ZEMBA Brothers Family Field Day

As you are well aware, my son, Cameron has been attending your Family Field Day for ten years now. Cousins who live in New Concord told us that we need to bring Cameron down for a "fun day with equipment" in Zanesville back in the early 2000's. I have to be honest; I looked for reasons not to go. Why would I want to drive over two hours to touch another truck?! I had literally been to well; it feels like thousands of them and my son was only in Kindergarten. "Oh, it's raining out, they won't have it", I said the first year and we didn't go. My cousin called me from the event that year and said how all the families are having a great time and that I MUST bring my boys next year. Well, the sun was shining the day prior to Zemba Family Field Day 2005 so I said, let's go. We get up the crack of dawn and let me tell you my son, who doesn't like to get out of bed, was first up! When we arrived, I wish I captured the look of pure joy and amazement on my older son's face. Let's just say the walk towards the pit with all the equipment and tons of screams from kids having of fun; we knew we had arrived at the best place there ever was! The smiles on my kid's faces were priceless! I had no idea on that day that we started a tradition of going every year. This will be our tenth year attending in eleven years. My son still reminds me how mean I was the year he was in 3rd grade and had the flu and a 104 fever and I wouldn't let him go. "I am fine to go Mom!"

We live in a suburb of Cleveland and our entire school District knows about Zemba Family Field Day! When there is a paper due of a favorite experience, Cameron writes about Zemba. I cannot count the number of times that Cameron has written favorably about Zemba in school assignments. I have to say, you have made such an impression on my son and all of us. Over the years, you have seen how Cameron has a love of large equipment and you have given this child an opportunity that no one else has. He has driven, either on the lap of an operator, or by himself with your approval, equipment the likes of bulldozers, backhoes, dump trucks and excavators. WHAT a dream!! Because of this experience and his love of the equipment, he helped road crew locally (when he should have just been a bystander) and offered suggestions to others operating equipment (at our church) who ran into a problem. He has taken the time to learn about each piece of equipment that I think they ought to offer a Bachelor's degree in knowledge of construction equipment. I often get quizzed in the car as we approach a piece of equipment. "Mom, which brand is that excavator and how do you know" asks Cameron? "I have no idea!" I retort. Cameron goes on to explain how he knows and I don't think he has been incorrect yet. I have never met a kid who loves this stuff as much as Cameron.

Cameron is a junior in high school and although he has a strong grade point average and could attend college, has chosen to go into the trades' line of work. And, quite frankly, I can't imagine Cameron doing anything different. You have given this young man a decade of wonderful memories of coming down to Zanesville – to drive large equipment. In a decade, I do not believe he has seen the tractor pull, pig race, archery, hay ride, bouncy house, the lunch line or anything else but the line to wait in to drive the equipment and the equipment itself. In fact, he LOVES the helicopter when it comes since so many kids (however, not him) run to see it and the lines are shorter to drive the equipment. The Zemba Brothers have meant so much to our family. I speak of your values such as integrity,

perseverance and pride in family get togethers. Cameron remembers those values so well since they are painted on the boom of some of your excavators. My brother who is a motivational speaker has used your business as an example in several keynotes in Las Vegas to a Construction Show where thousands of people attend. My father had to come and experience one trip to the corn field in recent years since his grandson speaks so highly of it. We have roots in Pittsburgh and we've shared our experiences with friends there and they have attended with their three young sons. I realize that your "give-back" was intended for the community you serve but I have to tell you the joy extends way beyond the boundaries of Zanesville. You have been so kind, warm and appreciative that we come. You always greet us with a smile and hope that Cameron has a good day while on your property. I have to tell you that you probably have no idea what it means to my son. This is now a chosen career path and he is so excited to graduate high school and begin his career. This summer, he has four jobs combining his interest of equipment, love of the outside and technology. He is part of a grounds keeper team at a local country club, he maintains a ball field, helps to maintain 10 rental properties cutting grass, etc and helps to handle the tech things at our church. He has become the tech guru when it comes to sound equipment for theater productions and weekly services at our church.

We use Zemba Bros Inc. as a guide to good, solid individuals and a family business by which to model after. We have no idea what Cameron's future holds for him but I do know that you have helped to shape who he is in terms of people to model after. In ten years, we've come to love the trip to Zemba Family Field Day. It provides a day that we get to share some fun together, some years we visit with family afterwards in New Concord and Cameron refills the tank of material to use in future English assignments and best of all, drive large equipment yet another day.

I have no idea if this is Cameron's last day attending Zemba Family Field Day or not but I thought I'd take an opportunity to personally thank you for providing an opportunity to kids who can experience driving construction equipment. I'm sure it is costly, difficult to arrange for the equipment to be available and time consuming for all your staff. Though I've heard mild complaints about various things (long lines, weather, squealing pigs, whatever), you have NEVER heard Cameron complain. Oh wait a minute, he does have one....he has to wait a full year to come back! Nonetheless, I believe you have helped to create a future worker in the field of construction.

If ever we can help show our appreciation for what you do – please do not hesitate to let us know how. We think the world of you guys!! Thank you for Zemba Family Field Day!



Laura and Cameron Whiteman

