



2010 Annual Report

Published March 2011

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
- Marathon County Special Education
- Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D Council
- Weather Shield
- FrontLine Building Products
- Hurd
- Perkins Place Gallery of Fine Art
- Colby Metal
- Phillips Automotive
- Regal-Beloit
- Hedlund Agency Inc.
- Nizo
- HealthView Eye Clinic
- TBK Manufacturing
- State of Wisconsin:
 - Department of Military Affairs
 - Department of Transportation
 - Department of Corrections
 - Department of Administration

2010 Highlights

- BRI's annual golf tournament was again very successful. Proceeds from the event were used to purchase a wheelchair accessible adult swing set. Additional funds derived from other fundraising efforts throughout the year are being used to construct an outdoor adult playground and recreational area (1500 square feet) for Day Service participants and aging clients with memory impairment. The swing set and other equipment we hope to purchase will be located within this yard.
- BRI received a large number of grants, memorials, and donations in 2010. Grantors included the AnnMarie Foundation, Wal-Mart, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and State and local Knights of Columbus councils.
- Due to an influx of Day Service participants, our main conference room was converted to a quiet room to accommodate this program's needs. The additional 400 square feet of space allows a better setting for activities such as arts and crafts, exercising and range of motion, reading, etc.
- BRI purchased another commercial sewing machine, and secured a new sewing contract with an up and coming entrepreneur in the Edgerton area, NIZO, LLC. The company produces unique and revolutionary maternity wear that is marketed throughout the country. BRI sews most of the apparel, and is the company's main supplier.
- BRI began contracting with Northern Bridges this year. This is the Managed Care Organization serving eleven northwestern counties in Wisconsin.
- BRI received a new accessible mini-bus with funds awarded by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Section 5310 grant program. The grant portion of the bus was over \$36,000.
- This year's grant application to WIS-DOT for two accessible buses was approved. The vehicles will arrive in 2011 & 2012. The total amount of the grant was over \$81,000
- BRI provided assessment, community job placement, and ongoing support services to 23 clients this year in conjunction with its contracts with the Department of Workforce Development/Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and Taylor County Human Services.
- BRI paid off its 10 year loan with TDS Telecom & USDA Rural Development, and now owns its building.



Letter From the Board President

"When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed, When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost; Count you blessings. Name them one by one. Count your many blessings see what God hath done."

In the midst of world tragedies such as the fighting in Lybia, soaring gas and food prices, and the earthquake in Japan, we must focus on the blessings He gives us. It is only then that we can truly realize how blessed we have been this past year both personally and at Black River Industries.

Blessing 1: Despite the reeling economy, BRI managed to maintain a positive financial position throughout the year.


Blessing 2: BRI's faithful and dedicated employees continue to provide high quality service and because of God's blessings, were finally able to receive a small wage increase.

Blessing 3: In a time when individuals and local businesses are struggling, supporters of our golf tournament and other foundations and grantors were again surprisingly generous.

Blessing 4: After 10 years, BRI was able to pay off its loan with USDA Rural Development, and now owns its own building.

Blessing 5: BRI continues to be a place where people with disabilities have opportunities to contribute to our society.

Although it is easy to become caught up in the negative side of our current situations, I challenge us to continue to "count our blessings." It is only then that we will realize how much we truly have to be thankful for.



Laura Bundy



From the Director's Desk

In the spring of 2008, I assumed the directorship of BRI. It was a time of economic turmoil and uncertainty. We stood on the brink of the "great recession", and were forced to face the downturn by making some immediate, unique, some would say, drastic changes. This we did that summer, and as a result, BRI was transformed. We not only survived, we flourished. Two years later, we emerge being able to say, as many already have, that 2010 was a banner year for us. The color red receded, and was replaced by black. We have never been financially stronger, or organizationally more viable. As I said in our fundraising letter last December, the heart of BRI is its people: the people we serve, and the people who, in turn, support us. I am again proud to report that our hearts beat strong. BRI is indeed alive and vibrant.

For this success, we are again thankful to our Board of Directors and to Catholic Charities Bureau for their determination and leadership; to our staff and clients for their dedication and hard work; to our supporters in Taylor county and beyond its borders; to our loyal customers; and to all the agencies, foundations, MCOs, and other entities with whom we contract, and without whose support we could not survive.

I would caution, however, that 2011 again finds us on the brink of tremendous political and economic change. There is a cloud in our skies, and we must be vigilant and prepared again to meet challenges similar to those we faced back in 2008. State government is evolving in ways many of us might not have imagined three short years ago. We will not, I fear, be immune from the fiscal perils of the budget battle in Madison. Take heart, my friends, and remember the first five words of our mission statement:

"In partnership with the community....."

As a community, we have transformed BRI. If we stick together, we can again mount the challenges ahead. Of this I have no doubt.

Again, I thank everyone for their support, encouragement, and boundless enthusiasm throughout 2010. Let us go forward and prosper!

Paul Thumte

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 2010.



Residential Programs

BRI's Supportive Home Care Program provides support to participants who reside in unsupervised living environments such as their own apartments or homes. BRI's Supported Apartment program provides skills training and education in the activities of daily living to its participants. These programs enable all participants the ability to maintain independence in the community. BRI offered training and support to 16 individuals during 2010.

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 2010, 13 individuals participated in the program including one Medford High School student during school breaks and one Abbotsford High School student that attended a few days each week. With our aging population, we are starting to have more individuals working half days in production and half days attending Day Services. This program has a bus dedicated to it that holds three wheelchairs for community outings.

