



Company History

Central Air Conditioning Co. was founded in 1959 by James Crawford. The original focus of the company was to provide superior commercial air conditioning systems and service. A few years later, the company saw a customer need and expanded its services to include plumbing and piping as well.

In 1981, three of the company's employees bought the company and incorporated Central Air Conditioning Co. Karl Rudrow, Darrell Vickers, and Frank Rinke continued James Crawford's original vision, forming lasting partnerships with commercial clients and providing top-notch service.

2001 marked another milestone for Central Air Conditioning Co. Rudrow, Vickers and Rinke retired, and four new owners purchased the company. Barry Schwan, Ken Shannon, A. Scott Ritchie, III, and the late, George Fahnestock (now DeAnn Fahnestock) worked to continue Central Air Conditioning Co.'s history of excellence. They appointed Joseph Samia as President, and Lyman Ray as Vice-President of Service. In 2011, Joseph Samia became the fifth partner of Central Air Conditioning. The company has continued to grow its mechanical contracting business by adding custom steel fabrication.

Along the way Central has contributed to building of Wichita. We have completed highly visible community projects like Century II, the Fidelity Bank/Carnegie Library renovation, and the Kansas Leadership Center. We work in major industrial plants like Beechcraft, Cessna, and Spirit. Central also works to keep Wichita's infrastructure functioning with ongoing work at area hospitals including all local Via Christi campuses, Wesley, Gallichia and Kansas Medical Center and service providers like AT&T.

Central Air Conditioning celebrates the long-term employment of its workforce and attributes it to the company culture established in the beginning: commitment to the customer, empowering employees, and appreciating the opportunity to make a difference.