

FCDC NEWS

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FCDC Member Feature



Can you imagine Ottawa and Franklin County without the Walmart Distribution Center #6035? Well, you would have to imagine being here 25 years ago. Yes, the Walmart Distribution Center #6035 is celebrating its 25th anniversary here in our community. Our community has been greatly enhanced by the establishment of this great business partner here in our own backyard. The local distribution center began in 1995 and proved to our community that we can attract major industry to our area. It also proved to other industry that this is a place to consider doing business. It has been a great addition to our community for a number of reasons.

The Walmart Distribution Center here in Ottawa is currently led by general manager John Cessna. It is his second tour of duty here. John came back because he loves this community. But that is all you will get out of him if you ask him about the distribution center. He is more interested in telling you the story of his associates and the great work they do for the company and our community.

The distribution center currently has over 850 hard working associates. During 2020 they have stepped up in a major way to provide valuable service to our community and to stores in 125 other communities across Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. This has required long hours and hard work by the associates at the distribution center. They have made the local location one of the top performing distribution centers in the Walmart system. As a community we can be proud of this accomplishment by hard working people in our very own community.

The volume of work and the number of cases moved during 2020 has been at an all-time high level during 2020. They just completed moving over 300,000 cases a day, three days in a row. During the pandemic, this group of hard-working folks have increased volume 20%. This cannot be missed as we have all come to appreciate the efforts to keep the store shelves stocked during troubling times. When you walk into a store and pick up what you need, remember the effort and time it took to get that on the shelf and waiting for you. We are fortunate to have those hard-working folks right here in our community.

As you know, Walmart was founded by Sam Walton. One of the principles he incorporated into his company was being a good community partner. John Cessna and his team continue to carry those values forward today. The local distribution center donates to various programs and needs within our community on a monthly basis. Since the distribution center opened in 1995 they have donated over \$750,000 to our community, this does not include the countless hours that the associates have volunteered of their time and talents to our youth, health agencies, schools, and social service programs. Our community has benefited in many ways thanks to the Walmart principle of being a good community partner.

It should also be noted that significant dollars have been infused into our local economy thanks to this industry partner. Walmart's payroll for 850 associates is a huge economic boost for our region. In addition, the distribution center is an incredible contributor to our tax base as well. These tax payments support our police, fire, schools, roads, etc. When one thinks of the economic impact over the past 25 years, it is staggering.



It is obvious when you speak with John Cessna, he is proud of his distribution center. He is even more proud of the associates that work there. Over 357 of the current employees have been there over 10 years. Many of those have been there over 20 years. There is a reason for this besides pride in their work and a company that supports them. The other reason stated is, "This is where we live"

The Franklin County Development Council is pleased to feature the Walmart Distribution Center #6035. They have been a long standing partner of FCDC and supportive of efforts to attract new industry and assist existing industry in our community.

It is a GREAT day to live in Franklin County!

Paul Bear

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