State Use Contracts

Our contract with the Department of Corrections to sew buttons and emblems on uniform shirts and jackets employed 27 employees with disabilities in 2010. They not only sew but also trim, fold, and package the clothing. Last year we shipped 3,820 pieces to 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 15 employees with disabilities in 2010.

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 2010, our fleet extended services to over 250 disabled and elderly passengers, and 65 children; and logged over 180,000 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 buses 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 bus services, we utilize 2 program cars; and 4 trucks, one van, and a catering truck for our work services and food service programs. These vehicles accrued over 20,000 miles in 2010.



Production Quick Facts:

Pieces Completed in 2010:

Phillips Plastics (Parts loaded)	1,664,586
TBK (Worm Bedding - Bagging)	63,042
Weather Shield (Bagging)	43,600
Wisconsin Dept of Corrections	3,820
(Sewing: shirts and jackets combined)	

Work Services (Production) Department

This component of BRI offered diverse training and employment to 74 individuals in 2010. This included six transitioning Special Education and Alternative High School students from four school districts in three counties. Work was available both on and off site including packaging, assembly, commercial sewing, document shredding, custodial, food services, and lawn care.

FSI: Feeding The Community

BRI's Food Service Industries served over 42,000 meals in 2010. 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 31,000 meals to 580 seniors in Taylor County.

We also provided over 3,000 meals for 37 children at the Medford Headstart program last year. In addition, BRI utilized its catering license to provide over 2,300 meals to civic organizations and area businesses. We also provided over 6,000 hot lunches to our clients and staff in 2010.

Golf Outing Update

BRI's 6th Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser was held last June 21st at the Black River Golf Club with more than 80 golfers participating. Corporate sponsors for the event included Schierl Tire & Service, Lonnie Melbinger, DDS, Black River Art Gallery, TDS Telecom, Catholic Charities Bureau, Bill's Tire & Service, Nestle Pizza Division, Peterson Concrete, Hedlund Agency, and the Exvoto Art Studio, operated by Sandy, Ivy & Emma Klingbeil.



The proceeds from last year's tournament were used to purchase a wheelchair accessible swing that will provide opportunities for therapeutic social interaction for BRI's clients and can be enjoyed by everyone, regardless of their disability.

This year's tournament will be held on Friday, June 24th at Tee-Hi Golf Course. Please contact us for more information on registering a team, or being a corporate or hole sponsor.

2010 Honorees



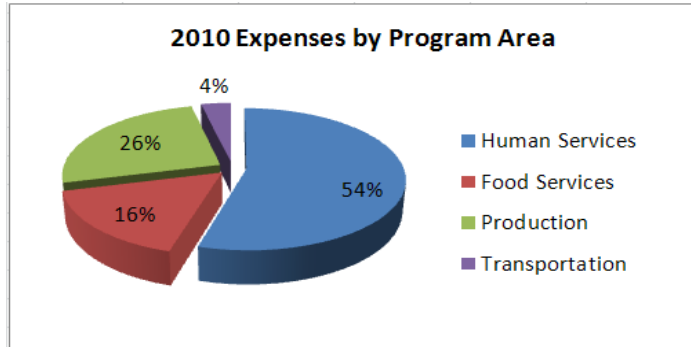
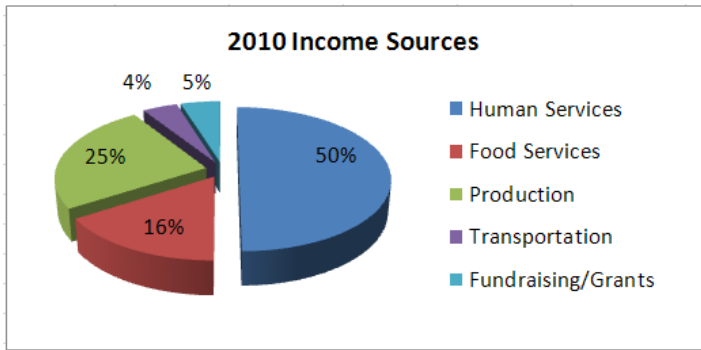
Kathy Lemke received CCB's Extra Mile Employee Award at a luncheon in her honor. The purpose of this award is "to recognize outstanding individual employees of CCB who have distinguished themselves in their work as exceeding the required or expected performance".

Brian Soland, Executive Director of CCB and Patti Jenson, CCB Board member, presented the award to Kathy. Stacey Rieck, BRI's Business Manager, read her letter of nomination.

The Hallgren family received CCB's Good Samaritan Award in 2010. The award honors "individuals, groups, or organizations who through their kind deeds towards persons served by our organization best exemplify the compassion of the Good Samaritan as told us in the scriptures".

The late Ken and Darlene Hallgren were solid supporters of BRI for many years, and were significant donors to our capital fundraising drive that resulted in the construction of our present building in 1999. Brian served on our Board of directors for six years. Ken and Darlene, along with their sons Brent and Brian, formed B&B Engineering over 30 years ago. That company formed a partnership with BRI that also funneled work projects to our clients for most of that time, until it was bought by Frontline, Inc. last year. Ken and Darlene and their numerous family members, along with Brian and his wife Elaine, and Brent and his wife, Juleen, have proven to be Good Samaritans of the highest order. We cannot thank them enough for their service through the years.





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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*.

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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.

2010 Board of Directors:

- Laura Lundy - President
- Jim Tracey - Vice President
- Ken Schmiede - Secretary/Treasurer
 - Peggy King
 - Brian Hedlund
 - Tim Klingbeil
- Deacon Joe Stefancin
- Candice Grunseth
- Jon Bauer

Paul Thornton, Director

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

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

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