



Keim

Built on Trust Since 1911

WORDS BY SHERRI ROMIG

Keim is more than just lumber. It is a business that has been around for over one hundred years. Back in 1911, it started out as a rough lumber mill with four employees. Today, the fourth-generation family-owned business sits on top of a hill and occupies fifty acres. There are more than 700,000 square feet of warehouse, retail, office, and millwork production areas. Keim now employs more than 500

individuals. The same commitment that began over a hundred years ago holds true today. Keim is a community business.

I had the opportunity to speak to Jim Smucker, the President of Keim, as well as Kelsey Hochstetler, the Executive Director of Strategic Communications. Both of them sincerely expressed just how much Keim is, and will continue to be, a community business.

Community Business

First of all, Keim is built on trust. That trust reciprocates with each employee as well as their customers and suppliers, and ultimately, their trust is in God. In fact, Smucker attributes Keim's success to this very characteristic.

Secondly, community members listen intently and work together. Keim values sharing information amongst workers, customers, and suppliers, and involves everyone in decision-making and strategizing together.

Another point confirming that Keim is a community business is the fact that it is built around the unique gifts of their mem-

bers. Keim is introducing Keim University to train employees.

The fourth point of Keim being a community business is that they also focus on caring for God's creation. Keim hopes to develop more local energy in the future, and recycles and disposes of much of its own waste. They also burn used motor oil to heat some of their buildings.

Lastly, they focus on the local culture and economy. Keim invests in markets for locally made products, which greatly enables entrepreneurs. Because of this, the money goes back into the economy benefiting everyone.

As you can see, Keim truly endeavors to be a community business in many ways.

Responding to the Coronavirus

At the end of March, the Ohio Department of Health issued a Stay at Home order, asking for all Ohioans to stay home to limit the spread of the Coronavirus. In order to serve the community's needs during this time, Keim has created a catalog of more than 450 essential household products to be delivered the next day through their Local Express Delivery. Coming in early May will be an expanded catalog with spring and summer items. Call 330.893.5030 to request one today, or visit www.KeimHome.com/catalog. In the catalog, you will find cleaning items, office supplies, housewares, safety supplies, power and hand tools, plumbing/electrical, outdoor living, automotive, and lawn and garden supplies. These items are available for Local Express Delivery. This is a free, next-day delivery service. This free delivery area covers Holmes County, along with parts of Wayne, Tuscarawas, and Coshocton Counties. Call for your essential products today! There are special hours for placing your delivery orders; Mon–Fri: 7am–7pm, and Sat: 7am–12pm.

Keim has so much to offer. They are more than just lumber. As soon as you walk into the facility, you notice the clean, organized, bright, inviting place to shop. There are

partments, be it Molding and Millwork, Electrical or Plumbing (to name just a few), the knowledgeable staff can assist you with any needs or questions.

Keim is able to assist whether you are a contractor, a woodworking pro, or a homeowner.

Contractors know time is of the essence. Keim values skilled employees and strives to offer quality materials, along with the latest milling and building equipment.

Keim offers woodworking pros a wide selection of wood, along with many different finishes and custom designs. So, whether it's doors, flooring, molding, or millwork, Keim offers the best material.

Walking with Homeowners

Let's say you need to remodel, as I do, but maybe you are just not sure how to go about it. On its website, www.KeimHome.com, Keim has a project center. There you will find the best way to accomplish your goal with helpful tips, buying guides, and a video library on "how to."

Maybe you are looking to build a new home, which can be a very overwhelming task. Do not be anxious; the salespeople at Keim will walk you through all the selections you need. Ask questions. They

If you are about to remodel or build, what is really awesome are the staged displays of various departments. Maybe you are not sure what type of wood you want for your cabinets, or unsure which flooring would look best. What I like is that you can see what it will look like. This way, you are not guessing and become disappointed in the outcome. The staging displays are used in various departments around the store. Yes, even decking is displayed. You can actually see how different woods and designs are used. I enjoy the visual. It not only helps me see what it could look like in my home but also aids in my imagination of other designs.

One thing you do not want to miss when you visit Keim is the Wood Shed! It doesn't matter whether you are a wood craftsman or not; this is a unique, one-of-a-kind collection in this country, and is not to be missed. I enjoy the beautiful color of cherry wood, and the rich smell of walnut brings back happy memories working on projects together with my dad. But, the Wood Shed is so much more! This exotic wood collection houses wood from over 130 countries! Each type is labeled with what kind it is and what country it came from. If there is a piece of wood that piques your interest or you have a curiosity about any piece of wood, Roy Hershberger, a salesman in the Wood Shed, is the one to talk to. He knows more than just where it comes from and why it has particular markings; Roy is the exotic wood storyteller! You can come away with a vast store of information that you never knew before. People make everything from tables and guitars to baseball bats and anything else you can imagine with this unique wood. Keim ships to wood enthusiasts all over the world.

A person could work up an appetite after all the project planning, shopping, and strolling around Keim. The Carpenter Cafe' is located upstairs, offering a variety of menu items: breakfast, appetizers, soups, sandwiches, salads, and more.

Keim is a community business that is more than just lumber. They have built a trust



“Our catalog and Local Express Delivery takes household essentials right to our customers’ doors,” said Smucker, “so people can stay home and stay safe.”

over twenty-five departments in the store that are labeled with an overhanging sign. Should you not know quite what you are looking for, the friendly staff is more than happy to help. No matter what de-

are there to help, and they know what they are talking about. Even if you don't have any plans for a house, there's no need to worry. There are drafters available that can sit down with you and help draw up a plan that will meet your needs.

“We seek to be a city on a hill and respond to our customer’s needs during the Coronavirus crisis,” said Smucker.

with the community and customers for over one hundred years, which continues to grow. They have a large inventory of products, so it only stands to reason that whatever you need will be in stock. If not, they will be happy to order what you need. If you do not see exactly what you want, Keim can customize just about anything.

Keim desires to be of service to, and work with, the community. So, if you are a contractor, homeowner, or a woodworking pro, or on a quest for a piece of exotic wood, please do not hesitate to get in touch. If you need to order some essentials from their catalog, give them a call, go online, visit the store, ask questions, place an order. Keim employees are knowledgeable, friendly, and eager to help.

Keim

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Hrs: Mon: 7:00 am–7:00 pm
Tue–Fri: 7:00 am–4:30 pm
Sat: 7:30 am–12:00 pm