

M.T. Kirkpatrick House Movers

While growing up near Warrior, Alabama, a small town 12 miles north of Birmingham, Todd Kirkpatrick's neighbors were house movers. He was intrigued with the industry and occasionally would work, or "help out," his friends. Eventually, he worked full time in the industry for about four years, then at age 22 bought out a house moving company to capitalize on the trade he had learned.

In 1995, M.T. Kirkpatrick House Movers was organized. Although specializing in wood frame housing, Kirkpatrick also does foundation repairs. In fact, Ram Jack of Central Alabama is a subsidiary of the company.

While Todd is a first-generation house mover, his father Mike is employed as "our PR person." Also, his mother, Linda, keeps the books "and what office work that needs to be done." In addition to customer contact, Mike also works as a member

of a crew. Currently, the company operates with one crew, usually made up of three to four people.

Foundation work for the Birmingham Board of Education and "custom work" in the suburban City of Mountain Brook make up the bulk of Kirkpatrick's current work. Todd explains custom work as moving a house for an individual, sometimes on the same lot but where ever it needs to go.

A major portion of his house moving business is with individuals, but a considerable amount is with developers. In fact, the demand for foundation repairs became so great about four years ago he added that as a specialty to his business. The subsidiary, Ram Jack of Central Alabama, is a significant part of his gross income.

Todd cites fuel and insurance costs as big-ticket expenses, but notes that escort fees have in-



Todd Kirkpatrick receiving the Youngest Mover Owning and Operating His Own Business Award at the 2004 annual conference in Orlando, Florida.

creased significantly. He sees some costs, such as permits, as "the price of doing business, which ultimately you pass on to the customer."

Not unlike most structural movers, Todd cites the challenging jobs as the most rewarding in the business. One such challenge was moving a log cabin that was 95 feet in length and 32 feet wide a distance of five miles. The move included filling in a railroad bed with stone and coordinating the rail traffic.

Another challenging job was moving a 56-foot-wide by 72-foot-long house with....

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Brian Morrison, Aurelio Vincenta' and Todd Kirkpatrick



A move in Tuscaloosa, Alabama

By JACK E. BRYMER, Contributing Editor