

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



## *Our Mission:*

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

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



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



*Black River Industries is proud  
to be a United Way agency*

## Letter From the Director

BRI is one amazing gift to our world. The people that make up this intricate organization and those that support BRI enrich the quality of all of our lives.

The programs and services at BRI grew stronger and more focused in 2019. The people being served had an important voice in choosing services and how services were provided. Additional class offerings were provided with a vast array of opportunity to connect with our community. Day services excelled in making each day meaningful and making the person the highlight. It was an extraordinary experience to see the unique ideas every person brought to the programs.

Our production team increased volume and found a great rhythm in efficiencies for our state and local contracts. Over 18,000 packages of spices were packaged, labeled, sealed, and delivered throughout the state in just our second year of production. Our local contracts sought our services as the economy demand for staff soared. Our team worked hard to meet aggressive timelines and package thousands of parts for local factories each week. The team was focused on providing valuable products to their community and the entire state of Wisconsin.

People in our community have supported BRI to achieve amazing goals. We have worked hard this year to show them that their efforts make an enormous direct and indirect community impact. BRI worked directly with 102 people with disabilities to achieve their goals this year. The 102 people served have positively impacted our community by donating their time and talents to many community organizations. They have also been working community jobs such as milking cows, assisting elderly people, packaging groceries, and detailing vehicles. The belief in our mission, community support, and the strong value for all human life empowers the people of BRI to make a difference.

Each and every day I am amazed by the people at BRI, the community support, and the difference that is made by our team. I am grateful for the opportunity to positively impact the lives of so many great people. Thank you to our Board of Directors for your time and talents that help us move in a forward direction. Thank you to Catholic Charities Bureau for all of your support and motivation to improve the human condition. Thank you to the team of amazing staff at BRI, your pride in service is incredible. Thank you to the families that choose to be part of the BRI family, your dedication to meaningful life drives us to make each day better than the last. Thank you to our community for so strongly embracing BRI and wholeheartedly supporting our mission. BRI is blessed to have each one of you advancing our organization and inspiring our best.

Sincerely,



Amber Fallos, Director



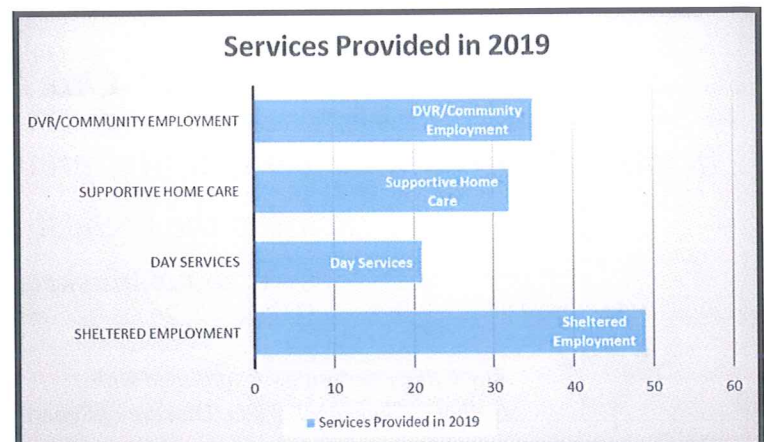
## 2019 Management Team



Erin Meyer,  
Program Manager



Kari Leech  
Business Manager



## 2019 Board of Directors



*Cathy Miller-Temme,  
President*



*Robert Bernklau,  
Vice President*



*Charles Paulson,  
Secretary/Treasurer*



*Courtney Graff,  
Board Member*



*Anne Baumann,  
Board Member*



*Jennifer Viergutz,  
Board Member*



*Angela Brost,  
Board Member*



*Liza Daleiden,  
Board Member*



*John Marshall,  
Board Member*

## Golf Classic Fundraiser

On Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, BRI held its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic Fundraiser, sponsored by Forward Bank. This year we hosted another successful event with 18 teams, numerous sponsors, dedicated staff, volunteers, and of course beautiful weather! To add to the beautiful weather was the fun had by all and of course the delicious food! We would like to thank our 18 teams for participating. We would like to extend a huge thank you to Forward Bank who was our 2019 Event Sponsor! We would also like to thank and recognize our other sponsors; Lunch Sponsor, Nicolet National Bank; Games Sponsor, Catholic Charities Bureau; Appetizers Sponsor, The Gilman Corner Store; Corporate Sponsors, Nestle Pizza Division and Schierl Tire & Service Center. We also would like to thank our 14 Hole Sponsors, six donors, amazing staff, and dedicated volunteers! This year's funds were used towards the expansion of our bakery at The Store at BRI.



**The Store  
At  
bri**

### Store Hours:

Monday through Thursday  
7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The Store At BRI is open to the public to come in and purchase individual jars of spices in 3 different sizes, gift baskets which are already packaged (or can be custom made to your specifications) and baked goods from our full commercial kitchen to include gourmet cupcakes, jumbo cookies, jumbo muffins and other assorted tasty treats. Large orders can be called in ahead of time at 715-748-2950.



