



CITY OF INDUSTRY NEWS

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IMC Member Profile: Commercial Cooling... Journey of Hope

Commercial Cooling, a longtime IMC member, marks its Golden Anniversary this year, celebrating its remarkable growth from an 8,000 sq. foot facility in Santa Fe Springs to a 60,000 sq. foot facility in the City of Industry. This success is due in large part to John Milani's commitment to manufacturing quality products, treating his employees like family and to giving back to those in need.

John Milani came to the United States at the tender age of 16, leaving his family and financial comforts behind in pursuit of the American Dream. When he arrived, John Milani neither spoke English nor knew anyone. Highly motivated and disciplined, he went on to earn his master's in mechanical engineering. He purchased Commercial Cooling in 1984 and since that time he has transformed it into the leading manufacturer of walk-in coolers and freezers in the field.

Believing in corporate social responsibility, John Milani is involved in many philanthropic causes including Mercy Ships, an international charity, which currently operates the largest non-governmental hospital ship in the world. Through the growth of his relationship with Mercy Ships, he arranged for his son, Farzad, to visit the ship while it was docked in Cotonou, Benin.

Farzad, who is Vice President of Business Development with Commercial Cooling, had never been to Africa or even heard of the country of Benin, but he went enthusiastically to discover an

unknown land. Through this journey he was fortunate and blessed to spend three days at an orphanage in Sakate, Benin, run by American expatriates, Jon and Ashley Barchus.



The Barchus' gave up everything back in 2010 to move to a small village in West Africa to dedicate their lives to caring for orphans. They care for 40 children that live at the Tree of Life USA Orphanage along with dozens of other children who are in the program, but still live with their families.

"I was struck by the fact that these children were extremely happy even though they

were living in one of the poorest countries in the world, with an unimaginable level of poverty," said Farzad. "These children brought happiness to my heart and for which I am forever grateful."

Upon his return to the United States, Farzad felt a compelling drive to help the orphanage. To increase awareness of and generate donations for the orphanage, Farzad went to the online fundraising website, www.GoFundMe.com, and created a campaign in hopes of raising money to cover the education costs for these children. The orphanage must pay for books, uniforms, meals and tuition for the children to attend school. Unfortunately, public education in Benin is not free so donations are needed to ensure these children can receive an education and work towards a better future.



For more information about the orphanage visit, treeoflifeusa.org and if you are interested in making a donation to "Help the Hopeless" please go to <https://www.gofundme.com/tree-of-life-usa>