

**C & D  
Hughes, Inc.,  
is celebrating  
40 years in the  
business with  
the construction  
of a new office  
building in front  
of their former  
headquarters  
in Charlotte.**



## C & D Hughes, Inc. Celebrating Their 40th Anniversary

by Cheryl Hughes

Looking back over the past 40-year history of C&D Hughes, Inc., I am amazed at our progress and success from our humble beginnings with a goal of just providing a living for our family. Never did I consider or dream that we would be the company we are today with the responsibility of providing a living for our 115 loyal families, many of them have been with us 15, 20 and 30 years.

Richard Czmer, our very first hired employee 40 years ago, is still with us today. We all love our Richard. In the company he is known as Dr. Z. The doctor can fix anything and is an

expert in traffic control and setup. He is a loyal, gifted project foreman, and he is our most dedicated, well respected, safety minded and loved employee. He is our Hall of Fame person.

We started our journey in the construction business with five wonderful employees; extremely old, worn out used equipment; and an idea that we could do this. Everyone thought we were crazy; there was no way we could make a living doing road construction.

We worked from our home in Holt. My office was the kitchen table and our yard was a rented open field and

our one car garage. When you start a construction business from the very beginning you have a lot of things to figure out and tweak as time goes by. It didn't take long to realize we each had our strengths and our weaknesses, and we should not try to do the other person's job unless it was absolutely necessary, and sometimes it was.

Looking back on the good ol' days when I would work in the field all day doing whatever it took to get the job done then going home to be a wife, and mom I wonder how did I do it? Building manholes, laying pipe, raking asphalt, running equipment or running

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## C & D Hughes, Inc.

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### SPECIALTIES

Aggregates, Asphalt,  
Roads, Streets,  
Sealcoating, Milling,  
Joint Sealing,  
Concrete Curbs,  
Median Barriers,  
Sidewalks,  
Concrete Sawing,  
Excavation, Earthwork,  
Site Development,  
Landing Clearing,  
Trenching,  
Water and Sewer



Front row, from left to right: Sherry VanPatten, Mike Foss, Kaleb Sharp, Daisey Hughes, Tim Hughes, Cheryl Hughes, David Hughes, Sr., Laurie Hughes, Shelbi Hughes, and Chris Dexter.  
Back row, from left to right: Harm Hamstra, Lance Anderson, Sawyer Smith, Ken Bachman, and Steve Strasser.



Facilities Employees

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a job site, I believe now has made it easier for me to understand what can happen in the field.

Our first projects were park and ride lots, then on to removing and replacing abandoned railroad crossings, asphalt joint repair, concrete patches and milling. We even built a bridge back in the day. Having experienced, loyal employees has made the company what it is today.

Our journey to 2020 has not been without stress, concerns, ups and downs, good and bad days. Some really good days; some really really bad days.

A few years ago I had to make a

hard decision as to the future of CDH, Inc. Should I remain status quo and continue in the DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) program or try to grow the company as work was made available? The intent of the program is to assist small businesses to develop and grow into successful, competitive companies. I took the leap and trusted God would see us through. We have been through some of the hardest times you could imagine. We used the tough times to learn and to be thankful for what we have.

Our goal and hope today, 40 years later, is still the same: to maintain integrity and professional

workmanship in providing great roads for Michigan and good employment for our valued employees.

I believe you are successful if you are happy and content with the life you have. If I can leave any words of advice or encouragement to my family or others trying to make it in this business it is the hard work, commitment and sacrifices you have to make along the way that will lead down the road to becoming successful. When you take the time to look back and reflect on where you have been and what you have seen and done you will be so surprised, amazed and thankful.

*Editor's note: Thanks Cheryl Hughes, president of C & D Hughes, Inc., for taking time out of your busy schedule to help us highlight — in your own words — your 40th year of doing business. The company has been a proud member of MITA for many years, and Cheryl served on the MITA Board of Directors. MITA congratulates C & D Hughes, Inc., on their 40th Anniversary and we wish them many more years of success.*





***the Aggregate  
Division***



***the Concrete  
Patching Division***



***the Milling Division***



***the Joint Division***



***the Sawing  
Division***