

BRI
650 Jensen Drive
Medford, WI 54451



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2020 ANNUAL REPORT



BRIDGING RESOURCES FOR INDEPENDENCE

Build. Respect. Inspire.

Our Mission:

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

www.blackriverindustries.org

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:_____

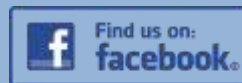
Please make your check payable to:
BLACK RIVER INDUSTRIES, 650 Jensen Drive, Medford, WI 54451

This gift is made: (Please Circle One of the Following)
In Memory of, In Honor of, On Occasion of

My Information: Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____

Check out our new
Website:
www.blackriverindustries.org

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!



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

The BRI family was key to the continued success of our mission in 2020. This year proved that when we are all in this together, we will be stronger.

The year 2020 brought BRI many challenges, however it mostly brought us the gift of understanding the value of others, our connection, and our mission to serve. We are an essential service here to ensure that the people we serve are put above all else. Our mission held strong and our bond even stronger. BRI provided consistent quality services without interruption the entire year. We will put this year in the history books as a truly successful test of the value of serving our brothers and sisters.

Over one hundred people directly utilized the essential services at BRI and so many more were indirectly impacted by our community connections. Our in home service program grew as more people stayed home with their families. The day services area became very creative with virtual learning options and new projects to decorate our spaces. The prevocational services area worked extra hard to ensure that products continued to be delivered on time while receiving many new projects. The fellowship and determination among our team was the shining star of each day. Each person was determined to do their part to keep our mission in mind and serve one another in the true BRI spirit.

I am blessed to be part of the BRI family and to serve such wonderful people. Thank you to our Board of Directors for supporting our essential, meaningful programs and our mission in the community. Thank you to Catholic Charities Bureau for over 100 years of dedicated service to the diocese and for inspiring our mission. Thank you to our dedicated staff, employees, and service recipients for supporting one another and doing all that you can to help out. Thank you to our families, local businesses and communities for supporting our mission. Together we have strengthened our mission of serving others.

Sincerely,



Amber Fallos, Director



2020 Management Team

Erin Meyer, Program Manager

Tammy Koontz, Production Manager

Amber Fallos, Director

Kari Leech, Business Manager

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH: Peterson Concrete teamed up with Forward Bank through their CMMA program to donate to programs at BRI. This year was a record year! With their partnership, BRI received \$11,000 to support the people and programs at BRI that make a world of difference in the lives of people with disabilities. Thank you for this blessing!



The second half of March brought major changes for all of us, not only at BRI, but the world, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Thankfully, BRI was deemed an essential service and we were able to continue to provide services not only to our BRI members, but also our many service contracts by implementing and following CDC guidelines.

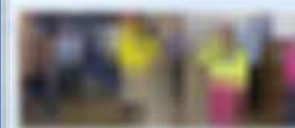
AUGUST: We are so grateful for all of our summer help from area students before heading off to college.

Day Services has been able to get out to the park to get some fresh air, exercise and a picnic lunch.



"Every smile has a ripple effect." ~ John McDonnell

OCTOBER: BRI appreciation week was held October 26th through 29th. We had random prize drawings and treats all week complete with a picnic lunch and Halloween costume party.



We received a new project from Deluxe Plastics (formerly Wadal Plastics) and it is keeping everyone busy.



APRIL: With April, social distancing became the new norm. We were able to space out our work stations, wore masks and increased hand washing. Our production area maintained a steady workload.



SEPTEMBER: Our annual bus inspection was held with a clean bill of health.



The spices were moved from the second floor to the first floor to streamline the order process.



Day services got to go on an apple orchard outing.



RAM (Rest Area Maintenance) wrapped up their season until next year.



NOVEMBER: Day Services enjoyed a day at the movies. They got to enjoy Broadway Theater all to themselves. We are so thankful for all of our community members and businesses during this unprecedented time who continue to support us in our endeavors.



DECEMBER: BRI did hold our annual Christmas party at the Centennial Hall in Stetsonville. We enjoyed a great meal of chicken and ham. We played picture bingo with everyone getting some great prizes. We danced at our assigned seats to practice social distancing. A great time was had by all!



"Having a vested interest in other souls unconditionally creates a ripple effect that produces miracles in the lives of those around us." ~ Molly Friendenfeld

Sheltered Employment

(Work Services, Food Services)

Molly T. works in the spice room where bulk spices are packaged, sealed, labeled and then shipped out to BRI state contracts with

the Department of Corrections, Department of Health Services and the Department of Veteran Affairs.



Marlene C. works in the production area on a number of different jobs for local businesses. She also works on our sewing contracts for the Department of corrections. Marlene works on janitorial duties to help keep our facility clean.



