

August 2016

Sunny Summer Fun Time



**Westmoreland County
Blind Association**

“An eye for an eye leaves the whole world blind.”

By Mahatma Gandhi

Inside this Issue:

From the Desk of the Executive Director	2
Business Buzz, Embroidery Hoop, Social Media Info	2
Work Activity Center, David Marks' Award	3
POB Screenings, Community Participation, Fundraising Events	4
Clyde Bittner Award, Textiles Manufacturing Department	5
Adult Training Facility, Key Facts To Know	6
Human Resources Corner, Memorials, Donations or Information Requests	7



**FROM THE DESK OF OUR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
TIMOTHY P. MILLER**

It has been a busy couple of months with Employee Recognition Awards, International Organization for Standardization (ISO) audits, and many other activities.

We have recently welcomed a new member to our WCBA Board of Directors, April Kopas, who resides in Greensburg, PA. April is currently the Executive Director of the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Westmoreland. She has a B.S. in Political Science degree from West Virginia University, Masters of Urban & Regional Planning degree and Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh.

Our organization continues to grow each day. We are continuously working to update and make additions to our social media marketing in order to improve our community exposure.

Have a safe & enjoyable Summer!

SOCIAL MEDIA

Check us out often on Facebook and Twitter for updates, pictures, events and important information.

[https://www.facebook.com/
WCBAinPA](https://www.facebook.com/WCBAinPA)

<https://twitter.com/WCBAinPA>

Visit our website at



BUSINESS BUZZ

The Westmoreland County Blind Association has been busy in the past few months welcoming many political officials including Senator Kim Ward, U.S. Rep. Ryan Warner, U.S. Rep. Mike Reese, and Westmoreland County Commissioners. They have toured our multi-faceted facility and been shown first-hand that the tiny tan building on South Main Street is home to many, many talented and ambitious individuals.

On March 15th, WCBA hosted the first Breakfast B.A.S.H. for the Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce where 32 Chamber members toured our facility, networked with fellow members and were served a delicious, homemade breakfast.

Every day there is a constant flurry of activity which is impacting your very own community. We guarantee that if you have not already toured our facility, you are missing out on many of the services that we provide to your local area. You can benefit while helping to support your community as we employ many blind, visually-impaired, intellectually and physically challenged. Won't you please call us at 724-837-1250 to see what everyone is talking about!

∞∞∞∞The Embroidery Hoop ∞∞∞∞

The Embroidery Retail Store is open to the Public.
Check us out!

Operation Hours:

Monday-Friday 8:00AM-4:30 PM

Try us!! We offer the finest products at the LOWEST prices!!

GUARANTEED

For Pricing & Questions, Please Contact Us At:

724.837.1250

Toll Free 800.838.6335

Web: www.wcbanpa.org

From the Work Activity Center:

The document destruction business continues to grow with our shredders humming 5 days a week, over 6+ hours a day!! We have added a second 10 HP (two-man shredder) to help us to maintain the flow of incoming paper. We are now up to 27 single-operator shredders and 2 two-man shredders working daily. These machines and the wonderful consumers who run them, can destroy at least 6,000 lbs. a day! A DAY!! That enables us to send out 45,000 lbs. of paper to the paper mill for recycling at least twice per month. Recycling gives everybody a good feeling while we know that we are keeping tons of paper from filling the landfills. Did we mention that our consumers love to work? As we have said before, the consumers love to work and they WANT to come to work. They like being here and making friends and earning their very own paycheck. If EVER you want to see how things work at the Pre-Vocational Services, Shredding Department, just stop by! We would love to give you a tour.

We have recently acquired a few new consumers. They are Kelsey Shaffer, Gennifer Christian, Leslie Myers, and Robby Graham who will soon be starting his Pre-vocational services with us. Everyone is very excited about working in the shredding area. We have added some new staff members since our last Newsletter. We have Jamie Strangis, Kelly Gradishek and Kelly Butler. Welcome aboard ladies, we are happy that you have joined our team!

