



# The Clothes Line

CLS Monthly Newsletter - Volume 14, Issue 5

January 2023

## AND THAT'S A WRAP!!

Hello CLS Team Members:

CLS is entering our 124<sup>th</sup> year of being in business. That is a big deal!



As each year comes to an end, it is important to reflect on all the amazing things that have happened over the past 12 months. The year 2022 sure had its share of ups and downs! Here at CLS we have pushed through major product supply chain issues, many price increases, construction projects, and more. Although we were faced with many challenges, our incredible Team battled through to end the year on a high note!! As we turn the page into 2023, we have good momentum that we want to keep. Thank you all for another amazing year!!

We have a lot to talk about as we head into a new year together. First, if you make a new year's resolution, be sure to share it with someone who will hold you accountable for your success. CLS is well prepared for the new year. Your Executive Team has worked since September to do a strategic analysis of the company, prepared three-year objectives, the 2023 company goals, departmental goals, and a budget for 2023. Planning ahead and setting goals is so very important to the success of our company.

The major construction and equipment installations at the Manchester plant are now complete. We only have a few loose ends that will be tied up in the spring. This project was the result of five years of planning and execution. Thank you to everyone who had a part in making these upgrades come to life all while we were busy providing excellent service to our customers. Great work!



CLS is now poised to grow again after several years of being, near, at, or over capacity in some production departments. Safety is also positively affected as most heavy manual work is now being done mechanically. The new equipment is also more utility efficient so we will use less per pound produced. Our talented production Team Members now have many new tools to help them do their jobs and provide world class service to our valuable customers.

As we move into 2023, we are realizing that the old ways of selling, servicing, and producing are being challenged. Our competitors are also performing well, therefore, preserving our valuable customers has become more important than ever. On top of that, we are in the beginning stages of a slowdown in our economy. This means that we all need to be on top of our game every day to be better than our competition. We are counting on everyone on the Team at CLS to continue performing at your very best!

We appreciate every one of you and are very proud of our CLS Team. We are so blessed to have so many amazing Team Members that call CLS their work family. Our future growth will come from delighted customers served by our amazing Team Members.

We are CLS!  
Sarah, Kurt, Ron

# JANUARY HEALTH AND SAFETY TIPS

## CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING



Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that often goes undetected, striking victims caught off guard or in their sleep. Hundreds of people in the U.S. die from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning every year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. More than 20,000 visit the emergency room, and more than 4,000 others are hospitalized.

This "invisible killer" is produced by burning fuel in cars or trucks, small engines, stoves, lanterns, grills, fireplaces, gas ranges, portable generators or furnaces. When the gas builds up in enclosed spaces, people or animals who breathe it can be poisoned. Ventilation does not guarantee safety.

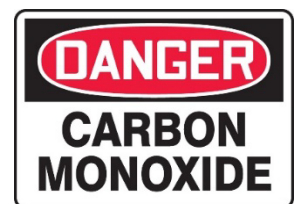
### HOW CAN I PREVENT CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING?

- ✓ Have your furnace, water heater and any other gas or coal-burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year
- ✓ Do not use portable flameless chemical heaters indoors
- ✓ Have your chimney checked and cleaned every year, and make sure your fireplace damper is open before lighting a fire and keep it open well after the fire is extinguished
- ✓ Never use a gas oven for heating your home
- ✓ Never use a generator inside your home, basement or garage, or less than 20 feet from any window, door or vent; fatal levels of carbon monoxide can be produced in just minutes, even if doors and windows are open
- ✓ Never run a car in a garage that is attached to a house, even with the garage door open; always open the door to a detached garage to let in fresh air when you run a car inside

### WHEN THE CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM SOUNDS

The Consumer Product Safety Commission warns that you should never ignore a carbon monoxide alarm, and do not try to find the source of the gas. Instead, follow these steps:

- ✓ Immediately move outside to fresh air
- ✓ Call emergency services, fire department or 9-1-1
- ✓ Do a head count to check to account for everyone
- ✓ Do not reenter the premises until emergency responders have given you permission to do so



#### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

<b>Michael Bowen</b>	Jan. 1
<b>Esequiel Esparza</b>	Jan. 1
<b>Reyna Arriaga</b>	Jan. 6
<b>Maricela Cardona</b>	Jan. 9
<b>Dustin Saville</b>	Jan. 15
<b>Matt Wright</b>	Jan. 15
<b>Andrew Trosper</b>	Jan. 17
<b>Adriana Morales</b>	Jan. 19
<b>Seth Parsons</b>	Jan. 21
<b>Nancy Paulino</b>	Jan. 24
<b>Sulema Arteaga</b>	Jan. 30



#### JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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

HAPPY WORK ANNIVERSARY



## New Year Resolution

New Year's resolutions can be simple and positive, such as paying it forward, engaging in self-care, practicing daily gratitude, and decluttering. Resolutions do not need to be activity-based; goals can range from those that inspire happiness, are highly personal, and everything in between. New Year feels more cheerful and promising than it has in many years, a true celebration as the future holds hope in 2023. Annual resolutions have never been more crucial as a way to take stock of what's *truly* important in your life and you should pause to reflect long before family and friends cheer at midnight on December 31. If living through a global pandemic has taught us anything, it's that we shouldn't take health and wellness for granted. In 2023, zeroing in on your body, mind *and* soul is a great way to organize your long-term goals for the new year.



