

Omega Plastics' Habit of Giving Back Earns 'Corporate Citizen' Honors

by Ross Raybin

Omega Plastics may be considered a world leader in tooling and injection molding solutions, but it's their habit of giving back to the community that has earned them their most recent recognition.

The Clinton Township company recently received the honor of "Corporate Citizen" during the first-ever Macomb Business Awards held last month.

According to a press release from the Macomb County Planning and Economic Development Office, Omega Plastics was recognized for its "longstanding commitment to serving the community and its willingness to let its facilities be used by nonprofit organizations."

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"I was happily surprised to receive the award," said Jeff Kaczperski, president of Omega Plastics. "There are a lot of good businesses that really do serve the community."

The company was recognized for allowing the Renewal Christian Counseling Center to occupy empty space within its building for several years now. What started off as one counselor has grown to roughly a dozen. They help about 150 people a week.

Omega Plastics also allows employees time to volunteer, supports a help center that provides food to the needy and recently donated backpacks full of toi-

leties to less fortunate children.

"It's always been a piece of our business model (to give back)," said Kaczperski, "I believe it's a responsibility businesses have to the community."

Omega was founded in 1984 by Kaczperski's father and made injection molds primarily for the auto industry.

Over the years, they've broadened their reach to include medical, consumer packaging and security and safety products.

"We were pretty heavily geared toward the auto industry," said Kaczperski, "We wanted more stability so we had to diversify."

According to Kaczperski, the company's largest market is now the medical field. They produce a lot of drug delivery systems such as syringes, catheters and other forms of injection-based units.

"When the auto industry was good, things were really good. When it was down, it was really down," he said. "The medical field has had a nice steady growth."

Omega offers its customers innovation, design and developing, creating molds, speed molding and assembly and packaging.

"We help people go from development into production," said Kaczperski.

Omega started with one toolmaker and eventually grew to three separate facilities. In 1995, they consolidated all their operations under one roof. They're currently located in their 70,000-square-foot building in Clinton Township with a workforce of roughly 50 employees.

"We have a lot of opportunities to help the community, more than we can support," said Kaczperski. "We help as many as we can."

For more information on Omega Plastics, visit www.opinc.com.

MSX, BAE Among Firms Receiving Lear 'Supplier of the Year' Award

Lear Corporation presented the 2012 Lear "Supplier of the Year" Award – the highest honor Lear can bestow upon a supplier – to 13 suppliers, including four Michigan companies.

The four are: BAE Industries in Auburn Hills; MSX International in Warren; Netlink Software Group America in Madison Heights, and Grand Rapids Controls in Rockford.

This year's award recipients demonstrated excellence in quality, innovation, delivery, service and competitiveness during 2012, a Lear statement said.

In addition, Lear this year presented its first award to honor a supplier for significant contributions to the community.

"The suppliers we recognized today performed at the highest levels during 2012," said Matt Simoncini, Lear's president and CEO.

"Providing the best possible cost, quality and value to our customers requires the hard work of thousands of Lear employees working together with all of our suppliers."

"We truly appreciate the tremendous support we receive from our supplier partners, and I would like to especially thank this year's award winners," Simoncini said.

The Lear Suppliers of the Year for 2012 were selected from among the more than 2,000 companies that supply Lear globally.

BAE Industries is a certified Minority Business Enterprise, supplying latch and recliner mechanisms to Lear.

This is BAE's second consecutive award for Lear Supplier of the Year and the fifth since 2002.

MSX International Inc. is a global provider of customized business solutions and technolo-

gy services to the automotive industry.

Its Human Capital Solutions recruits, administers and supplies talent for global business.

"Since early 2012, MSXI has taken the lead to consolidate seamlessly our temporary labor into one well-organized solution. Their outstanding support of our facilities' temporary labor needs has proven time and time again to be effective and well-managed, providing significant value to our organization," said Simoncini.

Netlink Software Group America Inc. is described by Lear as a "premier provider of information technology, supply chain and business process solutions."

Netlink has a global presence spanning 42 countries and six continents, and is also a Certified Minority Business Enterprise.

Netlink's commitment to serve Detroit and surrounding communities through its support of various not-for-profit organizations – such as VIP Mentoring and Netlink Foundation, a children's rights organization – make them the award winner of the first-ever Lear supplier "Community Service" award.

Grand Rapids Controls supplies control cables and assemblies to Lear. GRC had exceptional performance in 2012, according to the Lear statement, with world-class quality and customer service, and demonstrated superior flexibility in addressing and meeting Lear's commercial requirements.

This is GRC's second consecutive award for Lear Supplier of the Year.

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