We have to say goodbye to Eoin Guidas who will be leaving at the end of July to return to college. Best of luck to you, Eoin!

~~~CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ACHIEVEMENT~~~

David Marks, from New Stanton, was honored on June 13, 2016 by UniqueSource Products & Services with an Achievement Award for the exceptional character they demonstrate in living and coping with disabilities, particularly in the workplace. It was an evening filled with inspiration during the “Embrace the Abilities” Dinner which recognized 25 outstanding Pennsylvania workers at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center. David’s family, along with WCBA’s Executive Director Tim Miller, and PA State Representative Eric Nelson were in attendance for this prestigious award.

David works as a shredding operator for WCBA and is known to be one of the company’s top shredders. In addition, he maneuvers and prepares pallets, helps to unload trucks with incoming documentation and removes hard drives from computer systems that are ready for destruction. David is a proud participant of the Special Olympics also.

For 60 years, UniqueSource has worked with non-profits across the Commonwealth to provide sustainable employment opportunities for Pennsylvanians with disabilities and they are privileged to honor several of those workers who inspire us every day through their strong work ethics, positive attitudes and exceptional performance. They remind us how important it is to embrace each other’s abilities.



PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS PROGRAM

Free Programs including Child Vision Screenings for Color Blindness and Blindness Prevention in local area Pre-Schools. Educational Programs of Eye Safety classes for home, work and play!! **CALL AND ASK US!!!**

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION



The Westmoreland County Blind Association participated this year as a sponsor for the Westmoreland County Croquet Tournament on Sunday, June 8, 2016 at the University of Pittsburgh @ Greensburg Campus. The foundation was formed in 1994 and holds this event annually by the Old Joe Clubs/Westmoreland Croquet Club to provide grants that support qualified 501(c)3 organizations. WCBA is considered one of those non-profit organizations.



Fundraising Events

On Friday, April 15, 2016, we held our annual "Visions of Springtime" event at the Greensburg Country Club. A beautiful display of Pasta Bar choices, specialty Hors d'oeuvres, Dessert table, Candy Buffet and Cash Bar were served.

Entertainment was provided by Jason Kendall Productions from Pittsburgh and played all types of music from jazz to classic rock to top 40 music. The dance floor was crowded with smiling faces and everyone showing off their special dance moves.

Then next up was our 14th Annual Golf Outing on Friday, June 10, 2016. It was held for the first time at the Greensburg Country Club to give a fresh and challenging new feel to our event. The outing included a boxed lunch and finished with a Buffet dinner prepared by the GCC's chef. This event included many complimentary gifts and prizes to win.

We are already planning our upcoming events for next year. Our Gala will be on Friday, February 24, 2017 at the Greensburg Country Club. Then, we will return to the GCC on Friday, June 9, 2017 for our 15th Annual Golf Outing. Please mark these dates on your calendars for a great time and a truly worthwhile cause!

*From the desk of Deb Sabatine,
Fundraising Coordinator*

**One Eye Donation
Can Make Two
Blind People See.**

~ The Fresh Quotes ~



National Industries for the Blind Recognizes Clyde Bittner

Clyde Bittner of Jeannette has recently been nominated for a national award for outstanding achievement and excellent performance at the Westmoreland County Blind Association. He was nominated for the 2016 Peter J. Salmon Employee of the Year Award on April 15, 2016. The National Industries for the Blind (NIB) honors an individual who is blind and employed in NIB's network of associated nonprofit agencies. The Salmon award recognizes employees who excel in their positions at our associated agencies. This award honors the memory of Dr. Salmon, who was instrumental in the passage of the Wagner-O-Day Act in 1938 and the formation of NIB.

Clyde has been employed by WCBA for 12 years in our Textiles Manufacturing Department in many phases of our production lines. WCBA produces government contract goods as detailed in our article posted below.

