

The Wood Mill of Maine supports community as well as your specialty lumber needs

*United Way of the Tri-Valley Area launched its Corporate Champion Circle (CCC) in the summer of 2018. CCC members partner with United Way for one year, support their community, and receive unique marketing benefits. Corporate Champion Circle members contribute at one of three giving levels - Platinum (\$5,000), Gold (\$3,000), and Silver (\$1,500). To recognize CCC members, and to get to know those who are passionate about United Way, we have started a series that profiles these dedicated businesses. **Please welcome The Wood Mill of Maine owned and operated by Bjarki Gunnarsson, central office located in Mercer, Maine.***

Bjarki had hopes of starting a business using reclaimed wood (the kind of wood you pull out of rivers and lakes). He reached out to Myke Bartholf; owner of the Wood Mill about drying the wood. It turned out that Myke was in the process of selling the Wood Mill. Bjarki, instead, switched his idea and then started the process of purchasing the mill.

Since taking ownership in 2012, The Wood mill of Maine has grown exponentially. The mill is known for its wide pine flooring, log homes, and other quality white pine and white cedar products, they also offer custom planing, kiln drying, and other lumber processing services and the primary focus is to provide great customer service and to sell products at a fair price, which is a rarity for small businesses in this day and age.

At The Wood Mill of Maine they manufacture, wholesale, and retail quality log home supplies to homeowners, builders, and log home companies here in Maine, New England, and across the entire United States! They also have become a proud retailer of Robbins Lumber (offering pine siding, clapboards, decking, flooring and pre-finished or unfinished paneling), quality pine products they carry.

When asked what challenges and opportunities are in the community, Bjarki replied, “from a community member standpoint, we need to get the word out about the resources available.” He goes on to say, “It is a challenge recruiting and retaining skilled, resolute and motivated employees, despite a friendly, flexible and incentivized work environment.” Bjarki talked about the great opportunities of owning a small local business saying, “we pride ourselves on our customer service and low rates,” we have also been able to expand our business by online marketing, but more so by word of mouth which is where they see how supportive our communities are!”

When asked about becoming a CCC member, Bjarki said “partnering with United Way(s) is another way to give back to the community and it provides a much greater marketing reach for us, as a small business doing good in the community.” “United Way also provides many ways to get involved in many opportunities in the community.”