

Inside *cwm*

*An Inside Look at
Chicago White Metal Casting, Inc.*

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**Chicago
White Metal
Casting, Inc.**



Celebrating Tom Mrock: A Career Built on Relationships and Dedication

After an incredible 47-year journey (41 years full time and 5.5 years part time) with Chicago White Metal, we bid farewell to Tom Mrock as he embarks on his well-earned retirement. Tom's career has been nothing short of legendary, marked by an unwavering commitment to customer service, a deep understanding of the industry, and a knack for building relationships that stood the test of time. His contributions have shaped the company's growth and culture, and his stories are a testament to a life well-lived at work and beyond.



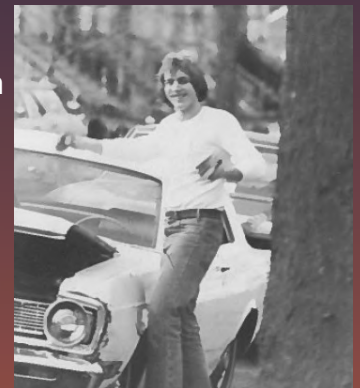
Tom—Christmas 2023

Tom joined Chicago White Metal in the late 1970s part-time, stepping into the bustling world of shipping and receiving at CWM's location on Grand Ave. in Chicago. Over the decades, he wore many hats, each with the same dedication and enthusiasm that became his hallmark. From supervising packers to managing customer relationships, Tom approached every role with a problem-solving mindset and an emphasis on teamwork. "The company was built on relationships," Tom often says, a principle he practiced long before it became a business buzzword.

One of Tom's guiding philosophies was the importance of "knowing a guy." Whether it was Bob Curry at Binks or Ralph Barb at SENCO, Tom understood that the foundation of great service lay in nurturing connections. He recalls how Bob Curry, who turned out to be his cousin's wife's brother, became a key ally in ensuring seamless operations. "If I'm in a canoe and two people are rowing together, we're going to get to our goal faster," Tom explained. "Find that person who's going to row with you, and success happens."

Tom's stories also reflect the lessons learned along the way, like the time he prioritized saving costs over following a customer's exact instructions. The experience taught him an invaluable truth: "The customer is king." From that day forward, Tom dedicated himself to delivering exactly what the customer needed, no matter the challenge.

His career also spanned some remarkable transitions in the manufacturing industry. From producing casket parts and gas caps in the 1970s, to pioneering work on cell phone components in the 1990s, to contributing to the infrastructure of the Internet in the 2000s, Tom witnessed firsthand the evolution of technology and how Chicago White Metal adapted to meet new demands.



Tom in 1977 with his sister's car

Tom's storytelling, humor, and vast knowledge have made him a beloved figure at the company. Who can forget his tales of driving Bill Baraglia's Buick Regal loaded with parts to a heavily guarded facility or navigating the early days of teletype communication with international customers? His dedication to going the extra mile, whether that meant staying late to ensure shipments went out or hand-delivering critical components, set a standard that inspired those around him.

As Tom reflects on his time here, he's quick to emphasize the importance of teamwork and service. "Whatever the customer wanted, the customer got," he says, summing up a career defined by putting others first. "If I had some hand in it, I was going to do everything I could to get the job done."

As Tom steps into retirement, we celebrate his incredible career and thank him for the countless ways he's enriched Chicago White Metal. His wisdom, leadership, and humor will be missed, but his legacy will continue to guide us.

Thank you, Tom, for 47 remarkable years! We wish you all the best in this exciting new chapter of your life. May it be filled with joy, relaxation, and perhaps a few more stories to share.

CWM's Outstanding Performers of the Month 2024

January



Maximo Funes

February



Francisco Acosta

March



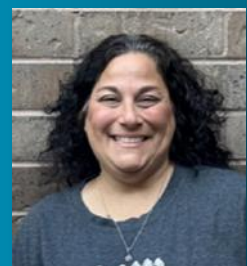
Crencio Delgado

April



Imran Naseer

June



Angela Favata

July



Eugene Thomas

August



Sunny Patel

September



Octavio Soto

October



Faviola Silva

November



Norberta Xique

December



Margo Higgins

Outstanding Performer of the Year 2024: Faviola Silva

Faviola's dedication and positive attitude make her an invaluable part of our team. She provides consistent support to the assembly area, training operators, managing component inventory, and ensuring components are ready for new orders. This year, she went above and beyond to assist the machining-assembly department, filling critical gaps to keep operations running smoothly.

