

It "Dawned" On Me... a message from Dawn Giganti

Dear Creative Carpet & Flooring Friends and Family,

Christmas is here, and I can't help but think about the real reason we celebrate. Jesus, born in a stable, came to bring hope and salvation to everyone. Just as Mary and Joseph needed shelter that first Christmas night, families today still need a place to call home. My Grandma Mona taught me what it means to truly see people in need. She carried blankets, socks, coats, water, and snacks in her car, ready to give to anyone who was homeless. She was my role model. Though she isn't with us anymore, her impact lives on through the ways I can help today.

In early November, my friend Marcus Martin, who founded Grace Beyond Borders, sent me an email asking for prayer. He wrote, "Please pray for our \$12 for our 12th Anniversary fundraiser. My GOAL is to reach 1,000 donors!" I felt called to go above and beyond. I didn't just pray. I forwarded his email to business partners, reached out to Shine.FM, wrote a blog, posted on social media, and increased my own weekly donation. When I told Marcus what I was doing, he said, "WOW! I petitioned GOD and I believe HE led me to you!" I told him I'm not anyone special, just doing what I'm being led to do. Marcus reminded me of 1 Corinthians 12... The foot doesn't function like the ear. The nose doesn't function like the knee. The heart doesn't function like the ankle. BUT all the parts are needed for the body to function properly.

Since 2013, Grace Beyond Borders has been helping people impacted by homelessness and drug addiction right here in Northwest Indiana. They provide food, long-term housing, and a safe space. Marcus is passionate about this being "a hand UP, not a hand out." Just from January to September this year, they've helped 132 children from 46 families who are growing up homeless. A 9-year-old girl at their Women and Children Mission asked if she could lead morning prayer. She prayed, "Thank you GOD for keeping me and my family together. We have gone through a lot of bad and hard stuff. I am begging YOU for a nice place for my family to go to, like this shelter." Can you imagine being that young and having to pray for a place to live this Christmas?

This Christmas season, would you consider helping Grace Beyond Borders reach their goal? Whether it's \$12 or whatever amount feels right to you, every gift transforms and restores lives. As Proverbs 14:31 reminds us,

"Whoever is kind to the needy honors God." ~ Proverbs 14:31 (NIV)

You can give online at www.gracebeyondborders.org or mail a check to Grace Beyond Borders NWI Inc., P.O. Box 92-7, East Chicago, IN 46312. Let's be part of this Christmas miracle! Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

God bless,



Dawn Giganti, Marketing & Administration
Creative Carpet & Flooring

Month at a Glance:

7th Pearl Harbor Day. - Today, we remember & honor the brave men & women who lost their lives at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. We are forever grateful for their sacrifice & service to our nation.

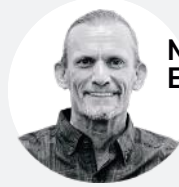
21st Winter Begins - Time to start pretending we enjoy the cold. Break out the heavy coats, crank up the heat, & remember... spring is only 89 days away!

24th - 27th Christmas Holiday. - We will be closed so our team can celebrate the birth of our Savior with their families & loved ones. We wish you a blessed & Merry Christmas!

31st - Jan 1st New Year's Holiday. - We will be closed as we ring in the new year. Wishing you a happy & blessed 2026! We'll see you back on January 2nd.

Employee birthdays this month:

Birthday shout-outs to **1st** Carrie Dolan (Accounts Receivable), **4th** Mark Costigan (Operations Manager), **5th** Tim Kelliher (Commercial Flooring Specialist), **12th** Tammy Bouquet (CEO), & **19th** Alexis Giganti (Pricing & Administration) - another year wiser, still keeping Creative Carpet running like a well-oiled machine.



Mark
Bouquet



Mark
Bouquet Jr.

We promise that you'll love your new floors, or we'll replace them for **FREE!***

*Residential only. Within the first 30 days after installation. Does not include the cost of installation or other labor. The style must be of equal or lesser value.

Inside this issue...

- It "Dawned" On Me... a message from Dawn Giganti
- Month at a Glance
- Welcome Back to Our Returning Clients
- Did You Know...
- ***** Highland Showroom Temporarily Closed for Remodeling Dec 22 - Jan 2 *****
- Why Fruitcake Has Been Around Since Ancient Rome (And Still Nobody Eats It)
- Warning!
- The Real Meaning of Christmas
- Meet Our New Clients
- Mega Trivia Contest
- Meet our Carpet Cleaning Customers
- The Great Christmas Light Arms Race: A Neighborhood Survival Guide
- The Penny That Cost Too Much
- Referral Rewards Program & Referral THANK YOU'S
- This month's "Share Your Reiew" \$25 gift card winner!

