions. Their diverse lineup of services and solutions seek to provide the customer with a best in class vendor partnerships so that owners and executives can put their focus on more important matters.

Since 2013, we've been deploying advanced technology solutions designed to help our customers generate growth and better provide for their own customers. We saw a need for reliable, real-world, honest IT help and we couldn't resist reaching out to make businesses, governments and education systems thrive.

We're not your average IT company. We understand the crucial role IT security and reliability play in your day-to-day business affairs – we just like to have fun and be our quirky selves in the process of implementing it.

But, that doesn't mean we don't take business seriously. We're committed to your success – and for us, that means working together to achieve your goals using the latest technology solutions. We provide you the tools and resources you need to elevate your business, and we continue providing support until you're completely satisfied – let us prove it to you.

## IT Services for Local Businesses

Whether you're the flower shop down the street or our local governing body, we provide services such as networking, server & computer implementation & maintenance, phones, POS systems, and much more that are designed to simplify your daily processes and ramp up your business. Our comprehensive IT support identifies your pain points and implements strategies and resources to relieve them while strengthening your productivity. We don't believe in cookie-cutter solutions, that's why we analyze your challenges and suggest solutions tailored to fit your needs. Whether you're opening your doors for the first time or you're a seasoned, enterprise-level business, we'll help you create a strategic plan for integrating the latest advanced technologies into your daily workflow.

ThinkSpace IT  
1108 8th Street, Harlan  
844-576-2555  
www.thinkspaceit.com  
info@thinkspace.com

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## Article Submissions

We are looking for content from Chamber members about your business that would be interesting to others, providing us with valuable and useful information. Tell us something new or some interesting bit of information about your industry and how to use your products and services.

Articles should be informative, non-promotional, and should not be a commercial intended to steer readers to use your product or service before competitors.

You have a full page, so we are looking for articles of 300 to 500 words. Photos of your business are encouraged. Please submit your article, (we prefer a Word Document) and photos to [Carol](#). Our editorial committee (Todd and Carol) will review all submissions. We reserve the right to edit articles and to schedule them according to the needs of the publication.

**Deadline:** The second Friday of the month. Please make sure to include your company's contact information.



## FY19 Opportunity Rates

### Website \* Newsletter \* Social Media

Exploreshelbycounty.com

Website

**Front Page Banner:**  
\$200 per year

**Member Directory Page Banner:**  
\$200 per year

**Gift Certificates Page Banner:**  
\$100 per year

**Traffic Catcher Page Sponsor:**  
\$300 per year

**Community Pages Sponsor:**  
\$100 per year/community

**Events Calendar Page Sponsor:**  
\$300 per year

**All Other Pages:**  
\$50 per year

**Limit of 4 Advertisers per page**

Monthly Newsletter Advertising

\$25.00 for a half-page advertisement (2 per newsletter)

\$50.00 for a full page advertisement

\$45.00 for a half-page advertisement for non-Chamber members

\$75.00 for a full page advertisement for non-Chamber members

“Did You Know” Weekly Email

Annual Sponsorship: \$500

Chamber Facebook Page

Annual Sponsorship: \$750

# SCCCI Membership Renewals

**The Chamber wishes to thank the following members who renewed their membership:**

Iowa Western Community College \* Xcel Roofing \* The Harlan Tribune  
Farm Credit Services of America \* Shelby County Physical Therapy  
Danish Villages Economic Development Assn. \* Midstates Bank  
Farm Sweet Farm \* Hybrid Corn Pioneers \* Oxen Technology  
Essentia Protein Solutions \* White Pine Dental Group  
ASU Audiology \* Conductix-Wampfler \* The Can Place II  
Elm Crest Senior Living Community \* FMCTC \* Harlan Vision Clinic  
Nishnabotna Valley REC \* Hy-Vee \* S & S Collision Center  
Counsel Office & Document \* Hough/Zaccone Investments, LLC  
Stowe Red-E-Mix \* Concerned, Inc.

**All Chamber Membership Renewals are sent electronically through our website, 30 - 60 days prior to their due date. You can also renew your membership online via our website.**

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**Do You Have A New Member To Refer Or Know Anyone Who Has Moved Into The County?**  
**[Email Carol](#)**

## Upcoming Events

**FarmTable Procurement & Delivery**  
Open Warehouse Monday - Friday  
12 - 5 pm, Harlan.

**Iowa Community Kitchen**, every  
Tuesday evening, 4 - 6:30 pm  
First Baptist Church, Harlan.

**Brown Bag Lunch Programs**  
Thursday, November 8, 12 - 1 pm  
Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn.

**Block Out Hunger Canned Food Drive**  
Thursday, November 15, 12 - 6 pm  
H & R Block, Harlan.

**Blood Drive - Walk-ins welcome**  
Thursday, November 15, 12 - 6 pm  
St. Boniface Parish Center, Westphalia.

Saturday, November 17, 7:30 - 12:30 pm  
Shelby Community Building, Shelby.