## *Sheltered Employment (Work Services, Food Services)*



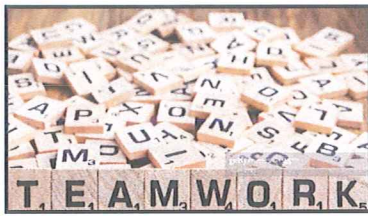
*Haley P. and Lisa B. are working hard on Springs. This is one of the various jobs that employees work on daily.*



*Bev H. is a long-time BRI employee who has spent much of her time in the kitchen helping do dishes, prepping food for the head cook and serving at catering events.*



*Mike P., Dennis M., Bev H., John B., Sheryl B., Lee M., Brian L., and Barb K. work on an order for one of our local contracts.*



*Kathy E. is employed as a dining room hostess at the Clark County Rehabilitation and Living Center in Owen. Her main responsibilities include setting up the dining room for lunch, assisting CNAs during mealtime, dining room and break room clean-up, and restocking drink carts. Kathy's best attribute for this type of work is her kind and caring demeanor, which is a big hit with residents and staff.*

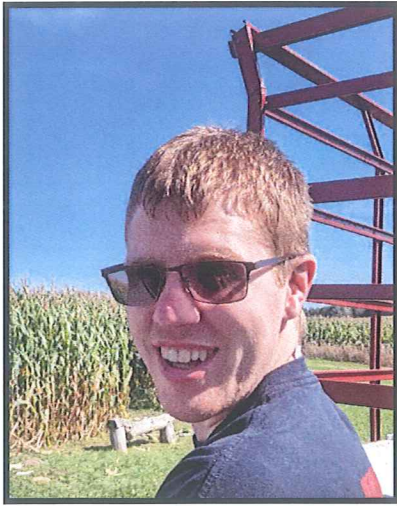


*Ryan B. works in the samples department at Weather Shield's Custom Products Division. Job duties include assembling product line sample packs from start to finish. Once a week he goes out on the production floor and works with the staff. Ryan's attention to detail, friendly disposition and strong work ethic are contributing factors to his success on the job.*



*Making customers smile is what makes Christopher K.'s job at the Phillips Pick N' Save fun and rewarding. As a courtesy clerk, his main responsibilities are bagging groceries, retrieving carts from the parking lot, and providing excellent customer service. Christopher's comedic personality is proving to be a great asset to providing customers with a positive shopping experience!*

## *Community Supported Employment*



## Day Services

*Left: Mark L. taking a hayride on a beautiful fall day at Connell's Family Orchard. We enjoyed picking apples and eating apple turnovers.*

*Right: Day Services toured News Channel 9. We received a tour of the studio and were able to watch them tape a segment. We also learned about how storms form.*



## Transportation



*Left: Melissa F. gets to ride the bus to BRI with the use of the wheelchair lift, helping Melissa to be more independent and enjoy outings with the rest of her friends.*

*Right: BRI's fleet of buses are used to transport our members to and from BRI as well as elderly community members to shopping trips and daily lunch at the Commission on Aging. Our newest bus (787) is seen in the forefront.*



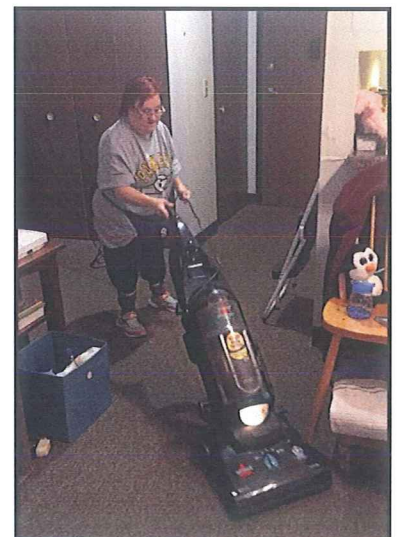
*Funds from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) as authorized under 49 U.S.C. Section 5310, along with community donations help us to purchase our fleet buses.*



## In-Home Support

*Left: Mark S. bakes up a bunch of delicious muffins. Mark has been living independently for 15+ years. BRI started Supportive Home Care Services with Mark in 2019.*

*Right: Tina C. keeps her apartment tidy by keeping up on chores. Tina has lived independently for over 20 years. BRI has supported Tina in her apartment for several years now.*



