Mark Reasbeck's <u>www.USAonly.US</u> website still going strong By Allison Hawkins

What a difference a year can make. Last year on July 4, Mark Reasbeck launched his website <u>www.USAonly.US</u> from a desire and passion to feature companies that made and sold products in the USA. At the time, he had around 100 companies. Today, he has 486 companies which employee over 14, 411 Americans.

The Mirror sat down with Reasbeck and asked him about this first year of running the website. "Well, I started recruiting, just like a job. I got up in the morning and called companies I had found and wanted to recruit. I called the East coast in the morning and then the West coast in the afternoons. That's become a full time job." Each month he would aim at getting 40 to 50 companies to sign up for his website.

Then, in March of this year, someone sent him a link about ABC News doing a series on Made in America. In the story/video a family in Texas agreed to have everything in their house not made in America to be removed. Well, when they finished, literally all the family had left in the house was the kitchen sink and a couple of knick knacks. The computers, refrigerator, the toilets, the beds and sheets, the TVs were all made in China or Taiwan but not here in the U.S. The next video showed the difficulty that the family had trying to find American made products to fill the house back up and then the last video showed the merchandise arriving.

When Reasbeck saw the family looking for the American made businesses, he decided to jump on it. After chasing link after link at the ABC news website, finally got hold of the correspondent's assistant. He said, "I thought, I've only got five good minutes that I can really explain what I'm doing." He explained to her about his website and how with the 325 companies he had listed at the time it could have furnished that family's house. The assistant gave Reasbeck the correspondent's personal email and he emailed her. He got a response back in four minutes!

The correspondent's message was along the lines of, "Oh my gosh, I wish I had known about this when I was looking for these companies." Reasbeck emailed back and let her know that maybe they could do a story on his website and a few others that were doing similar things. She replied with an email that she would work on it. That was on a Monday or Tuesday.

That Friday evening, Reasbeck returned from a dinner and checked his email. He saw that he had 17 companies signed up for his website. "That never happens," he said. "I have to recruit everyone," he added. He went back to the ABC website. There was a map of the states which was updating U.S. companies and putting them on the map. Underneath it said, "Click here for American made websites. So he clicked on it and there was the video with Diane Sawyer and a list of websites. His was at the top of the list and still is today. The next few weeks he added 120 companies and had over 90K hits on his website.

Each company on his website gets a bio, what they sell, and, if the owner wants, his view on America. He also tries to add a picture of the owner and employees to give a face to the business. They also have a small stage box to give their views on America. All the pages are the same size and it's free to sign up. The website is user-friendly and companies are listed by state, name and product.

One addition to the site is Reasbeck's blog called Mark My Words. This is his platform on tackling issues that are slowly down, if not outright hindering, this country's recovery. He has had correspondence with national media figures who have emailed him letting him know that they agree with him. What's next for USAonly.US? "Advertising," he answered. He hasn't worked all the details but he's still as passionate about this project as he was at the beginning. For more information, go to <u>www.USAonly.US</u>

CAPTION-YOU CAN STILL BUY GOOD QUALITY PRODUCTS HERE IN THE USA.-Mark Reasbeck's website <u>www.USAonly.US</u> lists companies that make and sell all types of products made in America. This photo shows the homepage and it is easy to navigate.