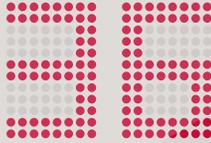


HALFTIME



PROFILE

YEARS



EST. 1981



HOMEBASE



POSITION

SENIOR

BUYER

Nanida Alexander

Todd Stanford: Why do you think you've stayed at this plant since 1981?

Nan: There weren't many jobs when we first started here. This was going to be a temporary job until I found something in the medical field because I always worked in doctors' offices. I grew to enjoy the people, plus this paid the most of any in the area. Back then, this town was very small. There were very few opportunities. I have to tell you: I just enjoy what I'm doing or I wouldn't be here.

Todd: How do you think you've contributed to MI's success through the years.

Nan: I've enjoyed building this company with my teammates. When we were Betterbuilt, we were quite a big family here. And I also enjoyed when Caradon bought us. And then MI bought us, and I still feel like I'm contributing to the growth of the company. Because when I'm not here, there will be someone else who will need to take the reins and continue on. I just feel that this is something very important; it's like a breathing factory.

The people out there are very important, so therefore the community gains, they gain. And if we can put out a quality product and keep people happy, that's our best bet.

Todd: How much has the plant changed in all your years here?

Nan: A lot. We started out with about 100-some people. Then it grew to about 1,100. Then we came back down. We used to work seven days a week. We had three shifts working Monday through Friday. We had what was called an extended weekend shift, which was Friday-Saturday-Sunday-Monday. Then we had what was called the weekend shift, which was Saturday and Sunday. This plant really produced a lot of windows and doors at that time. We were with Home Depot at that time.

The plant has changed. When I first started, I was using a Cardex to keep track of all my raw materials. Then we went to computers, which I was really petrified of. It has grown with having our own trucks here, then we went to Penske.

We've extended the building. We have done a lot of work on the grounds here. We've changed from being aluminum only, to being aluminum and a little bit of vinyl. I was always told vinyl was going to go great guns, and I couldn't see it, because aluminum was like 90 percent (of our production). Now it's completely switched: Now we're totally vinyl here and no aluminum.

I've seen a lot of the way the plant has been laid out changed. It used to be laid out long-ways, and now it's changed. The stock room used to be on the far side. We gave up most of our area to put glass in. That has changed.

We've grown in personnel. We've become more safety oriented. The people out there are more willing to be a team player than they were before. Those are some of the good things that I've seen.

Todd: If you had to guess, how many people would you say you've worked with directly in your years here?

Nan: I have had five bosses. I would say coming and going in my department and my stockroom, I'd say probably a total of 40 people. That's just in my little area.

Todd: Did you meet your husband here at the plant?

Nan: No, we moved here. He was a truck driver. He didn't want to drive trucks anymore because the kids were little, he got tired of being gone all the time. So he came here to get a job as a truck driver, which would have been local. At that time, it would have been Arizona, California, a piece of New Mexico and some of Texas. He thought

he would be able to do that, but they didn't have any openings because they brought all the drivers from Tennessee (where Betterbuilt is headquartered) here who wanted to move to Arizona. They had no openings, so he started on the floor, and he started at the back on our storm door/storm window line. He worked on that for about three months, and they put him over several departments. When he got to be the assistant plant manager after a couple of years, there was no bringing my work home. No matter how good it was or how big my problem was, I couldn't bring it home. I could talk to him here at work about a problem, but at home, home was home.

Todd: What was the most memorable day that you've had working here?

Nan: One of the most memorable days would have been last year, when they gave me my anniversary party (for 35 years). Mike DeSoto spoke, and it really made me feel good. This year, Casey (Jenkins) spoke, and it made me cry too. It made me feel really good. I try to stay in the background as much as I can because all I'm trying to do is support my people. My people: They're the most important thing to me. Making them happy, having stuff come in so they can work, so they can make money, so they can get it to shipping, so it can get out so we can make money. I always say "we" because I feel like I'm part of the plant.

Todd: What do you think your proudest accomplishment has been at MI?

Nan: I feel like we have done a very fine job in supporting the lines out there. I feel like the best

accomplishment I can think of is they kept me (laughs). I just feel that we've done a fine job out there trying to keep the inventory down and making sure we have enough product in house for our people to work with. Being this far away from all the manufacturers, we have a logistics problem getting stuff in here. Everybody else is between 150 and 500 miles from materials. And they can send a truck or send someone for pickup. We are 500-1,500, 2,500 miles away. We have the logistics problem of trying to make sure we have enough in house to cover if it's not going to come. I really think our department has done a pretty good job with that.

Todd: How many close friends would you say you've made here over the years?

Nan: Oh, they're my family! Close friends, I would say about 50. Wonderful acquaintances? I would say about 250 or 300. I don't know all the people's names out there now because I'm not on the floor all the time like I used to be. But I really enjoy them.

Todd: How has the fenestration industry changed since you started?

Nan: We were aluminum and we used spacers. I called it gooey goop. It was black stuff that if you got it on your clothes, you couldn't even use it for camping because it never came out. Now it has really changed. It's gone to the vinyl line; the glass has changed. The way it was before, we had really thin pieces of glass. We didn't use the argon between them. Now we have automation out there and it's been much better. It's been a lot better for them and me too.