



TOWER OF CHANGE

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News from the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Justice Center Project

Relationships – Invaluable

The saying that rings true for many, even in the construction industry is, “It’s not what you know, but who you know and who knows you.”

As many SBE/MBE/FBE contractors are realizing, the relationships they build with prime contractors are invaluable. The Juvenile Justice Center Project uses several prime contractors and all of them have the opportunity to forge mentor/protégé relationships. Panzica and Acme Arsenia are two companies that are participating in and benefitting from these relationships. **When promises are made...promises are delivered.**

Relationship Building – From Start to Finish



(left to right) Bill Davis, Theresa Miller, Robert Miller and Scott Dunlop are all smiles about their mentor/protégé relationship.

Robert and Theresa Miller have strived to create a positive reputation for Start to Finish Construction, the commercial and residential contracting company they built that specializes in all carpentry work. Their work on the Juvenile Justice Center Project consists of all the hollow metal frames, doors, and hardware along with cabinets and countertops. The relationship between Start to Finish and their mentor company Panzica Construction Company, forged as soon as the contract was announced. “We are part of the team,” said Robert Miller. “They mentor us through certain parts of the project. Because this is the first major project we have had, Panzica helps us oversee certain areas and makes sure that the project is running smoothly,” he said.

Bill Davis, vice president/senior project manager for Panzica notes that, “Our experience with Start to Finish has been easy because they are so anxious to learn and do things the right way. We provide assistance and training for documentation, accounting, coordination, and scheduling. We physically demonstrate field activities when necessary,” Davis adds.

The Millers have “a good team” with Panzica. “Bill Davis and Scott Dunlop, project superintendent - are there for us. They keep us on the ball. Between Bill and Scott, we get a lot done.”

“Hopefully the Juvenile Justice Center Project will enhance the neighborhood, and because it will employ many people, it will help boost the economy and bring something positive to the community,” said Miller.

Meet Kimberly Walker

Kimberly Walker is a union carpenter with Local 21. She has worked for Triple A Builders, Inc. since August 2008. Prior to this opportunity, she worked on various construction sites including a parking garage for a major institution.

Kimberly attended the UCIP ASAP Pre-Apprentice Training Program. She completed the 8-week course on a Friday and was at work the following Monday. “Had it not been for the UCIP ASAP program, I would still be driving semi-trucks,” she said. “The key to success in the program is being punctual, having perfect attendance, being attentive and showing tenacity. If you have those things it will work for you.”



Kimberly Walker

Daily Duties: I am a second year carpenter’s apprentice, which means I perform metal stud frame work. The studs are the framework of buildings. There are the studs and the dry wall is placed on top of the studs. I build all interior and exterior walls as well as the walls for elevator shafts and stairwells.

Why She Likes His Job: I have always been interested in building things ever since I was a little girl. Working on the Juvenile Justice Center Project, I am learning daily and it is giving me the opportunity to utilize my skills. As an apprentice, I learn something new every day.

Her Thoughts on the JJC Project: It is a great opportunity. I like it because it’s a big job. I am learning a variety of things. It’s fun to be around the different trades and to see how we intertwine to create the Juvenile Justice Center. We are all working together to make it what it a reality.

When She Is Not Working...: I am a single mother. My daughters are 10 and 18. I spend a lot of time with them, and on weekends, we spend time in church. We attend Fifth Church of God. I am the church nurse and pastor’s Armor Bearer. I also volunteer on Saturdays as the secretary of the self-help group.

Your Best Advice: If there is something that you really want to do, do it with all your heart. Go for it. Do not let anything intimidate you from pursuing your goal. Never give up.

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Building Trades: Carpentry

Without carpenters, buildings would not exist. Carpenters are the largest construction trade. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, over 32% of all carpenters are self-employed.

Carpenters are involved in many different kinds of construction, from the building of highways and bridges to the installation of kitchen cabinets. Carpenters construct, erect, install, and repair structures and fixtures made from wood and other materials.

Each carpentry task is somewhat different, but most involve the same basic steps. Working from blueprints or instructions from supervisors, carpenters first do the layout—measuring, marking, and arranging materials—in accordance with local building codes. They cut and shape wood, plastic, fiberglass, or drywall using hand and power tools, such as chisels, planes, saws, drills, and sanders. They then join the materials with nails, screws, staples, or adhesives. In the last step, carpenters do a final check of the accuracy of their work with levels, rules, plumb bobs, framing squares, and surveying equipment, and make any necessary adjustments.

When working with prefabricated components, such as stairs or wall panels, the carpenter's task is somewhat simpler because it does not require as much layout work or the cutting and assembly of as many pieces. Prefabricated components are designed for easy and fast installation and generally can be installed in a single operation.

Carpenters need a broad range of carpentry skills. As part of a single job, for example, they might frame walls and partitions, put in doors and windows, build stairs, install casework molding, and complete many other tasks.

Carpenters who work for large construction contractors or specialty contractors may perform only a few regular tasks, such as constructing wooden forms for pouring concrete.

-Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



Carpenter "Chicken Joe" Corrin installs framing for cornice on the Juvenile Justice Center Project.

Giving It Her "A" Game



Angela Mumford (left) works alongside her mother Cynthia Mumford (right) on the Juvenile Justice Center project.

Cynthia Mumford knows how to take lemons and make lemonade. Her company, Triple A Builders Inc., began out of necessity. "I was one of the first homeowners to build a new home in the Hough neighborhood and the builders didn't complete the project. I had to finish it myself," she recalls. She took construction courses through Cuyahoga Community College and completed the James H. Walker Construction Management course sponsored by the City of Cleveland.

Now, as President and CEO of Triple A Builders Inc., Mumford oversees and is involved with a variety of construction details. On the Juvenile Justice Center Project, her company is responsible for the interior and external walls metal stud framing. They are also installing the vapor retarder and barrier for the Center's architectural fiberglass dome.

The experience Mumford gains from working closely with John Arsenia Sr. of the Acme Arsenia Company is invaluable she says. "This is the largest construction project that we've ever done," offers Mumford. "Mr. Arsenia is teaching us a lot about the process and procedures that come with major new construction projects. He helps us review the details that are involved in major construction. This process is a lot different from anything we have ever done," she said.

John Arsenia Sr. remembers receiving a few references from several companies. "Cindy rose to the top as eager, and ambitious with a desire to learn. I was impressed," said Arsenia. "She naturally wanted to make money but was not solely interested in the money. She wanted to learn."

The relationship is working out very well. "I am more hands-on and Cindy is the same way. If we are going to work with somebody, she was the best one," he said.

Attending meetings, reviewing contracts and blueprints and learning the process has been an invaluable experience. "To attend the project meetings with Acme Arsenia and the other major contractors is like watching an orchestra," Mumford shares.

If Mumford has her way, Triple A Builders will one day be a third or fourth generation business. Her daughter, Angela works alongside her and participates in the carpenter's union apprenticeship program. "My daughter loves it," said Mumford.

When asked how the mentor/protégé relationship is working out, "It is absolutely good for business," Arsenia enthusiastically answered. "It has been a real pleasure to work with Cindy who transmits a positive attitude. It has been great so far."