

Dan Leonard

Dan Leonard knew a career in the hospitality industry was a good fit from the moment he began washing dishes at his neighbor's bar at an early age. He was drawn to the fast-paced environment, working with a variety of people and the never-ending challenges and rewards that restaurant/hotel professionals encounter on a daily basis.

Dan began his hospitality career at his neighborhood McDonald's restaurant in Chicago, where he learned and practiced the McDonald's corporate motto and operating philosophy of QSC&V (Quality, Service, Cleanliness and Value), which he carried on throughout his career.

While attending Triton College, Dan moved into the full-service restaurant segment at The Rusty Scupper Restaurant in River Grove, Ill. During his 15-year career at The Rusty Scupper, Dan started as a cook and worked his way up to a management position.

He later joined Planet Hollywood Restaurant Company at their inception and helped grow the chain from three restaurants to over 40. Highlights include opening and operating the chain's highest grossing restaurant at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla., before being promoted to east coast regional director, overseeing the expansion and operations of over 15 restaurants from New York City to Key West, Fla.

For the past 20 years, Dan has been with Margaritaville Hospitality Group. He was hired as the opening general manager of Margaritaville at Universal Studios in Florida with a goal of spearheading future growth. Dan was promoted to president of Margaritaville Hospitality in 2007 and now focuses on the growth, operations and profitability of the brands expanding lodging division.

Throughout his career Dan has been active in the community, participating in numerous fundraising events including: **Summer Time to Give**, which collects summer toys and cloths for kids in need; **Fins Up Charity Softball Tournament**, benefitting St. Patrick High School Scholarship Fund; and volunteering for the **American Cancer Society**. Dan also spent eight years as a **volunteer firefighter** for the city of Savage, Minn.

Dan is a native of Chicago, Ill., and is a graduate of St. Patrick High School and Triton College. He is married and is the proud father of a son and daughter, currently residing in Orlando, Florida.