

A LASTING IMPRESSION:

CLIENT SHORT STORIES...

A High-Flying Tale



I remember it like it was yesterday, mainly because it was just a few weeks ago. It was mid-morning, and I was driving to my next job when I received a call from a long-time friend Bodie D'Andrea, General Manager of the Christian Television Network. He asked if I would be interested in cleaning the interior of their corporate

helicopter. There is something intriguing about cleaning something I have never cleaned before, even though it is basically four chairs "shoehorned" into a round steel cage that flies around, so I agreed without hesitation.

When I arrived at their headquarters, the Chief Engineer excitedly showed me around and explained how they use their four-seat helicopter to help people all over Florida in times of need. Whether it is bringing medical supplies in when needed or food and water to communities after a hurricane, this small aircraft had done better than any other single asset within the organization's inventory!

It humbled me as we toured inside and explored its capabilities; here was something that could make such a difference in someone's life yet remained largely unnoticed by most people who passed through the doors of CTN every day. After my tour ended, I started prepping for my cleaning — all with special attention paid to those hard-to-reach areas where dirt likes to hide away!

Before I left, I asked if Bodie was in his office and the front desk receptionist smiled, nodded, and motioned for me to go upstairs to his office. As I entered Bodie's office I saw that he was on the phone, so we acknowledged each other, and I started looking around his office. Across from his desk there is a dark walnut entertainment center with a large screen TV. There is a leather sofa with a small stuffed animal sitting on the middle cushion and an Indian blanket draped over the arm of the sofa. The adjacent wall has another large bookshelf dominating the entire wall. On a shelf about eye level, he has several antique clocks, all set to different time zones. There are more trinkets and toys on the shelf to the right. In front of that shelf

is an upright piano and bench in dark walnut. Hanging on the wall above the piano is a large photograph of President Trump and his dad, Bob D'Andrea. There is a double door between his desk and the piano which leads to a conference room.

As he finished his call, he straightened the stuff on his desk, making sure everything was square and properly spaced. There wasn't much: a phone, a legal-sized lined yellow pad, a translucent Bic pen with a black top, and a big plastic cube with pictures of his wife, Michelle, his children, and close friends.

In the conference room three large photo albums were evenly spaced across the long table. A bit confused about what they were, he startled me and preempted the question by saying, "Gifts, Photos, Notes from children, adults, and missionaries from all over the world." The albums had one simple label adhered to the front cover . . . only four words in bold uppercase letters, "THIS IS OUR WHY."

Bodie says, "Can I ask you a question?" I said, "Sure!" "What do you see when you look around this conference room?" he asked. Knowing it was a serious question I didn't want to try and make a joke, so I just shrugged my shoulders. "I'll tell you what I see," Bodie said. "Pick up one of those albums, it doesn't matter which one . . . turn to any page and I'll tell you a story about that person. I can tell you a story about every child, adult, evangelist, and missionary in those albums . . . But you must look beyond the photos and the 'thank you notes' to see the deeper story . . . When you begin to understand their story, you'll LOVE differently. You'll experience compassion like you never have before. You'll see challenges change to hope. You'll see discouragement change to joyous anticipation. You'll see and experience life differently!"

Our conversation was no longer about cleaning the helicopter, but about each individual story; stories filled with hope & joy along with sorrow & tragedy. As we spoke about these events, there were tears shed alongside laughter – both equally poignant emotions that moved us deeply as individuals!

That afternoon ended quickly yet it left an indelible mark on me forever; One which reminds me that no matter how small or insignificant an act may seem sometimes (like cleaning a helicopter!), every single deed counts towards helping someone else out eventually!





Angel Mendoza, Client Liaison, Administrative Assistant Floorcovering Technologies, Inc.

Baby wipes are necessary now. You can use them for everything. I use them to wipe the countertops, remove dust, wipe off bathroom faucets, remove makeup, clean up the floor, and wipe off the dirt from the handles/doorknobs when I am outside. There's a lot more. They are handy, useful and they are cheap! Here are some hacks:

1. WET WIPE ELASTIC BAND TRICK

Fed up with pulling a never-ending string of wet wipes out of the packet when you only need one? Use a single elastic hair band, place it around the middle of your wet wipe packet, and the problem is solved!

2. STORE BABY WIPES UPSIDE DOWN

Another tip you'll love if you're using water-based wipes is to store them upside down. This stops them from drying out before you've finished the packet! Don't worry if you forget – you can massage the container to disperse the liquid.

3. CUT A SLIT ON BOTH SIDES TO EXTEND THE OPENING.

The secret is once you've ripped off the sealed tab at the top of the packet to make way for the wipes, you cut a slit on each side to ensure the opening extends all the way. When you fully rip open the wipes, they'll come out 1 by 1 and not a whole bunch or clumping together.

Kita tayo mamaya. (See you later.)

Angel

The Frank Porter Graham Study



Chapel Hill, NC: At Frank Porter Graham Elementary School, a study was conducted to investigate the effect of cleaning on student grades and test scores. And the results were nothing short of miraculous. Grades and test scores improved in all grade levels, leaving teachers and students reaping the benefits of a cleaner environment.

The study reported specific issues that were corrected, such as the removal of dust mites, pet allergens, and other air pollutants that may have previously been affecting student health and academic performance. In addition, the study found that students had improved attendance rates and positive attitudes toward coming to school after the school implemented a cleaning regimen.

This kind of research is an important reminder that cleanliness can have profound impacts on us all. From our physical health to our mental well-being,

being clean and healthy can go a long way in helping us reach our potential. Schools are now using this research to create more efficient cleaning protocols and make sure that all students have the best environment to learn in.

But what's more remarkable is what didn't happen. Even though the carpets were cleaned, they were not removed. This shows that a thorough cleaning can make all the difference, without causing unnecessary disruptions.

The outcome of this study shows that keeping the school environment clean is indeed vital for the academic success and overall well-being of students. The results are truly heart-warming and emotional, as it highlights the positive impact a cleaner environment can have on the future of our children.

- 1. Better classroom management and student engagement.
- 2. Reduced stress levels, and better performance of both teachers and students.
- 3. A better learning atmosphere creates better academic outcomes.
- 4. And improved morale among everyone involved.



