

BEST CHICKEN WINGS



JIM'S WINGS

jimswings.com

1205 C West Elizabeth
Fort Collins 80521
Phone: 970.493.1103



Years in business: 28
Number of employees: 25

"Life is a journey that's measured not in miles or years but in experiences."

- Jimmy Buffet

WHAT IS THE STORY BEHIND YOUR LOGO?

The Jim's Wings chicken was drawn on a napkin by a CSU student who needed some beer money sometime in the mid 90's. A few years ago, I talked to him and he now works for a marketing firm. We laughed at how much that design would cost now! While the logo has been changed a couple times over the years, the chicken has never been changed! That chicken image has represented us well and is so well recognized. It is just a different spin than the flame breathing chicken that is so often used with wing restaurants.

WHAT CAUSES DO YOU SUPPORT?

We support Northern Colorado! We get 15-20 requests per month for local community programs, schools and sports related organizations. We don't need a large advertising budget, so we make those dollars available to support the community. Many of the donation requests we get start with a reference to long-standing relationships we have with the community and donations that we have made year after year.

WHAT ARE YOUR WORDS TO LIVE BY?

"Life is a journey that's measured not in miles or years but in experiences." - Jimmy Buffet

IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY JOB IN THE WORLD, WHAT WOULD YOU?

I am not sure I would pick a different job! Jim's Wings has allowed me to meet so many people and build relationships that now span decades. We have recently increased our social media presence and

have connected with people who have moved away and still think we have the best wings! We are starting to ship wings, sauce and merchandise to people who have found us again. Most recently, we connected with a fan of ours who now lives in the Netherlands whose friend had made the journey with a couple bottles of our sauce. We really do have some of the best employees, friends and fans!

- Respondent: Jim Dunn, Owner

BEST HOME LIGHTING CO



THE LIGHT CENTER

lightcenterinc.com

2725 S College Ave. • Fort Collins 80525
Phone: 970.226.3430

Years in business: 48
Number of employees: 35



WHAT IS ONE OF YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS?

I recently stepped into a new leadership role at The Light Center when I officially became the majority business owner. My father, Larry Edwards, built The Light Center from the ground up and I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue the legacy and lead The Light Center now as a woman-owned business. Our greatest achievement is cultivating a business that feels like a family and having dedicated employees that make our business successful. We have

two employees who have been here over 35 years, two over 15 years and two over 10 years.

WHAT IS YOUR CLAIM TO FAME?

Our lighting lab. It was started in the early '80s and was so technologically advanced at the time that it was one of the first like

it in the country. We continue to use the lighting lab today as a demonstration room for lighting applications and have expanded it to include educational classes for CSU and Front Range Community College design students, seminars and we are working on showcasing lighting science in the future.

WHAT'S YOUR BEST IDEA FOR AN INVENTION?

We're currently working with United Way and Colorado State University's Institute

for Built Environment on a fascinating case study that looks at how lighting can impact a person's mood and productivity in office spaces with or without windows. We've identified a new technology that can simulate daylight through LED lighting, and the ultimate goal is to provide customized lighting solutions that not only help people be more productive at work, but also help them get a better night's sleep at the end of the day.

WHAT CAUSES DO YOU SUPPORT?

We support organizations like Hope Lives, Neighbor to Neighbor, Project Self-Sufficiency and Homeward Alliance; have provided lighting for the 50' holiday tree for Realities for Children in the past; and provide scholarships for CSU students and donate lighting to local nonprofits. We have also started an innovative giving idea called "Shed Light On A Cause," where we bring a charitable organization in for an evening to showcase their cause and then we donate per person who attends.

- Respondent: Jennifer Guerriero, Owner