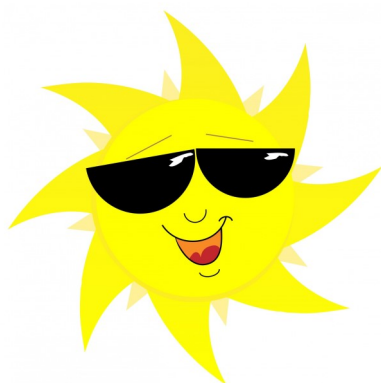


August 2018



## Westmoreland County Blind Association

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

2018 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 Eric Bononi as a new board member. Eric resides in Greensburg.

I traveled to Hershey this summer for the presentation of the UniqueSource Achievement Award to Bret Gulisek. Bret has worked at WCBA for 21 years and enjoys working with his friends in document destruction. More information about Bret's 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.

*Enjoy your summer!*

**AROUND THE HUMAN  
RESOURCE CORNER**

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

**Direct Care:**

Joan Hernley

Amanda Maines

Bailey Miller (Summer)

Zoe Morgan (Summer)

Suzanne Rugh

Karen Skultety

John Zink

**Sewers:**

Shawn Kline

Margaret Klingensmith

**Office Assistant:**

Paige Parise (Summer)

*Please help to make these employees feel welcome and assist 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!*

**~SOCIAL MEDIA~**

**Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!**



*Westmoreland County  
Blind Association*



*@WCBainPA*

**Visit us online:  
[www.wcbainpa.org](http://www.wcbainpa.org)**

**Meet  
Paige  
Parise**



Paige Parise joined WCBA as a Fundraising and Communications intern in January. She continued her work here as a summer Office Assistant after her semester ended in May. Paige is entering her senior year at Seton Hill University as a double major in Communication and Journalism New Media. She serves as the Co-Editor-in-Chief of Seton Hill's news publication, the *Setonian*, and she is the Drumline Captain in the Griffin Marching Band. Paige is grateful for the opportunity to work at WCBA and would like to thank the employees and consumers for being a pleasure to work with every day. She looks forward to seeing all the great things that WCBA does in the future!



## ***From the Work Activity Center***

For the fiscal year of 2017-2018, we brought in 1,744,347 lbs. or a little over 872 tons. The weight we brought in from our “walk-in” service (individuals and businesses who drop off their paper) alone was 134,309 lbs.

We recycle the paper that we bring in, which gets baled into 1,500 lb. bales and sent to a 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 a day! This past fiscal year, we recycled 1,869,031 lbs. or 934.5 tons.

We also recycle our cardboard from all the boxes of documents we receive yearly. We recycled 23,243 lbs. of cardboard in the 2017-2018 year.

There is a new job on our list—Keystone Foam has kindly chosen us for 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 secure documents shredded. I am sure you would get a smile, handshake, conversation and possibly a hug!

*From the desk of Karen L. Booley, Production Manager*

## **UniqueSource Achievement Award**



Bret Gulisek of Greensburg, Pennsylvania was one of 29 individuals honored with a UniqueSource Achievement Award on June 18, 2018. The night to “Embrace the Abilities” in Hershey, Pa. recognized individuals with disabilities who “demonstrate exceptional character,” especially in the workplace. After the awards ceremony, Master Sergeant Cedric King gave a keynote address to those in attendance. King, who entered the United States Army in 1995, received the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Meritorious Service Medal for his service.

Bret received the award for his hard work, dedication and kindness toward his peers and staff at the Westmoreland County Blind Association, where he has worked for the past 21 years. As a Document

Destruction Specialist, Bret shreds documents and prepares papers for the shredding process. One of Bret’s favorite things about his job at WCBA is working with his friends and meeting new people. Bret also enjoys shredding and pulling paper.

UniqueSource is a 501©(3) nonprofit that supplies products and services with a mission to “create employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.” UniqueSource partners with Pennsylvania nonprofits that employ individuals with disabilities to “market and deliver their products and services to customers in both private and public sectors.”

# Adult Training Facility Happenings

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 and Mammoth Park, lunch outings, bowling, picnics, walks and shopping trips.

Members of the ATF also participate in fundraising activities such as bake sales of pepperoni rolls, snickerdoodles and brownie cookies. Last December, the group used their fundraising profits to purchase toys and gifts for children in need at the Westmoreland County Children's Bureau for the holiday season, and they also created Easter baskets for the bureau in the spring. Fundraising also enables the ATF to go on trips and participate in activities in the community.

WCBA recently received \$500 from the newly formed Mt. Pleasant Vikings Pride Leo Club, a youth service organization affiliated with Lions Club International. The Leo Club held a "Dinner in the Dark" event in April, where participants ate their meals blindfolded. All proceeds were donated to the ATF to purchase two new iPads, and proceeds from the ATF's spaghetti lunch in August will be used to purchase apps on the iPads. These apps help the consumers learn a variety of skills, such as finance and literacy, and the tablets are also used to help improve communication with consumers who are hearing impaired.

