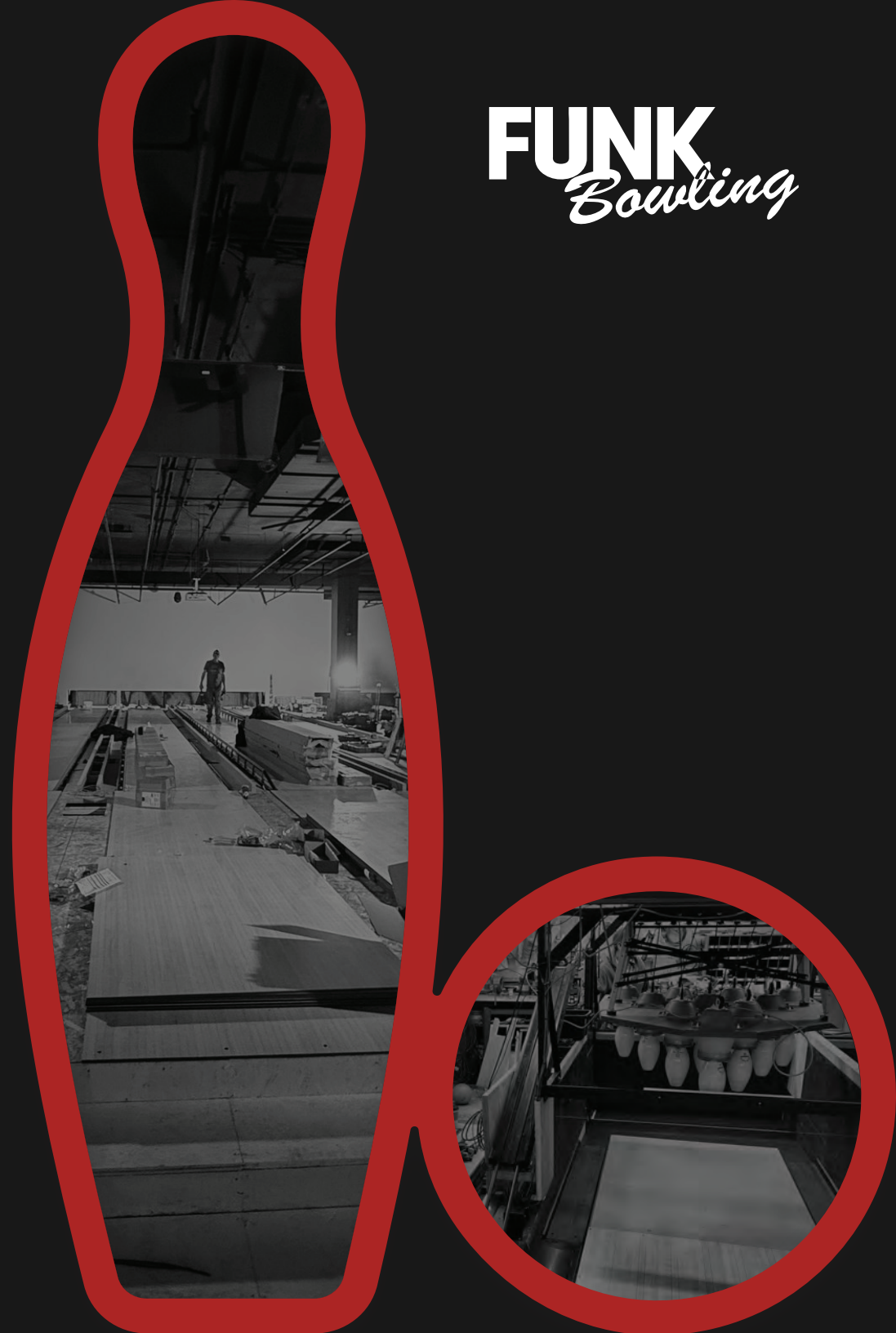


REAL LIFE CUSTOMER STORIES

FUNK
Bowling

**THE IMPACT OF
STRING PINSETTERS.**

REAL CENTERS. REAL RESULTS. REAL PEOPLE.



