Just Another Day? I Don’t Think So!

Who among you would not smile, and maybe even roll your eyes, if I told you van der Linde Recycling and Container Rentals will soon be one of the top 100 companies to work for? Well that is exactly where we are headed.

Everybody would agree that the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. We took that step the day we opened our doors in December of 2008. What gets lost in the “just another day” mentality is that a journey of a thousand miles involves tens of thousands of small steps that seem to take forever but are no less important than the very first one. You can’t leap frog over the steps, the obstacles or the process. It simply takes time and sustained effort. It’s inescapable. No glory. No roar of the crowd, just old fashioned hard work.

Those that understand this marathon mentality, keep taking the next step and never break stride will find themselves working for one of the top 100 companies in the U.S. because we won’t stop until we get there. Those that try to get a free ride on the efforts of others or who impede the progress of those who are trying to move us forward will not. Those who leave lacking in the patience and perseverance necessary to complete the journey will try to reapply for employment and find themselves at the end of a long waiting list.

Success refuses to just fall from the sky. It insists on relentless individual and team effort. It commits to those who commit to it. That’s why it is never, “just another day”. Every day we wake up and are given the day to use as we will. You can waste it or use it for good. That’s why today is a special day for those who know that every step that is taken toward our goal is a significant as the first one.

Simple, productive actions, repeated consistently over time guarantees our future as well as our success. Hope you will choose to travel with us.
Bigger, Better, Bales

Now in its 8th year, the C&D building has been a work horse from day one. At first we loose loaded cardboard into a trailer as we had no baler at all. After a couple of years we installed the manual baler that is currently in operation. Now, at long last, we are installing the monster Marathon auto-tie baler that has been collecting dust by the break room for months. It will accomplish in minutes what currently takes hours. The dust on bales will be reduced as materials will not sit in the building as long waiting to be baled.

Where It All Began

In the beginning before mulch, gravel, and MSW, C&D was all there was. Today the C&D facility remains one of the landmarks of our campus and is at the core of so many things we do. The C&D receiving team is paramount to providing customer care in the building by directing our customers safely into and out of the bays, ensuring they are dumping in the correct location, helping them unload and ensure that we have not received any unauthorized material. They also provide the load breakdowns used for the reporting of LEEDS and manage controlled materials.

The C&D loader operator works closely with the receiving team to ensure that the floor is cleared as quickly as possible. Pushing the pile, clearing the bunkers and relocating material are critical tasks to keeping the building running smoothly. The loader is also tasked with loading mulch and gravel when needed. All while safely operating a massive 12+ ton machine that needless to say could cause massive damage if he happens to be careless.

The line team holds our mission of recovery in their hands. If they are not able to remove an item before it reaches the residual, it is lost. The process starts with the operator who feeds the line. This operator must always be thinking of their teammates down the line and how the material he puts into the shaker will perform. The goal is to ensure that the line team has the best chance possible to access the metal, wood, wire, plastic, concrete and cardboard that they are trying to recover. (cont. next page)
The line team is the powerhouse of the C&D operation and from the masses of material that you can see in the bunkers, you know that this team works! They embrace and execute our recovery mission daily.

The cardboard and plastic that is recovered must be baled and loaded in the trailer for market. The task of baling the product and ensuring that it is free of litter and other material is important. In order to sell our product it must consistently be high quality. Any residual material that we are unable to recover is loaded into trailers and removed from the building.

Maintenance is a requirement for any machine. The line team also works to ensure the shaker and other areas are free of debris. Keeping the fines from clogging the machine alone requires one person to constantly dig them out from under the cross conveyor from A to B line. However, at the end of each day the dedicated maintenance team comes in and does what it can to ensure that we are ready to go the next day. This group defines what it is to work as a team as one part could not function without the others.

The current members of this team (in alphabetical order) are: Sean Bradley, David Carter, Donald Cosby, Harrold Craig, Alvin Daniels, John Farrar, Rickey Flowers, Kevin Franklin, Cecil Hansberry, Ronald Harris, Ernestine Jasper, Frank Keesee, Rickey Kelley, Stephen Key, Robert Krute, Justin Maxey, Jorge Ocasio, Robert Ramsey, Richard Robinson, Steven Rumsey, Calvin Smith, James Smith, Lonnie Washington, Tommy White, Maurice Williams, Patrick Williams. Thank you all for your contribution to our mission!
Best In Show, Just Ask Us

Ralph Martin represented us in this year’s Dogwood parade driving his 2007 Mack truck with the pup trailer. Like everything he does he did it with style! He looked great as he cruised through the parade. Delva and Skeeter can be proud of the smart looking cans on his back. Thank you Ralph for representing our organization and congratulations on best in show!

Branching Out

You’ve all seen our mountains of dyed mulch. At first we sold all our wood to other mulch producers. After a couple of years we made our fist feeble attempts to make mulch ourselves. Over the years since then the addition of the pre-shredder, picking stations, a second electro magnet, the dying trammel and most recently permanent electric service and underground water supply has made it truly a state of the art operation, lead by Mike Blewit and his team.

If you’ve been around here for any length of time it should not be any surprise to hear that we are now making our first attempts to expand into organic, un-dyed mulch from the stumps, brush and logs we have been taking in. Stay tuned for progress reports as we continue the trial and error process that will ultimately lead to perfecting our next phase of success.