## Team Members Helping Out

Our CLS Team Members are always willing to help each other out! These ladies were lending a hand to Maintenance to fix wheels on carts during their spare time. Great Teamwork everyone!! Love the smiling faces!!



# Member “Years of Service” Awards

Annually CLS presents awards to Members who are celebrating 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years of service with Continental Linen Services. Please see the pictures below of those Members who received awards in 2022. Thank you all again for your hard work every day!!

**VP of Customer Development**  
Gene Kruse  
30 Years

**Custom Image Wear Sales Manager**  
Marci Stephenson  
5 Years

**Rental Sales Rep**  
Jared Caron  
5 Years

**Maintenance Technician**  
Ruben Guerra Veral  
15 Years



## Route Sales Professionals

Brad Bowers  
20 Years  
Kalamazoo

Greg Tuttle  
20 Years  
Grand Rapids

Gerald Kopec  
20 Years  
Cadillac

Kalvin Berner  
15 Years  
Kalamazoo



Happy   
Anniversary!



**Route Sales Professionals**

Dave Bartman  
5 Years - Cadillac



Dana Spencer  
5 Years - Grand Rapids



Rayshawn Fenderson  
5 Years - Livonia

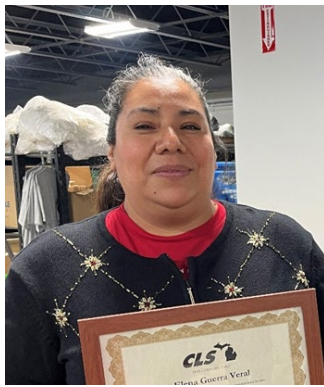


**Production Team Members**

Joyce Burnett  
25 Years



Elena Veral  
15 Years



Alicia Nonato Garcia  
15 Years



Rosa Ramiro Mejia  
15 Years



Fidel Martinez Lopez  
15 Years



Manuel Belmont  
15 Years



Adilene Antonio Hernandez  
5 Years



Adela Beltran  
5 Years



Terecita Mejia  
5 Years



Consuelo Ramirez  
5 Years



Maria Rodriguez  
5 Years



Sonia Hughes  
5 Years



# Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The company began 2022 by making additions to our Manchester Road plant in Kalamazoo, increasing our building size by 11,000 square feet. Our washroom capacity has increased by 50% thanks to new automated monorail and new equipment that are speeding up and enhancing our laundry processes. On December 7, 2022 we held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to unveil the expansion!!



# New Equipment



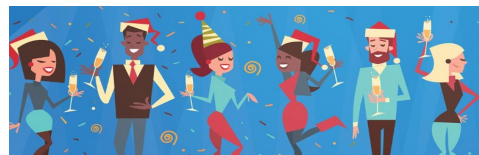
Team Members took the time to learn about the new equipment



Our proud Maintenance Team!!



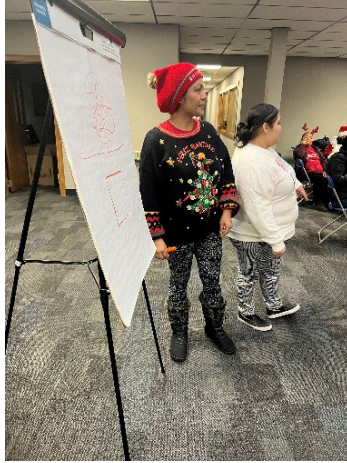
# HOLIDAY PARTY





# GAMES

## PICTIONARY BOTH SPANISH AND ENGLISH



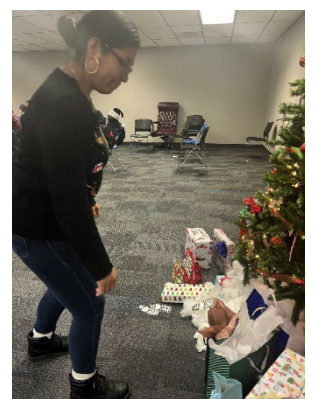
## UGLY SWEATER CONTEST



## UGLY HAT CONTEST



# White Elephant



# CHARITABLE SERVICE



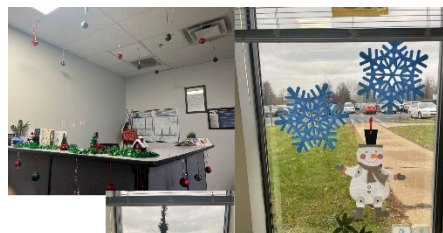
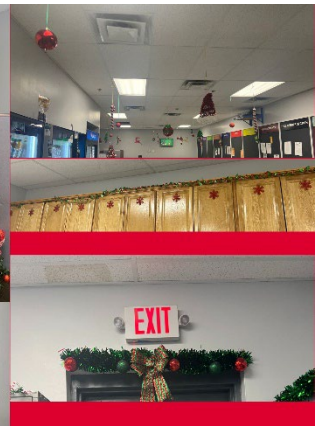
Lindsey Peters took advantage of CLS Charitable Service hours to volunteer at the Comstock Community Center to gather items for the holiday food boxes and gift bags to donate to the senior and low income community members.

Thank you for giving back, Lindsey!



# DECORATING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Holiday party and in Decorating contest!



HAPPY Holidays!