



# The Clothes Line

CLS Monthly Newsletter - Volume 14, Issue 5

December 2022

## Year End – Here We Come!

Greetings CLS Team Members,

The end of the year is always bittersweet. On one hand, we look forward to the joy of the holiday season and on the other hand it marks the end of yet another year. We are reminded that life is precious and to enjoy every minute of it. Be thankful for all you have and make the most of every opportunity to smile, laugh, cry, or do whatever makes you happy! The holiday season is the most joyous and magical time of the year!!

So as the year ends, the challenge is for all of us to finish well!! If that means cleaning your work area, clearing off your desk, finishing your to do list, accomplishing year 2022 goals, or whatever is left undone, let's get to it! This goes for your responsibilities here at work and at home. If you need help, be sure to ask. We want to end the year with everyone feeling accomplished!



We are so proud of our CLS Teams for going into the Thanksgiving holiday smoothly. We feel this year was our best performance yet in regards to hours worked, managing customer pull ahead schedules, and avoiding hiccups. Thank you to everyone for doing your part! We are blessed with amazing Teams throughout CLS!!



After a very long year of construction, we will be holding a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on December 7, 2022 to unveil the expansion and new production equipment for our Team Members. This is such an exciting time for CLS preparing our company for future growth and we want to give our Team Members time to look around and ask questions. For our Team Members outside of Kalamazoo, we will be sending a link so you can watch the video of the ceremony. Exciting times!

Please heighten your safety awareness as the holiday season approaches. During this time of the year people get less sleep, have more stress, and have a lot on their minds. Please take the time to think **Safety First** to keep yourself free from injuries. Our hope is that everyone remains healthy and injury free!!

Stay focused Team!! Let's finish 2022 strong and head into the new year with good momentum. We appreciate each one of you! Thank you for your dedication.

Sarah, Kurt, and Ron



## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Consider giving the gift of listening, not just this holiday season, but all year around. Listening with attention is a simple act with immense power. It makes us aware of our connection and giving someone our full attention invites them to feel special and important. It shows that we care about them, their ideas, and feelings, and they are valuable to us.

# WINTER HEALTH AND SAFETY TIPS

With so much going on at work and home during the winter holidays, it can be easy to get distracted. Distractions can cause severe and fatal accidents when commuting to and from work. Besides, due to the changes in weather, there may be additional things to think about, such as snow, ice, and black ice on the roads and what to carry in your vehicles in case of an emergency.

## Winter Safety Tips

Emergency kits for the winter for vehicles should include the following:

- Blankets, gloves, and a hat
- Water and snacks
- Emergency flares
- Jumper cables and a tow chain
- A flashlight and batteries
- A snow brush, an ice scraper, and a shovel
- An emergency cell phone or radio



## Be Prepared for Winter Driving

- Avoid using cruise control in wintry conditions
- Steer in the direction of a skid so when your wheels regain traction, you don't have to overcorrect to stay in your lane
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly
- Increase the following distance to 8 to 10 seconds
- If possible, don't stop when going uphill

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<b>Brian Schneider</b>	Dec. 2
<b>Jaqueline Hernandez</b>	Dec. 4
<b>Mark Duell</b>	Dec. 4
<b>Stacy Ackley</b>	Dec. 5
<b>Michael Tremore</b>	Dec. 6
<b>Ryan Toohey</b>	Dec. 6
<b>Cody Rickerson</b>	Dec. 6
<b>Theo Phillips</b>	Dec. 8
<b>Javier Hernandez</b>	Dec. 9
<b>Delfina Santos</b>	Dec. 10
<b>Louis Hasbenet</b>	Dec. 15
<b>Marco Wieser</b>	Dec. 15
<b>Diana Perez</b>	Dec. 18
<b>Jeffery Bridenstine</b>	Dec. 22
<b>Damon Dann</b>	Dec. 23
<b>Misael Perez</b>	Dec. 25
<b>Pedro Sanchez</b>	Dec. 26
<b>Javier Rodriguez</b>	Dec. 28
<b>Claudia Rubio</b>	Dec. 28

### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

<b>James Matthyse</b>	7 Years
<b>Adriana Morales</b>	7 Years
<b>Maricela Estrada</b>	1 Year
<b>Rachel Parker</b>	1 Year



## UPCOMING EVENTS IN KALAMAZOO

The last month of the year is also known as a "world of holidays." It really is the most wonderful time of the year. Whether you're celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa by decorating your home with lights or visiting family across the country, there's no shortage of ways to celebrate. CLS will be celebrating with a holiday party on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will share a meal provided by CLS and play a fun game that will get everyone involved and laughing.

