



BEi-LINE

Bollinger Enterprises, Inc. (BEi)

Volume 2, Issue 1

September 2009

Special Points of Interest

- Community participation and involvement
- BEi employees receive awards for perfect monthly attendance

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BEi Supports Other Organizations' Efforts

By Robert Klebacha

Warren County has some great summertime competitive events, and BEi was right there in the thick of things!

Many BEi employees are also Special Olympians and in June, BEi transported its employee athletes at the Special Olympics Golf Tournament and Banquet at the Conewango Valley Country Club. The event was a success and BEi employee athletes proudly displayed their medals from local and state competitions.

Next up was the YMCA Kinzua Country Tango, an adventure race that challenges participants, individual or teams, with several consecutive events, starting at 7AM in Warren at the YMCA. The Tango included a 13.1 mile run to Kinzua Beach, onto a 25 mile bike course in the National Forest, then a 2.5 mile swim in the Allegheny Reservoir, followed by a 6 mile orienteering course in

the Rimrock area, then another 5 mile run, concluding with an 8 mile canoe or kayak paddle to the finish line at Point Park in Warren. BEi staff manned the transition change point for 9 hours at the Kinzua Dam tail waters where the second run ended and the canoe/kayak trip began. Over 300 people participated and amazingly all individual and team competitors finished the course!

The following weekend was the Family Services Kwik Fill Classic Bicycle Race starting at the Kinzua Beach on the Allegheny Reservoir. BEi provided a van and driver for the "Sag Wagon" to follow the "Elite" bicyclists who complete the 60 mile course which is a circular route around the lower Kinzua arm of the reservoir. The purpose of the "Sag Wagon" is to provide assistance to the riders in the event of accidents or bicycle

equipment breakdowns, and to follow the last rider throughout. Fortunately, it was a clean race with no accidents. The last "Elite" bicyclist hit the finish line in 3 hours 36 minutes; the winner clocked in at 2 hours 40 minutes.

Finally, the weekend long National Canoe Association Races sponsored by the Warren County Chamber of Commerce had two days of competitions at Chapman State Park. Although BEi provided no volunteer support for the event, the BEi Beach Concession at the park kept the hungry spectators and competitors fed. This week long event brought in many people from around the country and from as far away as Australia. A common site around the area were the sleek racing kayaks being toted around on car top carriers. A vendor at Betts Park was selling them for about \$3,400 each!

Coming to Work Pays Off!

By Marilla Norton

Everyone looks forward to pay day Fridays, but now there is another day everyone gets excited about at BEi. It's the beginning of the month when the perfect attendance list for the previous month is posted for everyone to see who earned free pop or coffee. Since announcing the program to reward

employees for good attendance BEi has handed out chips for free coffee or pop 286 times!!!! That's a lot of drinks. Employees with a perfect attendance record so far this year are: Linda Buser, Rose Lank, Frank Denardi, Jim Meabon and Joann West. An additional 18 employees have perfect attendance

for 6 out of 7 months. BEi has a reputation for getting the work done on time for the businesses we contract with and our employees know being dependable and coming to work is what it takes. Keep up the great work everyone and remember....

COMING TO WORK PAYS OFF!

Production News

By Jeff DePetro

In This issue I would like to thank Julie Luther and Whirley-DrinkWorks! for keeping our employees challenged and busy during the last couple of months. We have completed over 350,000 SC-16H mugs for Disney. There are three mug colors in each order and each mug takes a sales tag on the handle. Whirley-DrinkWorks! also introduced a new product called Squish cups and they take a Squish sleeve on every cup. Kids love this cup and our employees really enjoy assembling this. We also shipped 4000 Df-5 displays for Ruby MacWithey. This was the largest display order ever completed during the time I have been at BEi.

Safety Committee News

By Jeff DePetro

I would like to talk about developing and promoting Safe work habits in the workplace at BEi. This includes:

1) Proper lifting techniques - Bending your knees while picking up product and using your body to support the product picked up. Try to prevent bending or twisting of your body.

2) Pay attention to where you are walking and stay in walkways designed for pedestrian traffic. This especially applies to walking in the warehouse.

3) Be careful while entering or exiting doorways. Open or push doors slowly. Be especially careful for someone coming from the opposite direction whom you can't see in the door opening.

4) Do not push in line and be patient.

5) Perform daily stretching exercises.

6) Wear eye protection while working in the basement on Petrex bars.

Always remember—Be Careful and Follow ALL Safety Rules!!!

BEi Life Skills Program Teaches Valuable Life Lessons

Excerpts from the Warren Times Observer August 31, 2009

Bollinger Enterprises' Life Skills Program is entering its third year.

The program is designed to address the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities who want to strengthen their independence in a community environment and to teach social, community and independent living skills by placing the participants in real-life situations.

According to the Program Coordinator, Jen Kell, learning takes place in an apartment at the Conewango Towers as well as out in the community in real life situations. Jen is on-site to teach the skills and facilitate the progress of the participants.

The group works through a variety of independent living skills such as laun-

dry, cleaning, planning meals, cooking and less tangible skills like effective communication, safety and being a good neighbor. "Every day we come in and plan our dinner for the next week," Jen said as the group filed through a grocery flier looking for sale items.

The group has worked closely with the food pyramid to make sure they are eating from each food group. So, nutrition is another aspect of the learning process.

In addition to planning the meals, the group identifies the chores that need to be done and they assign each other to the tasks. The end result is a lesson in responsibility and cooperation.

Because the apartment is in public housing, there are inspections for cleanli-

ness and upkeep, putting value on the importance of the chores.

Through the hands-on learning, the group often stumbles upon teachable situations. When someone accidentally dropped food in the kitchen, Jen explained that food left can attract pests such as ants if it is not cleaned up properly. "The only ants I like are the ones that come with uncles," Jerrod said, drawing a chuckle from everyone in the room.

