

# Newsletter

2020

WCBA

VISION BEYOND THE ORDINARY

Westmoreland County  
Blind Association



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## FROM THE DESK OF OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Timothy P. Miller*

What a year it has been! For the first 7 months, WCBA had been operating quite well and most of our goals and objectives were being met. That was until mid-March when the Covid-19 struck. Since that point, WCBA like many others, have been on a roller coaster ride. Fortunately, we remained open during all of the phases and have been able to maintain all of our employees. Many of our Programs and Services have been slowed, but we WILL NOT stop continuing to provide services and programs to those in need. We will weather the storm and will remain positive for the future. I would like to thank our Board of Directors and employees for staying committed to the mission of our organization and adapting to all of the changes that have occurred.



**Please give the following new staff members a warm WCBA welcome.**

**Thomas Bailey**

**Raven Sharp**

**Katherine Koloski**

**Wendy Sinsley**

**Brandon Mozingo**

**Ed Stas**

**Zacheri Mozingo**

**Don Tasser**

**Rachel Olbeter**

**Shane Vecchio**

**Shari Rause**

**Jill Weimer**

**Check us out on**



[www.wcbainpa.org](http://www.wcbainpa.org)



# WORK ACTIVITY CENTER

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Welcome to the Work Activity Center, we are the heart of Document Destruction service at WCBA. This fiscal year (2019- 2020) we brought in 1,744,103lbs. of paper for shredding. That's over 872 tons! A large chunk of that paper came from walk -in customers. These are individuals or businesses whom drop off their paper to us. Those transactions brought in 119,871 lbs., almost 60 tons. Not too bad for closing the walk-in part of business for over 6 weeks due to Covid-19. Our consumers work very hard and manage to shred approximately 7,000 lbs. a day!

We recycled 1,480,631 lbs. of paper (over 740 tons) and we also recycle our cardboard boxes. We recycled 40,990 lbs. of cardboard (over 20.5 tons).

We also have hard drive destruction. This year we destroyed 441 hard drives. These hard drives get sent out to a local recycler for them to retrieve any worthwhile metals, etc. from them.

I want to thank personally; all of the consumers, direct care workers, warehouse men, and the two truck drivers whom go out daily to pick up our paper for us, you are ALL doing a TERRIFIC job!



*Karen L. Booley, Production Manager*

## *Day on the Hill*



WCBA enjoyed a trip to Harrisburg this past fall to visit several of our State Representatives & Senators during the "Day on the Hill "event. We would like to send a big THANK YOU to all of those in Harrisburg who continue to support our agency!

# UniqueSource Achievement Award



**Alex Morrison**

**Hometown**

Mt. Pleasant

**Years at agency**

9

**What Characteristics does Alex have that makes him stand out from his peers?** Alex is a kind and caring individual. He doesn't like missing work for any reason. He has a contagious smile that never seems to fade. He has a great memory and really enjoys getting to know people. Alex shows compassion for his peers and often becomes concerned if they are upset or missed work. When Alex was younger and received his wheelchair, he helped raise money so that one of his friends was able to obtain a similar chair. He takes time to talk to staff and peers each day, often asking what they did the previous night or how their family members are doing. He has a wonderful sense of humor and is always ready to make you laugh.

**What is the best part/ most favorite part about your job?**

Shredding, joking with my friends, and talking to people.

**What would your co-workers or friends be surprised to learn about you?**

That I have been behaving! I like watching baseball and football. I like looking at houses and searching the internet.