This year we will also have a "white elephant" gift exchange for those that want to participate. All you need to do is bring a wrapped gift on December 23<sup>rd</sup> that costs between \$10 - \$15. If you are participating, drop off your gift to Human Resources and you will get a number. During the party, when your number is called, you will select a gift from the table. Hopefully you get the gift you are eyeing before someone else chooses it!



## WELCOME BACK!



### Rachael Bozeman

Route Manager—Livonia

Rachael brings a very positive attitude to the Livonia Team. She is very determined to succeed, leads her Team of RSP's to success, and has many "WINS"!

We are sure it will take no time before Rachael is recording on a dry-erase board in her office what her team is doing, or not doing, and setting the challenges for each of them to accomplish.  
-- Jeremiah Sicher

## NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

New Year's Eve is celebrated on December 31 each year. We hope you enjoy the festivities with friends or family to say "out with the old and in with the new"!

Be safe while celebrating whether at home or in public. Make sure to take time to relax and enjoy the start of a bright and promising new year. It's a new beginning and a good time to be with friends and family!



## MAKING THE HOLIDAYS BRIGHTER FOR OTHERS

Charities are still accepting donations this holiday season to provide for those in need. The holiday spirit is all about giving, so what better way to spread cheer than giving back? It can be a small gesture like a baked cookie or serving meals at a community event. Everyone deserves to feel special around the holidays. There are several meaningful ways you can make an impact:

- ✓ Host a holiday food drive
- ✓ Buy someone's dinner
- ✓ Donate warm clothing
- ✓ Adopt a family
- ✓ Donate to the Salvation Army Angel Tree
- ✓ Volunteer your time at a homeless shelter



In reality, people in need have as many needs, if not more, this time of year. The cold Michigan winters can be life-threatening for not just the homeless, but often people in low-income neighborhoods also. Parents struggling to put food on the table for their kids will find it nearly impossible to provide Christmas gifts.

# CLS Celebrates 123 Years Serving Michigan



The following article was published in American Laundry News on November 2, 2022. It is nice to be getting national recognition for our 123<sup>rd</sup> anniversary!

KALAMAZOO, Mich. — CLS, a supplier of linen, uniforms, and facility products throughout Michigan's lower peninsula, reports that it is celebrating its 123<sup>rd</sup> anniversary.

"We are thrilled that the communities we serve have worked with us to make this happen," the company says. "Our 123<sup>rd</sup> anniversary is a celebration of you as much as it is about CLS. It's also an opportunity to look back on how we got here and why our service works for our clients."

CLS started as Kalamazoo Laundry Company in 1899. Originally, it operated with horse-drawn carriages and individual ironing boards and hand irons. "The roads around us weren't paved, our loads were much smaller and we sorted everything by hand," shares CLS. "We even used to provide personal laundry services to households."

Ted Vander Meer, who used to work in several capacities at Kalamazoo Laundry Company, purchased it outright in 1963. The name was changed shortly thereafter to Continental Linen Service and later CLS in 1999 as it expanded its uniform rental service. Ted has since passed the company on to his children and granddaughter. Now, CLS has three owners: CEO Ron Vander Meer and President Kurt Vander Meer are Ted's sons while Senior Vice President Sarah Vander Meer is Ron's daughter.

The company says it has survived pandemics, wars, depressions and many other challenges due to the support of its customers.

While CLS is celebrating 123 years, it is also preparing for the future. The company began 2022 by making additions to its Manchester Road plant in Kalamazoo, increasing its size by 11,000 square feet. Washroom capacity will increase by 50% thanks to a monorail and some new equipment, speeding up and enhancing CLS's laundry processes.



## MICHIGAN HOLIDAY TRIVIA

These interesting facts might come in handy as a conversation starter if you find yourself at an awkward Christmas party this holiday season.

- There is a town named Christmas, Michigan. You'll find it in the Upper Peninsula, about five minutes northwest of Munising on M-28.
- Several other Michigan towns have holiday-related names, including St. Nicholas, Snow, Bell, Antlers, Holly, Spruce, Star, North Star, and Shepherd.
- Michigan is the third largest producer of fresh Christmas trees in the United States and offers the most variety of evergreens in the country.
- Bronner's Christmas Wonderland, The World's Largest Christmas store, is in Frankenmuth, Michigan. It's open year-round and turns on its Christmas light display every night, ringing up a daily electric bill to the tune of \$1,250!
- Author Chris Van Allsburg, who wrote the book *The Polar Express*, is from Grand Rapids. It was eventually made into an animated film. In the movie, they reference Herpolsheimers, a large department store once in downtown Grand Rapids. The movie's world premiere was also held in Grand Rapids.

