

# BUSINESS

## Chem/Serv, Inc.

You may consider chemical distribution as irrelevant to your life and your home, but we are all directly affected by the industry. Chem/Serv turns the complicated task of procuring and selling chemicals from all over the world into a streamlined process, so that businesses can purchase smaller chemical amounts as needed.

Chem/Serv was founded in 1951. What once started as a one-man operation has grown into a family-run business. Harry Fischman, now CFO, began his chapter with ChemServ in 1964, shortly after graduating from the University of Minnesota with a Chemical Engineering degree. He went on to purchase the company in 1991. Early on, two of his children familiarized themselves with the family business, and it wasn't long before they got right to work. Joe Fischman, as President, and Andrea Nagle, as CEO, now play significant roles in the business.

Being a family operation, one of the reasons Chem/Serv chose Coon Rapids as the location of their new facility is that most of the staff would have a shorter commute to work. "The average employee has been with us for over 25 years. We try to take good care of our employees with quality healthcare and profit sharing ... it's a family business in more ways than one. We treat employees like family," says Joe Fischman, President of Chem/Serv.

Along with being a perfect location for their employees, Coon Rapids was also a draw because of the culture of the community. "All of the City officials from the Fire Department, Police Department, City Council, Mayor... they worked with us from the beginning to closing on the facility, as well as on the renovation and getting our permits in place. I have nothing but positive things to say about all the people we have come in contact with ... and it's made the transition so much smoother," Fischman says. The average wage within the chemical distribution industry is \$79,000, and Fischman says it feels good to bring jobs into the Coon Rapids area. Currently, Chem/Serv has 12 employees on-site and two off-site.

Specializing in chemicals comes with regulations. Chem/Serv is a member of the National Association of Chemical Distributors (NACD) which standardizes the proper methods of handling the chemicals, carrier selection, product stewardship, employee safety and working with the community. "Audited by a third party, we make sure we are following procedures as we should be and it all gets handled in a safe and responsible way," says Andrea Nagle, CEO.



### Quick facts:

- » Address: 1301 115th Ave. NW
- » Out of the 260 chemical companies nationwide, Chem/Serv is one of four that offers custom packaging along with the chemical ingredients they sell.
- » Joe Fischman and Andrea Nagle both received 2017 Distributor of the Year award by the NACD.