

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

*Helping one person might not change the whole world,
but it could change the world for one person.*

-Anonymous



Our Mission:

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

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 here for the journey and each person that inspires us to cherish life.

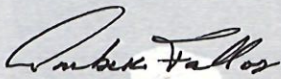
The people at BRI have embraced the joy that comes with the little things in life: the ability to help someone achieve something new, make someone smile, and assist in meeting someone's basic needs. We relish in the gift of care and compassion.

This year has reminded us to focus on the true mission of serving others. We have dedicated all of our resources to make sure that our staff and the people we serve are living their best lives. Our leadership team engaged in meaningful training to further their skills. Our day services staff worked hard to develop new volunteer opportunities to engage people and help the community. Our production area grew to add a second shift and introduce more community members to our mission. Our in-home services provided next level care to an ever-growing number of people. BRI directly served over 130 individuals and employed 87 staff members to carry out our services to people in need and our community. 2021 proved to be a year of growth, dedication, and rejuvenation with true devotion to our mission.

I am reminded often that BRI is a place where people matter, no exceptions. People make a difference every day, and people need people. I am so very thankful to be blessed in such a way that our work makes individual lives better, the community kinder, and the world a little brighter.

As BRI continues this focus of joy in the journey of caring for people in our communities, we are blessed to have the support of so many individuals and organizations. Thank you to our Board of Directors for supporting the people we serve and our mission. Thank you to Catholic Charities Bureau for your dedication to the social ministry. Thank you to our dedicated staff, employees, and service recipients for your commitment to one another. Thank you to our families, local businesses, and communities for supporting our mission. Together we are focused on the BRI family and what matters most in life, people.

Sincerely,



Amber Fallos, Director



2021 Management Team

Erin Meyer – Program Manager
Tammy Koontz – Production Manager
Amber Fallos – Director
Kari Leech – Business Manager



