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*Community Revitalization*

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April 18, 2024

PRESS RELEASE

**Main Street St. Joseph Graduates from the Community Empowerment Grant program**

Contact: Gayla Roten, State Director, Missouri Main Street Connection, Inc.  
PO Box 1066, Branson, MO 65615; phone: 417-334-3014.

St. Joseph graduated from the cost-sharing Community Empowerment Grant that provided training, mentoring, and technical services to the local revitalization organization, Main Street St. Joseph. The service grant is provided by Missouri Main Street Connection, Inc. (MMSC).

MMSC staff visited with community members to evaluate existing and future needs in downtown and conducted a series of customized trainings and mentoring sessions equipping the local Main Street organization to concentrate on local revitalization goals as expressed by local community members. MMSC State Director Gayla Roten noted, "The locally led organization, Main Street St. Joseph, has truly shown a strong desire to comprehensively revitalize downtown St. Joseph using the Main Street Approach™. They already have had such an impact in downtown St. Joseph, and we cannot wait to see how the organization continues to build on these successes in the future."

**The goal of the grant** is the development of a sustainable, volunteer-based economic development organization focused on using the Main Street Approach™ to revitalize downtown. The Community Empowerment Grant is a 60/40 matching service grant. The total value of the grant in training and mentoring services is \$30,800. Missouri Main Street Connection staff provided specialized training services to implement the Main Street principles to assist Main Street St. Joseph in identifying and developing economic development projects in downtown.

St. Joseph is designated as a community in the Affiliate Tier in the Missouri Main Street Tier Structure, which ranks progression on standards established by Main Street America. It is Missouri Main Street Connection's goal and hope that St. Joseph continues to grow as an organization to continue to move up the Tier Structure.