Tuesday, November 20, 11:30 - 5:30 pm  
Veteran's Memorial Building, Harlan.

**Mobile Food Pantry**, Monday, November  
19, 5 - 6:30 pm, Veteran's Memorial Building, Harlan.

**Customer Service & Community Tourism Strategies**, Tuesday, November 20  
5:30 - 8 pm, Shelby County Extension & Outreach, Harlan.

**Chamber Office will be closed** Thursday, November 22 and Friday, November 23 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

**Julefest**, Friday, November 23 and Saturday, November 24, Danish Villages of Elk Horn and Kimballton and the Museum of Danish America

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**Have a special event coming up?** Let us know about it. Contact the Chamber office at 712-755-2114 or [email](#) Carol with your event information.

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**Contact Us:** Give us a call at 712-755-2114 or [email](#) us for more information about becoming a Chamber member.

## Club Level Members

### Platinum Plus Club Members

*City of Harlan*

*Harlan Industrial Foundation*

*Harlan Municipal Utilities*

*Myrtue Medical Center*

*Shelby County*

*Shelby County State Bank*

### Platinum Club Members

*Conductix-Wampfler*

*Monogram Prepared Meats, LLC*

### Gold Club Members

*Essentia Protein Solutions*

*FMCTC*

*Farmers Trust & Savings Bank*

*Midstates Bank*

### Silver Club Members

*Elm Crest Retirement Community*    *Panama Transfer*

*Variety Distributors, Inc.*    *White Pine Dental Group*

### Bronze Club Members

*The Agency, Inc.*    *All Purpose Contractors, LLC*    *CDS Global  
Counsel Office & Document*    *Cyclone Lanes*    *Fareway Stores, Inc.*

*Harlan Golf & Country Club*    *The Harlan Tribune*

*Hy-Vee*    *Keast Motors*    *Terry Knapp Real Estate*

*KNOD Radio Station*    *EJ Leinen - State Farm*

*Molded Products*    *Nishnabotna Valley REC*

*Pitts Family & Sports Chiropractic Center, PC*

*Smitty Bee Honey, Inc.*    *Subway*    *Town & Country Credit Union*



# Town Hall Meeting

Tuesday, October 30 with  
Governor Kim Reynolds  
Shelby County Chamber of  
Commerce & Industry Atrium  
1901 Hawkeye Avenue  
Harlan, IA

**SCCCI Mission Statement:** To create a climate of opportunity for business growth, economic development, and a high standard of living throughout Shelby County.

## Chamber Gift Certificates

The Shelby County Chamber of Commerce & Industry offers gift certificates that are accepted at many of our area's retailers, restaurants, and professional services. The program is designed to promote and have consumers patronize Shelby County businesses. They make perfect gifts for employees, teachers, coaches, friends, and family. Gift certificates can be purchased in any denomination. There is no minimum purchase required. All major credit cards, checks, and cash accepted.

Certificates are easy to purchase. On our [website](#), call the office 712-755-2114, [email](#), or stop by and see us.

### 2018-2019 Chamber Board Members

**President**  
Steve Kenkel  
Shelby County Board of  
Supervisors

**Vice President**  
Josh Grimes  
Hy-Vee Stores

**Treasurer**  
Gervas Mgonja  
Town & Country Credit  
Union

**Board Member**  
Tami Kloewer  
Secret Serenity Salon  
& Day Spa

**Board Member**  
Steve Ineson  
Four Seasons Travel

**Board Member**  
Doug Schmitz  
Smitty Bee Honey

**Board Member**  
Ellen Walsh-Rosmann  
FarmTable Delivery &  
Milk & Honey

**Board Member**  
Mike Wohlhutter, Jr.  
Molded Products

### Chamber Staff

**Todd Valline**  
Executive Director

**Ed Hendley**  
Information Technology  
Manager

**Carol McHugh**  
Administrative Assistant

**Debbie Stendrup**  
Membership/Events  
Coordinator

# Ambassador Visits & Ribbon Cutting



Friday, October 5, 2018. Ambassador Visit/Plant Tour  
Conductix-Wampfler, 1605 Industrial Parkway, Harlan



Wednesday, October 10, 2018. Ambassador Visit  
New Chamber Member Welcome  
First United Methodist Church, 1202 9th Street, Harlan



Thursday, October 11, 2018. Ambassador Visit  
Welcoming New Part Owners  
Harlan Pizza Ranch, 613 Court Street, Harlan



Wednesday, October 17, 2018. Ribbon Cutting  
Unveiling of New Theater Lounge - 1 & 2  
Elm Crest Senior Living Community, 2104 12th Street, Harlan



Friday, October 19, 2018. Ambassador Visit  
Welcoming Chef James  
Milk & Honey, 1101 7th Street, Harlan



## Upcoming Open Houses & Ribbon Cuttings

**Tuesday, October 30, 10 am** - Open House, ThinkSpace IT, 1108 8th Street, Harlan.

**Tuesday, October 30, 5—7 pm** - Open House 5 - 7 pm, Ribbon Cutting Ceremony 6 pm, Pleasant Thymes Tea Room, 2018 Pleasant Street, Elk Horn.