On Monday mornings, three ATF members and one staff head off to Murrys ville 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 that 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. One of our consumers, Tom Fox, likes "making crafts, getting out into the community and making friends." Consumer Josh Kantorik says that he enjoys "making jewelry for his mom."



*It's a great day to be a Golden Lion at WCBA!*



Throughout the 2017-18 school year, WCBA welcomed students from the Greensburg Salem High School Life Skills Support Program. These students participated in activities in our Work Activity Center and Adult Training Facility. Thank you to Mr. Anthony Greece, Special Education Teacher, for collaborating with us. We look forward to working with Greensburg Salem in the future!

## Chamber Member of the Week



Thank you to the Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce for recognizing WCBA as its Chamber Member of the Week on May 28! WCBA was acknowledged and featured on the chamber's Facebook page. The chamber is the largest business association in the area, representing approximately 1,000 member businesses in the county.



# WCBA'S 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, cutting back 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, helmet 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 association with the National Industries of the Blind (NIB), and are subject to the Jatvis-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. In addition to our DoD work, WCBA's commercial product offerings include Smithcot® portable stretchers.

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

## WCBA Welcomes Visitors at Spring Open House

WCBA welcomed approximately 80 guests for our Spring Open House on April 26, 2018 in celebration of "National Day For Choice." Guests received a complimentary WCBA gift bag and went on a complete tour of our building, including our Adult Training Facility, Work Activity Center, Textile Manufacturing Department, Shredding Department and Embroidery Department. Thank you to everyone who attended! If you would like to visit, please stop by so we can give you a tour!



## ***Fundraising Events***

WCBA's annual "Visions of Springtime" Gala was held on Friday, March 2, 2018 at the Greensburg Country Club. Guests were treated to dinner, a dessert table and cash bar, and entertainment was provided once again by the band "HitPlay 304," who played a variety of music for those on the dance floor. Many guests went home with prizes from our basket raffle and auction.

On June 8, 2018, we returned to the Greensburg Country Club for our 16th annual Golf Outing. Over 100 golfers received a boxed lunch and buffet dinner and had the opportunity to win many prizes.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, donors, guests and volunteers who made our Gala and Golf Outing successful!

Our "Visions of Springtime" Gala will be held in March 2019 and our Golf Outing in June 2019. More details will be released as soon as they are available. We hope to see you at our events next year!



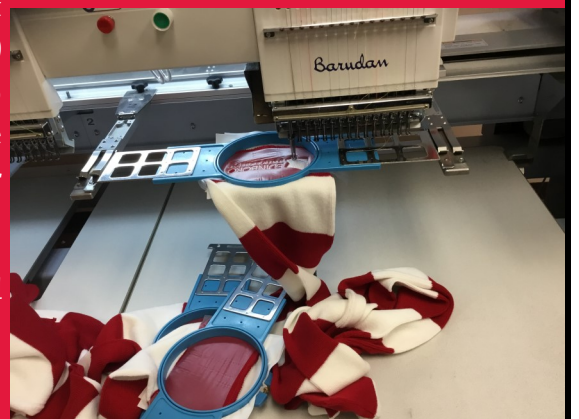
## ***From the Embroidery Department***

The Embroidery Department recently completed its largest order in more than 10 years with the production of 3,000 Edinboro University scarfs in April and May. In addition to embroidering for sports teams and golf outings in the summer, the Embroidery Department produces annually for organizations like Beacon Lodge.

The Embroidery Retail Store is open to the public and accepts walk-in customers. Check us out!

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

For Pricing & Questions, Please Contact Us At: 724.837.1250





## PLEASE DONATE

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](http://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.*

## Prevention of Blindness

The Westmoreland County Blind Association understands the importance of early childhood vision screenings and exams. The WCBA Prevention of Blindness staff and volunteers travel to pre-schools 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 daycare 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.

## 2018 MEMORIALS

WCBA would like to acknowledge those who gave in memory of the following individuals in 2018:

**Doris Bullens**

**Paula Hamilton**

**Charles "Sonny" Hays**

**Ronald Miller**

**Leo Nitkiewicz**

**Patricia Opsitnick**

**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, 2018 to present date.

## Summer at Beacon Lodge

Many of our consumers have been enjoying relaxation and fun this summer at the Pennsylvania Lions Beacon Lodge Camp in Mount Union, Pa. Originally established in 1948 for blind residents in Pennsylvania, the summer camp hosts adults and children with physical and mental challenges. The campers participate in a variety of activities, including swimming, games, arts and crafts, zip-lining and even field trips! Our consumers truly enjoyed their time at Beacon Lodge this summer!



# *Westmoreland County Blind Association*

## *Summer Fun Wishes from our Board of Directors*

**Frank Farrell - Chairperson**

**Anthony Bompiani**

**Eric Bononi**

**Kris Douglas**

**Emily Gindlesperger**

**Mary Ann Grec**

**April Kopas**

**Janie Mahla**

**Nelson Mayer**

**Les J. Mlakar**

**Adele Shuster**

**Mark Tintori**

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