



# 2009 Annual Report

Published April 2010

## Mission Statement

*In partnership with the community, provide people with disabilities opportunities to achieve the highest level of independence.*



## What BRI Has To Offer...

- Sheltered Employment—Work Services
- Community-Based Supported Employment
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Supported Apartment Program - Residential Training
- Supportive Home Care
- Transportation Services
- Commercial Sewing
- Confidential Shredding
- Collating & Mailing Services
- Packaging
- Lawn Care
- Light Assembly
- Day Services/Community Integration Program
- Food Services -
  - Congregate Dining & Meals on Wheels
  - Corporate Catering
- Custodial Services
- Wayside Maintenance

## Working Partnerships

- Taylor County Human Services
- ICAA/Headstart Program
- Taylor County Commission on Aging
- IROW
- Marathon County Special Education
- Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D Council
- Weather Shield
- B&B Engineering
- Hurd
- Colby Metal
- Phillips Plastics
- Regal-Beloit
- Hedlund Agency Inc.
- HealthView Eye Clinic
- TBK Manufacturing
- State of Wisconsin:
  - Department of Military Affairs
  - Department of Transportation
  - Department of Corrections
  - Department of Administration

## 2009 Highlights

- Eight transitioning high school students from four school districts began receiving Day and Prevocational Services from BRI. Four of the students reside in counties other than Taylor: a first for BRI.
- BRI purchased a new commercial sewing machine with funds that were awarded through the Wisconsin Knights of Columbus grant program. In addition grant and donation monies received from the Weather Shield Lite Foundation and the Medford Lions Club funded significant equipment upgrades for both the Day and Prevocational Services Departments.
- BRI began contracting with two MCOs this year: Western Wisconsin Cares (WWC) and Community Cares of Central Wisconsin (CCCW). These Family Care organizations serve some of our clients who live in Clark, Marathon, and Wood Counties.
- Following a fire at Holy Rosary School in May, BRI assisted the school by providing transportation to move students between temporary locations for classes.
- BRI received a new accessible mini-bus with funds awarded by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Section 5310 grant program.
- BRI was honored with a Partnership Award by the Wisconsin State Use Board for its working relationship with Headwaters Inc. on the sewing contract for the Department of Corrections.
- BRI replaced the walk-in cooler/freezer unit in its Food Service Industries component. The unit was funded by grant monies from Kraft Foods and the Mid-Wisconsin Foundation, and proceeds raised in BRI's annual fundraising drive and golf tournament.
- BRI provided assessment, placement, and ongoing support services to six clients this year in conjunction with its contract with the Department of Workforce Development/Department of Vocational Rehabilitation.
- Gun sleeves: BRI began sewing an innovative, new product for an entrepreneur in Black River Falls. These are essentially a hood/hand-warmer combo that converts to a gun case when not being worn. BRI sewed 113 sleeves in 2009.



### *Letter From the Board President*

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." - Bible, I Corinthians (ch. XIII, v. 13)

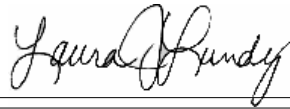
Truly all of us, including Black River Industries, have had to rely on the virtues of faith, hope and charity in 2009. The BRI board has had faith in its leadership with Paul Thornton. Throughout these difficult years of cutting costs, restructuring and financial challenges, Paul has carried the organization to a place of stability. With his creativity and unfaltering faith in BRI, Paul and his team have maintained a positive financial position throughout 2009.



Charity has been a cornerstone of the BRI organization. In a time where everyone, including Medford's business community is suffering, BRI raised nearly \$20,000 in its annual fundraising drive and golf tournament. This truly is a testament to not only the people of our community, but to the cause that they believe in - BRI. In addition to these fundraising events, Paul has written and received multiple grants from community organizations and businesses such as Kraft, Knights of Columbus, Weather Shield Lite Foundation and the Medford Lions Club, that continue to help the BRI organization meet the needs of the clients and families.

