

BTEA Northeast Member Spotlight

David Argus, Director of Operations, Karas & Karas Glass Co., Inc.

Upon graduating from high school, David Argus took a summer job at a local construction company and never left. He enjoyed working with his hands, developing a sense of comradery with his colleagues and making a lasting impact on the communities around him. Argus worked on residential projects and eventually joined a window and siding company, which was later bought out by his current employer, Karas & Karas Glass Company, Inc. (Karas & Karas).

Throughout the decades that followed, Argus worked his way up the ranks at Karas & Karas – an almost century old company that provides glass and glazing supplies to the contractors and distributors of greater Boston. The firm is also a full-service contract division that specializes in design assist, working in partnership with architects and engineers on some of Boston’s most notable projects – including The Ray and Maria Stata Center at MIT, Winthrop Square in downtown Boston, the Hub On Causeway and 150 Seaport Boulevard. Argus serves as the firm’s Director of Operations, supporting client relations, project performance and the team’s project management and workforce.

Breaking the Stigma of Addiction and Finding a Pathway for Meaningful Employment

Argus is utilizing his experience and long-term relationships to transform the way the industry views addiction and recovery. He works in partnership with BTEA Northeast to give back to his community through efforts like Recovery Week, an annual event that raises the profile of recovery options for labor and management in construction. The initiative also brings together leaders in building trades, healthcare, government and construction sectors to better understand and identify substance use issues and how to best navigate treatment and recovery options.

“We are passionate about removing the stigma of addiction and educating our industry to view it as a disease that deserves treatment, compassion and support,” said Argus. “It brings together people in the industry, so we can provide them with the resources they need to help a friend, family member or even themselves. The truth is, you never know who is really struggling and that is who we are trying to reach,” he concluded.

Argus is also passionate about working to help individuals in recovery find meaningful employment opportunities – through The Boston Phoenix Foundation. The non-profit organization’s goal is to create pathways for employment in the building trades for men and women in recovery. Through this program, Argus and Karas & Karas have been providing a one year pre-apprenticeship program with their company for Carpenters, Ironworkers and Glaziers. After the program, participants have the opportunity to move into an apprenticeship program.

When asked about the partnership, Argus stated, “It’s a no-brainer. People want to work – that opportunity is the greatest gift you can give someone. We have found great success with the program; the participants have become an important part of our organization and are very talented and dedicated to their job. And at the end of the day, it’s in the spirit of helping others.”