



If you really think about it, plumbers are America's unsung heroes.

Police officers and firefighters put their lives on the line to save others, and that's why it's easy to sing their praises.

Doctors' daily business is saving lives, so they've got their share of tunes.

Teachers face rooms full of unruly children who are far from the apple-cheeked angels of Norman Rockwell paintings, but even teachers have tunes extolling their virtues.

Plumbers, on the other hand, face daily the grossest, smelliest, and downright ickiest elements of humanity. And that's not all.

"Plumbers protect the health and safety of the nation," says Teresa Freer, co-owner of P.F. Plumbing Contractors, Inc. "Without them, we'd be a third-world country."

Yet with the exception of a song by parodist Weird Al Yankovic ("The Plumbing Song"), one would be hard-pressed to find ballads championing these valiant, hard-working men and women who make sure your toilet flushes and that water runs smoothly down your kitchen sink drain.

"We are professionals," Freer says. "We aren't just a trade."

P.F. Plumbing has been doing the Triad's "dirty work" since 1985, when Paul Freer (the "P.F." of P.F. Plumbing) first began his business with nothing more than a truck and a small storage building in Clemmons. His wife, Teresa, worked at a nursing home and helped her husband with his growing business whenever she could.

Since those humble beginnings, P.F. Plumbing has grown to sixty employees and has diversified into services running the gamut from ridding the pipes of whatever the heck it is your toddler tried to flush down them to creating the infrastructure that allows new housing and business developments to grow.

"We pride ourselves on offering a diverse array of services to our customers that provide exceptional quality, value, and service," Teresa Freer says. "We value quality and integrity while providing a positive working environment for our biggest asset: our employees."

One of the company's best-known and best-loved employees doesn't even have opposable thumbs. He's Cooper, a two-year-old English bulldog familiar to anyone who has seen one of P.F. Plumbing's commercials, billboards, or print ads.

In real life, Cooper belongs to Paul and Teresa's daughter, Lauren, and he's probably not going to be the one to unclog your drain. Nonetheless, in his ads, Cooper wears a hard hat and carries a

pipe wrench in his teeth. He may not be pretty to some, but he looks like he could handle the toughest of jobs. "We just feel like he fits in with the construction industry somehow," Freer says with a laugh.

The Plumber Protects the Health of the Nation



P.F. Plumbing tries to bring its commitment to quality and integrity – as well as its human-sized Cooper mascot – into the community as well. The company belongs to the Better Business Bureau and the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce. It helps

with a food pantry in Clemmons. It's in the beginning stages of planning a 5K charity fundraiser for the fall and, says Freer, "a benefit for Brenner's (Brenner Children's Hospital) in the near future."

First up at bat, however, is P.F. Plumbing Contractors, Inc. Night at BB & T Ballpark on July 24. The Dash will be battling the Carolina Mudcats. The first 150 fans will receive a free P.F. Plumbing T-shirt, and maybe they'll rub elbows with Cooper...well, sort of.

"It will be too hot for the real Cooper," Freer says. "He can't be outside if the temperature is above 70 degrees." In his place will be the aforementioned human-sized mascot.

Supporting local businesses and charities, a commitment to integrity and quality...These are what P.F. Plumbing Contractors, Inc. is all about.

Now, someone, go out and write these hard-working corporate citizens and professionals a ballad to rival The Beatles' "Doctor Robert" or Van Halen's "Hot for Teacher."



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