Clyde and his wife, Lucille, are very active in their community by volunteering in many local projects and events. WCBA, as Clyde's employer, along with his colleagues and those who know him best want to congratulate him on this prestigious honor. He will be honored at a ceremony in Arlington, VA in September 2016.



TEXTILE MANUFACTURING DEPARTMENT

Fiscal Year 2015-16 presented WCBA's manufacturing department with multiple operational challenges in their efforts to fulfill requested product quantities while continuing to sustain a long standing recognized level of quality that meets or exceeds military specifications as set forth by the U.S. Department of Defense.

Responding to the DoD's budgetary sequester that forced a cutback in military procurement spending by 10%, WCBA restructured operations to stress a much leaner and highly adaptive workforce that allowed us to integrate personnel across all production lines as need warranted. Through a focused investment in employee cross-training, we achieved the ability to utilize our total workforce in a more value-added capacity. Additionally, the agency acted proactively with the initiation of an aggressive program of retooling with the purchases of the latest in technology based equipment specifically modified to assist our blind/sight impaired employees and provide them with additional job opportunities which enhanced the growth of each individual's skill set.

Over the past year, the manufacturing department's portfolio continued to be supported with the awarding of government contracts that include the U.S. Army Generation III (ECWCS) Extreme Cold Weather Clothing System Layer #2 undergarment; Joint Services Light Integrated Suit Technology (JS List Bag), a carry bag for ground troops to carry their chemical, biological, and nuclear safety clothing into battle; the Flyer's Kit Bag (FKB) used by aviators to carry maps, charts, helmets, and other mission critical gear onto the aircraft; and finally the U.S. Navy Neckerchief, part of the enlisted man's dress uniform. In 2015, WCBA was once again recognized for its commitment in manufacturing 'goods of quality and utility' that play a critical role in the armed forces defense of our nation.

These contracts are administered through our association with the National Industries of the Blind (NIB), and are subject to the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (JWOD) of 1971, a federal law which mandates a compliance ratio requirement of one sighted to every three blind/sight impaired employees. In 2015, our total workforce consisted of 37 employees, of which 21 were blind/sight impaired equipment operators and technicians with 7 being sighted. The remaining 9 were dedicated to supervisory, quality assurance and maintenance positions.

In addition to our Department of Defense work, WCBA's commercial product offerings included mattress pad covers used in Pennsylvania state hospitals, 100% cotton wiping rags supplied to PennDot, Smithcot® portable stretchers and grave marker flags.

In closing, WCBA continued to aggressively seek blind/sight-impaired individuals who are looking to improve their quality of life through compensated employment and improve their marketable skill sets by becoming a part of our team's bright future.

Adult Training Facility Happenings

Over the past year, the ATF participated in a few fun and educational trips to Idlewild Park in Ligonier, PA and a nature walk at Mammoth Park in Mt. Pleasant, PA. These activities help to enhance the daily living skills and abilities of these physically and intellectually challenged individuals.

On a regular basis, they participate in fundraising activities such as Bake Sales of pepperoni rolls, cookies, sweet-breads and special lunches. They have also made many craft items such as candles and topiaries. Some of these proceeds were given to support the victims of the Orlando shooting and the West Virginia floods. This past Christmas, they chose to use their fundraising profits to purchase toys and gifts for needy children. These gifts were chosen by the ATF consumers, gift-wrapped and presented to the Westmoreland County Children's Bureau which gained attention by our local newspaper. On Veteran's Day, this group held a "Have a Dessert with a Veteran" event whereas local veterans came to our facility to share a dessert and drink with us.

