

## WHAT'S BUZZIN'



#### **Smithereen Gives Back: Food & Essentials Drive!**

IN THIS ISSUE

NILES TOWNSHIP FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

REMEMBERING PHIL SCOTT

NEW HIRES & ANNIVERSARIES

**NEWS & UPDATES** 

**EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER** 

**CUSTOMER REVIEWS** 

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

**HR CORNER** 

We invite you to join us in supporting the Niles Township Food Pantry this spring! Our goal is to strive in strengthening our community, and with your help we can make a positive impact. Whether it's donating canned goods, non-perishable items, or toiletries, your generosity helps those experiencing hardship. Donations are warmly welcomed at our corporate office, where we've set up a designated area for your contributions. For those who'd like to contribute from different offices, please drop off your items with your branch managers, who will ensure their delivery. Please also remember that they do not accept items past their expiry date. The list of donations can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

Together, let's make a meaningful difference and share in the joy of helping those around us. Your support is invaluable, and we appreciate you being a part of this collective effort.

Should you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at my email below!

-Best Regards,
Marina Martinez
Billing Specialist/Corp Office
mmartinez@smithereen.com

DONATE

## Remembering Phil Scott: Honoring the Legacy of a True Team Player & Friend

In memory of Phil, let us honor his legacy by continuing to embody the qualities he brought to our workplace - compassion, dedication, and a genuine commitment to uplifting those around us.

Our thoughts and deepest sympathies go out to Phil's family during this incredibly difficult time. May we find solace in the memories we shared and draw strength from the impact he had on each of us.



An Excerpt from Phil's Memorial Pamphlet "Phil worked for Smithereen for over 20 years and he loved it. He would sometimes refer to them as his family away from home. He enjoyed going to work bright and early every morning."

Phil made his transition to his Lord and Savior on

Phil made his transition to his Lord and Savior on February 2nd, 2024, surrounded by his family and friends.

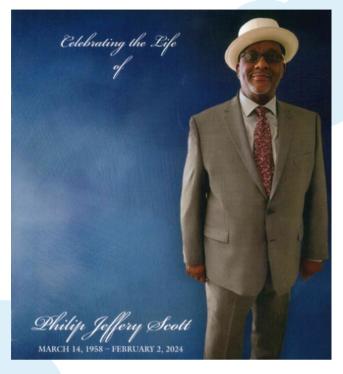
"I worked with Phil for over 15 years and I must say he was always the life of the team and his route. Being with Phil as he ran his route was always interesting to say the least. He was always personable with his customers. For example, he had a customer that the prior month was having breakfast when he arrived. As he finished he told her "Next time I come I want some burnt bacon!" The next service she prepared him some bacon, burnt bacon per his request, (Phil was joking as he often did). He laughed and ate the bacon so as to not offend her. That was the care he had for his customers and they had for him. I often said over the years I didn't know how I was going to find anyone to replace him!!"

-Darwyn Smith

"I am deeply saddened to hear of Phil's passing!! We started at Smithereen at the same time and trained together. He had a great personality and was a really good guy. I will see you on the other side, my brother!! PRAYERS OF PEACE FOR HIS FAMILY"

-Patrick Crotty

## Remembering Phil Scott: Honoring the Legacy of a True Team Player & Friend



"Phil always had a bubbling personality and from the time I started as a Service Manager to the time I became Branch Manager, to the time of his passing it never wavered. My first week with Smithereen I went out on a roach cleanout with Phil to do a 16 unit complex in a not so great area. I hadn't really met him until that day. He was open and full of life. Positive attitude and just ready to work. And BOY could he talk. I talked with him about myself real quick and then we started to talk about work. I asked him how we went about the service here which he stated "we going to inspect, vacuum, spray and bait". I said "ok so we are going to pull out the fridge and stove to spray behind them and then dust or bait around the dishwasher"? Phil looks at me with this grin and laughs a little, looks away real quick then looks back at me staring at me with this grin and says "you think these jokers can afford dishwashers?! Man come on." and just starts laughing. From that point on every unit I got out from servicing he would ask "Did you find the dishwasher". AND then he would continue to ask me this every time he found out I did a multi unit from that point forward. "Hey Chris, heard you went to this place, did you treat behind the dishwasher". Then he would laugh. Always loved joking around with the people he cared about.

When I became Branch Manager down in New Lenox Phil came in to get some supplies. I have only been the branch manager for a few days and he came into my office. Phil stated "So you the new Rich Smith?" I said "Yeah Phil I am now officially the branch manager down here". With a smile, as always, Phil looks at me and says "Cool. From now on I am going to call you Chrissy Pops". We both laughed and I said "Sure Phil". Well from that day on he REALLY always called me Chrissy Pops whenever we talked and I honestly thought he was joking when he first said it. All the way to one of the last phone calls I had with him while he was sick he called me that. What a fricken CHARACTER! Phil, I will miss our LONG talks and I will miss our jokes. You were one of a kind. RIP buddy."



