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Lamm & Company Partners goes global

By Sarah Wilson // Associate Editor



Lamm & Company Partners employees are no strangers to designing buildings for a multitude of uses throughout Central Florida, from medical to educational. But taking their work global, planning construction for an atypical site nearly 10,000 miles away, is a whole other story. Repurposing an Albertsons supermarket into a modern office and studio space for Full Sail University, and designing a brand new women's health care clinic for Winter Park Hospital it's all in a year's work for the group.

But offering to design and oversee construction for a community center in Malawi, Africa, provided the team with a learning experience that challenged and moved them in more ways than one, said Lamm & Company Vice President Joshua Marinov.



INFO: For more information about Lamm & Company Partners, headquartered in Baldwin Park at 968 Lake Baldwin Lane, visit lammco.com

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"It was very different in many ways," said Marinov, who traveled to Malawi last July to aid in the community center's construction.

Marinov had to form a realistic design for the materials available

on the ground in Malawi, and work on the ground with the natives, making bricks by hand. He said it provided him and Lamm & Company owner David Lamm with a new perspective and appreciation for what they do.

"There's no Home Depot or other sorts of stores where you can just run and go get things," Marinov said. "We shipped over the tools and materials that you really couldn't find over there, and then tried to use as many indigenous materials as possible."

The walls of the community center, which will serve as a classroom and multi-purpose center for the village of Mgwayi, were made of hand-packed clay brick, and the roof from locally sourced lumber. Marinov and Lamm worked side-by-side with the local workers and Summit Church members, who helped fuel the mission trip through the non-profit organization Children of the Nations.

"The most rewarding thing was to work together as men from the same business, doing the same thing only working 10,000 miles apart. ... we found a common bond and common ground," Marinov said.

"And their enthusiasm and enjoyment of life was enviable. Even though they don't have iPads or cars, big screen TVs, or even doors or electricity, they were so happy and enthusiastic," Marinov said. "It really made you re-evaluate what's important in life, at work and home."

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