**My job has taught me....**

That I'm popular



# Adult Training Facility



**Our Adult Training Facility (ATF) continues to grow and now has 28 consumers. Over the summer, the ATF enjoys many fun activities, including visits to our local parks, where we go on walks and have picnic lunches. Our ATF also assists in the shopping trips needed for our events/parties.**

**Members of the ATF also participate in fundraising activities such as bake sales of chocolate covered pretzels and spaghetti lunches. Fundraising also enables the ATF to go on trips and participate in activities in the community.**

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

**To stay connected over the pandemic, Jenn and her ATF staff conducted Zoom lessons. They did a terrific job of interacting, exercising, reading and teaching our consumers.**

**We even delivered lunches to various consumers while they were at home.**

# TEXTILE MANUFACTURING

WCBA's manufacturing department has been busier than ever due to Covid-19. We have been subcontracted to make 400 military masks PER DAY! WCBA's textile department made well over 14,000 masks and utilized our cutting machine to cut a whopping 2,000 gowns for Excelsa Health. In addition to manufacturing the masks and the gowns, we still make cold weather shirts, flyer kit bags, and Navy neckerchiefs for the U.S. military.

## Excelsa Health Gowns



**In April, at the height of Covid-19, Westmoreland County Blind Association partnered with Excelsa Health. WCBA's textile department cut 2,000 protective gowns for the medical professionals in our community.**



# Adult Prom



WCBA's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala was held on Friday, March 6, 2020 at Rizzo's Malabar Inn. With over 190 in attendance, prom goers enjoyed a fun filled evening that consisted of a delicious dinner, dancing, cigar lounge, a 50/50 drawing, luxury drawing, and even a cruise drawing.



## *WCBA's 18th Annual Golf Outing*



August 7<sup>th</sup> marked our 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf outing at the Madison Club. Golfers enjoyed an 18 hole round of golf with a shotgun start at 9am. Attendees also enjoyed lunch at the turn, game of chance and skill, a steak dinner provided by DeNunzio's, raffles, prizes, and one lucky attendee could win a Jeep Renegade sponsored by Hillview Motors. The WCBA Annual Golf outing has been held at several locations throughout the years, but this is the first year it has been held at the Madison Club. The Madison Club has been around since 1909 and it is one of the most talked about golf courses in Pittsburgh.

We want to thank our sponsors, prize donors and everyone who helped make this event a success!



# Mask Manufacturing



When it comes to protecting and helping our community, The Blind Association is always willing to do our part. When Covid-19 was announced to the world, WCBA was ready to help in any way possible. The Textile Department got started right away. Starting in April, the phones continuously rang with orders. By the end of the first week, there were 10,000+ requests for masks. WCBA had an article written about the mask making process that made the TribLive website.

On our website and Facebook page, Westmoreland County Blind Association, you can find eight different videos on how the masks are made. In the videos, it shows the process of cutting the fabric, sewing the masks, cutting loose threads, and sanitizing and packing the finished products.

## WCBA Annual Work Picnic



In previous years, the annual picnic was held at Hempfield Park. This year we brought the party to us! On August 14<sup>th</sup> we had corn hole, bowling, prizes, music, Kona Ice and other fun activities planned for our consumers.

A delicious lunch was provided by Post Avenue Catering.





## Donations

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 St.  
Greensburg, PA 15601

OR

[www.wcbainpa.org](http://www.wcbainpa.org) and  
follow the link on

"Ways to give"

**Name**

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**Address**

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**City/ State / Zip**

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**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

## Blindness Prevention

The WCBA Prevention of Blindness staff and volunteers travel to preschools and kindergartens in Westmoreland & 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 or preschool and conduct a vision screening for children from 3-6 years old. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a vision screening, please contact Stephanie Greenwood, our Vision Screening Coordinator, at

724-837-1250 x 10

## 2020 Memorials

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



**Delta P. Pittavino**

**Frank Novak, Sr.**

**Jerry Keif**

**Mary Sibley**

**Ralph Scarpo**

**Timothy Sosko**

**William Sanders**



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 Sept 1, 2019 to present date.

# WESTMORELAND COUNTY BLIND ASSOCIATION

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



### **Les Mlakar- Chairperson**



**Doug Bailey**

**Anthony Bompiani**

**Eric Bononi**

**Kris Douglas**

**Frank Farrell**

**Emily Gindlesperger**

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