

NEWSLETTER

2019



Westmoreland County
Blind Association

Inside this issue:

- The Desk of the Executive Director, Timothy P. Miller , New Employee listing 1
- Work Activity Center, Uniquesource 2
- Adult Training Facility, Embroidery 3
- Textile Department, Open House 4
- Havana Nights, Golf Outing 5
- Fundraising News, Embroidery Department 6
- Prevention of Blindness, Memorials, Donations or Information Requests 7



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

2019 has been an eventful and exciting year for WCBA. Our organization continues to grow and expand each day with new consumers and staff joining us. Throughout the past year, 24 new consumers have joined WCBA.

We would like to welcome Doug Bailey as our newest board member. Doug currently resides in Greensburg.

I traveled to Hershey this summer for the presentation of the UniqueSource Achievement Award. This year the award was presented to Lisa Ann Herbst. Lisa works at our Photo ID center in Monroeville. There will be more information about award is included in this issue.

Please feel free to stop in for a tour to see the incredible work that our individuals do every day. Their contributions are invaluable to the success of WCBA.



New Employees

Branson Auckerman

Adam Bartlow

Jenn Bernd

Traci Coberly

Holly Conchenour

Cynthia Reed

Garret Stevenson

Gerry Smolka

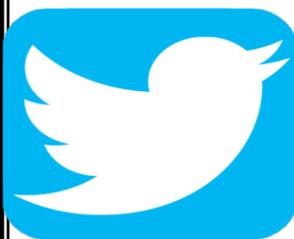
Wendy Sprock

Zoe Zollinger

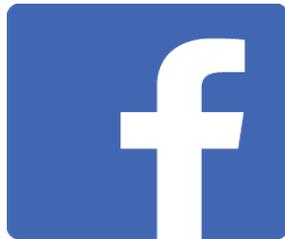
Please help make these employees feel welcome and assist them with any questions or directions that they may need. You may want to refer friends or family members, as we sometimes have job positions available on our team!

Check us out on

Social Media



@WCBAinPA



Westmoreland County

Blind Association

From the Work Activity Center

As you know, document destruction is the main job in the Work Activity Center. For the fiscal year of 2018-2019 we brought in 1,792,715 lbs. or a little over 896 tons. The weight we brought in from our “walk-in” service (individuals and businesses who drop off their paper) alone was 145,794 lbs. We had a total of 1,441 Customers this year.

We recycle the paper that we bring in, which gets baled into 1,500 lb. bales and sent to a paper mill, where it will eventually get made into toilet tissue or paper towels. We produce at least five of these bales a day, or 7,000 lbs. of paper shredded per day! This past fiscal year, we recycled 1,533,764 lbs. or almost 767 tons.

We also recycle our cardboard from all the boxes of documents we receive yearly. We recycled 48,897 lbs. of cardboard in the 2018-2019 year.

We continue to work with Keystone Foam on their foam-separation job. Our consumers punch out and dispose of the pre-cut circles in blocks of foam, which are used for shipping test tubes. This job provides us with approximately 26,000 blocks every quarter. Our consumers love this job and we are very thankful to have it!

The Work Activity Center is always looking for additional jobs. We are available for mail collation, assembly jobs, labeling, etc. If your company or any others you may know of have a need for similar jobs, please feel free to pass along our information. We would love and be so happy to help any local business in any way we can.

We invite you to come in any time for a tour! I think you would be amazed at the consumers working so hard to get our secured documents shredded. I am sure you would get a smile, handshake, conversation and possibly a hug!



Hope to see you soon! Karen L. Booley, Production Manager

UniqueSource Achievement Award

Lisa Ann



Herbst

With a flash of a smile, Lisa makes everyone feel welcome. So, working as a greeter and photo license technician in Monroeville is the best job for her and it’s one she’s had for more than 30 years! Always courteous, she makes sure that her customer service leaves a positive impression on everyone she helps. In fact, many in the community look forward to seeing her when they visit the Photo License Center.

“Being a greeter is the best because I am able to talk with others. But I also enjoy taking the photos of our customers,” said Lisa

In addition to providing a great customer experience, Lisa is also responsible for the operation of the work site, which includes accountability of consumables and processing customers.

Adult Training Facility

Our Adult Training Facility (ATF) continues to grow and now has 26 consumers. Over the summer, the ATF enjoys lots of fun activities, including visits to Twin Lakes, lunch outings, Pittsburgh Zoo, bowling, picnics, walks and shopping trips.

Members of the ATF also participate in fundraising activities such as bake sales of chocolate covered pretzels, chili, spaghetti dinners and snickerdoodles . Lastly, fundraising also enables the ATF to go on trips and participate in activities in the community.

On Wednesday mornings, three ATF members and one staff head off to Murrysville to spend time with Kate Cala at East Suburban Citizen Advocacy (ESCA). The consumers are always quite excited when they return, showing off decorated boxes, keychains or jewelry that they have made (they always keep one they made for themselves). The group alternates attendance each week. So far, eight consumers have attended, but as word spreads, others have shown interest in attending.

Some of the activities that we offer in the ATF are exercise and music therapy, daily life skills, literacy and math activities, and arts and crafts.



Embroidery

The Embroidery Department specializes in personalizing items for sports teams, golf outings, Christmas gifts and much more. The Embroidery Department produces annually for organizations like Beacon Lodge & Overly's.

