

BRAD HAAS

Building on a Level and Square Foundation: A Man Born with a Hammer in his Hand

Graduate: Class of 1983 Occupation: Construction
By Mitch Haas, Spring 2010

The slogan says it all: building on a level and square foundation. This is the slogan for Brad Haas Construction, LLC. Brad Haas graduated from Forest Park High School in 1983. He worked for his father in construction during high school. He went on to work as the building and grounds coordinator at Masterbrand Cabinets Corporate office in Jasper and later spent five years at AK Steel in Rockport. His need to swing a hammer brought him back into the construction field. Brad mostly does room additions and remodeling. He spends the majority of his day on the jobsite, but also meets with customers, hauls materials, and answers his cell phone.

Brad also volunteers as a firefighter with the Ferdinand Fire Department. He has given them 24 years of assistance. His volunteer duties include a first and second class firefighter, a first responder, a member of the county hazardous material team, an advisor for the junior firefighters, and a past president of the Dubois County Fire Trainers Association. Brad serves as a member of the Ferdinand Zoning Board of Appeals and a pit dad for the Marching Rangers.

Brad's best memory from high school consists of earning four varsity letters in wrestling. A great role model, Kevin Wertman coached the wrestling team. Wertman said, "If you want to win, fight for it on the mat. It's like life!" Winning the Class D Indiana State Marching band contest in 1983 and 1984 created memorable high school moments. Gene Keusch, the band director, demanded perfection, respect and a good attitude, like Wertman. Brad commented, "These values will hang with you for the rest of your life. Extracurricular activities are the main thing you will remember about high school."

Working with his father Bobby Haas in construction also taught him the value of challenging work and doing an excellent job. His father always said, "Build it to stay . . . not to blow away!" He was a firm believer that not every career was taught out of a book. Bobby often commented, "Construction is a more hands-on experience and common sense. You can read it in a book, but making it work in the field is the real test."

Brad shares his home with his wife, Karen, and children, Brittney, Mitchell, and

Morganne. They enjoy family vacations and boating at Patoka on weekends. In closing, Brad said, "Your free time is precious. Enjoy it, but always save time for your community. It is everyone's responsibility to pitch in to make your town a better place to live."