



M & D MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS, INC.

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John Barnard



Current Position: Senior Project Manager
Started with M&D in: 1990
Started as: Laborer

John Barnard started out with M&D Mechanical as a laborer. Although, at the time, he had not completed high school, he had a huge desire to learn. He completed apprenticeships in both plumbing and pipe fitting/welding, giving him the opportunity to work in the company where he was needed. John served as a plumber journeyman, a certified welder, and a certified medical gas installer. In less than 10 years with the company, John had been promoted into foreman-type roles within the company.

In 2002, John was diagnosed with lupus and was instructed to limit his time outdoors. Because he had taken the initiative to learn many aspects of the business, M&D Mechanical was able to offer him a position inside the office, assisting with project estimating. Later, he accepted a material and equipment coordinator position. When he was able to get his lupus into remission, John was given the choice to either go back to the field or stay in the office environment. This decision did not come easy, but after much thought, he felt the office is where he needed to remain. He was given the opportunity to become an assistant project manager during the UAH Shelby Center for Science and Technology project. Later, he became a senior project manager, working on major projects at 3M Building 74, NASA Building 4602, and Raytheon. The NASA Building 4602 project received a national ABC Excellence in Construction award in 2012.

While at M&D Mechanical, John earned his GED, an Associate degree in Business Management. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Business Management.

His advice: "Never turn down an opportunity to learn. Show a desire to learn and give extra effort in what you do. Ask questions, try things in class, and take those skills to the jobsite. If you do that, you will be noticed. People like that get the opportunities."