FUNK *Bowling*



WE ARE FUNK BOWLING — MORE THAN JUST PINSETTERS

Every bowling center has a story.

Some have been in the same family for generations. Some are community landmarks that have served bowlers for decades. Others are new ventures created by owners with a vision for the future.

While every center is unique, the challenges are often the same.

Finding qualified mechanics. Managing maintenance costs. Keeping aging equipment running. Creating a safe environment for employees. Balancing operating expenses while continuing to provide a great experience for customers.

At Funk Bowling, we've spent decades helping proprietors solve those challenges.

Long before string pinsetters became widely discussed in North America, Funk Bowling was designing, manufacturing, and installing them around the world. When the United States Bowling Congress approved string pinsetters for certified competition, Funk Bowling was proud to be among the first manufacturers to receive USBC certification.

Today, bowlers across the country compete on fully sanctioned USBC-certified Funk String Pinsetters every day.

But our story has never been about machines.

It's about people.

It's about proprietors who want to spend more time growing their business and less time repairing equipment. It's about families who want to enjoy vacations without worrying about emergency service calls. It's about communities bringing abandoned bowling centers back to life.

K BOWL NAAS



NAAS, IRELAND



For the first time in years, I could go on vacation without worrying about the center. That may sound normal to most people, but for us, it changed everything.

— Liam Kearney, K Bowl Naas

For years, K Bowl Naas was held together by experience, hard work, and one owner who knew every corner of his machines.

Liam had always been more than the operator of the centre. He was the mechanic, the problem-solver, the person everyone depended on when something went wrong. His wife helped run the business, and the front desk team kept the customer side moving, but behind the scenes the pressure of the old free-fall machines kept landing back on Liam.

Across 12 lanes, that pressure grew over time. More adjustments. More interruptions. More moments where league play or a customer session could

be disrupted by a technical problem. The centre could run, but it could not truly run without him.

That is the hidden weight many traditional bowling operators understand immediately. The business is open seven days a week. Customers expect everything to work. And even when you are not physically in the building, your mind is still there.

Before making the decision, Liam and his wife came to Germany. They wanted to see more than a product. They wanted to see the factory, the people, the family, and





the company that would be trusted with the heart of their bowling centre.

The project became more than a pinsetter replacement. Funk modernized K Bowl Naas with string machines, new bumpers, gutters, ball returns, and a complete scoring revamp. The result was not just newer equipment. It changed the rhythm of daily life inside the centre.

Routine checks became simpler. Downtime dropped. The staff could focus more on guests and daily operations instead of constantly reacting to technical problems. The centre became calmer, more predictable, and easier to run.

But the real story came after the installation, when Liam told Alex Funk what the change had meant personally.

Funk did not just replace old machines at K Bowl Naas.

It helped give an owner his life back.

BOWLING CITY RÉUNION



SAINT-DENIS, RÉUNION ISLAND



Funk did not just install equipment on Réunion Island. It helped a father hand over his center without handing over the burden.

— Max Moreau, Bowling City Réunion

At Bowling City Réunion, the project began with a simple plan.

Funk was coming to Saint-Denis, on Réunion Island, for what looked like a straightforward 12-lane string and scoring conversion. The equipment was shipped across the world in two 40-foot containers. The German installation team traveled more than 17 hours to reach the island. The work was planned, the scope was clear, and everyone expected a demanding but manageable project.

But for Max Moreau, this was never just about new machines.

Max was the owner, but he was also the mechanic. For years, he had carried the weight of the old free-fall machines himself. He knew the breakdowns, the fixes, the pressure, and the constant responsibility that comes with keeping an older bowling center alive.

Now he was preparing to pass the center to the next generation - to his daughter, Amandine.

And as one of his final acts before handing it over, Max wanted to make sure he was not passing the same burden on to her.

He wanted Amandine to inherit the center, not the daily pain of old machines.





Once the Funk team opened the lanes, the project changed immediately. Under the existing structure, they discovered severe termite damage. The wooden foundation that was supposed to stay could not be saved. A big disaster as all the equipment was removed and the team was on site.

On an island in the Indian Ocean, that is not a small problem.

