



CHRISTOPHER J. BLOOM

GLAZIER, APPAREL DESIGNER & AWARD WINNER

SPOTLIGHT

On Chris Bloom:

Title Journeyperson Glazier for Glazing Concepts, LLC (Bensalem, Pa.)

Hometown Northeast Philadelphia, Pa.

Family Son Kyle (10), girlfriend Perlina, and her daughter Kaylee (13)

Favorite Team Philadelphia Phillies

Favorite Movie Any Star Wars Movie



ABOUT CHRIS

Chris Bloom got his start in construction as a cabinet-maker after graduating from Mastbaum High School in 1993. "I always knew I wanted to work with my hands," he explains. After a few years, the promise of a steadier income and consistent work beckoned. A friend recommended glazing. Chris took the test and became a glazier in 1998. The 20-year veteran knows it was the right decision. Today he is a journeyperson glazier for Glazing Concepts, LLC, in Bensalem, Pa., and also serves as apparel designer for LU252. In 2017, he was recognized for outstanding service with the Levi Canada Appreciation Award at the annual Stewards Dinner.

LIKES AND DISLIKES

Chris likes that glazing gives him the opportunity to work outside with a great deal of variety in his days. "Due to the different job sites and variety of tasks, everyday can be a new challenge," he says. Lately, Chris spends much of his time on site at Temple University's The View student apartments. Over his two decades in glazing, Chris has also served as steward and foreman, on such projects as the recent construction of Primark's new department store in King of Prussia, Pa. Despite managing a crew of 50+ and working long days, Chris recalls it as one of his most challenging jobs. However, it was a terrific learning experience in both glazing and site management.

Chris counts his union brothers and sisters among his glazing likes. "Nobody does it like we do," Chris describes of LU 252. "Everyone is always looking out for each other."

Working outside in the winter is Chris' only job complaint. He'd much rather sweat than freeze. Winter's added battling of the elements makes it challenging but a small price to pay.



Chris with Perlina, Kaylee, and Kyle at Walt Disney World



Left to right: Chris on a swing stage at the new Comcast Tower; with son Kyle; with girlfriend Perlina; three generations: with his dad James and Kyle

UNION SERVICE

Chris proudly describes how much the union does for its members. In return, he willingly steps up when needed to be on a picket line or at a rally. He also spent 18 years playing on the glaziers' softball team. Because the union has always been there for him, Chris is proud to always be there for the union.

Early in his glazing career, Chris took on the role of apparel designer for LU 252. It's in this volunteer position where his creativity shines. For the last 15 years, he has been behind all of the union's custom t-shirts, hats, and other apparel. He enjoys soliciting ideas from other glaziers and coming up with creative ways to render the union logo and classic branding with seasonal or thematic ideas. "It's exciting to see the members wearing something you've worked on," he explains. "I'm honored to have the position and take a lot of pride in it." Some of the t-shirt logos are pictured below.

FAMILY & FUN

Chris' family includes girlfriend Perlina, her 13-year-old daughter Kaylee, and his 10-year-old son Kyle. In his free time, he enjoys fishing and poker. In fact, Chris occasionally plays tournament poker in Atlantic City, N.J., and local casinos and has been

known to combine his skills to craft custom poker tables. Lately, his construction skills have been put to use at home, where he just finished renovating his entire basement. Never one to resist a construction challenge, Chris admits, "If stuff has to be done, I try to tackle it myself – whether it's drywall or kitchens or, of course, windows."

WORDS OF WISDOM

Chris tells apprentices and young glaziers not to be afraid to ask questions or ask for clarification if they don't understand something. It's the same advice given to him by experienced glaziers when he started out. He's quick to repeat the words of wisdom: "Don't just wing it."

With two decades of experience, a track record of leadership and a union award to his credit, Chris recalls with a chuckle how it almost didn't come to be. "I had a fear of heights when I was younger," he explains. "My first day on the job, I remember like it was yesterday, I got taken out to a job site and put on a 60-foot high reach." He could have let the nerves take over. Instead, he admits, "I quickly got over my fear of heights."