# SHOUT-OUTS



**Maria Mendez**



**Adriana Morales**



**Maria and Adriana** are always willing to help in different areas within the garment department. They both were able to help the whole garment Team stay on track while others were out.

--Julie Pueblo

**Kim Ball**



**Kim** is continuing to grow and flourish in the embroidery room. She is always cheerful and always willing to help in any way possible!

-- Julie Pueblo



**Andrea Gutierrez** has stepped up in all areas by helping other Team Members with their daily tasks. She has also been learning how to drive the forklift. She is always willing to learn new things.

--Lasheena Daniels



**Selena Acosta**



**Selena Acosta** continues to learn, grow, and dominate! She always goes above and beyond on any and all tasks!

--Quierra Stevenson

**Elena Veral**



**Elena** showed some leadership this week when some minor issues happened within the garment Team. She has the knowledge and ability to help make critical decisions when things look a bit crazy.

--Julie Pueblo



I want to give a HUGE shout-out to our fantastic **Maintenance Team!** They have been working tirelessly to unplug our brand-new tunnel washer for the last two days. Learning new equipment is tough, and these guys have jumped right in. Literally...They have crawled inside the hot tunnel to unplug thousands of pieces of wet product. We cannot say thank you enough. You are appreciated!

--Sarah Wrubel



**Greg Robertson**



**Greg Robertson** has been amazing and a massive contributor to the CLS Livonia Team. He continues to thrive day in and day out and week to week. The change from RSP to Customer Consultant has been a blessing and a huge morale boost for the Livonia location. He continues to bring new business, build strong relationships, and renew customer agreements daily. Greg's positive attitude and determination to succeed are a breath of fresh air and truly an example for everyone here. You never know what to expect out of Greg's mouth, but you can surely expect that it will make you laugh and brighten anyone's day. Keep up the fantastic work, Greg, and continue to be the EXAMPLE. Team Livonia appreciates your hard work and dedication!

--Jeremiah Sicher



I have been sitting in my Manchester office more lately and overhearing conversations. The **Accounting Team** finds themselves up against many challenges daily and always tries to take the high road. Their jobs are not always easy. They always deal with grumpy people. We are a Team here to support CLS for the greater good. I greatly appreciate the talented people in the Accounting group, they always try to do the right thing all the time... never a gray area!

-- Dawn McMillen

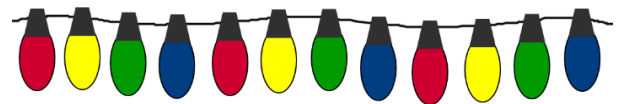


**LIVONIA TEAM**....Shout-Out for their hard work, patience, and perseverance. They have faced many challenges and changes and have weathered the storms and pushed on. They are meeting the challenges head on, working hard to reach their goals, and are excited to be the largest location leading by example, not only for themselves but for the entire company.

— Jeremiah Sicher

**CUSTOMER CARE TEAM**....They are accommodating and friendly. A great team to work with!

--Angelica Rubalcaba



**HR TEAM**.... Thank you to Dawn and her Team for keeping the workplace fun! I appreciate all the work you guys put into events, activities, and giveaways!

--Amanda Heywood

Happy Holidays!

# Thanksgiving Potluck



Thank you to all of the Kalamazoo Team Members who participated and brought a dish to pass. Yummy!



Happy Holidays  
from **CLS** 

Dear CLS Team Members,

As 2022 nears its end, we want to extend our appreciation to each Team Member for making CLS successful for so many years. We are proud to be a Michigan based Family-Owned business with a Team that truly cares. The Family Ownership of the company is firmly committed to the success and longevity of CLS and with your continued dedication, CLS will stay strong for many years to come. After all, the Team Members of CLS are the heartbeat of the company!

Happy Holidays from our Family to yours!! Wishing you and your families continued health and success into 2023. We are excited about our bright future together and thank YOU for choosing to be a part of the CLS Family.

Sincerely,  
Sarah, Ron, Kurt, and the Executive Team



P.S. Check out [CLSCoconnectOnline.com](https://CLSCoconnectOnline.com)