There was no easy supply chain. No warehouse around the corner. No simple way to replace everything overnight. Funk's team had to work with what could be found locally, and Amandine stepped into the project with them.

She helped every step along the way. She connected the team with a local carpenter.

She helped organize support on the island. She took responsibility not as someone watching from the side, but as someone already carrying the future of the center.

In the end, Bowling City Réunion was not just converted to string machines and modern scoring.

It was rebuilt for the next generation.

Max had spent years carrying the mechanical burden of the old center. With this project, he gave Amandine something different: a center with a future, a team around her, and the chance to run it without inheriting the same weight he had carried for so long.

LANGAN'S ALL-STAR LANES



WALLED LAKE, MICHIGAN



It was never a question of if we were going to switch. The question was which company we were going to choose. The reliability has been outstanding. The machines just work.

— Mike Langan, Langan's All-Star Lanes

When Mike Langan, owner of Langan's All-Star Lanes in Wall Lake, Michigan, decided to convert to string pinsetters, it wasn't because his center was struggling. In fact, the operation was running well. He had a strong team, a capable mechanic, and a successful business. But Mike has always been a proprietor who looks toward the future rather than waiting for change to force his hand.

As a third-generation bowling center owner, Mike understands the importance of planning ahead. Long before USBC approved string pinsetters for certified competition, he recognized where the industry was headed. He wanted to position the business for long-term success and create a smoother path

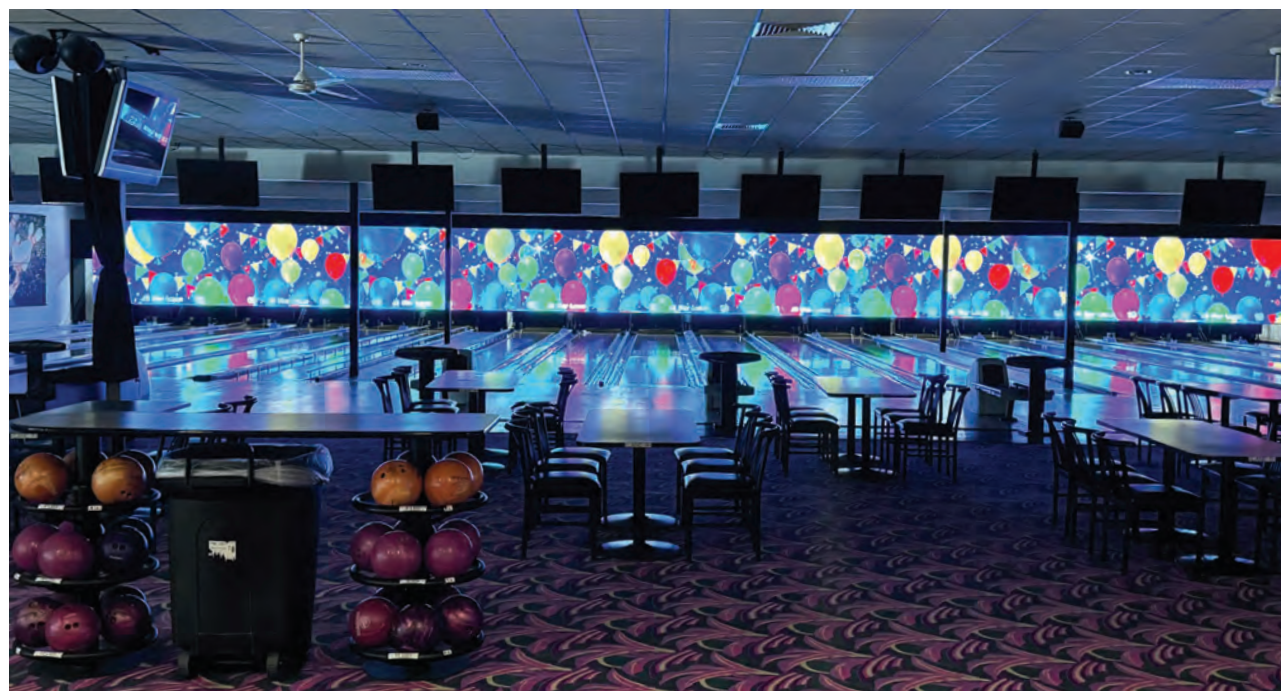
for future generations without the burden of maintaining aging free-fall equipment.

