

# PROFILE

## Member Profile

### JC Milling Co. celebrates 40 years in business

By Paul Anthony Arco

Dean Svarc didn't know anything about Rockford. "I had never even been to Rockford," said the Chicago native. So he was taking a chance, four years ago, when he purchased JC Milling Co., a state-of-the-art precision CNC machine shop.

JC Milling makes parts for a variety of industries around the country including gas and oil, medical, aerospace, manufacturing, automotive and military applications. The company's capabilities include precision CNC machining, milling, turning, grinding as well as cutting tool design.

In 2015, Dean Svarc bought the business from original owners John and Helen Czackowski, who opened the shop in 1979. John worked for Ingersoll before he started JC Milling on the side. Svarc saw a world of potential. "The core of the company was great," he said. "The quality was excellent and the personnel had tremendous skills. There were some improvements to efficiencies that I thought needed to be made."

The change in ownership was an adjustment for the employees. "They were used to a certain way of things being done," said Svarc, who increased the number of employees from 18 to more than 30, added

eight additional CNC machines, upgraded the IT infrastructure and added 36 more computers. These changes eventually led to moving the operations from Loves Park to Machesney Park. "We spent a considerable amount of money getting the facility to be a good representation of the type of work and culture we have at JC Milling."

#### Taking a Career Leap

Svarc's interest in becoming a machinist started in high school and continued at the College of Lake County. He participated in a national organization called Vocational Industrial Clubs of America, which is now known as SkillsUSA. Svarc's school competed against other schools both locally and nationally. "Large companies brought their machines to the competition, and we were given a part that we had to make to spec in a designated timeframe," he said. "It was a big deal back then. All the people who owned shops attended these competitions. It was a chance to prove yourself to people who were looking to hire machinists."

Svarc became a journeyman machinist. He worked for several CNC machining companies, starting on manual machines and working up to CNCs and programming, while also

working as a mechanic on the side. He eventually left the machine business and spent 12 years as a business systems analyst and worked his way up to a senior project manager at Abbott Laboratories. Even though he enjoyed the machining profession, Svarc made a career change, when business began to go overseas.

But after years of saving money, Svarc and his wife, Dominique, decided to get back in the game professionally and purchase a precision machine shop. They moved from McHenry to the Rockford area when they acquired JC Milling.

Much has changed for JC Milling, who was nominated as the Rockford Chamber's Manufacturer of the Year. Svarc started JC University, an in-house 18-week training program for production employees. He also brought in a 401K, profit sharing program; beefed up employee benefits, such as absorbing all the insurance costs increases for 2019; a low \$500 deductible for insurance and

#### JC MILLING

President: Dean Svarc  
1275 Turret Dr., Machesney Park  
815-654-1070  
[www.jcmilling.com](http://www.jcmilling.com)



*Dean and Dominique Svarc moved to Rockford to acquire JC Milling and in a few years have significantly grown the business.*

continuing the Christmas bonus program.

"We have a great team full of excellent people," he said. "We are a company known for high quality. And we have the ability to grow in the future."

For Svarc, there has been a learning curve when it comes to running his own business. But he has no regrets.

"We love Rockford," he said. "There's a hometown feel here with plenty of pride. We've received so much support from Rock Valley College, RAEDC, the chamber and others. We're proud to be here."