

“Work that matters”

That was the focus of the conversation with Jason. If we could put the personal impact of IC on Jason’s life in one phrase, that is what it would be, work that matters. And if we could describe Jason with one phrase, it would be Man of Valor.

That’s what Men of Valor do, they work, and they work at things that matter. One thing instilled in all of us by our creator, is a tremendous need to matter, to do something important, and to feel valued. We know we are valued – the Word tells us so – but it is important to feel valued by our peers; to feel valued by our community; to believe in the value our own selves.

Jason’s father instilled in him at a very young age the importance of serving others. They served in a nursing home and Jason would go with his dad and help get the residents into the hall and do whatever little things he could do to assist with the elderly. It gave him that ongoing outward vision of what can I do for someone else? And when opportunity presented, it was a no brainer to jump in and do what was needed. Jason says, “I never mind it.”

Also following in the family traditions, Jason became a long haul truck driver. He felt proud to do that, it was his place in life – not everyone can do it – he did, and he did it well, it gave him value and he was proud to be a truck driver. But his pride in his career path did not dispel his desire to help others – that was firmly implanted. Once after a three week stint on the road without a break Jason was asked if he wanted to be part of the Make a Wish Ride. Without a thought to how tired he was, he fully embraced the opportunity. They spent the whole day that Saturday cleaning their trucks and getting all prepared for the ride. The next day was spent meeting parents, and children of Make a Wish. “It was great!” Jason has also supported and served throughout the years with Habitat for Humanity. Life was good; it was positive.

Enjoying life and cruising along, Jason felt valued. As time went on, he became comfortable with things and began to make some unhealthy physical choices, not giving much thought to eating right, or the importance of exercise as a long-haul truck driver soon caught Jason off guard. 7 years ago, Jason suffered a heart attack – a life changer – a career thief! Jason was lost. He became hard on himself, blaming his physical neglect for stealing away the one thing that gave his life meaning; that gave him value. After a miserable spell of beating himself up, Jason set his self on a new path. A path of healthy choices and self-work. He had to learn to forgive himself and find a new meaning to life – and that is an ongoing journey.

Not long after Jason started his rebuilding journey, he was introduced to Impact Cares. He did not know anything about them when he heard they were coming into his community. After asking around about who they were and what they did, he was interested. Helping others? Right up his alley. He got his cousin involved and nominated her for some much needed repairs on her home. Likewise, someone nominated Jason and Impact Cares built him new steps. While they were there, he met the team and felt an immediate connection with them. He loved what was happening in the community. Not just the work but the community spirit that was coming alive and making a lasting impression on everyone. Jason wanted more. He needed more. He had some free time the following week and spent it in the next community helping the IC team bless others. This was the boost his ego needed – he could still work – and it was work that mattered!

Jason has not just become one of Impact Cares VIPs attending as many jobs as he is able, but we consider Jason to be a Man of Valor driven by his personal strength, his courage to overcome adversities, and his passion for others. Traveling for miles and for hours to be a part of something special. He has driven from Anderson, Indiana to jobs in S.C. two years in a row and will be in Ohio this year as well. In Greenville, Jason had the opportunity to spend the week with the field team and be involved from the ground up. Jason says, “It was fantastic! Meeting people and finding out the needs. Seeing the whole process from the beginning to project day was an incredible experience.” He says he still sees people in his community helping one another. The work that Impact Cares starts in a community takes root and continues long after they are gone – that’s work that matters! Jason stated, “I love Impact Cares” and we love you, Jason.

Jason has a strong ethic instilled from childhood about the role of the man, and it shows in his love and compassion. His favorite scripture is “I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he consider me trustworthy, appointing me to this service.” 1 Timothy 1:12

“Jason is a great friend and a man I admire tremendously.” — Tory Wilson (Impact Cares Project Manager)

