

**KEP THANKS YOU!**

Thankful for Our Community of Support

A big THANK YOU to our customers, employees, and our families. We are who we are and where we are because of you! Our customers have helped us grow thanks to their business and dedicated partnership. Our employees have helped us succeed with their hard work and continual contributions. Plus, all of our families have helped keep us going strong every day with their unwavering support.

The community of support we have has kept KEP going and growing strong since 1960. With the same dedication we have to making high quality flexible tubing and dip-molded products, we are also passionate about giving back to the community that supports us by finding ways throughout the year to contribute to the lives of people in need.

Each quarter all of our facilities participate at Ronald McDonald House Akron, providing meals to families staying at Ronald McDonald House while their family member is being treated at Akron Childrens Hospital. We provide meals to 50 people in 20 rooms. Last year, thanks to our employees and their families efforts and a company match, we donated \$10K to Ronald McDonald House to fund a room. Ask us about how you can get involved!



Thank You Veterans for Your Service

Across our three facilities, our employees produce rubber latex, thermoplastic and PVC tubing, dip-molded products, and non-latex Free-Band® tourniquets but our employees are more than just what they make. All of our employees are proud to give back to the community, but were especially proud of a few on our team who have served our country in the military and continue to show that same dedication and leadership in their roles here at KEP.

So this Veterans Day, KEP wants to thank all of our veterans and would like to give a special shout out to the veterans that are part of our KEP team.

Throughout the years KEP has been proud to employ veterans. One of our veterans, Mark McCune, has been working with us since 1990 as a compounder.

After Mark served in conjunction with NATO in the Arabian Peninsula, he joined the Army reserves and during this time was hired at our Kent facility. In 1990 Marks unit was called to serve and he was placed in action during the Iraq invasion of Kuwait. After a year of serving, Mark was welcomed back to his job at Kent. Hes been with us ever since thank you for your service and your commitment to KEP, Mark!



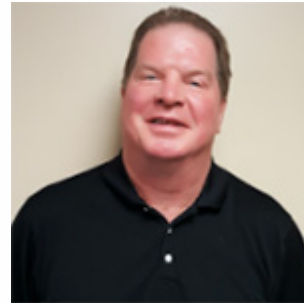
Another veteran employee, Jeremy Hosey, is an Army veteran who started working this year as a custom dipping operator in our Kent facility, where we specialize in on-site dip molding and dipped natural rubber latex tubing.

Jeremy was in the Army stationed at Fort Wainwright, Alaska for 3 1/2 years. He was in the infantry as a Specialist E-4 and ended his obligation in May 2016. Were glad to have you, Jeremy!



Even our president, Bob Oborn, is a veteran. Bob is known as KEPs history expert helping to assure our long tradition of excellence is passed down to employees and customers.

Bob doesnt often talk about his own history though. Serving in the United States Army Military Police Corps from 1976-1979, Bob was stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky and in Wildflecken, West Germany. Bob joined the KEP team a few years after completing his service, in 1981. Thank you for your service to our country, and for continuing to make KEP a great place to work!



These employees show their dedication to KEP on a daily basis, and were so glad to have them! We should take the time to say this more often, but we are very thankful for their efforts to protect our freedom, and for choosing KEP as the company to grow their career after serving this great country.

The unwavering dedication soldiers give to protecting our country is nothing short of remarkable. Thank you to all our veterans, past and present, and the spouses, mothers, fathers, and children that support and remember them every day.

THIS MONTH'S KEP CHALLENGE



Providing Cost-Effective Solutions for Manufacturing Challenges

When an international company came to us needing a cost-effective solution for sealing its packaging, our team immediately got to work to reduce the assembly process in order to lower their costs.

To keep product from leaking in their liquid bag-in-box and pouch packaging, the previous manufacturer placed an extra component on the ends of the tubes, adding significant costs. To make the manufacturing of this product more efficient and cost-effective, this extra part needed to be eliminated.

Our team at KEP fabricated a device that crimps the end of each tube, protecting the tubing until the moment of use. The former extra component is no longer needed for this product, meaning no need for assembly. Eliminating the assembly process significantly lowered the company's costs. Manufactured in our SQF-certified food safety facility, our crimped tubing is a safe and cost-effective option for food and beverage suppliers.

[Learn more](#) about how we solved this customer challenge with crimped tubing, then tell us about your company's needs. We love a challenge! Call us at 800.331.4762 or [contact us here to get started](#).



TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Growing our skilled employees, thanks to Bonnie!

Bonnie Estes has been working as a lead assembler for over 13 years in our Mogadore facility, where we manufacture extruded tubing and more. A dedicated employee, Bonnie said it's a good feeling when she trains new employees and sees them progress to working independently thanks to her guidance. We are thankful for the many skilled employees Bonnie has helped to grow and train.



Thank you for your hard work through the years, Bonnie! We hope to work with you for many more! Read more about Bonnie in our [Leader Views Blog](#) or in our [Meet the Team](#) section on our website.



NEWS