December 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	01	02	03	04	05	06
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 CLOSED	25 CLOSED	26 CLOSED	27 CLOSED
28	29	30	31 CLOSED			

Welcome Back Valued Friends!

Adam Gynac	Darren Wesson	John Gountounas	Norm Faber
Alison Byrne	Debbie & Larry Gassper	Karen Hartmann	Oliver Williams
Andrea Johnston	Debra Link	Kim Syrios	Pamela Toth
Ben Kamp	Ed Webster	Laura Smith	Philip & Dana Krizmanic
Brad & Linda Subler	Harolene Lamm & George Tatoole	Lauri Stevenson	Ramona Davis
Bret Garrison	Harry Mabry	Linda & Thomas Murray	Steven & Emily Vaccaro
Cathy Majchrzak	Jan Mazza	Maggie Jensen	Sue Degutis
Charlotte Brown	Jim & Jean Petrik	Marcus Cepkauskas	Tina Flynn
Cheryl Gutierrez	John & Sheri Kolarik	Mark Toth	Wayne Barkus



**WELCOME
BACK!**



DID YOU KNOW?

**All of our past newsletters
are available online!**

Visit our Newsletter Archives page at creativecarpetinc.com/newsletter-archives/ to browse previous issues anytime. From the archive page, you can sign up for our free e-newsletter. Want to save a tree? Email marketing@creativecarpetinc.com to be removed from our mailed newsletter list and receive a monthly email reminder instead.



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The Real Meaning of Christmas

Every December, someone announces we've "lost the true meaning of Christmas" while fighting over a parking spot. So here's a reminder. Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. God looked at humanity's mess & said "I'm going in personally." He showed up as a baby in a stable with confused shepherds & barnyard animals. Not the grand entrance you'd expect from the Creator of the universe, but that was the point. Jesus came humbly to show that God's love is for everyone. The shepherds, the outcasts, the people who smell like sheep. All of us. That's why Christians celebrate. It's about hope, grace, & God showing up for humanity. The lights, cookies, & carols? They flow from that good news. Christmas has picked up extras over the centuries, but at the center is still that baby in a manger & the revolutionary message that changed everything.



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Highland Showroom Temporarily Closed for Remodeling

Our Highland, Indiana showroom will be closed for exciting renovations from Monday, December 22, 2025, and will reopen on Monday, January 2, 2026. Our Mokena, Illinois showroom will remain open during this time with regular hours. Our Highland sales team will continue working remotely and remains available to assist you by phone. We're here to help with all your needs throughout the holidays. We look forward to welcoming you to our refreshed Highland space in the new year!



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Why Fruitcake Has Been Around Since Ancient Rome (And Still Nobody Eats It)

Fruitcake is the cockroach of the dessert world. It has survived everything from the fall of Rome to your Aunt Karen's cooking experiments, and it will probably outlive us all.

This immortal brick of candied fruit and regret dates back to ancient Rome, where people mixed barley, pomegranate seeds, nuts, and raisins into an energy bar for soldiers. It made sense back then. No refrigeration was needed, something that wouldn't spoil on long marches, and taste was optional when you were busy conquering Europe.

Fast forward through the Middle Ages, when honey and spices got added to the mix. By the 18th century, fruitcake became a Christmas tradition in Europe because dried fruit and nuts were winter luxuries. Also, all that sugar and alcohol acted as preservatives, meaning the cake could last for months. Or years. Or possibly forever.

Here's where things get weird. Fruitcake can genuinely last for decades if stored properly. There are documented fruitcakes from the early 1900s that are still technically edible, though "edible" is doing a lot of heavy lifting in that sentence. Some families pass down the same fruitcake through generations like a cursed heirloom.

This has led to the greatest running joke in holiday history. There's only one fruitcake in existence, and it just keeps getting rewrapped and regifted in an endless cycle of Christmas torture. You receive it, act grateful, store it in the back of your pantry, forget about it for 11 months, then wrap it up for someone else. The fruitcake never dies. It only changes hands.

So why do people keep making them? Tradition, mostly. Also, some people genuinely like fruitcake, though they're about as common as people who enjoy airline food. Every year, bakeries churn out millions of fruitcakes that will be gifted, received with forced smiles, and quietly disposed of when nobody's looking.

The fruitcake has survived empires, wars, and the invention of actually good desserts. At this point, it's less of a food and more of a holiday ritual. A delicious reminder that some traditions persist not because they're beloved, but because nobody has the heart to kill them. Or maybe everyone's just waiting for their turn to regift it.

Roll Out the Welcome Mat for Our Newest Friends!