Thank you, Faviola, for your hard work and commitment — you truly set the standard for excellence at CWM!





CWM Welcomes Joseph Auz



Chicago White Metal Casting is excited to welcome a new addition to the team, Joseph Auz, a Systems Technician bringing a wealth of IT expertise and a passion for problem-solving. With a strong background in IT infrastructure and support, he is set to make a significant impact on the company's technological operations.

From Healthcare IT to Manufacturing Technology

Prior to joining CWM, Joseph served in the IT department at Franciscan Health Olympia Fields, where he was the primary contact for all IT-related needs. His role involved working closely with medical professionals and executives to ensure seamless technology functionality. One of his most memorable experiences was troubleshooting a critical computer issue in an operating room during a procedure—an intense but rewarding moment that highlighted his ability to perform under pressure. Before that, he played a key role in installing IT infrastructure for Franciscan Alliance's new flagship hospital in Crown Point, IN, a project that solidified his expertise in IT systems from the ground up.



Joe and his fiancée Lindsey

Initially, the appeal of a shorter commute and a well-matched job description brought Joseph to CWM. However, after stepping through the doors and meeting the team, he knew this was the right place for him. The company's welcoming atmosphere, strong collaboration, and the opportunity to contribute to meaningful projects sealed the deal. He is eager to grow within CWM and make a lasting impact on the company's technological landscape.

As CWM's new Systems Technician, Joseph's primary focus is ensuring that technology across the company runs smoothly. He assists users with hardware and software issues, troubleshoots technical problems, and maintains critical IT infrastructure. Additionally, he plays a key role in managing essential systems such as email and file servers, helping to keep operations efficient and secure. His ultimate goal is to provide seamless IT support so that employees can focus on their work without technological disruptions.

Life Beyond Work

Outside of work, Joseph enjoys spending time outdoors with his fiancée Lindsey, hiking whenever possible. He also loves puzzles, reading, cooking, and video games. His background is as diverse as his interests; he was previously a licensed EMT, Wilderness First Responder, and a rock-climbing instructor in Maryland. At Towson University, he led student trips for backpacking, rock climbing, and white-water kayaking. He even attended nursing school for over two years before ultimately pursuing a career in IT.

Joseph also adores his Siberian Husky, Josie Rose, whom he affectionately calls his "daughter." Josie, known for her loyalty and mischievous love of running away during walks, is never far from his side — unless, of course, she's making him chase her down the street.



Lindsey, Joe and Josie

A Big Year Ahead

One of the most exciting things happening in Joseph's life right now is his upcoming wedding on November 15, 2025. With planning in full swing, he jokingly warns that any dark circles under his eyes can likely be attributed to wedding preparations.

We're thrilled to have Joseph on board at CWM and look forward to the expertise and energy he brings to the team. Welcome, Joe!

2024 Service Awards

10 Years

10 Years

15 Years

15 Years

15 Years



Minervo Perez

Imran Naseer

Margo Higgins

Jon Miller

Nick Ninkovich

30 Years

30 Years

35 Years



Leonides Guerrero

Zofia Kawa

Mark Turner

40 Years

40 Years



Casimer Wisniowicz

Dan O'Connor

2024 Christmas Luncheon

CWM's annual Christmas Luncheon was a festive celebration filled with great food, laughter, and holiday cheer. Employees enjoyed a delicious feast featuring broasted chicken, beef stroganoff, scalloped potatoes, a vegetable medley, and decadent desserts.

The luncheon was a wonderful opportunity to relax, reflect on another great year, and celebrate the camaraderie that makes CWM special. We were especially delighted to welcome several retirees who joined us for the festivities!

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the warmth and joy of the celebration.