**Tuesday, November 6, 3:30 pm** - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Brockelman & Associates, PC, 2309 - B Chatburn Avenue, Harlan.

**Wednesday, November 7, 9 am** - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, The Nest Egg, 4105 Union Street, Elk Horn.

**Friday, November 9, 10 am** - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Hansen House Memory Care, 703 Dye Street, Harlan.

**Friday, November 16, 9 am** - Ambassador Visit, FarmTable Procurement & Delivery, 1901 Hawkeye Avenue, Harlan.



# 11th Annual Harvest Fest Scarecrow Showdown



First Place Winner  
Shelby County Physical Therapy  
2305 Chatburn Avenue, Harlan



Second Place Winner  
Shelby County State Bank  
508 Court Street, Harlan



Honorable Mention  
FMCTC  
801 19th Street, Harlan



Petersen Motors, LLC  
1708 Chatburn Avenue, Harlan



Shelby County Historical Museum  
1805 Morse Avenue, Harlan



# 11th Annual Harvest Fest Scarecrow Showdown



ISU Extension and Outreach Shelby County &  
Shelby County Farm Bureau  
906 & 908 6th Street, Harlan



Tiarks School of Dance  
610 Market Street, Harlan



Touch of Class Dry Cleaning  
1020 5th Street, Harlan



Fair 'n Square Consignment  
6th Street, Harlan

## Event Info

For additional information on community events, please visit our [events calendar](#).

### November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Early Out Glow Party, Elk Horn Public Library  Harlan Holiday Open House	2 Harlan Holiday Open House	3 11th Annual Forgotten Art – The Artists Historic Downtown Harlan  Holiday Open House Downtown Harlan Recipe Walk
4	5 Grief Share Seminar/Support Group First Baptist Church Harlan	6 Ribbon Cutting Brockelman & Associates, Harlan  Iowa Community Kitchen, First Baptist Church, Harlan  Community Learning Class, Mame Elk Horn, Elk Horn	7 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, The Nest Egg, Elk Horn	8 Brown Bag Lunch Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn	9 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Hansen House Memory Care Harlan  Open House Hansen House Memory Care Harlan	10 Open House Hansen House Memory Care Harlan
11 Veterans Day Open House Hansen House Memory Care Harlan	12 Grief Share Seminar/Support Group First Baptist Church Harlan	13 Iowa Community Kitchen, First Baptist Church, Harlan  Community Learning Class, Mame Elk Horn, Walnut	14 IWCC Small Business Development Center Lunch & Learn Series, Council Bluffs	15 Blood Drive St. Boniface Parish Center, Westphalia  Block Out Hunger Canned Food Drive (thru December 15) H & R Block, Harlan	16 Ambassador Visit FarmTable Procurement & Delivery, Harlan	17 Blood Drive Community Building Shelby  FarmTable Holiday Market, Harlan
18	19 Mobile Food Pantry Vets Building, Harlan  Grief Share Seminar/Support Group First Baptist Church Harlan	20 SCCC BOD Meeting Chamber Conference Room  Blood Drive Veteran's Memorial Building  Iowa Community Kitchen, First Baptist Church, Harlan  Customer Service & Community Tourism Strategies Shelby Co Extension & Outreach Harlan	21 Thanksgiving on the Prairie, Shelby Co Historical Museum Harlan	22 Thanksgiving Chamber Office Closed	23 Chamber Office Closed  Julefest – Danish Villages Elk Horn & Kimballton  Julefest – Museum of Danish America	24 Small Business Saturday/Holiday Lighting Ceremony  Julefest – Danish Villages Elk Horn & Kimballton  Julefest – Museum of Danish America
25	26 Grief Share Seminar/Support Group First Baptist Church Harlan	27 Iowa Community Kitchen, First Baptist Church, Harlan	28	29	30	

### December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Santa Claus is Coming to Town Event – Shelby County
2	3 Grief Share Seminar/Support Group First Baptist Church Harlan	4 Iowa Community Kitchen, First Baptist Church, Harlan	5	6	7 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Jenns Craft Shack, Harlan	8
9	10	11 Iowa Community Kitchen, First Baptist Church, Harlan	12	13 Santa in the Cabins Shelby Co Historical Museum, Harlan	14	15 FarmTable Holiday Market, Harlan  Legislative Coffee Kick Off Session SCCC Atrium, Harlan  Harlan Community Holiday Open House
16	17	18 Iowa Community Kitchen, First Baptist Church, Harlan	19	20 SCCC Holiday Open House	21	22
23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day Chamber Office Closed	26 Christmas Holiday Chamber Office Closed	27 Christmas Holiday Chamber Office Closed	28 Christmas Holiday Chamber Office Closed	29
30	31 New Year's Eve Chamber Office Closed					