2021 Board of Directors



*Cathy Miller-Temme,
President*



*Liza Daleiden,
Vice President*



*Charles Paulson,
Secretary/Treasurer*



*Michelle Armbrust
Board Member*



*Jennifer Viergutz,
Board Member*



*Angela Brost,
Board Member*

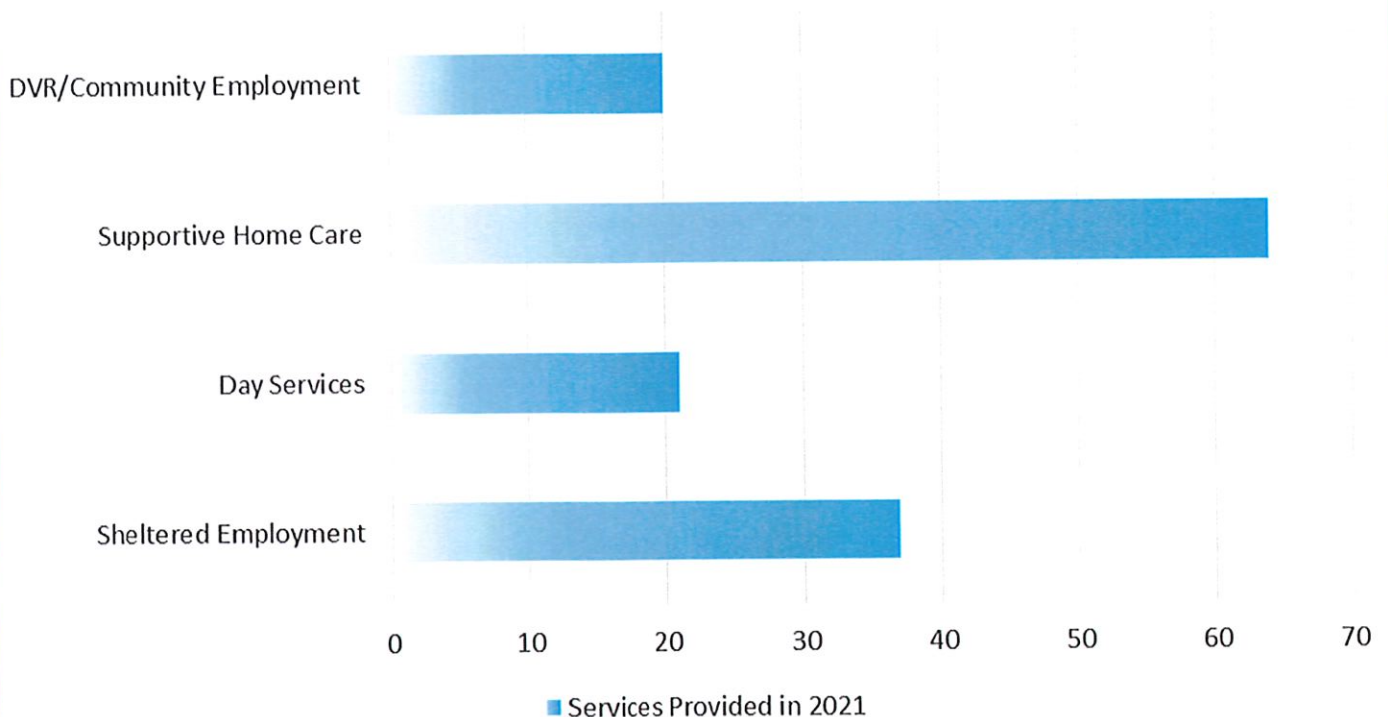


*Robert Bernklau,
Board Member*



*John Marshall,
Board Member*

SERVICES PROVIDED IN 2021



Community Supported Employment

Just a few days after his 2021 graduation from the Medford SOAR Program, Michael B. joined the True Blue Crew at Culver's. His shifts start bright and early as he helps prepare for the restaurant's 10:30am opening. Michael's job duties include vacuuming, sanitizing tables and benches, stocking the condiment bar, and cleaning the outdoor dining area. Michael's favorite new saying is, "Welcome to Delicious!" He is also employed as a custodian at the Taylor County Courthouse.



In April 2021, Andrew W. was hired as a vehicle detailer at Fred Mueller Ford in Phillips. While still in high school, he works 3 hours each morning and then attends classes in the afternoon. Every day is an adventure as Andrew never knows what type of vehicle is waiting for him to tackle in the wash bay. The staff at Fred Mueller keeps things interesting for him as they continue to add new tasks to his detailing repertoire. As for Andrew -- the bigger the better -- as he loves working on huge Built Ford Tough pickups.



Sometimes we're lucky enough to get a second chance at doing something that we love. In November 2021, Dennis M. got his second chance when he was hired at the Medford McDonald's. He had previously worked at a McDonald's in southern Wisconsin prior to relocating to Medford. He used his 7 years of experience as a crew member to quickly adapt to his new surroundings. Dennis is the weekend guy in charge of keeping the dining room and playland cleaned and sanitized. According to Dennis, his favorite parts of the job are mopping floors and his free lunches.



In-Home Support

Deanne is appreciative of BRI's hard work to help her continue living independently. BRI has been assisting her since the fall of 2021. She loves to decorate her apartment and visit with her friends and neighbors. Deanne's favorite activities are reading, reminiscing, and listening to music.



Scott has been living independently for the past 2 years in Medford with BRI supports. He enjoys playing video games, going to the movies, taking walks, and shopping. Scott is very happy with staff helping him remain independent in his apartment.



Elsie has been receiving supports from BRI for 37 years. Elsie loves to knit and do crafts. Her favorite thing to do at home is listen to oldies music. She has a large collection of CDs to listen to. Elsie enjoys having staff assist her with maintaining her apartment in order to live independently.



Sheltered Employment

Kevin G. is a key player in the assembly process of wall frames. From October to the middle of December, the team assembled and shipped 869,664 frames.



Haley P. always has a smile on her face when she gets to help out in the shred room. In 2021, BRI shred 96,628 pounds of paper.



2021 has opened the door to new adventures in the spice room. Partnering with a local company, BRI is mixing and bottling 2 different BBQ blends and looking forward to additional partners in 2022.



With every job comes a little clean up. Mark S. is a huge asset and keeps the production floor safe by sweeping and recycling all the cardboard.



Day Services

Emily E. taught sign language weekly. The group would also get together with the SOAR students so they could learn. Throughout the day you may see them use sign language skills to have fun and communicate with each other.



