



# TAKE FIVE TO MEET CHAMBER MEMBER

## Gambino's Pizza

### **What service/product do you provide?**

We offer incredible pizza, pasta, sandwich, appetizer, and many other products. We allow for Carry out, dine-in, and delivery. During lunch, we offer a buffet that allows us to showcase all of our amazing products.

### **When did you start your business and why?**

I officially opened my restaurant on September 10th, 2021. However, I started developing, building, and creating my business in April of 2021 all while studying at Washburn University and competing on the Track and Field team. I started my business because I love interacting with people. While growing up I was raised in the food industry and found my passion to serve individuals. Because of this passion, I was led down the path of opening my own restaurant and continue to grow my relationship with the community of Salina, while providing them with the best food possible.

### **Anything else you would like the community to know?**

I would like to people in the community to know that Salina has been amazing to my fiancé and me. We moved to Salina specifically for me to open Gambino's Pizza. In the process of that, my fiancé was able to start an awesome career in the Emergency Department as a registered nurse here at Salina Regional Health Center. I would also like to encourage young individuals to pursue their passion for business. I opened the Salina store when I was 22 and received a lot of feedback about being pretty young to own a business. I really encourage young individuals to chase their dreams and understand that hard work pays off and you can do anything you want!



### **What is something that no one knows about you?**

One thing people don't know about me is that while in college I was studying to be a physical therapist and halfway through my junior year I realized that physical therapy wasn't my passion and that the food industry was. Throughout my entire life, I have always been in the food industry. The only jobs I ever had were in Gambino's Pizza growing up, Menard's for a very short stint in college and bartending for the majority of college.

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### **Tell us a memorable experience that you have had in your business:**

One of the best experiences I had in my restaurant was in October 2021. We had been open for about a month and one Sunday the majority of my staff had called in. This left me with a staff of myself, my fiancé, and a young gentleman named Jeremy to run the evening shift. On this night, the Chiefs were playing a prime-time night game, which meant we were going to be BUSY. Knowing what was about to happen I looked at Jeremy and made a bet. I said, "Want to bet a dollar on who makes the first mistake on the make table?" He accepted and my fiancé had picked to be on his side. So, we began the night and like we predicted, we were BUSY. We went along executing perfectly until the last 30 minutes. At that point, one of us accidentally added green peppers to an order, and Jeremy and I looked at each other to figure out who made the mistake. Well, we found out it was me, the guy who was born and raised in Gambino's Pizza made the simple mistake. To this day, my fiancé and Jeremy still give me a hard time and joke around about that day. Now Jeremy is the store leader and does an excellent job while I am not there. I could have never opened this restaurant without the help of my incredible staff, most of them have been with me since day one.

### **Why is being a Salina Area Chamber of Commerce member important?**

Being a member of the Salina Chamber of Commerce is important because it allows us businesses to give back to the Community of Salina. The Chamber of Commerce helps promote local businesses and provides us with resources for us to be successful. They help work to create a business-friendly environment, which in turn allows us to provide more to the people in the community for different activities for youth and social gatherings for adults. Without them, Salina would not be the community it is today.



Gambino's Pizza

salinagambinospizza@gmail.com

Owner: Clayton Herdman