

**8 Madison-Kipp Corporation (MKC)****Why does your nominee deserve recognition as a Wisconsin Job Hero?**

I would like to nominate Madison-Kipp Corporation (MKC) for their continued efforts in recruiting, training, and hiring untold numbers of people with disadvantages in our community throughout their +110 years in existence. They are a job hero because they truly are indiscriminative in their efforts to hire new employees. Madison-Kipp has a diverse workforce that is a melting pot of cultures, personalities, and beliefs.

Some of my coworkers have committed crimes in their past, which has made it difficult for them to find employment. MKC has been the foot in the door these people need to show that they are not throw-away people and want them to become productive members of society. Some of these people have become some of MKC's greatest assets and I am proud to call them friends.

MKC has also been accommodating to employees with medical issues and ensures they get the attention they need. The company nurse, managers, and HR have always been an asset in getting FMLA leave and covering shifts when time off is needed. My wife has Multiple Sclerosis, and sometimes I need to miss a shift to help her if she is having a bad day. I have never been made to feel bad for taking care of her medical needs.

**How have your nominee's efforts made a difference in their organization, and in the lives of their employees?**

In the Fall of 2006 I was in desperate need of a job. I had recently quit drinking with the help of a 12-step program, and after years of chronic substance abuse my life was in complete shambles. At this point I had pretty much burned every bridge with former employers and my prospects didn't look good. I contacted a temp agency and they asked me if I would be interested in spending a few months at Madison-Kipp Corporation. Without hesitation I said yes! My co-workers and supervisors treated me with respect and never held my checkered past against me. After a few months I was asked by a manager if I minded working the night shift. I said yes, as I wanted to be a model employee and get hired permanently. However, I was still newly sober and didn't want to miss my night meeting that had helped me so much. I decided to get the courage to ask the manager if it would be okay if I stayed on days and I told him the truth about my recovery. The manager informed me that he had been sober for almost 20 years and that he understood what I was going through. I was able to stay on day shift and continue to attend my daily meetings! This was instrumental in my recovery as I am proud to say I have been sober ever since (almost 9 years). This was the turning point in my employment as it showed MKC put me before their own production needs.

**Is there a specific incident or turning point that motivated your nominee to hire disadvantaged candidates?**

Madison-Kipp values education and offers employees full tuition reimbursement! I was fortunate enough to take advantage of this and while working, and I was able to alter my hours to attend class.

**Is there anything else that makes your nominee exceptional or unique?**

In the spirit of continuous improvement, Madison-Kipp gave me the opportunity to advance my training through addition outside training. I was both honored and grateful the company would grant me this chance. When I first started with MKC I didn't even have a driver's license or a credit card, now I was being entrusted with the company vehicle and a prepaid hotel room.

In short, I have grown with this company. I started as a single man trying just to pay rent. Now I am a married father of two with a house and steady employment. I am appreciative for all the opportunities Madison-Kipp has not only given me and my family, but all the other disadvantaged workers they have given hope to as well.

**Additional Info:**

<b>Company/Organization Name:</b>	Madison-Kipp Corporation
<b>Company's Address:</b>	201 Waubesa Street, Madison, WI 53704 United States
<b>Company's Phone Number:</b>	(608) 242-5244
<b>Company Size:</b>	Large (50+ employees)
<b>Manager Name:</b>	Colleen Rogers
<b>Manager Title (if known):</b>	Director-Human Resources
<b>Manager Phone:</b>	(608) 242-5273
<b>Manager Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:crogers@madison-kipp.com">crogers@madison-kipp.com</a>

<b>Nominator Name</b>	Jaren Christianson
<b>Nominator Address</b>	Madison-Kipp Corporation, 201 Waubesa Street, Madison, WI 53704 United States
<b>Nominator Email</b>	<a href="mailto:slauth@madison-kipp.com">slauth@madison-kipp.com</a>
<b>Nominator Phone</b>	(608) 242-5244

**What is your relationship to the employer you are nominating?**

Employee

**How did you first hear about the Job Honor Awards?**

Madison-Kipp asked if I would be interested in sharing my story.