



VISION BEYOND THE ORDINARY

Westmoreland County Blind Association



Mission Statement

The mission of this corporation is to improve the quality of life of the blind and visually impaired and to assist in the prevention of blindness in Westmoreland County.

ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL 2018-19

Organization in Review:

Since 1948, the mission of the Westmoreland County Blind Association has been to improve the quality of life of the blind and visually impaired and to assist in the prevention of blindness. In order to fulfill our mission, the WCBA offers a variety of services that enhance the productivity and independence of blind and visually impaired individuals, and seeks to educate the community about eye disease & damage prevention and detection.

For many, finding meaningful employment in today's economic climate is difficult. Consider the diminished employment opportunities for those who have lost their vision.

Employment not only fulfills the need for a source of income, but also the need to be independent and productive. At WCBA, 75% of our workforce is visually impaired or multi-challenged. Employment areas include Administration and Management, Manufacturing, Embroidery, and Document Destruction.

Training and Support Services (TSS)



The Training and Support Services Department of the Westmoreland County Blind Association meets the needs of the blind and visually impaired throughout the Westmoreland and Indiana County area. The implementation of the program allows the blind to become more independent. The wide array of services offered to the blind are at no cost to the consumer. The description of services is as follows:

SUPPORT SERVICES IN THE HOME:

- reading & reviewing mail
- filling out paper work & applications
- picking up groceries for the consumer
- assisting in shopping for and with the consumer

LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION: (Established to promote independence for the consumer through)

- educational sessions from staff & outside resources
- demonstrating usage of visual aides & appliances
- teaching consumers how to better acquaint themselves to daily activities

TRANSPORTATION:

- medical appointments
- banks
- grocery stores
- pharmacies
- agencies such as AAA, Social Security office, etc.
- peer support
- emergency first aid

ADVOCACY:

- seek resources that can benefit the consumer regarding their blindness or visual impairment
- ensure that consumer's rights are not being violated
- self-esteem building

Low Vision Program



Over the past 24 years, the Westmoreland County Blind Association has been involved with Dr. Chris Cakanac in providing low vision services. The program was the first low vision clinic to be established in Westmoreland County. The number of patients seen has grown from 50 to over 100 on an annual basis.

The Westmoreland County Blind Association is responsible for providing the visual aids for the clinic. There is a wide range of visual aids available to the patients and the recommended items may not always be satisfactory to the consumer. The problem occurs with the patient's inability to determine whether or not the visual aids can be helpful without actually using them in their daily lives. Due to these difficulties, the Westmoreland County Blind Association developed a loaner program with its visual aids so that, the patients can take the items home for two weeks and make their own determination on how useful the items are. This system has been very assistive to the patient.

This program has provided options for visually impaired consumers that were not available in the past. The addition of these items as well as obtaining the newest developments in technology is crucial to the effectiveness of this program.

Pre-Vocational Services



The WCBA Pre-Vocational Work Activities Center (WAC) provides therapeutic and developmental work tasks for the multi-challenged consumer while developing good working habits. WAC consumers develop general, nonjob specific skills. They learn to focus on following instructions and task completion. They develop fellowships with other consumers and learn the importance of teamwork. Our consumers also learn workplace safety, punctuality, and peer interaction.

Individuals in the Work Activities Center perform jobs such as document and hard drive destruction, mail collation, and a quarterly job of separating foam cut outs from the original block all while learning to function in a true workplace atmosphere. The skills learned offer the individual a path toward independence and self-reliance through paid work. WCBA document destruction, packaging and hard drive destruction services performed by the Work Activities Center consumers are available to the public. All proceeds from these services are used to fund programs that benefit the blind, the visually impaired, and those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Adult Training Facility



The Westmoreland County Blind Association Adult Training Facility (ATF) is comprised of twenty-five (25) multiple intellectually and physically challenged adults who participate in functional activities in an effort to meet personal needs and goals. In 2018, the ATF participated in many fun and educational visits including Idlewild Park, Pittsburgh Zoo, Westmoreland County Fair, nature walks at Twin Lakes, Mammoth Park, bowling, movie and lunch outings to enhance their daily living skills and abilities.

On a regular basis, they participate in fundraising activities such as bake sales, spaghetti dinners, chili luncheons, and chocolate covered pretzels. They also help plan agency holidays parties and go on shopping trips to purchase items needed.

The ATF has accomplished so much this year and look forward to another year of fun and educational activities and adventures.

Personal Community Services

These services allow individuals the opportunity to engage in supervised leisure and social events in the community. Individuals that have PFDS waiver funding can receive Companion and In-Home Community Habilitation Services. For those that have OBRA funding, Personal Assistance Services are available.

Embroidery

The Westmoreland County Blind Association offers custom embroidered apparel and accessories. All items are done on the premises to offer brand exposure for your company/organization's name and logo at a very reasonable cost. Individuals are welcome to shop for something unique to honor a special occasion or event. At Embroidery by WCBA, our emphasis is on quality and service.



Volunteers

The Westmoreland County Blind Association would like to thank its valued volunteers for donating their time to help the Association.

- help with tax preparation for our employees
- answering telephone calls and greeting customers in front lobby
- Prevention of Blindness screenings

Textiles Manufacturing Department



With the addition of the Eastman Raptor 75X computerized textile cutting equipment in mid-2018, we now utilize this fully automated system to cut and produce to exact government specifications, the parts necessary to manufacture all of our contract product lines. It has quickly become an essential tool in our arsenal. Building upon that, we currently perform cutting jobs as a sub-contractor for outside customers.