Finally, hope. Our hope as a BRI board is to continue to provide people with disabilities the opportunities they deserve, so that they can live their life with respect and dignity. It is our hope that BRI will remain a place where people with disabilities can thrive, and we have faith that Paul Thornton and his team will continue to work toward this goal in 2010 as they have done so in 2009.

Thank you for your support!



### *From The Director's Desk*

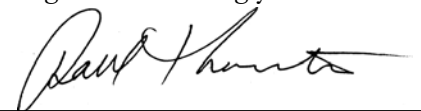
Not unexpectedly, 2009 was another tremendously challenging year. At the end of it, Black River Industries has emerged strong and vibrant. As an organization, we have never been healthier. Though we know that 2010 will be no less difficult, we have never been more ready to move forward.

We can again be thankful to the Taylor County community for its support of our fundraising efforts, especially in these times of continuing economic hardship. Revenues from our fifth annual golf outing at the Black River Golf Club last June exceeded the previous year by 10%. Our fundraising drive in December resulted in an outpouring of generosity that once again far exceeded our expectations. I continue to appreciate the support of grant programs sponsored by companies and agencies as varied as Kraft/Nestle Foods; the Wisconsin Department of Transportation; the state and local Knights of Columbus chapters; and the AnnMarie, Mid-Wisconsin, and Weathershield Lite Foundations. Local civic organizations also continued to lend their hands, for which we are always deeply grateful.

We again extend thanks to our main funding sources: Taylor County Human Services and the Taylor County Commission on Aging. Working with these agencies and their Boards has been, as always, truly rewarding and enjoyable. Additionally, I would like to thank the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for assisting us in placing and supporting people with disabilities in jobs in Taylor County. And, as our state moves into Family Care, BRI began contracting with two Managed Care Organizations in 2009: Western Wisconsin Cares and Community Cares of Central Wisconsin. Working with both entities has proven to be very rewarding.

In 2009, BRI extended its services beyond the county line for the first time. We worked with families and staffs in four different school districts to incorporate eight new individuals transitioning out of special education into BRI programming. We have truly enjoyed working with our friends in the Rib Lake and Medford School Districts, but also, for the first time, the Athens and Abbotsford School Districts, as well as Marathon County Special Education (MCSE). The future of BRI lies not only in the youth who are moving up to join our ranks, but also in the partnerships we are forging beyond our traditional borders.

As always, I am eternally grateful to BRI's staff and Board of Directors for their tireless dedication and hard work. And finally, our gratitude goes out to Catholic Charities Bureau for its support and guidance. We would not be where we are today without CCB behind us. We are all truly a great team. Thanks to everyone for pitching in and making 2009 a winning year!



# Program Updates

## Supported Employment Program

BRI's Supported Employment Program, in collaboration with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Taylor County Human Services, assists individuals with disabilities to secure and maintain employment in the community. Twenty-three individuals received evaluations, placement, and ongoing support services in 2009.



## Supported Apartment Program

BRI's Supported Apartment program provides skills training and education to adults with disabilities who reside independently in the community. The goal of the program is to foster/facilitate the individual to attain and maintain independent living status. The Supported Apartment Program served 16 individuals during 2009.

## Day Services Program

The Day Services Program is a multi-faceted program offering adults with severe and profound disabilities and special needs a broad range of individualized training, personal cares and activities that enhance daily life. In 2009, 12 individuals participated in this program which included one high school student attending during school breaks. Over the past year a strong staff team has developed which includes a team leader and two regular part time people. Each staff member is a certified nursing assistant. Community integration was enhanced in 2008 when BRI acquired a new bus which has the capacity to hold three wheelchairs.

