

CSC Network News

Empowering Independent Laundries

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Plymate
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A Family Name Built on Trust: Plymate's Next Chapter



Long before technology transformed the textile rental industry, Plymate was built on something much simpler: relationships.

Founded in 1930, the family-owned company has spent nearly a century serving businesses throughout Indiana by focusing on dependable service, personal accountability, and long-term partnerships. While the industry has changed dramatically over the decades, Plymate's foundation has remained remarkably consistent — treat people the right way, stand behind your word, and build a culture rooted in trust.

Today, as the fourth generation helps lead the company into its next chapter, Plymate continues balancing tradition with innovation. From expanding into the Louisville market to investing in new technologies and service offerings, the company remains focused on growth while staying true to the principles that helped build its reputation in the first place.

“What has allowed Plymate to remain successful and independent for nearly 100 years is our people-first mentality,” said President & CEO Ben Warnecke. “Each generation along

the way has prioritized the treatment and development of our most valuable asset — our team.”

That commitment to people extends beyond employees and into the customer and community connections Plymate has built throughout its service territory. Whether through uniform programs, facility services, first aid solutions, or simple day-to-day interactions, the company continues to approach business with a service-first mindset.

“At the end of the day, Plymate is not really about flipping mats and cleaning soiled garments,” said Co-Owner Sarah Plymate. “We are a business built on relationships.”

Nearly 100 years after its founding, that philosophy still drives the company forward.

The Next Generation of Leadership

As Plymate approaches its 100-year milestone, fourth-generation leaders and cousins Ben Warnecke and Sarah Plymate are helping guide the company through its next era of modernization and strategic growth.

The leadership transition represents more than a change in generation. Ben and Sarah are continuing a family legacy built by previous generations, including third-generation leaders Terri (Plymate) Warnecke and Todd Plymate,



Sarah Plymate (4th Gen), Ben Warnecke (4th Gen), Terri (Plymate) Warnecke (3rd Gen), Todd Plymate (3rd Gen)



Generations 3, 2, 1 (Back left Todd Plymate-3rd Gen , Back right Jim Plymate-2nd Gen, Front Glenn Plymate-1st Gen)

who helped shape the company's culture, reputation, and long-term vision.

"There's definitely a deep sense of responsibility that comes with being part of a fourth-generation family business," said Sarah Plymate. "We understand that we're not just managing a company for today — we're helping carry forward something that has been built over decades, with the hope of one day passing it along to a fifth generation."

While leadership remains focused on modernization and expansion, preserving the standards and reputation built over decades remains equally important.

"Previous generations have laid the foundation," said Ben Warnecke. "We will continue to embrace many of the processes and strategies implemented along the way, while also challenging ourselves to meet our market and our workforce where it is and will be."

One phrase from first-generation leader Glenn Plymate still resonates throughout the company today: "That's our name on the truck...take good care of it."



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Plymate's 5th generation already on the job!



For leadership, that mindset still reflects the responsibility that comes with carrying the Plymate name forward — leading with accountability, staying engaged, and continuing to do right by both employees and customers. Ben and Sarah strive to remain visible and engaged in each layer of the business, achieving an environment where all coworkers feel heard and valued.

Growing with Purpose

Plymate continues to evolve strategically to meet the changing needs of both customers and the marketplace. Recent initiatives have focused on expanding service capabilities while investing in the infrastructure, technology, and people needed to support long-term success.

One of the company's most significant recent opportunities has been its expansion into the Louisville and Southern Indiana markets. For leadership, the move represents more than geographic growth — it reflects the belief that there is still strong demand

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for responsive, independent providers within the textile rental industry.

“Our expansion into the Louisville market presents an exciting opportunity to bring the services and differentiators that have led to our success in Central Indiana to a market seemingly in need of a strong independent option,” said Ben Warnecke.

In addition to geographic expansion, Plymate continues investing in operational improvements and technologies designed to enhance

customer experience, garment accountability, and service efficiency. From RFID garment tracking initiatives to evolving customer communication tools and process improvements, leadership remains focused on building a company that is both innovative and adaptable.

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As the textile rental industry continues to consolidate, Plymate believes independent providers still bring something unique to both customers and the industry as a whole — accessibility, flexibility, accountability, and local ownership involvement.

Culture Beyond the Uniform

Leadership believes Plymate's culture remains one of the company's greatest strengths. From long-tenured coworkers and employee recognition to community partnerships and family involvement, the company has worked intentionally to create an environment centered around people and values.

For many employees, Plymate represents more than a workplace — it represents stability, opportunity, and connections built over years of working alongside one another. The company regularly recognizes milestone anniversaries, celebrates employee achievements, and hosts traditions such as its annual awards banquet, where coworkers and families gather to celebrate accomplishments and honor tenured service.

That same mindset extends into the communities Plymate serves through local involvement, charitable initiatives, and support of community organizations.

"We hope employees and customers feel valued, supported, and genuinely cared for," said Sarah Plymate.

For employees, that means creating an environment where people feel respected, heard, and are given opportunities to grow.

"When we hear a coworker say they hope to retire at Plymate, that gives me all the warm and fuzzies," Plymate said.

For customers, the company strives to create the same sense of trust and accessibility that has helped define the Plymate name for generations.

"We want customers to know they have a true partner — one that is responsive, accessible, and willing to do the right thing when challenges arise," Plymate said.

The Value of Independence and CSCNetwork

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unique to both customers and the industry as a whole — accessibility, flexibility, accountability, and local ownership involvement.

For Plymate leadership, remaining independent has never meant standing alone. Through CSCNetwork, the company has gained access to valuable partnerships, shared resources, educational opportunities, and a network of fellow independent operators facing many of the same challenges and opportunities.

"As a member of the board, this network and all it has given me since joining the business in 2016 has meant so much," said Ben Warnecke. "Todd Plymate paved the way as one of the early members and former board President."

That collaboration has helped Plymate continue strengthening its operations while remaining competitive against larger national providers. Leadership credits CSCNetwork with providing



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operational ideas, best practices, and industry relationships that have helped shape the company's growth and long-term strategy over the years.

Today, leadership sees CSCNetwork as more than an industry organization — it represents a shared commitment to preserving the future of independent laundries through collaboration, innovation, and shared best practices.

Looking Ahead

As Plymate approaches its 100th anniversary in 2030, Gen 4 remains focused on building a company that honors its history while continuing to evolve for the future. From investment in technology and service expansion to leadership

development and market saturation, the company continues positioning itself for long-term success while remaining grounded in the principles that helped shape its foundation.

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“In today's environment, many businesses are becoming larger and more corporate, and I think family ownership offers a level of personal investment and accessibility that can be difficult to replicate,” said Sarah Plymate.

As the company continues expanding throughout Indiana and into Kentucky, Plymate's leadership believes the same principles that guided the business through the last century will continue guiding it into the next.

Nearly 100 years after its founding, Plymate remains what it has always aimed to be — a family name built on trust.



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