We always like to help others because so many people help us. As you can see, we are a very busy group and we all enjoy ourselves. We can't wait to write to you again and tell you all of the neat things we have done.

NEW EYES FOR THE NEEDY PROGRAM

New Eyes for the Needy is a non-profit organization which operates a voucher program to help low-income individuals in the U.S. to purchase basic prescription eyeglasses. Eligible clients can apply for a voucher through a social service agency, welfare worker or school nurse. Clients can present a New Eyes voucher to any participating local optical dispenser, who fits the client with the proper prescription eyeglasses. The dispenser then receives reimbursement directly from New Eyes. To be eligible for this program, applicants must meet U.S. Poverty guidelines, have had a recent eye exam (New Eyes does not pay for eye exams) and have no other resources available to them to pay for eyeglasses, including federal or state programs or assistance from local charitable organizations.

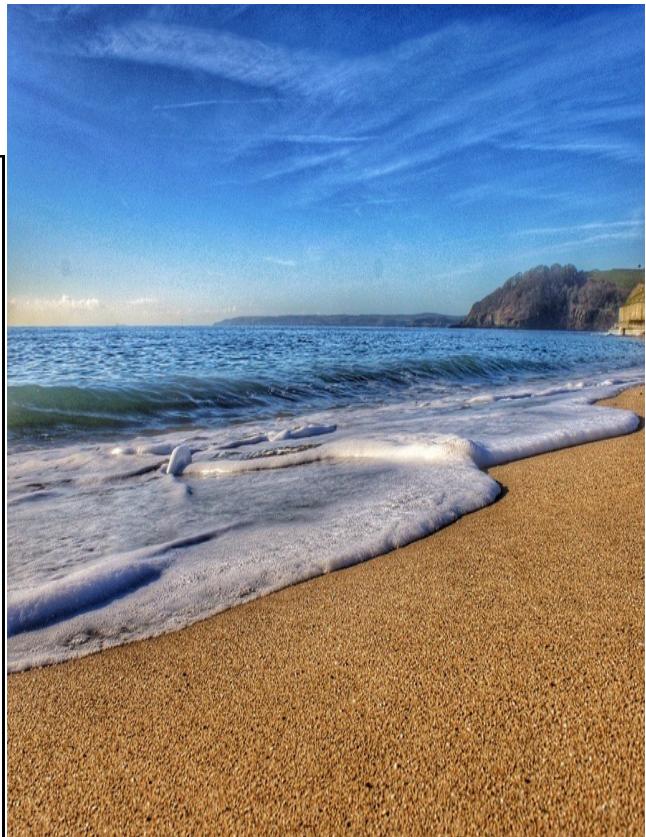
The New Eyes Voucher Online Application Portal can be found at <https://onlineapp.new-eyes.org/>

Key Facts

Research suggests that people who eat lots of leafy greens, and a variety of other fruits and vegetables, may have less risk of developing cataracts or age-related macular degeneration. More than half of all Americans develop these conditions in adults over 60 affecting as many as one in three people.

Eat the rainbow:

- Carotenoids are a family of nutrients that provide yellow, orange & red colors in many fruits & vegetables.
- Lutein and Zeaxanthin are dark green leafy vegetables like spinach, kale, turnip greens, collards, dandelion greens, peas, mustard greens, summer/winter squash & brussel sprouts.
- Alpha-Carotene include pumpkin, carrots, winter squash.
- Beta-carotene is provided in pumpkin, sweet potato, dark green leafy vegetables, winter squash & cantaloupes.
- Beta-cryptoxanthin is found in pumpkin, papayas & red peppers.



PLEASE DONATE

If at anytime you would like to make a donation or receive more information about our organization, please fill out the form below and mail to:

Westmoreland County Blind Association

911 South Main Street
Greensburg, PA 15601

OR

Go to www.wcbainpa.org and follow the link "Ways to Give"

Name _____

Address _____

City/ST/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Westmoreland County Blind Association is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization.

AROUND THE HUMAN RESOURCE CORNER

Our organization is consistently growing. We would like to welcome our new employees:

Tonya Reese, Director of Programs

Matt Spilko, promoted to Program Specialist

Deann Wallbaum, promoted to ATF Supervisor

Connie Ritenour, promoted to Direct Care Worker Supervisor

Eoin Guidas as Direct Care Worker.

Tina Shrum and **Lee Ann Dunlap**, Sewing

Megan Simms and **Terri Blodgett**, Companion Aides

Please help to make these employees to feel welcome and assist with any questions or directions that they may need.

You may want to refer friends or family members as we periodically have job positions available on our team!

2016 MEMORIALS

As 2016 moves on, it is important that we take time to remember those special people who have passed away this past year.

It is with heavy hearts and deepest appreciation that WCBA want to acknowledge those who gave in memory of a loved one.

IN MEMORY OF BRIAN DUFFIELD:

Debbie & Bill Beatty
Thomas & Janet Hankinson, III

IN MEMORY OF DOMINICK FINOLI: Helen Finoli

IN MEMORY OF RALPH GRAFF:
Ipswich Bay Glass Co.
Epic Metals Corporation
Bright Beginnings Children's Center
Marcia C. Banze
Deanna Santucci
Nick & Linda Parise
Sam & Teresa Shaffer
Beverly Hantz
Rudy Boccabella
Russell & Dorothy Deemer
Michael & Jeanne Cerce
John & Deb Rohe
SWG Civic Society

IN MEMORY OF EDWARD MINER:

Scott O. Mears
Harry A. Mears, Jr.
Miriam Peterson
Mr. & Mrs. Scott L. Brown
Rebecca Gardner

These gifts were recorded between Jan 1, 2016 to present date.
We sincerely apologize for any omissions.



Westmoreland County Blind Association

Summer 2016 Newsletter

Summer Wishes from the WCBA Board Of Directors

Janie Mahla-Chairperson

Dominic Acalotto

April Kopas

Anthony Bompiani

Nelson Mayer

Jack Cherubini

Esq. Les J. Mlakar

Kris Douglas

Carol Petrusky

Frank Farrell

Tony Saulle

Mary Ann Grec

Mark Tintori

Greensburg, PA 15601
911 South Main Street
Westmoreland County
Blind Association
VISION BEYOND THE ORDINARY

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 189
Greensburg, PA