



RICHARD J. D'ADAMO, II

AGMT CERTIFIED GLAZIER & FOREMAN

SPOTLIGHT

On Rich D'Adamo:

Title Foreman with Almond Glass Works (Collingswood, N.J.)

Hometown Stratford, N.J.

Family Wife Cathy and sons Richie (16) and Andrew (9)

Favorite TV Show The Office

Favorite Sports Team Philadelphia Eagles



ABOUT RICH

A high school overachiever, Rich D'Adamo thought he wanted to become a doctor. After graduating from Collingswood High School with highest honors in 2000, he continued his education at Rowan University. To earn money for college, Rich worked in construction. He quickly realized he'd rather work with his hands than pursue many more years of school and he shifted to construction full-time. He established his own small business installing residential roofing, windows, and siding. A few years later, a family connection at Almond Glass Works encouraged Rich to consider a glazing apprenticeship.



LEADERSHIP

Rich began glazing on March 3, 2008, completed his apprenticeship in 2012, and was soon promoted to Foreman. "I got into the union at 26," Rich says. He expresses some regret for not joining at age 18, but believes he was better prepared having run a business for a few years. "I took my construction experience into my apprenticeship. It was kind of cool to have that experience before I got in."

Rich has spent all of his glazing career with Almond Glass Works. Although he leads crews of up to 15 glaziers, Rich enjoys that he still works with his tools on smaller projects – and he rarely has to sit in an office. His responsibilities range from layout and setup to crew management. Most recently, he led glazing work for an addition to the Salvation Army Kroc Center in Camden, N.J.

MANY CREDENTIALS

"If they offer a cert, I'm all for it," Rich declares. He believes the more certifications a glazier holds, the more valuable he or she can be for an employer. To that end, Rich has amassed a

Rich on the job and with his son Richie watching the Eagles

significant collection of credentials, ranging from the basic – OSHA-30, welding, scaffold erection, fall protection – to the more advanced. He holds a crane operator’s license and in 2019 earned the Architectural Glass and Metal Technician credential, a rigorous field and written assessment of his glazing skills.

NEVER STAGNANT

“It’s not just putting windows in,” Rich explains of his job. Everything from door entrances to hardware, storefronts to curtainwall, plus functional windows fall within his purview. “I like the fact that it’s not always the same. There’s nothing stagnant, and I like the challenge of it because the scope is so broad.”

Rich appreciates the delicate balance of performing quality craftsmanship and negotiating with demanding general contractors, completing complicated projects while ensuring his company doesn’t lose money. His favorite large-scale projects have included a new academic building for Stockton University in Atlantic City, N.J., and The National in Old City, Philadelphia. Conversion of the former National Products Company building involved restoring and reusing its midcentury modern door hardware, including original 30-pound stainless steel door pulls.

FAMILY MAN

Rich and his wife Cathy have been together for 17 years and married since 2011. They have two sons. Richard D’Adamo, III (Richie) is a 16-year-old sophomore in high school. Nine-year-old Andrew is in fourth grade.

COMMUNITY LEADER

Rich serves as President of the Stratford Athletic Organization, a group with which he has been involved for the last eight years; previously he was vice president for two years and baseball commissioner for six years. The role evolved from coaching his sons and other youth in baseball, softball, and basketball. Rich admits that the all-volunteer organization often takes much of his time, but it’s all worth it. In addition, Rich finds time to coach his sons’ soccer and baseball tournament teams.

HAVE TO HUSTLE

“What you lack in knowledge, you have to make up for in hustle,” Rich declares. He trained under the belief that apprentices should be seen and not heard, but as a foreman he doesn’t abide by that policy. Rich tells young glaziers that showing a good work ethic, listening, and learning are the keys to success. Demonstrating hustle means a lot. “Anyone can have a good idea and I want to hear it. Glazing is a great career and a great opportunity. It’s not always fun or easy. You have to work for it.”



Clockwise from top: Andrew, Rich, Richie, and Cathy on a pumpkin-picking hayride at Johnson’s Farm; Rich, Cathy, and Andrew celebrating his 2018 Coach Pitch Tournament-winning team; the 2018 team; Rich and his boys in Wildwood for Glaziers’ Weekend 2018