Mike met with every major manufacturer of string pinsetters before making his decision. After evaluating the options, Funk Bowling stood out from the rest. He was impressed by the simplicity, reliability, and design of the Funk pinsetter and felt confident it was the right fit for his center.

Three years after installation, that decision has proven itself.

Since converting to Funk string pinsetters, Mike has experienced virtually no major issues with the machines and has not had to replace any significant components.





He appreciates how much quieter, cleaner, and easier they are to maintain compared to traditional free-fall equipment.

The benefits have extended well beyond maintenance. Mike reports that his electrical costs are now roughly one-third of what they were before the conversion, creating substantial long-term savings for the business. At the same time, his league business, party business, and open play have all continued to grow since making the switch.

For Mike, the success of the conversion has reinforced his belief that string pinsetters represent the future of bowling. As someone whose family has been involved in the bowling industry for generations, he sees the technology as a smarter, safer, and more

sustainable path forward for bowling centers of all sizes.

"Funk has exceeded our expectations," Mike says. "If we install string pinsetters at any future locations, they'll be Funk."

Today, Mike remains one of Funk Bowling's strongest advocates and is happy to share his experience with other proprietors who are considering making the transition.

"If anyone has questions about our experience, they're welcome to call me personally at 248-669-5400. I'll tell them exactly what I tell everyone else—the decision to switch to Funk Bowling has been one of the best decisions we've made for our business."

LOKAY LANES



MONROEVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA



Looking back, we're extremely happy with our decision. The transition was smoother than many people expected, the equipment has performed exceptionally well, and our bowlers have embraced it. We believe we made the right choice for the future of our business.

— Justin and John Lokay, Lokay Lanes

When Justin and John Lokay took over the operation of Lokay Lanes in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, they inherited more than just a bowling center—they inherited a family legacy.

As second-generation proprietors, both brothers brought extensive business experience and a long-term vision. Having successfully operated businesses outside of bowling, they were committed to improving the operation while preserving what had made Lokay Lanes successful for decades.

One challenge stood out immediately: the future of pinsetter maintenance.

Like many bowling centers across the country, Lokay Lanes relied on experienced technicians to keep its free-fall pinsetters running. Their longtime mechanic was approaching retirement,

and Justin and John recognized that finding and training a replacement would become increasingly difficult.

At the same time, they were closely following developments in string pinsetter technology.

As a center built primarily around league bowling, the brothers were initially cautious. Before USBC certification, converting to string pinsetters simply wasn't a realistic option. But when USBC officially approved string pinsetters for certified competition, everything changed.

"We immediately started doing our homework," Justin recalls. "We met with every major string pinsetter manufacturer and looked carefully at all of the options."





After evaluating the marketplace, one company stood apart.

"What impressed us about Funk was that it felt like the only truly industrial string pinsetter on the market," Justin explains. "The engineering, design, and overall construction gave us confidence that it was built for high-volume bowling."

With a clear vision for the future, Lokay Lanes became one of the earliest adopters of USBC-certified string pinsetters.

While a small number of league bowlers chose not to continue, the overwhelming majority embraced the change. As concerns faded, scores remained strong, and today the discussion has largely disappeared.

"At this point, nobody really talks about the string pinsetters anymore," says Justin. "People come here to bowl, compete, and have fun. It's just business as usual."

One memorable moment came shortly after the installation when Lokay Lanes became home to the first-ever USBC-certified 300 game bowled on certified string pinsetters, helping demonstrate that competitive integrity could exist alongside the new technology.

For Justin and John, the conversion has delivered reliable equipment, lower maintenance demands, and a sustainable future for the center.

Today, Lokay Lanes continues to thrive as one of the region's premier league bowling centers, proving that tradition and innovation can successfully exist side by side.

MACON BOWL



MACON, MISSOURI



Converting to Funk was one of the best decisions I've made for the center. The machines are reliable, easy to maintain, and they've given me back valuable time. I couldn't be happier with the switch.