Alan White	Brian Nemeth	Earl & Maria Robinson	Joann Kilroy	Marilyn Huyck	Sean Maloney
Andrea Mazerik	Carol Wynn	Erin Salamon	John & Beth Sandor	Mary Condes	Sheila Dvorak
Angelica Rossi	Cheri Triemstra	Eugene & Barbara Jablonski	Judy Brown	Michael Cimarolli	Stephanie Mccloughan
Barb Diehl	Cody Weissler	Frank Petrich	Kathleen Rowe	Nura Soboh	Therese Boric
Bev & John Hmurovic	Connie Borbely	Jason Sessions	Kathy & Ed Young	Pamela Tranberg	Tom Dornan
Beverly Cipowski	Dan Head	Jayne Jackson	Kathy Lofrano	Phillip Nash	Tom Duffy
BJ & Melinda McDonald	David & Barbara Childs	Jeff & Rocio White	Kevin & Megan Pawlak	Rebecca Ciastko	Virginia Jasieniecki
Bob McCann	Denise Knapp	Jeff & Teresa Long	Letitia Kilijanski	Rich Bonzani	
Brian Jordan	Don & Joan Muntean	Jennifer & John Costa	Lois Jancich	Robert Scott	



Home for the Holidays SALE



\$150 OFF PURCHASES OVER \$1000

~OR~

\$600 OFF PURCHASES OVER \$4000

Too busy with the holiday rush to even consider flooring installation? **Buy now to lock in 2025 prices and schedule installation after the holidays!**

Offer valid December 1 - 31, 2025

Note: Offer cannot be combined with other coupons, sales, or promotions. Valid on new flooring orders with installation only.

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GIVING THE GIFT OF WARMTH



Help homeless families get through this winter season by giving the gift of warmth. We are collecting the following items:

- **WINTER COATS** – All sizes from infant to adult and extended sizes are needed.
- **WINTER ACCESSORIES** – Snow pants, hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, and boots.
- **BLANKETS & SLEEPING BAGS** – gently used or new blankets and sleeping bags.
- **SOCKS** – These are the most needed and least donated items.

Please note we can only accept donations of items that are new or gently used, without broken zippers, rips, or tears.

Thank you for helping keep those less fortunate warm this winter!

ILLINOIS

There are an estimated **25,832** people experience homelessness
20 people homeless per 10,000*
Items brought to our Mokena, IL showroom will benefit:



MorningStar Mission™

morningstarmission.org
 (815)722-5780
 info@morningstarmission.org

*<https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/homelessness-statistics/state-of-homelessness/>

INDIANA

There are an estimated **6,285** people experiencing homelessness
9 people homeless per 10,000*
Items brought to our Highland, IN showroom will benefit:



GRACE BEYOND BORDERS

gracebeyondborders.org
 (219)712-5192
 marcusm@gracebeyondborders.org

Receive a \$25 Creative Carpet & Flooring Gift Card

JUST FOR STOPPING IN & DONATING

A small thanks for helping. Give as a gift or keep for yourself to use anytime. So many uses...

- New flooring or complement any hard surface floor with a pre-made or custom area rug
- Carpet cleaning after the winter season is over
- Cleaning products like our Karndean hard surface cleaner or our very own Spot Remover for Carpets & Upholstery

December 1-31, 2025 • One gift card per household



MEGA Trivia Contest

Win \$100 off our online store
Shop.CreativeCarpetInc.com or a
\$50 restaurant gift card to



This month's Mega Trivia question:

Since 2015, where has Chicago's official city Christmas tree been displayed each holiday season?

- (A) Navy Pier
- (B) Millennium Park
- (C) Grant Park
- (D) Daley Plaza

Join the fun at creativecarpetinc.com! Hit the 'MEGA Trivia' tab under 'Specials,' and take your guess on our monthly question between the 1st and the 20th. The drawing will take place on the 21st for all who answered correctly. The winner will be announced in next month's newsletter. Don't forget, entries close on the 20th. Best of luck!

Last month's question:

In what year was the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (now Indiana Dunes National Park) officially established in November?

(C) 1966

On November 5, 1966, Congress passed Public Law 89-761, officially establishing the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and protecting more than fifteen thousand acres of dunes, wetlands, prairies, and shoreline along Lake Michigan. This achievement followed years of determined conservation efforts by local residents and environmental advocates who wanted to safeguard the region from industrial development, and their success eventually laid the groundwork for its redesignation in 2019 as Indiana Dunes National Park, the sixty first national park in the country.

Congratulations to last month's winner:

LEONARD KOZLOWSKI

OF DYER, IN

Claim your prize by visiting your nearest Creative Carpet & Flooring showroom from December 1 - 30, 2025. Thanks for taking part in our contest! Enjoy your prize!

MEET OUR CARPET CLEANING CIRCLE...