Melissa D. has been a BRI member for 29 years. One of her responsibilities is helping out in the kitchen as needed. Melissa also works in the production department helping fill orders for area companies.



Transportation

Sheryl B. and Brian M. are just 2 BRI members who ride the bus to and from BRI for work. Wheelchair lifts are an appreciated feature for those of our members who utilize them.

Funds from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) as authorized under 48 U.S.C. Section 5310, along with community donations help us to purchase our fleet of buses.



"You can never know the ripple effect you create with one tiny gesture of kindness." ~ Elle Sommer

Community Supported Employment

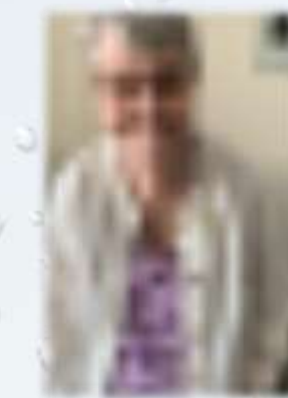
Since August of 2019, Haley P. has been making people smile at the Medford DMV office. Haley works on Mondays and Wednesdays using her expertise to take customers' photos for their driver's licenses. She also assembles informational folders and assists wherever needed in the busy office. Haley knows many of the people that walk through the DMV door, which makes her job even more enjoyable.



You never know when life experiences are going to come in handy. In addition to working at Ed's IGA and Forest Springs Camp and Conference Center, Landon B. also works two days a week at BRI. When at home, he spends a lot of time in the kitchen cooking with his family. These combined experiences made it easy for Landon to take on new responsibilities of keeping the BRI spice inventory shelves well-stocked.



Mark S. has been employed at the Medford Area Middle School for the past 15 years. He's an integral part of the fast-paced kitchen staff. Mark's job duties include unloading the commercial dishwasher, putting dishes, utensils, pots and pans away in their designated locations, and keeping the lunch room cart loaded with clean trays for the students. What's Mark's favorite part of his job? Without a doubt, it's talking sports with Mr. Leonard and the guys!



BRI has been assisting Geraldine W. in her home for over 2 years. She is such a joy to work with and she appreciates all of our staff's hard work to continue helping her stay living independently.

Gail O. has lived in her apartment for 35 years. Our residential staff assist Gail with maintaining her apartment. She really enjoys helping the staff.



Rhonda has been living in her apartment for 15+ years. BRI has been assisting her for almost a year with SHC services. BRI staff really enjoy Rhonda's amusing sense of humor. She loves to put a smile on everyone's face.



Day Services

Kyle H. can light up any gloomy day with that smile. He helps out in production as well as spends time in Day Services working on crafts, going swimming, catching a movie or playing air hockey at the youth center. Day Services also assists Kyle with his daily walks.



Connor K., Melissa F., and Tina C. enjoying a beautiful day on the wheelchair accessible swing in the Day Services garden area.

JANUARY: Sewing orders were very busy. We trained additional staff to help fulfil the incoming orders. Deb S. trains Bill F. on sewing patches on uniform pants for our Department of Corrections contract.



Our Annual Food Safety inspection was held with all high marks received. Shanna B. works in the spice room and enjoys filling orders for our Department of Corrections contract.



FEBRUARY: Blackhawk Industries became a new production contract for BRI and they have been keeping us busy all year putting together a couple of various items which are used in the window factories. Bev H. working on window slings.



Day Services Knitting Club made and donated 15 hats and scarves to the Taylor County Head Start program.



Emily E. started teaching sign language classes to our Day Services members.



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

"Be the person who creates positive ripple effects." ~ Camilla Kragius

JUNE: Day Services got their garden planted and cannot wait to see how their hard work pays off.



Raymond Michael's Salon stylists volunteered their time to pamper some BRI members. James Stokes Photography came and took pictures for our newly designed webpage.



"Even the smallest act of caring for another person is like a drop of water, it will make ripples throughout the entire pond." ~ Bryan Matteo

MAY: BRI conducted virtual classes for those members who were unable to join us in person. Attendees created a bird feeder to hang outside of their homes.



The RAM (Rest Area Maintenance) and lawn crews have been getting ready for a busy season. Joe T., Chad B., Molly T. and Mark S. keep area businesses lawns looking good.



JULY: The 16th Annual BRI Golf Classic had a different look this year. It was held at Tee Hi Golf Course July 28th through August 1st. As a socially distanced golf on your own tournament. We are truly blessed by the continued support of the golfers, businesses and our community who support this event.



BRI is happy to announce Tammy Koontz has joined our team as our new Production manager. Tammy was born and raised in Marshfield, WI. Tammy worked her way up to Distribution Manager at Figi's INC. until they closed their doors in 2019. We are excited to have her knowledge and expertise as BRI's production area grows.



SERVICES PROVIDED IN 2020