## State Use Contracts

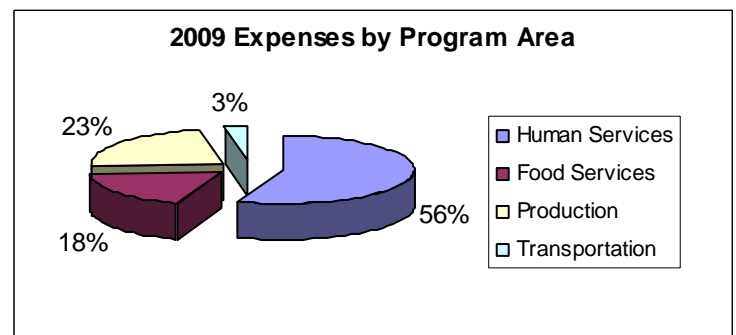
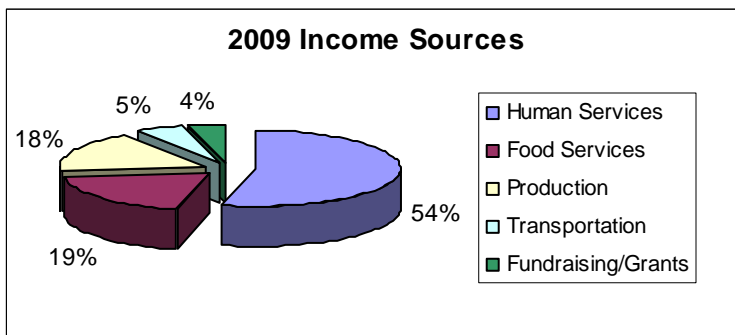
Our contract with the Department of Corrections to sew buttons and emblems on uniform shirts and jackets employed 24 employees with disabilities in 2009. They not only sew but also trim, fold, and package the clothing. Last year we shipped 16,690 pieces to the Waupun Central Warehouse and 15 State of Wisconsin prisons. In addition to the sewing contract, we also have four additional State Use contracts: RAM (Roadside Area Maintenance: Taylor County waysides), custodial contracts at both the Medford and Abbotsford armories, and lawn care at the Medford armory. These projects employed 18 employees with disabilities in 2009.

## Transportation Services

BRI has offered transportation services to disabled adults since 1973; to seniors, in conjunction with the Taylor County Commission on Aging's Elderly Transportation Program, since 1980; and children since 1990. In 2009, our fleet extended services to over 250 disabled and elderly passengers, and 65 children; and logged over 150,000 miles. Our fleet is totally accessible, and consists of eight buses with wheelchair lifts, and two vehicles without lifts. We will be adding one new bus later this year. All of our passenger vehicles are purchased with grant monies that are awarded to us from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (WIS-DOT) competitive Section 5310 Grant Program. Our buses are designed to handle oversized wheelchairs and mobility devices. We continue to have increased demand from nursing homes and homebound individuals utilizing these devices for transportation for shopping and social events, as well as to medical appointments that they would not otherwise have been able to access. Our Director sits on WIS-DOT's Specifications Committee, a group that works with manufacturers to design, safer, more user-friendly vehicles that are offered to organizations such as ours by the Section 5310 Program.



In addition to our passenger services, we utilize four trucks, a van, and a catering truck for our work services and food service programs. These vehicles accrued over 20,000 miles in 2009.



## *Work Services (Production) Department*

This component of BRI offered diverse training and employment opportunities to over 70 individuals in 2009. This included eight transitioning special education and alternative high school students from four school districts. Work was available both on and off site including packaging, assembly, commercial sewing, document shredding, custodial, food services, and lawn care.

### **Production Quick Facts:**

Pieces Completed in 2009:	
Phillips Plastics (Parts loaded)	867,236
TBK (Worm Bedding - Bagging)	49,640
Weather Shield (Bagging)	130,377
Wisconsin Dept of Corrections (Sewing) (shirts and jackets combined)	16,690

## *Feeding The Community*

BRI's Food Service Industries served over 46,000 meals in 2009. The majority of those meals are provided for the Taylor County Commission on Aging at five Senior Centers throughout the county, including the Meals-on-Wheels program in Medford. In addition, our passenger routes routinely deliver meals to many homebound seniors in outlying rural areas who would otherwise not be able to access the congregate meal sites. Last year we delivered over 33,000 meals to 644 seniors in Taylor County.

We also provided over 3,800 meals for 37 children at the Medford Headstart program last year. In addition, BRI utilized its catering license to provide over 1,500 meals to civic organizations and area businesses. We also provided over 6,000 hot lunches to our clients and staff in 2009.

