



### **A Century Later and VanderWall Brothers Continues to Evolve**

VanderWall Brothers, a fixture on the Michigan Lakeshore since 1922, manufactures a wide range of CMU block and other concrete products at its two manufacturing facilities. It also carries hearth products and is a retailer of natural and manufactured stone and masonry supplies. The company approaches every day as an opportunity to improve product quality, provide a high level of customer service to both masons and retail customers, deliver win/win solutions for its customers and suppliers and ensure their community is a great place to live.

VanderWall Brothers knows that beautiful structures depend on the products manufactured by a knowledgeable and experienced team. Every member of the VanderWall team works to make a positive impact on the lives of the people around them and to be their best selves. The company also recognizes the value its tenured employees provide in training the next generation of block makers and is thankful for the longevity and hard work that comprise its team—something virtually unseen in today’s marketplace. Its commitment to providing an environment where all employees can thrive was recognized in 2021 when the company was voted a [West Michigan Best & Brightest](#) company to work for. “Our employees are our number one asset,” says Kirk Zink, president, VanderWall Brothers. “It is because of them that we continue to grow as a company.”

Since joining the MIM several years ago, Kirk points to the help the MIM provides its members to grow and improve the industry as a great benefit. He also appreciates having access to peer-to-peer knowledge, the MIM Executive Director Phil Ledent’s podcasts and continual training and education.

Kirk suggests those new to the industry should join the MIM and get involved. He adds, “Find out what is happening in the industry and how you can contribute to pushing it forward into the future.”

The construction industry has long been considered one of the best industries in which to work. “There are not many professions where you can see, years from now, what you supplied or built like the construction industry,” Kirk says. He adds, “Because we are a mature industry, staying relevant is key. As our company celebrates 100 years in business this year, we continue to evolve to meet our customers’ needs today and for the next generation.”