## 2019 Highlights

- In **J**anuary, BRI announced Ms. Kari Leech as our new Business Manager. Ms. Leech has over 14 years of office experience and is dedicated to the BRI mission of serving others.
- In **F**ebruary, Inspirational Blends by BRI were created to include taco seasoning, dry onion soup mix, ranch dressing mix, steak rub and pizza seasoning. All the blends are mixed and packed in our state licensed food processing room by staff at BRI.
- In **M**arch, Day Services was busy preparing for the gardening season. They also donated scarves that they knitted to the Head Start program.
- BRI celebrated the National Day for Choice Day on April 16th. Each person we serve has the CHOICE to guide their services and let us know what they need as we serve them.
- In **M**ay, The Store At BRI expanded. We now have a bakery display case and offer gourmet cupcakes, jumbo muffins and large cookies, as well as other seasonal baked goods. We welcome special or large orders.
- On Friday, June 21st, BRI hosted its 15th Annual Golf Classic Fundraiser, sponsored by Forward Bank. This year we had 18 teams golfing, numerous sponsors, donors, volunteers, and staff to help benefit the caring and dedicated individuals of BRI.
- In **J**uly, the commercial kitchen at BRI has been busy expanding our services with catering jobs and large bakery orders for local and private events and festivals.
- In **A**ugust, production has continued to stay busy with all of the local manufacturing contracts and shredding services as well as our state contracts for spices and sewing. Team work makes the dream work!
- In September, BRI had a family picnic at the Medford City Park with entertainment by Nashville recording artist, and Medford native, Red Higgins and The Yankee Train. Food was prepared by our Head Cook and Kitchen Supervisor, Peggy Nowak. A great time was had by everyone. Mike P. even got to sing with the band.
- In October, BRI celebrated 13 staff milestone anniversaries, from 5 years all the way up to 40 years. A great lunch was had at Marilyn's Fire Station Village Cage that was prepared by the SOAR program students.
- Employee Appreciation Week was held during the week of November 4th. The week was spent celebrating employees and their commitment to BRI. The week included pajama day, camo/hunting day, beach/Hawaiian day and sports day. We were all treated to ice cream sundaes served by the management team. Everyone enjoyed an afternoon of bowling at The Sport's Page.
- The annual BRI Christmas Party held on the afternoon of December 19th, at the Centennial Community Center with all of our family and friends. Day Services have been busy decorating the work areas with holiday cheer. Santa came for a visit to make sure everyone was being good. Production crafted handmade ornaments, for the first time, to be sold in the Store at BRI.



*Production employees diligently filling orders. Some employees shown above are Clyde S., Brian M., Chad B., Don T., Trent G., Bernie J., Bev H., and Craig N.*



*Wayne K., Connor K., Luke C., Leslie A., Melissa F., Cindy O., and Otto B. are having a great time at Clay Corner in Wausau.*





Brian J. golfing at the 15th Annual BRI Golf Classic. Fundraiser



Below: Molly T., Monte B., and David B. having fun bowling during EAW.

Left: Bev H., Joe T., Molly T., Mary A., Chad B., Haley P., and Clyde S. enjoying ice cream during EAW.

Right: Brian M. and Elsie M. pose between bowling for EAW.



Above: Day Services donates hand made blankets to Humane Society.



Above (L to R,): Employees celebrate Pajama Day for EAW. Pictured are (front) Kyle H., Rebecca F., Donovan P., Tina C., Melissa F., (back) Amber F., Mary A., Marlene C., Chad B., Molly T., Joe T., Kari L., Dana J.



Above: Dressing up for EAW. Pictured are (front) Kari L., Tina C., Shanna B., Molly T., Kate R., Marlene C., Erin M., (back) Bev H., Emily E., Connor K., Chad B., and Monte B.



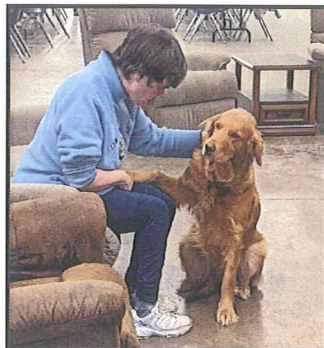
Above: Mike P. singing with Red Higgins and the Freedom Train.



Above: David B., Chad B., Don T., and Kevin G. give a big thumbs up during bowling.



Above: Donovan P. spending time with his father at the BRI Family Picnic.



Above: Tanya B. enjoys petting Jackee, BRI's support dog.



Above: Trent G., Mike P., Haley P., Mark L., and Kasey C. and their families having fun at the BRI Family Picnic.

Black River Industries  
650 Jensen Drive  
Medford, WI 54451



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**BRI requires continued support from donations. Please consider giving to our great people and programs!**  
Your gift to BRI will help support and enrich our programs for people with disabilities and ensure long-term security for the organization. Black River Industries, Inc. is a tax deductible 501(C)(3) Charitable Organization.

Enclosed is my/our check to *Black River Industries, Inc.* \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$200 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to:  
**BLACK RIVER INDUSTRIES, 650 Jensen Drive, Medford, WI 54451**

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*Thank you for your support! It is greatly appreciated by all!*

*Currently serving the Medford, Stetsonville, Dorchester, Abbotsford, Gilman, Rib Lake, Park Falls, and Phillips communities. Helping people for over 40 years!*