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Barbara Zerth
Bernard & Penny Oreilly
Bridgette Peal
Carol Ann & David Geary
Ethel Young
Faye Predny
Gisela Lindsay

Janice Sausman
Jennifer Heemstra
John Loseman
Kathleen Hoster
Larry & Marian Stevens
Leo Kanwischer
Martha Latko
Mary Ellen Brabec

Maryann Kieldyk
Ruth McGuire
Sonja & Byron Winburn
Steve & Nancy Rockwood
Sylvia Triumph
Tammy Lord
Tiffany & Raul Maldonado
Todd & Debbie Dykton

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The Great Christmas Light Arms Race: A Neighborhood Survival Guide

It starts innocently enough. Your neighbor puts up some tasteful white lights along the roofline. Classy. Elegant. Then someone two doors down adds a glowing reindeer. Before you know it, the whole street has turned into a full-scale Christmas light war zone, and your house is the only dark spot visible from Google Earth. Welcome to the Great Christmas Light Arms Race, where good taste goes to die and electric bills go to the moon. It always follows the same pattern. Week one brings simple strands of lights. Week two adds inflatable Santas. By week three, someone has a synchronized light show set to Mariah Carey, and the neighbors are taking sides. There's always that one house that goes full Clark Griswold, with so many lights the International Space Station uses it for navigation. You can hear their electric meter spinning from three blocks away. So how do you compete without turning your house into a fire hazard or your electric bill into a car payment? Here are some survival tips.

- Go strategic, not massive. One well-lit focal point beats a thousand random bulbs. A beautifully lit tree in the window or a wreath with spotlights can look just as impressive as covering every surface.
- Use LEDs. They use 75% less energy than old-school incandescent bulbs and last way longer. Your wallet and your circuit breaker will thank you.
- Embrace the timer. Set your lights to turn off at a reasonable hour, like 10 or 11 PM. Your electric bill drops, you avoid angry neighbors, and you look responsible. Win-win-win.
- Remember that less can be more. Not every surface needs lights. Sometimes the house with tasteful restraint stands out more than the one trying to recreate Times Square.
- And if all else fails, just put up a sign that says "Our Christmas spirit is on the inside." Then go enjoy some hot chocolate while your neighbors argue about whose inflatable snowman is blocking whose driveway.

The real winner of the Christmas light wars? The one who enjoys the season without needing a second mortgage to pay the power company.

The Penny That Cost Too Much



Making a penny costs way more than a penny is worth. In 2025, it cost 3.69 cents to make a single penny. That's right, the U.S. government was losing money on every single one. This money pit finally came to an end on November 12, 2025, when the U.S. stopped making new pennies after 232 years. The ones already floating around can still be used, but no fresh pennies will join them. It wasn't always this bad. Back in 2005, a penny only cost 0.97 cents to make. But the following year, costs jumped to 1.23 cents and never looked back. The penny has tried to slim down its budget over the years. In 1857, it shrank in size when copper prices went up. In 1982, it switched to being mostly zinc with just a copper shell. But rising material costs aren't the only culprit. Most pennies handed out as change never actually circulate again. They end up in jars, couch cushions, and forgotten drawers. The New York Times called this the "perpetual penny paradox." Two-thirds of the billions minted each year (3.2 billion in 2024) vanish after reaching people's pockets. Nickels have the same problem: they cost 13.78 cents each in 2024, but at least we make fewer of them. The penny debate raged for decades. Some said it helped low-income families and charities. Others called it a financial and environmental disaster. By 2025, there were about 300 billion pennies in America. That's over 800 per person. Time to check your couch cushions.

Thank you to...

Barbara & Kris Bulian
Andrea & Chris Farry
Edward Young
Janet Joyce
Jason & Nicole Smit
Mary Graefen
Susan Zuck
Wayne Herold
Jeff Karnia
Jim Wierman
Sharon Kenney



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As you probably know, advertising is costly. Instead of paying the newspaper or other places to advertise, we'd rather reward you. Every time you refer someone who becomes a client and makes a purchase, we will send you a \$25 restaurant gift card to have dinner on us! For details, visit:

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MON	10am	6pm
TUE	10am	8pm
WED	10am	6pm
THR	10am	8pm
FRI	10am	6pm
SAT	10am	4pm
SUN	closed	

Creative Carpet & Flooring did a wonderful job from beginning to end. The rep in the store was very courteous and informative, and the installers did a fantastic job. Would hire them again.



MON	9am	6pm
TUE	9am	6pm
WED	10am	6pm
THR	9am	6pm
FRI	9am	6pm
SAT	10am	4pm
SUN	closed	



CreativeCarpetInc.com/share-your-review

Camille Caldwell of Hammond, IN
This month's \$25 Target gift card winner!



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