Imran Naseer Shares His Passion for Cricket with Young Athletes

While many of us at the office may not know much about cricket, Imran Naseer ensures the next generation does. In his free time, Imran has been helping train kids at Skokie Park District, introducing them to the sport he loves and guiding them through the fundamentals of the game.

Cricket, a globally beloved sport, is similar to baseball in some ways but has unique skills and strategies. It involves batting, bowling, and fielding and requires agility, hand-eye coordination, and teamwork. Imran works with young players on everything from proper batting stance and bowling techniques to fielding drills and game awareness. He emphasizes the technical skills, sportsmanship, and patience the game demands.

Below are some pictures of Imran and the athletes he works with, along with some Cricket basics. If you ever have any questions, Imran is the man to ask!



Batters Group Photo



Batting Helmet - Demo



Batting Technique - Demo



Cricket Gear - Demo

FIELDING POSITIONS IN CRICKET

FOR A RIGHT-HANDED BATSMAN



Kids Group Photo

Bragging Rights



Yaneth Palacios' daughter, Alexa, has been embracing her passion for the violin, and her dedication is paying off. In early December, Alexa performed in her school's winter orchestra concert, where she and her fellow young musicians — composed of only 5th and 6th graders — delivered an outstanding performance.

However, Alexa's musical journey hasn't always been easy. At the beginning, frustration and self-doubt made her want to quit. Learning to play the violin was challenging, and there were moments when she felt discouraged. But with encouragement from her mother, who reminded her that commitment and practice lead to improvement, Alexa persevered.

Through daily practice — no matter how difficult — it all started to come together. Now, she can read music and play with more confidence than ever before. Yaneth is incredibly proud of her daughter's progress and wanted to share this inspiring story of determination and growth with the CWM family.



We are thrilled to celebrate with Francisco Acosta on the arrival of his second grandson, Jonathan Acosta, son of former CWM employee Ivan Francisco Acosta. Wishing their family endless joy with their newest addition!

We also honor Francisco's daughter, Evelyn Acosta, who serves in the U.S. Army. Her dedication to monthly drills and soldier training is truly commendable.



Congratulations to Margo Higgins' son, Kyle, on his engagement to his longtime girlfriend, Uma! The couple has been together for nearly eight years, and Kyle recently proposed during a weekend getaway at the scenic Traverse City Sky Bridge. Many of us may remember Uma from her internship at CWM during the summer of 2019. Kyle and Uma are planning to celebrate their wedding in 2027. We wish them both a lifetime of happiness!

Meet CWM's Cobots

CWM is embracing the future with the addition of new cobots to our production team! These high-tech helpers are working alongside our employees in die casting, CNC, and assembly, taking on repetitive and physically demanding tasks to improve efficiency and safety. By collaborating with our skilled workforce, these cobots are enhancing workflow and creating more opportunities for our team to focus on specialized tasks. Check out some pictures of our robotic coworkers — each with their own name and personality!



Charlie — Die Trim Cobot



Hank — Assembly Cobot



Jim — CNC Cobot



Alex — Machining Cobot



Mac — Sanding Cobot



Frank — Machining Cobot

Toys for Tots — 2024



Chicago White Metal was once again proud to participate in the Toys for Tots program, helping to bring joy to children in need this past holiday season. We've been honored to support this wonderful initiative for 14 years now, and each year, the generosity of our team makes a real difference. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed—your kindness helps ensure children experience the magic of the holidays. We're grateful to be part of such a meaningful cause!

Unexpected Guests: Sandhill Cranes Visit Bill Erbacci's Yard

Bill Erbacci recently had a pair of Sandhill Cranes take up residence in his backyard for a few days as they migrated south. While he managed to capture some great photos of these majestic visitors, their presence meant his dogs had to stay inside — for their own good!



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Mission Statement & Cultural Pillars

*Create success by enriching the lives of others,
including our Chicago White Metal associates and
their families, our customers, suppliers,
and those who live and work in our
surrounding communities.*

Positive
Attitude



Respect



Commitments



Cater to all
Equally



Transparency



Inside CWM is published by Chicago White Metal Casting. It contains up-to-date news for all our employees, valued customers, sales representatives, friends, and supplier partners who are all equally vital to our success.