



TAP TO READ



NOT JUST ANOTHER JOB: BEAR PLUMBING TAKES PRIDE IN CARING FOR THE DAYTON COMMUNITY

By Matt Beardmore

Growing up, Jimmie Cullars swore he would never become a plumber. Now that he has been in the business for 30 years, Cullars, the owner of BEAR Plumbing, could not be happier with how plumbing has helped him take care of his family and the community that calls on him for his support.

Jimmie Cullars opened BEAR Plumbing with his wife, Samantha, in September 2019, but he got his start in the plumbing business 25 years earlier when he began helping his father.

"I grew up in this town working," said Cullars, who moved to Dayton when he was a sixth grader. "I've probably been in every house there is."

From Monday through Saturday, there is plenty of activity inside the BEAR Plumbing office at 28 County Road 414 as Samantha and the Cullars' 21-year-old daughter Olivia are responsible for the company's office management and bookkeeping responsibilities while Jimmie takes most of the calls and handles the scheduling. BEAR Plumbing's other plumbers are Ryan Pritchett and apprentice Chad McLean, who is about to receive his license.

"Generally the calls we get are for leaking water heaters, sewer clogs, main sewer lines clogged," Jimmie said. "But the residential service calls are just half the business."

Jimmie Cullars also works in Houston as a plumbing contractor for Dorsey & Scerbo Service, which builds and remodels high-end homes, so clocking out after a 13- or 14-hour day is not uncommon.

"Plumbing is labor intensive and not for the lazy person by any means," Jimmie said.

This is a far different career he was expecting – or hoping for – when he was younger, but after a short

stint studying business at San Jacinto College, he knew that college was not the way. "People see a picture of a plumber with his pants falling down and holding a plunger, but people don't realize there are other things involved in the business," Jimmie said. "And when you start talking numbers, you can make a good living doing that."

While that is part of his message to students during Career Day presentations at the Dayton Independent School District, money is not what drives the Cullars. They truly love opening their doors during the Chamber's annual Cookie Crawl, setting up a booth and meeting folks at the Taste of Dayton, and being a part of the community where they live and raise their children, Oliver (16 years old), Adisyn (14), Amilia (11), and Aaiden (9).

The community has also embraced the Cullars and BEAR Plumbing, which was named the Service Business of the Year by the Dayton Chamber of Commerce at its 2023 Annual Gala.

"What I like is the gratification from helping people," said Jimmie, a Dayton Chamber Board member. "People call and they don't have water or they have a leak. The average person they don't know what to do – they can go into panic mode. What I get out of plumbing is the giving part. Even though I'm getting paid, I'm helping people. What I do matters to me."

For more information on BEAR Plumbing, visit its Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/BEARPlumbingTX>.