#### **ANNIVERSARIES**

January - March 2024



Andy McCormack (109) - 44 years Kitty Stone (201) - 43 years Ronnie Haines (201) - 29 years Cheryl Lipowski (109) - 26 years Juan Ramos (103) - 25 years Brian Branch (201) - 25 years Marge Borkowski (109) - 24 years Tommy Evans (101) - 23 years Patrick Crotty (103) - 20 years Liz Andrade (109) - 19 years Alengta Benjamin (109) - 18 years Lenny Kirlew (101) 17 years Ricky Valdez (103) - 16 years Dave Benson (105) - 15 years Matt Kluger (109) - 14 years Elliott Cruz (109) - 13 years Anwar Watkins (103) - 11 years Bernie Prusak (302) - 10 years Tony Estrada (102) - 9 years Ricardo Munoz (101) - 8 years

Ray Szumal (109) - 8 years Chris Magnuson (102) - 7 years Matt Julian (201) - 7 years Jeff Furman (101) - 7 years Jovanni Espinosa (103) - 6 years Luis Lozano (101) - 5 years Luke Hackett (109) - 5 years Stephanie Wilson (109) - 5 years Luke Hackett (109) - 5 years Brian Ledbetter (301) - 4 years David Ganey (101) - 3 years Jaime McInerney (105) - 3 years Kevin Girard (301) - 3 years Kelsey Celus (302) - 2 years Greg Smith (103) - 2 years Wayne Magnuson (102) - 1 year Curtis Mitchell (102) - 1 year Angel Castro (201) - 1 year Maria Cruz (109) - 1 year

#### **NEW HIRES**

January - March 2024

Martin Cotto (103)

John Marcatante (201)

CATCH

**ME IF YOU** 

Christopher Garner (201)

Richard Kirk (102)

Jovanny Ruiz (101)

Jonathan Kee (103)

Ricardo Ortiz (101)

Nicholas Ringelstein (105)

Cesar Castro (102)

Joshua Horchem (105)

Isaac Gonzalez (103)

Myles Ogletree (201)

Evan Smith (201)

Jordan McKay (302)

**Bryan Johnson (101)** 











# EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

\*Drum roll please\*



#### **LENNY KIRLEW**

"Reliability is hard to come by, but Lenny Kirlew has been with the company for 17 years and has always been someone we can count on! I just wanted to express my appreciation for the small yet impactful things you do to contribute to our team's success. He's always responded promptly, he's always up for lending a helping hand with picking up additional stops, helping his teammates, or when called on to train one of our new employees, and his positive attitude is contagious. The entire team thanks you for everything you do". - Austin Henry (Operations Manager Office 101)

### \*★★★ CUSTOMER REVIEWS ★★★★



Google ★★★★

Wayne provides excellent service. I am comfortable knowing home is covered from pests.





Google ★★★★★

Chris Brown is the one of the best techs. always informative and personable.

Google ★★★★

James did an amazing job and was very knowledgeable about how to resolve my pest issue.





Google ★★★★★

Lenny is superb. Smithereen pest control is great. We get competent service. They care.



Once again, Curtis came to our ... rescue? Well, honestly, there was nothing to rescue us FROM, as we've been totally pest-free since he's been visiting us. But it's always great to see him, because he's just such a nice guy. Thank you, Curtis!





Google ★★★★

Sean Ray is always professional and efficient. Thank you, as always!



We were absolutely thrilled with the service provided by our technician Mark Mendoza. He was exceptionally professional and thorough. Very highly recommended!





Google ★★★★

When I called to ask about pest services in East Peoria, Sara was so helpful and informative. She was able to answer all my questions. She has such a pleasant voice.

Google ★★★★

Dylan and Ronnie were great. They were quick, super friendly, and made sure I was aware of what they were doing every step of the way. They also left the space where they were working in tip top shape.





Google ★★★★★

Great professional service. Carlos, our technician, is always polite, thorough and great at explaining conditions at our facility.



Jaime and the Crew at Smithereen are Simply the best our condo Assoc ever used! Knowledgeable and Tactful. Truly highly Recommend.



#### A WORD FROM **OUR PRESIDENT**



Smithereen is built on Leadership Through Service

### How can I be a leader at Smithereen:

- 1. Set a good example with your actions and words
- 2. When the opportunity comes Help the
- 3. Continue to Improve yourself through experience, credentials, and certifications
- 4. Take care of yourself and your health
- 5. Communicate with your peers and team leaders
- 6. Always bring your best

Smithereen doesn't succeed until everyone at Smithereen succeeds. Lets make 2024 the best year yet! - Jack

#### HR CORNER

#### NEW HEALTH PLAN

Now that our new health insurance is in place as of March 1st, 2024, have you downloaded the Garner App to choose your providers?

Garner is a free healthcare benefit that helps you find top-performing doctors and reimburses you for qualifying out-of-pocket medical costs. Garner gives you access to the most accurate provider performance data in the country. And when you visit these top providers, your out-of-pocket medical costs qualify for reimbursement. Go to https://www.getgarner.com. If you haven't received your new United Healthcare Insurance card, please let me know.

As always, I am available anytime for any questions or concerns. I can be reached via email or phone at any time.

-Cheryl Lipowski (Human Resources Manager) clipowski@smithereen.com (847) 647-0010 EXT. 1004





## Smithereen Gives Back: Food & Essentials Drive List of Donations

#### Food Items Needed

**Canned Beans** 

**Canned Fruit** 

**Canned Vegetables** 

Cereal

Coffee

**Jelly** 

Juice

Macaroni and Cheese

Oatmeal

Pasta

**Peanut Butter** 

**Powdered Milk** 

Rice

Spaghetti Sauce

Tea

Tuna

#### **Toiletry Items Needed**

Deodorant

**Feminine Hygiene Products** 

Mouthwash

**Napkins** 

**Paper Towels** 

Razors

**Shampoo and Conditioner** 

**Shaving Cream** 

Soap

**Toilet Paper** 

**Toothbrushes** 

**Toothpaste** 

#### **Infant & Small Children Items Needed:**

**Baby Food** 

**Baby Formula** 

**Baby Lotion** 

**Baby Shampoo** 

Cheerios

**Diapers** 

Fruit Cups

Fruit Snacks

Juice/Milk Boxes

**Pudding Cups** 

Wipes