— Terry Hall, Macon Bowl

For years, Terry Hall has been the heart and soul of Macon Bowl in Macon, Missouri.

A true owner-operator in every sense of the word, Terry has built a reputation for doing whatever it takes to keep his center running. Self-taught and exceptionally resourceful, he spent years maintaining his free-fall pinsetters himself, often finding creative solutions where others would have called for outside help. From designing and fabricating his own replacement parts to improving his scoring system and reengineering components of his ball returns, Terry's ingenuity helped keep Macon Bowl operating efficiently for years.

"I've always enjoyed figuring things out and solving problems," Terry says.

"If something wasn't working the way I wanted it to, I'd find a way to improve it."

But as any proprietor knows, there are only so many hours in a day.

As a one-man operation, Terry wears nearly every hat in the business. On any given day, he might be cooking food in the kitchen, fitting customers for shoes, booking birthday parties, promoting the center, handling customer service, and maintaining the equipment. While he enjoyed the challenge of working on machines, he eventually realized that the time spent keeping aging free-fall pinsetters operational was taking him away from the parts of the business that truly drove growth.





"The pinsetters were demanding more and more of my time," Terry explains. "I realized I was spending too much time in the back and not enough time working on the business itself."

After evaluating his options, Terry made the decision to convert to Funk Bowling string pinsetters.

The impact was immediate.

Instead of dedicating countless hours to repairs and troubleshooting, Terry now spends his time focusing on customers, events, promotions, and growing the business. The simplicity and reliability of the Funk pinsetters have dramatically reduced the maintenance burden, allowing him to operate more efficiently while still maintaining the hands-on involvement he enjoys.

For someone who has spent a lifetime solving mechanical challenges, that's saying something.

"I love working on things, but I'd rather spend my time improving the business than constantly fixing machines," Terry says. "The switch has allowed me to do exactly that."

Today, Macon Bowl continues to thrive under Terry's leadership. The center still benefits from his creativity, work ethic, and problem-solving skills, but now those talents are being directed toward improving the customer experience and growing the business rather than simply keeping aging equipment alive.

Looking back, Terry has no regrets about making the transition.

ORBIT LANES



DINUBA, CALIFORNIA



Funk Bowling didn't just help us upgrade our equipment—they gave us our freedom back. We no longer live in fear of the next breakdown. We can focus on our customers, our family, and the future of our business. Looking back, converting to string pinsetters was one of the best decisions we've ever made.

— The Alvarez Family, Orbit Lanes

Five years ago, the Alvarez family at Orbit Lanes found themselves at a crossroads.

Like many independent bowling center owners, they were operating aging free-fall pinsetters that had become increasingly difficult and expensive to maintain. Breakdowns were frequent, qualified mechanics were hard to find, and every repair seemed to come with another unexpected expense. In some cases, they were forced to fly mechanics in just to keep the center running.

Beyond the financial burden, there was a growing concern for safety. Simple issues often required staff members to enter the back of the machines, and the

family worried about the risk of injury. They knew something had to change, but replacing their equipment felt like a massive leap of faith.

"We honestly didn't know what to do," recalls the Alvarez family. "The machines were becoming harder and harder to maintain, and we couldn't continue operating the way we had been."

Everything changed when they met the Funk Bowling team at a trade show. After learning more about string pinsetter technology and seeing the long-term benefits, they decided to make the investment.





Today, Orbit Lanes is a completely different operation.

The constant worry about machine breakdowns has been replaced with confidence and reliability. The need to bring in expensive outside mechanics has virtually disappeared. Instead of relying on specialized technicians, routine preventative maintenance can now be handled in-house by family members. What once required highly skilled mechanics can now be managed with simple training and regular preventative maintenance.

"The difference has been incredible. What used to require experienced mechanics can now be handled by our own family. The machines are simple, reliable, and easy to maintain."

One of the biggest surprises has been how easy the machines are to care for. Their 12-year-old son now helps perform preventative maintenance on the pinsetters, something that would have been unimaginable with their old free-fall equipment.

Perhaps the greatest change has been the impact on their quality of life. Before the conversion, every day felt like waiting for the next emergency call. Vacations were stressful, time away from the center was nearly impossible, and the business constantly demanded attention.

