

Family Business award winner: Diamond Wire Spring Co.

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JOE WOJCIK

Diamond Wire Spring Co. family members, from left: Don Fazio, president; Gary Schuessler, vice president of manufacturing; Frank Fazio, vice president; Paul Fazio, vice president; Chris Fazio, general manager, Pittsburgh; and Kelley Christy, director of sales and IT

When [Alphonse J. Fazio](#), a [University of Pittsburgh](#) metallurgical engineer, died in 1959 from a heart attack at the age of 49, the future was uncertain for Diamond Wire Spring and its 19 employees.

Against the advice of its board of directors — and the stigma at that time about the role of women in the manufacturing industry — Alphonse Fazio’s wife, Jane Fazio, who was 40 at the time, decided to keep and run the company.

As a result, Diamond has grown from those 19 employees to nearly 100 employees today and now operates manufacturing plants in Pittsburgh, Taylors, S.C., and Tyler, Texas.

“Our mother kept the company running with the intent that if any of her seven children wanted to get into the business, it would be there,” said Donald Fazio, who is president of the third-generation, family-owned business founded by his father in 1939. “None of us were forced into it. As we got older and began working for the company, we felt a sense of pride to keep it going and make it the success it is today.”

Today, there are eight family members involved in the business, which occasionally leads to differing opinions.

“Even though we may have differences, we have each other’s best interests at heart,” Fazio said. “We always come back to what is in the best interest for the business, customers and family.”

Diamond Wire Spring, a North Hills-based manufacturer that makes custom-designed springs, works with customers nationwide from a wide range of industries, including energy and power generation, rail and transportation, oilfield drilling and mining, and medical equipment. The company also sells and markets its own springs through a catalog division that covers specifications for more than 11,000 different springs, including a full line of 316 stainless steel springs.

At a glance:

Founded: 1939

Number of generations that have worked at company: Three

Number of family members currently working at company: Eight

Founder: [Alphonse J. Fazio](#)

Current top officer: Donald G. Fazio, president

What the company does: Manufactures industrial precision springs and wire forms

Employees: 95

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