Through our commitment to employee cross training, WCBA is achieving workforce flexibility that enhances both our efficiency and productivity. In addition, our purchases of the latest in 'Assistive Technology' based sewing equipment that has been specially modified with features that aid the blind / sight-impaired, we project a future workforce that possesses the necessary tools and expertise that broadens our ability for accepting a more diverse array of projects. WCBA continues to actively seek additional textile cutting/sewing opportunities to grow and strengthen our operations base.

The department's portfolio for 2019 continued to find support with our participation in the Ability One Program with the following government contracts that include:

- U.S. Army Generation III (ECWCS) Extreme Cold Weather Clothing System, Layer #2 for use in operations conducted in extreme cold weather conditions.
- Flyer's Kit Bag (FKB) used by Armed Forces aviators to carry maps, charts, helmet or other mission critical gear onto the aircraft.
- U.S. Navy Neckerchief, part of the enlisted man's dress uniform.

Department of Defense contract awards are 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 that mandates a compliance ratio requirement of one sighted to every three blind/sight-impaired employees.

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.

Preschool Vision Screenings and Eye Safety Education (PSE)



A. To provide vision screenings to children designed to detect potential vision issues and to help them obtain care subsequent to the screening.

B. To provide educational programs which stress the need for early detection, eye safety, and information about specific eye disease and disorders.

The Training and Supportive Services and Preschool Vision Screenings and Eye Safety Education at the Westmoreland County Blind Association provided more than 2,000 hours of service to approximately 1,850 unduplicated consumers of Westmoreland and Indiana County. These hours of service included over 1,260 vision screenings and 580 children attending educational sessions.

Employee Recognition



Lisa Ann Herbst was honored with a UniqueSource Achievement Award on June 16, 2019. The night to “Embrace the Abilities” in Hershey, Pa. recognized individuals with disabilities who “demonstrate exceptional character,” especially in the workplace.

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

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 sectors.

2018-2019 Employee Activities



Consumer Prom
Spring 2019

Birthday Celebration
Breakfast



Pirate Games

Fundraising



- On March 1, 2019, WCBA hosted our 5th Annual “Visions of Springtime” event. Our guests enjoyed a Cuban themed evening at Greensburg Country Club in Jeannette, PA.
- The 17th Annual WCBA Golf Classic took place on June 6, 2019 at Greensburg Country Club in Jeannette, PA.

*****Upcoming events include our 6th annual
“Visions of Springtime” event in March 2020 at
the Greensburg Country Club, Jeannette, PA.**

**Also, our 18th annual Golf Outing
will be held in June 2020 at the Madison Golf Club.**

WCBA

A Year In Review

2018-2019

Take a look at what transpired at the Westmoreland County Blind Association (WCBA) in 2018-2019. We put together a review of each department and what was accomplished.

Training and Support Services (TSS), Preschool Vision Screenings &

LowVision Services (these services are provided in Westmoreland and Indiana Counties)

Item	Indiana	Westmoreland
Number of TSS consumers served	44	40
Number of Transportation Units Provided	261.5	646.75
Number of Life Skills Units Provided	8	24.5
Number of Support Service Units Provided	483.5	514.5
Other TSS Units Provided (ancillary)	107.5	27,526

Number of Preschool locations attended	11	9
Number of Vision Screenings completed	676	346
Number of Preschool Educational units provided	406	175
Number of Low Vision Evaluations provided	0	97
Number of Low Vision devices dispensed	0	81

Textile Manufacturing Department

Item	Total
Extreme Cold Weather Shirts	52,593
Joint Service List Bag (JSList Bag)	0
Flyer's Kit Bag	7,158
Navy Neckerchief	8,388
Sight Impaired Employees	15
Sight Impaired Hours Worked	27,526

Pre-vocational (consists of consumers that attend our Work Activity Center)

Adult Training Facility (consumers that participate in our ATF)

Companion/Personal Assistance Services (PAS) &

Community Habilitation (consists of consumers that are taken out in the community with a WCBA staff member)

Transportation Services (transportation for consumers to and from programs)

Item	Total
Number of Pre-Vocational units provided	397,264
Number of ATF units provided	58,339
Number of Companion units provided	12,643
Number of PAS units provided	34
Number of Community Hab. units provided	2,078
Number of Transportation trips provided	10,606
Number of unduplicated Consumers Pre-Voc	90
Number of unduplicated Consumers ATF	9

*Units are equal to 15 minutes increments.

Fund Raising

Item	Total
Mail Solicitation contributions	\$18,562
Funds raised through Events	\$43,601
Number of contributors through mail solicitation	364
Lions Club contributions	\$17,781
Misc Other Contributions (Memorials, Bequests, Misc Community Support	\$54,491

Document Destruction, Record Management & Embroidery

Shredding weight	1,792,715
Recycling weight	1,533,764
Number of monthly customers	345
Number of walk-in customers	1,441
Number of purge customers	148
Number of 64 gallon containers	448
Number of 96 gallon containers	360
Number of executive consoles	273
Walk-in Weight	145,794
Amount of donations from walk-in customers	\$3,888.75
Number of Record Management boxes stored	7445
Hard Drives Destroyed	990
Number of Embroidery Items Sold	7,345

Financial (Sales & Funding)

Item	Total
Grants Received	\$64,519
PAB Revenues	\$60,091
Photo ID Revenues	\$133,521
ODP Funding – Pre-Vocational	\$1,886,180
OLTL) Funding – Pre-Vocational	\$325,124
Transportation Revenues	\$151,843
Misc. Funding	\$65,045
Manufacturing Sales	\$2,043,406
Embroidery Sales	\$54,451
Low Vision Sales	\$23,089
Misc. Sales	\$10,668
Shredding Revenues	\$287,973
Document Storage	\$22,536
Recycling Revenues	\$163,081
Interest/Investment Revenue	\$77,802
TOTAL	\$5,369,329



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Blind Association**

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