Otto B. is volunteering at the Medford School Barn. The day services group enjoys being involved in the community. They also volunteer at Huey's Hideaway, Medford Public Library, Rib Lake Public Library, Indian Head, Medford City Park, and Lincoln County Humane Society.

Transportation



Larry B. uses the wheelchair lift to assist getting Melissa F. on the bus. 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.



2021 Highlights

JANUARY: Day Services was able to visit Vintage Naturals in Medford to learn how to make bath bombs. They all had so much fun learning and creating.



FEBRUARY: BRI celebrated Kindness Week during the month. We had dress up days and asked BRI members to write positive things and place them in the "Bee Kind" box.



Shanna B. showing her support for the Milwaukee Brewers on favorite team day.

"Love your family and friends." ~
Bev H.

"My friends are all helpful when I need them." ~
Seth E.



kindness

MARCH: Spring was in the air for Day Services at BRI. They worked very hard getting ready for the greenhouse gardens.



APRIL: Production was busy assembling worm boxes for the upcoming fishing season. During the month of April, they filled an order for 1600 crawler cabins and over 500 worm boxes.



MAY: Peterson Concrete & Forward Bank gave BRI a generous donation to help provide quality services to meet the needs of our clients.



Kathy R. presented a generous donation in memory of her husband, Joe. The funds were allocated to a memorial bench and apple trees that were planted at BRI in Joe's honor.

Thank you!



JUNE: BRI hosted the 17th Annual Golf Classic Fundraiser, sponsored by Bill's Tire & Service Inc. We had 20 golf teams, numerous sponsors, donors, and volunteers to help benefit the caring and dedicated individuals of BRI.



2021 Highlights

JULY: Day Services had a beautiful day at Solberg Lake fishing and having a cookout over the campfire.



AUGUST: BRI celebrated with a Packer Tailgate Party to kick off the start of football season. The Green Bay Packers sent footballs for everyone with replica signatures from the entire team. A local family donated season opener tickets to raffle off, and Kyle H. and his family were the lucky winners.



SEPTEMBER: The Production floor was busy. They were right on target to get important work done for our local business partners, while providing great jobs for the people that enjoy coming to BRI everyday.



OCTOBER: BRI Employee Appreciation Week was held October 25th through the 28th. We had dress up days, random prize drawings, and treats during break. We ended the week with a movie at Broadway Theatre.



NOVEMBER: Our annual bus inspection was held with a clean bill of health. Way to go BRI Transportation Team! BRI celebrated Employee Milestone Anniversaries. They had a luncheon at Cravings and received a special gift for their dedication.

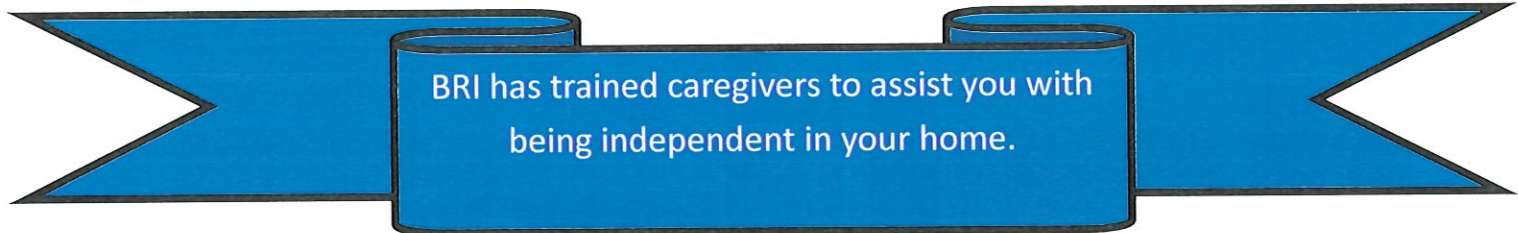


DECEMBER: BRI's annual Christmas Party was held at Centennial Hall. We enjoyed a great meal and had lots of fun dancing away.



Check out how BRI can support you and your family!

BRI
 650 Jensen Drive
 Medford, WI 54451
 715-748-2950



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 _____

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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, and Phillips communities. Serving people for over 45 years!