I remember like it was yesterday. After working 36 hours straight to finish the building and complete our preparations for opening night, we opened the doors to The City. At the time, we really didn’t have a way to predict if this new concept would succeed and thrive or fail like so many before us. Opening weekend November 2001 was simply thrilling with over 1,400 students attending our grand opening. This December we welcomed our 100,000th student to The City.

Like any organization, we have seen a few down days, but for the most part we have experienced incredible memories that will last a lifetime. It is still exciting to see students line up out front before we open; still amazing to see our dance floor filled to capacity with students watching an up and coming band. Equally exciting is graduating 72 students in our ALIVE Leadership program and watching those students amass over 3,600 hours of volunteering. And now we look forward to the future and launching our after-school program.

What is the secret of this success? One answer: Salina! The power of a community uniting and staying united to provide quality programming to teens. Salina! The wonderful generosity of individuals, businesses, and foundations regularly supporting our mission. Salina! The students who enjoy and utilize this amazing facility. Thank you for your committed support. We look forward to making Salina proud for another five years.

5 Years. 100,000 students. Big numbers like those deserve a big party. That’s exactly what we had December 8th-9th to celebrate The City’s fifth anniversary. A big thanks to everyone that helped us get there.

The fun started Friday night for middle school with a giant balloon drop and our great she wins/he wins giveaways. One lucky girl won a shopping spree to The Legends in Kansas City including a stay at Great Wolf Lodge with four friends. Our winning guy scored premium tickets to the Chiefs/Jacksonville game and a stay at Great Wolf Lodge. Check out the pictures of the happy winners.

Saturday night high school students had a chance to see one of our favorite bands, Imminent Domain. The 2006 Battle of the Bands winner returned from their new home base in Lawrence to entertain the crowd. The band is comprised entirely of the Pettijean brothers, originally from Brookville, and their popular, high energy act kept The City rocking all night long.

What will the next five years bring? We can hardly wait to find out.