



FRIENDS OF BLUE RIDGE OPPORTUNITIES “WORKING WITH PRIDE”

*Serving those in our community with disabilities.
Helping them to achieve feelings of economic self-worth and dignity through work.*

Working to Make Things Happen!



Volume 2, Issue 4

December 5, 2007

Inside this issue:

Working to Make Things Happen! 2

Where there is a Will there is a Way 3

A Pictorial Year in Review 3

It has now been close a year since we completed our first step in rebuilding the old “Workshop”. This was when we achieved two important milestones, the first being our renewed three year CARF certification and the second being our new three year State License. These achievements turned out to be just the beginning, as we later changed our name to Blue Ridge Service Opportunities, Inc. or Blue Ridge Opportunities. This new name reflects our commitment as a non-profit, 501-C corporation to provide a service of “Opportunities”, to those in our community with special work training needs. Often times, the opportunities we provide are the only path our clients have to a feeling of economic self-worth and pride.

With our new name, we gave notice of our new model of Social Entrepreneurship. While we still depend on the contributions, grants and support of the community, we are also committed to providing a

needed service with an economic value. Thus departing from the old model of economic dependence, constant community fundraising, and charity. If we are to provide a feeling of economic self-worth and independence to our clients, then we ourselves must strive for the same purpose and goal as an organization.

With our new model of Social Entrepreneurship, we have expanded and extended our services in a number of ways. Most notable is our Student Transitional Services, helping students with special work needs to be prepared for a working environment; and our new Supported Employment program, to assist clients directly in their new jobs.

With our expanded and strengthen programs, we have experienced steady growth as the community and its businesses have seen the economic value of our services. As a result, we are having to continue with a strategic expansion



Making specialty brushes helps foster skills.

plan, drawing in a number of key community advisors in finance, education, business, community needs, real estate and legal. With this team, working with our Board, we expect to continue on the path of expanded services and building economic value within the community.

As a Friend of Blue Ridge Opportunities, we welcome and appreciate your interest and support, and most of all welcome you unto our team working to make things happen here at Opportunities.

Sincerely,
R. P. Braatz

If you have a friend or loved one that could benefit from the services we have described please contact the Workshop to schedule a visit.
540-636-4960

Where there is a Will there is a Way



Jeremy receiving a hug from Day Support Staff after walking 40 feet.

Every individual that is enrolled at Blue Ridge Opportunities faces challenges and barriers that severely limit them from obtaining the simple pleasures of life. Some of those challenges may be found in physical limitations, cognitive limitations, emotional insecurities, or the inability to express themselves in a manner in which others can understand. Some of these barriers are present from birth, others are acquired at various ages for various reasons.

Jeremy had been in a car accident several years ago that left him with severe brain injuries. He is wheel chair bound and needs assistance to perform most tasks during the day. Due to his intense limitations his family has had to rely on the assistance of a nursing facility to care for his daily needs.

Jeremy enrolled at Blue Ridge Opportunities this past summer with a determination like no other!

His biggest barrier is communication. He has not been able to express his wants and needs effectively and has had diffi-

culty using the assistive technology available to him. Blue Ridge Opportunities staff have introduced a few stepping stones for Jeremy to assist him in reaching his own personal goals.

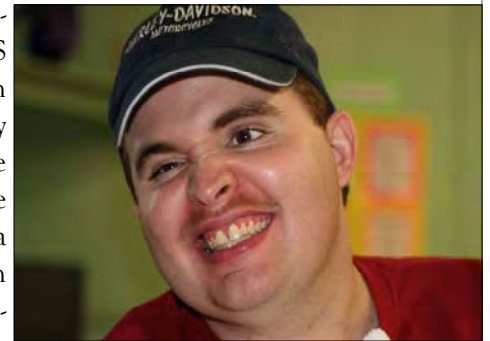
Jeremy wanted to be able to write his name. He has not been able to sign and approve of his own services, after only 3 months Jeremy is writing his first name and doing a great job! He is beginning to use PECS for communication to be universally recognized until he can achieve the goals of using a communication device. He is beginning to discriminate at least 3-4 different categories and...

Most of all, Jeremy has gained the self-confidence that he can overcome the barriers that he is facing one day at a time and one skill at a time.

Jeremy is moving from being totally dependant on others to being independent in a few areas of his life. This has been a welcome (but sometimes hard) change for him as

well as his family. His family has been extremely supportive of his efforts and the programming at Blue Ridge Opportunities.

I believe He has taught the staff at Blue Ridge Opportunities even more than what we have taught him...where there definitely is a will there is a way. He is proof! Thank you Jeremy for the lessons



you are teaching us as we grow and expand to serve every individual who needs us.