## *Golf Outing Update*

BRI's fifth annual golf outing was held at the Black River Golf Course last June 22nd. There were 18 teams that competed, and four corporate sponsors: Catholic Charities Bureau, Schierl Tire, TDS, and Kraft Foods. The event coordinators did an admirable job pulling it all together to make it another rousing success. The food was tremendous, the weather again cooperated, and a great time was had by all.

This year's event will be held on Monday, June 21st, again at the Black River Golf Course. Proceeds from the past two tournaments helped us to replace the walk-in cooler and freezer in our Food Service component. Money raised this year will enable us to significantly upgrade and expand our Day Services program. If you would like information on being a corporate sponsor or a hole sponsor, or if you would like information on registering a team, please call our business office. See you on the links!



## *2009 Honorees*



*Reiny Klingbeil was honored with Catholic Charities Bureau's (CCB) prestigious Good Samaritan Award on August 27th. The award recognizes individuals for "the compassion and kindness they have shown towards the persons served by CCB in an effort to improve their quality of life".*

*Pictured (l. to r.): Paul Thornton, BRI Director; Mr. Klingbeil; Peggy Dittrich, BRI Board President; Brian Soland, CCB Executive Director; and Patti Jenson, CCB Board member.*

*Beth Kayhart received the Extra Mile Employee Award on November 18th. Brian Soland, Executive Director of CCB was in attendance and addressed the attendees. Patti Jenson, CCB Board member presented the award to Beth. Also in attendance were Paul Thornton, BRI Director, who read his letter of nomination, and his wife, Elise; Beth's parents, Lester and Mary Meyer; her son, Kyler; and her husband, Corey.*

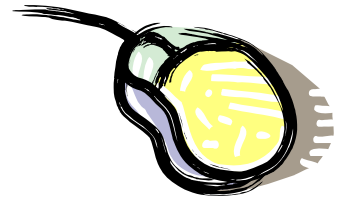
*Pictured (l. to r.): Brian Soland, Beth Kayhart, Patti Jenson, and Paul Thornton.*



Visit our website for up to date information,  
including the following:



- Program Descriptions
- Staff & Contact Information
  - Weekly Newsletter
  - Services We Offer
    - Events/Photos
- Employment Opportunities



[www.blackriverindustries.org](http://www.blackriverindustries.org)

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Your gift to BLACK RIVER INDUSTRIES, INC. will help support the enrichment of the programs for Taylor County clients and help assure long-term financial security for the agency. Black River Industries, Inc. is a 501(C)(3) Charitable Organization servicing special needs adults in Taylor County.

Enclosed is my/our check to *Black River Industries*.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25    \_\_\_\_\_ \$50    \_\_\_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_\_\_ \$200    \_\_\_\_\_ \$500    \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make your check payable to BLACK RIVER INDUSTRIES, INC.*

This gift is made:

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

On Occasion of \_\_\_\_\_

My Information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

***Black River Industries, Inc. thanks you for your contribution!***

The Black River Industries Board of Directors and staff thank you for your support.

We invite you to review this Annual Report for updates on our exceptional programs, services, production summaries and upcoming golf outing.

**2009 Board of Directors:**

- Peggy Dittrich - President
- Laura Lundy - Vice President
- Jim Tracey - Secretary/Treasurer
  - Brad Erickson
  - Brian Hedlund
  - Bob Deetz
- Kenneth Schmiede
- Tim Klingbeil
- Rev. Pete Warmanen

**Paul Thornton, Director**

**WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?**

LET US HELP YOU

- Confidential Document Shredding
- Packaging
- Light Assembly/Inspection
- Collating & Mailing
- Custodial Work
- Corporate Catering
- Lawn Care

LET US HELP YOU GET YOUR JOB DONE.

CALL 715-748-2950 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

*Black River Industries: Putting people with disabilities to work for 35 years.*  
[www.blackriverindustries.org](http://www.blackriverindustries.org)



*Black River Industries ... proudly serving Taylor County for over 35 years.*

Black River Industries  
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Medford, WI 54451



Black River Industries is affiliated with  
Catholic Charities Bureau, Diocese of Superior