

# GBS BUILDING SUPPLY

**GBS BUILDING SUPPLY HAS A FORTY-YEAR FOUNDATION** of steady growth, including recognition as one of the 20 fastest-growing large companies in South Carolina for three years running. The company recently completed a strategic transaction that will allow GBS to grow even more rapidly - while maintaining the local accountability that has been the hallmark of the company since 1972.

"We have joined U.S. LBM, the nation's 3rd largest building products distributor, as one of their operating companies. Our partnership with U.S. LBM affords us the capital we need to grow our business even faster than we were already growing," said CEO Bob Barreto.

Under the arrangement, GBS remains an autonomous company with all decisions made at the local level to meet the needs of local customers. "We feel we have the best of both worlds," Barreto said.

Now 130 employees strong, Barreto says unmatched service is still priority one at GBS, along with offering the best, longest-lasting products. "We don't look for volume; we pursue quality," Barreto said, "which gets us volume."

Barreto has been with the company for five years, but with an extensive list of long-term employees, he's still considered "the new guy." His favorite aspect of the work has been getting to know both the employees and the clients GBS serves. "I've been fortunate to work in a lot of industries, but the GBS team and our customers - they are all really great, hard-working people who are committed to their business."

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That commitment shines through at each of the company's five locations where Store Managers (pictured below with Barreto) set the tone for success. Team members greet loyal customers by name and offer expertise on a wide range of products including lumber, windows, millwork, cabinetry, roofing, siding, decking, drywall, and more.

Barreto encourages "out of the box" thinking in all aspects of the business, which cultivates a team full of energy, passion, and a desire to always be at the top of their game. "We brainstorm big ideas and then execute them," states Barreto, adding, "It's an exciting time to be in this industry, but most importantly, at GBS."



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*Pictured from left to right:  
Bronson Whiteside, Director of Operations; Jason Merck, Manager, Six Mile location;  
Terry Mattress, Manager, Anderson location; Bob Barreto, CEO; and James Whiteside,  
Manager, Hendersonville, NC location.*