Cathy Wolfe-Heberle
Director of Assessment

A special thank you to Jeremy's family for being supportive, believing in the capabilities that are within Jeremy and assisting us in helping Jeremy unlock this for himself.

“
The measure of success is not whether you have a tough problem to deal with, but whether it is the same problem you had last year.

John Foster Dulles



Expanding Services... Expanding Work!

Service Expansion in 2008!

As Blue Ridge Opportunities looks into the future of employment of individuals with disabilities, we must recognize many individuals are capable of working with in the community competitively with job supports. Many students that are currently enrolled in Warren County Public Schools is a growing population and as a community we must be prepared to serve them as they finish their education. It is for these individuals and the clients who have mastered the ability to work under a group supported employment situation we have had to add a program .

In early 2008, Blue Ridge Opportunities will be launching the Individual Supported Employment Program. This program is designed to assist each individual in assessing their personal interests and obtaining competitive employment in the community. Opportunities will be providing an individual Job Coach and will follow them for the duration that is required to assure success in the position.

We are beginning this program with the vision of serving an unmet need in our area. We are excited to provide this service to those with the capability of working with pride in the community, with just a little help.

If you are an employer and interested providing an individual employment through this program please contact Cathy Wolfe-Heberle at 540-636-4960.

Work Expansion in 2008!

Frequently we assess the community to discover areas of unmet need. Due to the strong desire in Warren County to "Go Green!" we will be expanding our Parking Lot cleaning business. This is a new Opportunity for our clients to learn about our environment and have the ability to make a difference and benefit small business owners who do not have the time or energy to sweep cigarette butts and litter from their parking lots and sidewalks.

We currently have a individual with their master nurseryman's license and will have the capability to assist small business owners in light landscaping and lawn maintenance.

Client mowing during
United Way Day of
Caring



Focus on the things that matter

IN the store... Not outside the store...

Let Us Beautify your Business!

For more information please contact

Claudia or Beth at 540-636-4960.

RECYCLING 2008

The core focus for 2008 is going green! **Recycle... Recycle... Recycle...** In effort to assist our environment we are recycling aluminum cans. Our clients wash, pull the tabs, and crush the cans for recycling. Please drop off your cans at the facility on 37 Water Street. All the tabs are collected and donated to the Ronald McDonald House to assist their programming needs.

Facility Based Work Crews

- Bulk Mailing
- HIPPA Compliant Shredding
- Small Parts Assembly
- Microfilming

Community Work Crews

- Light Landscaping and Parking Lots
- Janitorial
- E.I. DuPont De Nemours & Co.
- Family Dollar Distribution Center
- Re-packaging &
- Shipping Facility Supports

News from Bulk Mailing Services

Blue Ridge Opportunities recently upgraded and has the capability to make color copies!

Please call Claudia for pricing information



Quite the Hobbyist!

One of Opportunities clients is quite the hobbyist!

Along with making pins, key chains and necklaces, his biggest love is making battery operated clocks. Give David a lid from a fancy tin, and old LP or a skillet, and David is sure to design one awesome clock!

David even entered one of his clocks in the Warren County Fair this year and won several ribbons!

Blue Ridge Opportunities encourages all individual enrolled in a program to get involved in extra-curricular activities that promote success in all areas of their lives.

Individuals who are happy with their accomplishments are individuals who are productive citizens and employees!



Congratulations David on your accomplishments this year!

David works in a Community work crew at DuPont and Family Dollar Distribution Center. He also works facility based with grounds maintenance, small parts assembly, and recycling.

Blue Ridge Opportunity Services, Inc.



SERVING THOSE IN OUR
COMMUNITY WITH
DISABILITIES.

Rehabilitating Our
Citizens

WORKING WITH PRIDE

37 Water Street
Front Royal, Virginia 22630

Phone: 540-636-4960
Fax: 540-636-4961
E-mail: wcworkshop@earthlink.net



TO: A Friend of Blue Ridge Opportunities



Blue Ridge Opportunities

Richard Braatz, President

Board of Directors

John Feehan, Chairman
Edward Clark, Vice Chairman
Jacalyn Jenkins, Treasurer
Cathleen McNeill, Secretary
Arlene Keifer, Director
Carl Henry, Director
Mark Lentz, Director
Susanne Shaw, Director

Advisors

Dr. John Sygielski
Mr. Allen Wright
Ms. Barbara Greco
Ms. Ginger Higgs
Ms. Carol Dodson
Mr. James Wells
Mr. Doug Napier

Staff

Cathy Wolfe-Heberle
Kathleen Pantano
Claudia Jones
Kandi Lamb
Beth Pinner
Bonnie Kirkland
Diane Collis
Frankie Pratt