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FAMILY-OWNED
BUSINESS AWARDS



Biomedical Waste Services

BIOMEDICAL WASTE SERVICES

President: Adrian
"Ray" Krell II

Location: Pasadena

Years in existence:
49

Employees: 35

Generations: 2

Adrian "Ray" Krell II and his employees were stuck with needles and other sharp medical waste when they cleaned medical offices 50 years ago.

So in 1975 Krell asked the clients of his Professional Janitorial Services company to place their used sharps in coffee cans that he would supply so his team could safely collect them.

That primitive solution has grown to a modern medical waste recycling and sensitive document shredding company that has clients in five states and Washington, D.C.

Biomedical Waste Services, the company that sprung from those early days, has a 10,000-square-foot operation where it steam sterilizes medical waste, grinds it to small amounts, and sends it to a waste-to-energy processor to be burned and converted to electricity.

"We're the only one in the area that can sterilize medical waste and turn it into

energy," said Vice President Adrian Krell III, who goes by "Trey." "I believe you shouldn't be putting something into a landfill unless you absolutely have to."

Three generations of the family have made their imprints: founder Ray provided services; his father and mentor Adrian Krell, helped with accounting; Ray's cousin, Kevin Miller, helped grow the waste hauling company; and Ray's son, Trey, expanded BWS operations by adding in-house waste processing. Kevin Miller's daughter, Carly Campbell, is director of operations.

Ray Krell's work ethic, entrepreneurial vision and customer service became the bedrock on which the company stands.

"He basically never said no. 'Yes, ma'am, yes sir, I'll find a way to help you,'" Trey recalled his father saying. "If you have a good foundation that was passed down, you can overcome the stress and the challenges."

BWS also helps protect public health. It has placed "Sharps Safety" kiosks at some health departments and police stations so

the community can safely dispose of their needles.

Trey, 35, doesn't want to rest on laurels.

"I still want to find a solution to recycling treated medical waste," Trey said, such as "figure out a way to safely repurpose the treated waste into alternative materials or fuels."

The Krells believe family is a priority, and not just their family. It's one of the principles that has been passed to Trey from his father.

BWS offers health care insurance and a 401(K) plan to its employees. And when a worker has a personal or family health issue that crops up even after their leave time has expired, BWS gives them leeway to tend to what is most important: family.

"Everybody who comes through this door for an interview, I tell them, 'family comes first, but you have to be honest about it,'" Trey said.