The group does more than hands-on learning. They also have activity nights, go to the movies as a group and eat out. Participants also get opportunities to stay over night at the apartment.

And Fun Was Had By All

By Stephanie Maze

The Therapeutic Activities Aide Program has been enjoying the outdoors this summer. One of our first summer outings was a trip to the Kellettsville Rodeo. We got a little wet but it didn't dampen our spirits. We had a picnic at Chapman Park and several family members attended. We have been

enjoying walks at Betts Park and on the Bike/Hike trail. The consumers have been putt-putting at the Dairy Queen too. On August 14th a "Family and Friends" picnic was hosted by Stephanie and Tim Maze at their home. Ten consumers out of the thirteen in the TAA program were able to

attend. Many new faces made the picnic fun for all. If you see Julia Cutshall, ask her if she got wet during the water Balloon toss! We also went to the Queen's contest at the Warren County Fair and we manned the BEi booth one day.

BEi FAQ'S

Q: May I tour BEi to help me decide if I want to work there?

A: Absolutely! We encourage you to tour the workshop facility to see work in progress. A tour is a good way to help you in your decision making. Call Marilla Norton at 814-723-8431, Ext. 20 to arrange a tour.

Q: Who can answer my questions about services at BEi?

A: Marilla Norton is the Services Intake Coordinator at BEi. She can be reached directly at 814-723-8431, Ext. 20 or by email at mn@beitarwarren.com.

Q: How am I paid for working at BEi?

A: There are a variety of work opportunities offered through BEi at the North Warren workshop and in the community, each of which has different pay rates ranging from piece rates for contract manufacturing work to hourly rates for contract janitorial work. You will receive a paycheck every two weeks.

School to Work Week

As seen in the WTO Wednesday, September 2, 2009



Marilyn McCoy, a Warren County School District substitute teacher, spent a week at Bollinger Enterprises, Inc. interning. Bill Dies, a consumer at BEI, provided McCoy with information about his responsibilities at the workshop.

Warren County Fair

By Robert Klebacha

For the second year running, BEI had an information booth at the Warren County Fair. Numerous people stopped by to pick up literature about BEI programs and to see our two 30 second commercials about our production and service capabilities. Many people also signed up to be on our mailing list for our newsletters and annual

reports. The Fair was also a big hit as usual with the BEI employees. Our Community and Therapeutic Activity programs transported many people to the Fair over the week to enjoy the queen inauguration, food, rides, a concert and of course the livestock and craft exhibitions.

Annual BEI Picnic

BEI's annual employee picnic was held on July 17th. We had good food and a good time. We played lots of games and when the rain came we had a dance in the Waiver area where we "danced until we dropped". As usual, a great time was had by all!

BEI Artists in the News.... AGAIN!

By Tammy Rayborne

Morya Mason and John Pearson both submitted artwork for the second annual Gertrude A. Barber National Institute Community Art Show, "Celebrating the Possibilities". A group from the Alternative Activities group went to the show to support our friends and co-workers and were shown quite a treat! There were more than 200 works of art created by amateur and professional adult and child artists throughout the region. John's artwork was also on display at the Café 905, a newly decorated addition to the Warren Community Center, in May. John is currently exhibiting a series of 9 Artist Trading Cards in a show at the Flemish House Art Gallery in Johnsonburg, PA. This Gallery also displayed John's photographs in July and August.



Above: Morya Mason and Mrs. Bridget Barber posing beside Morya's polymer clay animal sculptures that Morya submitted for the show.

Below: John Pearson shows his photo "Reflections" to Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey



HIGHLIGHTS



Jim Meabon is an employee of BEI, where he has worked since June of 1993. Jim says he likes working at BEI and his favorite job to do is Osrar leg straps. Jim said that when he started his favorite job was packing the 16 oz. 75 pack Dunkin Donut mugs. When asked what his least favorite job is, Jim replied, "I don't really have a least favorite job. I don't mind doing any of the jobs but I like working seated the

best." When Jim was asked, "If you could do anything you wanted, what would you do?" He replied, "Keep my good attitude about work and everyone at work." "Things have changed a lot since I started work in 1993", says Jim. "A lot of people have come and gone but I plan on staying here at least another 10 years! Working here is good therapy! Why stop doing what you love?"

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Mission

The mission of Bollinger Enterprises, Inc., (BEi) is to enrich the lives of people with disabilities by being the most innovative provider of vocational, life, and social opportunities through a caring and dedicated staff by:

- * Bringing opportunities to people with disabilities for independence at work, at home and at play!
- * Enhancing self-worth and enjoyment in life!
- * Involving the community to make it happen!

Our website is under construction. Look for an unveiling of our new site in the near future!

Chapman Concessions

By Robert Klebacha

The long awaited reopening of the BEi Concession at Chapman State Park finally happened over the Fourth of July weekend. Chapman State Park had been undergoing construction for the past two years to build new and modern facilities that will attract more people to the park. In addition to our new concession stand the park's infrastructure was also upgraded to better serve the public. New restrooms and showers are some of the many features added to improve day or camping use.

With the new concession came the need for new food serving and storage equipment and a brand new boat fleet. BEi purchased six new aluminum canoes, six kayaks, and two new paddleboats. Despite the midsummer start, the boat fleet got a good work out at the park and ice cream and hot dog sales soared. Kalee Larson and Brooke Wagner were concession managers this summer and many BEi employees got to try out the different work experiences at the concession.

ON RIGHT:

Kalee Larson and Brooke Wagner pose in front of the new concession stand with the 'OPEN' flag on opening day.



ON LEFT:

Bob Klebacha poses with the new paddleboats at Chapman's Concessions.

