



BRIAN FORD
SHOP STEWARD & FOREMAN

SPOTLIGHT

On Brian Ford:

Title Shop Steward & Foreman for Synergy Glass & Door Service, LLC
(Collingdale, Pa.)

Hometown Northeast Philadelphia, Pa.

Family Son Gavinn (7) and daughter Brenna (4)

Favorite Team Philadelphia Phillies or Eagles

Favorite Movie Star Wars: Attack of the Clones



ABOUT BRIAN

Unlike many tradespeople who follow in family footsteps, Brian Ford didn't have any relatives in construction. His father was a postman. But Brian always knew he wanted to work with his hands. He attended Archbishop Ryan High School and Swenson Skill Center for its strong carpentry program. After graduation, Brian took on various construction jobs: remodeling houses, working with concrete, and performing what he called "odds and ends" until a friend asked if he wanted to become a glazier. Brian joined LU252 in July 2000 and has built a successful glazing career for himself and his kids.

"I go to work every day, and I work hard for my family," Brian says modestly. But he's also committed to his company, his colleagues, and his union.

STEWARDSHIP & ADVOCACY

Brian serves as the shop steward for Synergy Glass & Door Service, a role he has held since August 2014. He provides a voice for the workers and management, communicating with both groups to ensure safe and satisfying working conditions.

"If someone has an issue and doesn't want to go to a superior, they can come to me and I can guide them in a better direction or get them to the right hands," Brian explains.

This ability to help people drove Brian to consider a larger role in the union. He holds a seat on the LU252 executive board and he recently became a peer advocate for the

Left: Brian at the Linc, where Synergy takes care of all of the Eagles' glass needs, and with his kids Brenna and Gavinn



Top to bottom: Brian becoming a peer advocate; with his Synergy colleagues enjoying an evening out; kids Brenna and Gavinn visiting Brian on the job; Brian showing his kids the Dilworth Park project completed when he worked for APG International



Allied Trade Assistance Program, helping members of LU252. It's an extension of his work as a steward, whereby he attends monthly meetings and learns conflict resolution and communication skills. Brian appreciates being an advocate for his colleagues and says in three short months as a member of the program, he's learned what to look for on a job site and how to solve problems in positive ways.

"I'm proud of the union and the organization. Hands-down, we take care of each other. If someone's not doing good, we're always helping each other out," Brian says. "I was a young guy learning from others and now I'm taking over and showing younger guys. In a few years, they will take over. It's a cycle."

PROJECT LEADERSHIP

Brian also serves as a foreman on some of Synergy's most significant projects. Currently, he's working at Delaware County Technical High School. His responsibilities include tracking man-hours and material, scheduling, communicating with the GC or construction manager, and ensuring the glazing is executed perfectly. Brian's favorite job was the Dilworth Park Pavilions – two glass pavilions that serve as entries to the revitalized urban plaza surrounding City Hall and the below-ground transportation network. The complex and high-profile project encompassed two 20-foot-high laminated, structural glass pavilions spanning 17-foot-wide stair openings.



QUALIFICATIONS

Brian's extensive list of qualifications includes certifications for NCCCO rigging and crane operations, welding, first aid and CPR, OSHA30, and LEED Green Advantage. He recently passed the NCCCO manipulator class.



CAMARADERIE

Brian admits the pressure sometimes gets to him, but in general, he enjoys his job. He says his colleagues make the difference: "I've worked with a lot of great mechanics in different shops. I don't see another trade do it the way the glaziers do it. It's like going to work every day with friends."

FAMILY

At the end of the day, Brian admits, "My kids are my life." He's very involved with children Gavinn (7) and Brenna (4). Some of his proudest moments are taking them to job sites and showing them what he's accomplished. He has set an excellent example as a dedicated glazier, trusted colleague, and union leader.