Now, the Alvarez family can leave the center with confidence, take vacations, spend time together, and focus on growing the business instead of worrying about whether a machine will break down.

PLAYLAND BOWLING CENTER



MORRILTON, ARKANSAS



Playland has become exactly what we hoped it would be. It's a tremendous asset for our city and our residents. We're proud of what was accomplished and grateful for the partnership that helped make it possible.

— Allen Lipsmeyer, Playland Bowling Center

Sometimes a bowling center is more than a business.

For the residents of Morrilton, Arkansas, Playland was a part of the community's history. When the center closed and sat vacant for years, it became a reminder of what had been lost. The abandoned building stood empty, deteriorating over time and serving little purpose other than as an eyesore.

Mayor Allen Lipsmeyer saw something different.

Rather than viewing the building as a lost cause, he saw an opportunity to restore an important community asset, create jobs, stimulate local economic activity,

and provide residents with a place to gather and enjoy time together once again.

With a vision for the future, the City of Morrilton acquired the property and began exploring how to bring Playland back to life.

One thing was immediately clear: the decades-old pinsetters that had been sitting unused for years were not a realistic option. Even if they could somehow be brought back to life, finding qualified mechanics to maintain them would remain an ongoing challenge.

Mayor Lipsmeyer needed a long-term solution.

That's when the city partnered with Funk Bowling.





While the original plan centered around replacing the pinsetters, the project quickly evolved into a complete modernization of the facility. Funk Bowling installed new string pinsetters, modern scoring systems, new seating, updated ball returns, and bumper systems while carefully evaluating which existing components could be restored and reused.

Rather than simply replacing everything, the Funk Bowling team looked for opportunities to preserve valuable assets already in the building. The original wood lanes were refinished and restored, masking units were repaired, ball lifts were rebuilt, and lane-related issues were corrected and upgraded.

"One of the things that impressed us most was that Funk Bowling wasn't focused on selling us everything new," Mayor Lipsmeyer explains.

"They looked at what could be saved, what could be rebuilt, and what needed to be replaced."

Today, Playland is once again a vibrant part of the Morrilton community.

Families, league bowlers, schools, and local organizations have a place to gather and enjoy. The center has created jobs, generated economic activity, and transformed what was once an abandoned building into a source of community pride.

What began as a vision to eliminate an eyesore has become one of Morrilton's success stories. Through Mayor Lipsmeyer's leadership and vision, combined with the experience of the Funk Bowling team, an abandoned building was transformed into a thriving community destination once again.



The difference is the people.

As you have seen throughout these pages, no two bowling centers are exactly alike.

Some owners were searching for relief from constant maintenance issues. Others were planning for the future of their business. Some wanted to reduce operating costs. Others wanted to preserve a family legacy or revitalize an entire community.

Yet despite their different goals, they all arrived at the same conclusion:

Reliability matters.
Simplicity matters.
Partnership matters.

At Funk Bowling, we understand that purchasing a pinsetter system is one of the most important investments a bowling center owner will ever make. That's why we don't view our customers as transactions. We view them as long-term partners.

We take pride in helping proprietors find solutions that fit their business, their budget, and their vision. Sometimes that means installing new equipment. Sometimes it means rebuilding and preserving existing equipment whenever possible.

Our goal has always been to deliver the best outcome for the customer—not simply sell the most equipment.

The stories in this booklet represent bowling centers of all sizes, from small family-owned facilities to large league-driven operations and community-owned centers. Their experiences demonstrate that the future of bowling can be both innovative and practical.

Today, more proprietors than ever are discovering the advantages of USBC-certified Funk String Pinsetters. They are reducing maintenance costs, improving safety, lowering energy consumption, simplifying operations, and creating a more sustainable future for their centers.

Most importantly, they're spending less time worrying about equipment and more time focusing on what matters most—their customers, their employees, their families, and their communities.

For us, there is no greater compliment than earning the trust of a bowling center owner.

To everyone who shared their story in these pages, thank you.

And to those considering their own future in bowling, we look forward to earning your trust as well.

Funk Bowling
Not under-engineered.
Not over-engineered.
Perfectly engineered.



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