



Dan Carter reviews plans on the site of the Highway 66 widening project in Sevier County, Tn.

Dan Carter

In 2009 talk about lay-offs at contractor Charles Blalock and Sons, Inc. began to circulate through the workplace. Dan Carter, a project superintendent, knew the economic downturn and lack of business meant keeping employees on the payroll was tough, but he didn't worry for himself, he thought about his crew, "I told my guys what would take place if work did not pick up."

While Blalock considered cutting 75 positions, the father of five, with 13 grandchildren avoided talking about a potential cut-back to his family. "I had faith they would come up with something for us to do to keep us going."

Among the 2,500 co-workers on Carter's mind was his son, Jason Lynn Carter, who began working with Blalock right out of high school. "I was more concerned about Jason Lynn keeping his job and being able to feed his family," Carter said about his son who is now a foreman.

When news that Blalock had secured Tennessee's largest project funded through the Recovery Act, a \$38.6 million widening project near Sevierville, Carter and his family celebrated. "I was relieved that my men could stay and work and I could be productive. I felt better about the situation."

In June 2009, Carter and his crew started work to widen one of Tennessee's busiest tourist routes, Highway 66, from State Route 338 to Nichols Street in Sevierville and Carter is optimistic about the future. After finishing their work on the Highway 66 job, he and his crew have moved on to work on other projects in East Tennessee. Carter knows that work would not have been possible without the Recovery Act. "I hope the industry will continue to recover and survive the economy ."