

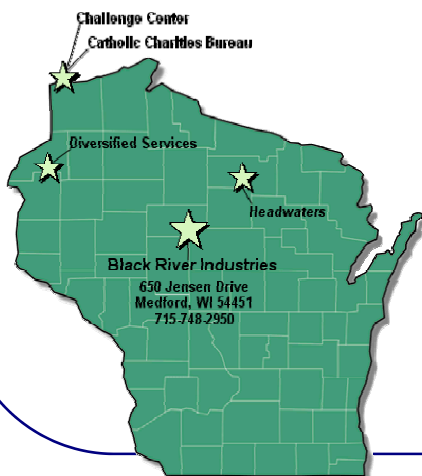
Quick Facts About Black River Industries



650 Jensen Drive, Medford, WI * Phone: 715-748-2950 * Fax 715-748-6363 * Director: Paul Thornton

Black River Industries (BRI) serves citizens with disabilities in Taylor County. We believe that people with disabilities deserve the right to achieve their fullest potential and share fully in the life of their community by developing their vocational and residential skills.

Black River Industries is an agency of Catholic Charities Bureau of Superior, Wisconsin. We are part of a combined effort consisting of 3 other facilities similar to ours. Those agencies are: Challenge Center in Superior, Diversified Services in Siren, and Headwaters in Rhinelander. The collaboration of our agencies is referred to as Midwest Industries Collaborative (MIC). Through MIC, we can offer our customers a total of 118,920 square feet of production space, and 28,815 square feet of warehouse space, as well as the combined workforces. In addition to our work services capabilities, all four agencies also offer Day Services/Community Integration, residential, supported employment, and transportation services to persons with disabilities.



The success of BRI is dependent on the cooperation it receives from the Taylor County business community.... Its business community, its governmental community, and its citizens. These communities provide jobs, financial support, and the moral support necessary to allow adults with disabilities to succeed.

Our History

1973 What is now BRI started as the Taylor County Achievement Center at the Medford Jaycees Clubhouse.

1976 The first simulated work starts for Hurd and Phillips Plastics.

1977 Achievement Center moves to the current Northland Outlet building on Hwy 13.

1978 The first supported employee was placed at Burger Chef (now Hardees).

1980 Supported Apartment Program begins; initiation of contracts with Taylor County Commission on Aging for transportation and meals; Supported Employment Program initiated.

1981 Official name changed from Taylor County Achievement Center to Black River Industries.

1982 BRI is formally incorporated with first Board of Directors.

1987 BRI moves to current City Hall building on North 2nd Street.

1990-1993 Major shift from simulated work to paid production work. Lawn care contracts initiated.

1992 BRI awarded a Wisconsin State Use contract with the Department of Transportation to provide custodial/lawn care services at three waysides and a historic road monument.

1999 BRI moves to present building in the industrial park, doubling its size and increasing significantly its production capabilities. The Day Services Program receives significant equipment and space upgrades as well.

2006 BRI initiates its confidential document shredding operation.

2007 Representative Payee and Senior Programs added. BRI awarded a Wisconsin State Use contract with the Department of Corrections to sew buttons and emblems on officers' uniforms.