

YOUR HOMETOWN ENQUIRER

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BestNest named Employer of the Year

BestNest, a rapidly-growing on-line business for backyard wildlife products and outdoor décor, has received the Employer of the Year Award from the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities (Clermont DD).

The award is presented annually to an employer that has hired individuals with developmental disabilities or has opened their doors to Community-Based Work Assessments for the individuals to have an up close and personal experience about working within a business in the community.

“BestNest is worthy of this year’s Employer of the Year Award for all that this annual recognition encompasses,” says Greg Wood, job placement consultant with Clermont DD. “This begins with BestNest’s sincere interest in the Clermont DD agency and how we support valuable job seekers to reach their vocational goals.”

Owner Ben Krieger was open to meeting with representatives from Clermont DD’s Community Employment team from the beginning. He and his staff learned how Clermont DD strives to serve both the individuals and the community businesses to have the best-possible experience. BestNest agreed to host a Community-Based Work Assessment and, after a slight break due to the early onset of COVID-19, offered the individual a part-time position. Later this year, BestNest welcomed a second Work Assessment which allowed the participant to experience a multitude of tasks and responsibilities that provided real-life lessons.

According to Clermont DD’s Community Employment program, they are appreciative of the value and support given to them by the BestNest management team as well as the positive environment each employee creates in partnership. BestNest managers Keith Ansley and Andy Celmer were noted as welcoming and receptive to Clermont DD job coaching support. They



BestNest manager Keith Ansley, employee Cory and manager Andy Celmer. PROVIDED

both “display a true appreciation of the contributions made by those who had a hand in this partnership. For the individual currently employed at BestNest, the position and opportunity has been described as simply ‘great.’”

Since 1999 BestNest has been one of the preeminent on-line businesses selling to retail and wholesale customers. From hard-to-find birdhouses and feeders to outdoor fire pits, gardening items and holiday decor, BestNest ships nationwide. It prides itself in stocking many difficult to find products, superior customer service, and being a people-oriented business. Many workers have disabilities or past personal challenges that can often prohibit employment. BestNest gives them a sincere chance to succeed.

“Our business can only be successful with an engaged workforce whose shared values reflect our ap-

petite to celebrate every new headcount we add due to business growth,” says Krieger. “We recognize that the most effective way to help people is to provide them the opportunity for stable, full-time, meaningful employment month after month, year after year. Everyone on our team has a sense of pride and accomplishment when we add folks to the team. At BestNest our team is made up of people, not just numbers. In our 20 plus years we have shipped over 1,000,000 orders to customers around the country. The team knows that at BestNest, ‘if you’re willing to work, Ben’s willing to let ya.’”

The Eastgate-area business continues to experience strong growth. For additional information on BestNest products or current employment opportunities visit www.bestnest.com

Laura Kroeger



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