The Community Foundation of Warren County has offered a unique fundraising opportunity to BEi along with several other charitable organizations in Warren County. “Warren Gives” will be a 12 hour online contribution campaign that will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2013, from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. The Community Foundation, along with Defrees Family Fund and Sokolski Family Fund have come together with a $25,000 match to be distributed proportionally among the organizations at the end of the event.

As we are all aware, there is hardly a non-profit to be found in our current economy that is not struggling to not only keep its doors open but to keep the quality of the current programming intact. All this while we dream of exciting new programs we would fund, if we could find the means. BEi is no exception. It is because of this that we ask you to thoughtfully consider what your donation will be.

Our challenge is to raise as much money as we can so the proportionate Foundation matching grant will be as large as possible. If you have been considering making a gift to BEi, giving on May 8th presents an opportunity to effortlessly increase the value of your gift.

Online contributions can be made through any type of computer as well as mobile devices such as Smart Phones. For those who do not have use of a computer or Smart Phone to donate, BEi will be offering computer access to make donations at the North Warren Workshop at 44 North State Street during the entire 12 hour campaign period. Funds raised for BEi will be used for restroom renovations, the BEi Life Skills and Community Activities Programs, and workshop production equipment needs.

How You Can Help BEI:
Visit www.warrengives.org to get more details about contributing online on May 8th. Be sure to visit our page on the site by clicking on Bollinger Enterprises, Inc., under the “Organizations” tab.

Visit www.beiwarren.com to learn more about BEi, its programs and services, and activities. Be sure to check out our newsletters to get a real feel for what good things happen at BEi!
Contributions:
Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust
United Fund of Warren County
Sokolski Family Fund
James R. and Romayne L. Barrett
Memorial Fund
Fred and Vicky Venal
Nancy and Jay Endres Memorial for Barbara Jacobs
Carolyn Randas

BEi Employees Recognized for Attendance

Twenty-five BEi employees were recognized for their dedication to their jobs at a special ceremony at the workshop. These employees, who worked 95% or greater of their days scheduled in 2012, received recognition certificates. Three employees, pictured left to right, Jim Meabon, Wayne Ishman, and Linda Buser also received gift certificates for attending 100% of their days scheduled for work.

Jim Meabon: A Reliable BEi Worker

Jim Meabon, who was honored for his 100% attendance in 2012 (attended all 251 work days possible in the year), is quick with a smile as he describes his life. Simply, he loves to work and he loves the variety of task challenges he faces in his work at BEi. His favorite jobs are the Entech Pop-Up Assembly Painting, OSRAM Sylvania Quality Control Sort, and Petrex Bolt Bar Assembly. As with his smile, Jim is quick to say “I love my job and I am thankful I work at BEi.” Jim can do any job offered at BEi and he does it well! The quality of his work is important to him. Jim was born, raised, and lives on his own in Warren. He enjoys going for walks, cooking, watching movies on television, and reading about current events in newspapers.

Morya Mason: Making strides towards independence!

BEi Employee Morya Mason has now been living in her own apartment for over three months. With the help of her family, therapist, and her BEi staff she has made a tremendous move towards independence. Morya has established a routine that works well for her in her new home. She is also making strides at becoming integrated into her new community. She participates in the Curves exercise club, attends church on a regular basis, participates in groups at The Crossings, and shops at local grocery stores/department stores. Once she is home, Morya enjoys her quiet and relaxing environment where she can read, knit, watch movies, and enjoy the things that she loves to do. Morya is very excited about her future and what other opportunities will come her way. She is very proud of herself.

BEi Supports Nutrition Training for Special Olympians

BEi teamed up with Warren County Special Olympics and Northwest Health Connections for a nutrition training class that was held on Saturday, February 23, 2013. BEi provided healthy snack kits for the Special Olympians in attendance and Northwest Health Connections provided the trainers for the program. The event was well received by the 67 people attending. The snack kits, paid for by the BEi employee recycling fund, contained fresh fruit and a variety of other healthy snacks such as fruit juices, packaged fruit cups, and granola bars.
Trees Trust Awards Grant for New Roof

The Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust based in Pittsburgh, PA, has awarded BEi a grant of $51,890 to replace the aging roof, repair the cupola, and replace the cupola windows of the Bollinger Building at its facilities. The sturdy 1895 vintage building of mill construction has a large roof area covering its 140’ length. The Bollinger Building, named in honor of the BEi’s founders Annabel and Clifford Bollinger was purchased and renovated in the mid-1980’s. Annabel led the charge to purchase the building and after her death, her husband Clifford oversaw work crews that prepared the building for renovation and he remained actively involved in overseeing contractors during the renovations. The building houses BEi’s machine shop in its basement for the Petrex contract operations; the first floor is primarily used for Whirley DrinkWorks! packaging operations; and the second floor is used as a dining area, materials storage, and office space. The Bollinger Building site has a rich industrial history dating back to the 1845 when a woolen mill powered by water from a mill race off a dam on the Cenowango Creek was on the site. After it was destroyed by a fire, the present structure was built. More information about the building can be reviewed at the BEi website www.beiwarren.com which contains an article under the news tab from a 1985 “Stepping Stones” Newsletter of the Warren County Historical Society.

No “Work Days Lost Streak” Extended

The BEi Safety Committee, with representation from all work sectors at BEi, met recently for its monthly meeting to review safety concerns and needs. A positive topic of conversation was BEi’s record streak of 558 calendar days (and still counting) without an accident reportable to OSHA. The safety education and accident prevention procedures of the BEi Safety Committee are having a positive effect! Safety is everyone’s business and all BEi employees understand its importance! The Committee also discussed upcoming safety considerations that must be addressed when the roof replacement project for the Bollinger Building gets underway as well as upcoming Committee recertification by UPMC Work Partners, BEi’s workers’ compensation insurance carrier. BEi is eligible for a 5% premium discount on its workers’ compensation policy as a result of the activities of BEi’s certified Safety Committee.

Northwest Providers Share Concerns With Elected Officials

BEi and other representatives from vocational, residential, and behavioral health service providers in Northwest PA met with several elected state officials in Clarion on March 26th to share concerns about the Governor’s budget for Fiscal year 2013-2014. Legislators attending were: Senator Scott Hutchison and Representatives Kathy Rapp, Donna Oberlander, Matt Gabler, and Brad Roae. The proposed budget offers some positive steps forward to assist families and individuals with disabilities and the legislators were supportive of these initiatives. Increased funding is proposed to help those on waiting lists for services, provide support for individuals with autism spectrum disorders, move individuals from institutional care to community based care, and for services to young adults who are graduating from the special education system in schools. Concerns shared with the elected officials cited needs across Pennsylvania that should be considered now and in the future during budget negotiations. The Disability Coalition, made up of provider, consumer and advocacy groups, offered its support of the Governor’s proposals to increase funding but also recommended increased flexibility for funding uses at the local level, increased funding for brain injury programs, and for employment services for people with disabilities. The Northwest PA Providers group is a branch of the PA Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (PARF) which will soon merge with another trade association to become the Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA).
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!

Check out our website at www.beiwarren.com

Make a donation to BEi on May 8th through your computer or Smart Phone. If you do not have either of these devices, stop by BEi on May 8th anytime from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, and we will provide you computer access so that you can contribute. Don’t forget to bring your VISA or MasterCard! Your contributions are tax deductible and will go a longer way in support of BEi projects because of the matching grant provided through the Community Foundation of Warren County.

The Board and staff of BEi have raised their phones in support of this drive. Please join us in giving through Warren Gives on May 8th! Thank you for actively supporting our accomplishments today and our dreams for the future!