Bob and Trish Williford first moved to McPherson in June 1981.  Bob had just graduated with bachelor degrees in Chemistry and Mathematics from Southwest Baptist College and was hired by Sterling Drug as an analytical chemist.  During their first seven years in McPherson, Bob and Trish were blessed with two sons and multiple opportunities for professional advancement at Sterling Drug. In 1988, Bob accepted a position with Parke-Davis Pharmaceuticals in Rochester, Michigan and the Willifords moved and were away from McPherson for the next three years.  During that time, they also spent a year in Lafayette, Colorado where Bob worked at a start-up biotech company in Boulder.  Getting caught on the risk side of the startup, the biotech company dissolved in early 1991 and the Willifords moved back to McPherson where Bob accepted a management position at Sterling Drug/Eastman Kodak.  It was during the next eight years that Abbot purchased the drug plant in McPherson and determined that professional development required Bob to have multi-plant experience.  It was also during this time that Bob and Trish were blessed with two more sons.  The Willifords moved to Austin, TX (the first time) in 1999.  Fast forward four more site relocations and corporate transfers and the Willifords moved to McPherson for the third time in 2010 where they have remained.  Bob retired from Pfizer in 2018 where he last held the position of Site Quality Lead for the McPherson operations.  In Bob’s rear-view mirror is a long string of managerial and executive positions in Quality and Operations for pharmaceutical manufacturing.

Upon retirement in 2018 Bob taught high-school math on a part time basis for Elyria Christian School for one year.  It was during this time that Bob and his son Paul discussed Paul’s many road adventures in the metal fabrication arena working for Amada as a laser applications engineer and trainer.  The offshoot of these discussions went from “we could do that” to “we should do that” and then on to “we’re going to do that”.  Bob spent the first several months of 2019 developing the business plan for Paragon Precision Metal.  The company was registered with the State of Kansas as an LLC in April, 2019.  Paul became a full-time employee of Paragon in September of that year with three additional hires occurring before the end of 2019.  In January of 2020, Paragon shipped its first commercial production.

The company has seen continued growth since its inception and finished 2022 recording sales in excess of two million dollars.  Paragon is currently staffed with 13 full time employees and continues to thrive through our commitment to investing in our people, serving our customers, and demonstrating how a company looks when we allow God to be in control.

We are proud to be a part of the McPherson community and are thankful for the support of the many resources who have helped us become who we are today.  We have, and continue to cross paths with awesome people, organizations, and companies.