We offer competitive pricing for your customizing needs.

The Embroidery Department is open to the public & accepts walk-in customers.



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



TEXTILE MANUFACTURING

WCBA's manufacturing department acquired a new computer-driven cutting machine/vacuum table, the Eastman Raptor 75x, at the end of July from Buffalo, N.Y. This machine enables all textile cutting to be completed within the WCBA facility, reducing on transportation costs and opening up the possibility for WCBA to cut material for other companies in the future.

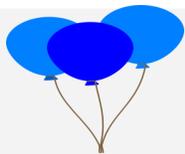
When employees use the new cutting machine, they select the appropriate files to put into the computer, spread the textile material and take the finished product off the machine. Additionally, employees can manipulate the size of the material being cut to match the dimensions required by our military contracts. It also enables 32 layers of material to be cut at once, and uses a technique that allows the machine to optimize the amount of material that is used and prevent as little waste as possible.

The new cutting machine will be used in the production of the following government contracts that include:

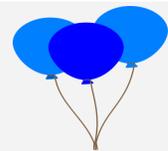
- U.S. Army Generation III (ECWCS) Extreme Cold Weather Clothing System, Layer #2.
- Flyer's Kit Bag (FKB) used by aviators to carry maps, charts, helmets and other critical gear onto the aircraft.
- U.S. Navy Neckerchief, part of the enlisted man's dress uniform.

Our Department of Defense 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.

During the past fiscal year, WCBA stopped production of the Joint Services Light Integrated Suit Technology carry bag (JS List Bag) for chemical, biological and nuclear safety clothing. The U.S. government suspended production of the JS List Bag due to a surplus in inventory. WCBA is actively pursuing other projects, including contracting for flight deck jerseys, which are created in different colors to identify rank and responsibility and are created to be flame-resistant.



OPEN HOUSE



2019

WCBA welcomed approximately 85 guests for our Spring Open House that was held on April 16, 2019. It was also a celebration for "National Day For Choice." Guests received a complimentary WCBA gift bag and went on a complete tour of our building, including our ATF , Work Activity Center, Textile Manufacturing, Shredding, and Embroidery Departments.



Thank You

To everyone
who attended



FUNDRAISING FESTIVITIES



WCBA's 5th annual "Visions of Springtime" Gala was held on Friday, March 1, 2019 at the Greensburg Country Club. The guests enjoyed a Cuban themed evening that included salsa dancers, a Cuban buffet, a dessert table, Cigar & Rum Bar, basket raffles, and the chance for two to win a cruise to Cuba. Guests danced the night away to a deejay that played upbeat energetic music.



WCBA'S 17th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

On June 7, 2019, we returned to the Greensburg Country Club for our 17th annual Golf Outing. Golfers received a boxed lunch, a buffet dinner and had the opportunity to win many prizes. Thank you to all of our sponsors, donors, guests and volunteers who made our Golf Outing so successful!



Donations

Blindness Prevention

2019 MEMORIALS

If at any time 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 on "Ways to Give"

Name _____

Address _____

City/ST/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

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

WCBA understands the importance of early childhood vision screenings and exams. The WCBA Prevention of Blindness staff and volunteers travel to preschools and kindergartens all over Westmoreland County and Indiana County providing free vision screenings intended to identify children who may have vision problems. We have been conducting the vision screenings for more than 20 years. We would love the opportunity to come to your day-care and be able to conduct vision screenings for children ages 3-6 years. The staff starts out by reading an age appropriate book on eye care. They also incorporate our pet (stuffed) rabbit named Seemore who wears glasses to interact with the children. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a visual screening, please call Deann Wallbaum, our Vision Screening Coordinator, at 724-837-1250.

WCBA would like to acknowledge those who contributed in memory of the following individuals .

- Carl D Blystone**
- Paula Hamilton**
- Lawrence Helkowski**
- Romayne Lloyd**
- John & Jessie Mochnick**
- Joseph Muller**
- Patricia Shavel**

Thank you for donating in memory of your loved ones. These memorial gifts will help WCBA continue to serve the blind in our community.

Gifts in memory of these individuals were recorded between Jan. 1, 2019 to present date.

A Very Special Prom

On April 27th some of WCBA's consumers went to the prom. It was held at St. Mary's Byzantine Church Hall. Everyone enjoyed dressing up and dancing with their friends and coworkers. The theme for this prom was "rocking the night away" and it was a 50's theme that included things such as vinyl records, checkered print, and classic cars. Each consumer received a free corsage or boutonniere and a 5x7 memory photo. The music that they played included Elvis, The Four Seasons, Chuck Berry, and The Champs amongst others. There were many local business that donated food for this special occasion.



Pittsburgh Pirates Fun

WCBA would like to thank the Pittsburgh Pirates for donating complimentary tickets to three home games.

Everyone had a great time!





Westmoreland County Blind Association



Board of Directors

Frank Farrell - Chairperson

Doug Bailey

April Kopas

Anthony Bompiani

Janie Mahla

Eric Bononi

Nelson Mayer

Kris Douglas

Les J. Mlakar

Emily Gindlesperger

Adele Shuster

Mary Ann Grec

Mark Tintori

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Blind Association
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Greensburg, PA 15601