

C.C. Vest Midpoint Bearing

by Hollie Davies



Photo by Jim Dorsey Photography

Traditionally, the world of power transmissions, bearings, gearboxes and sprockets is a male-dominated industry, so it's refreshing to find such a company co-owned by a woman. Cecilia (she prefers C.C.) Vest says it all came about by accident.

"I was a licensed cosmetologist until I developed allergies to the chemicals I was using to process hair. I had to start over by going back to college and was working as a file clerk for a bearing distribution company. I discovered that I enjoyed the business and moved up to assistant manager within a few months."

Over the next few years, C.C. added to her education with many specialized technical classes until Midpoint Bearing opened for business in 1985. C.C. is president and co-owner with her husband, Dan, and the company is certified by the Southern California Minority Business Development Council. Midpoint now employs 25 people and has expanded to three other locations: Ontario, California; Converse, Texas; and a new warehouse opening in January in Oklahoma City that coincides with Midpoint's 25th anniversary.

Midpoint provides the industry with sales, service, and technical support for premier ball and roller bearing lines. The inventory includes a complete line of V-Belts, sheaves, couplings, oil seals, gearboxes, sprockets, roller-chain, bronze, retaining rings, shims, adhesives and lubricants. "We believe we offer the best in quality, courtesy and service at a fair price," C.C. added. The company is an authorized dealer for Drives Incorporated, Garlock Klokzure, Lovejoy, Martin,

Ajax-Reynold, Ametric, Dichtomatik and many other well-known industry names.

As a long-term member of the Corona Chamber, C.C. says what she enjoys most is that "you can join any group that fits your work and personality and grow from there. I've made some terrific contacts at the Chamber that have helped me personally and in business, people that I now consider close friends." In turn, C.C. and Dan give back to the community in many ways, and their community involvement includes the California Organization of Police & Sheriffs (COPS), National Multiple Sclerosis Society, PTDA Educational & Scholastic Foundation, Ontario High School Sports Program and Ontario Police Officers Association.

For a female in a tough business, C.C. has had to prove herself more than capable, but says: "By the time you get into the working world you know what you can handle. There are definite sacrifices that have to be made in order to be at the top of your game."

While building their business, C.C. and Dan have also raised a blended family: Christa, 35, Phil, 34, and Nina, 22. When she can find time to relax, C.C. enjoys a complete change of pace and likes to read, crochet, or fresh water-fish in the Sierras.

Midpoint Bearing is located at 500 Harrington, Suite I-2, Corona, CA 92880. Phone: **(951) 340-9670.** www.midpointbearing.com. C.C. can be emailed at cvest@midpointbearing.com.



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