



ANNUAL REPORT



2018
EDITION

www.brsinc.org
PHONE: 812-738-2408

Be Someone's Superhero!

SMASH

Our Goal

To assist people with disabilities in realizing maximum personal growth and development in home, work and community by providing a continuum of individualized services and supports in settings least restrictive for the needs of the individual.

As an adjunct to these services, whenever possible, Blue River Services, Inc. will serve the similar needs of the general community by providing services in non-segregated, community-based settings that emphasize the integrated inclusion of people with disabilities into all areas of life which are enjoyed by members of the community.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIR

On September 12, 2018, Blue River Services had its annual All-Staff In-Service. The theme of the event was “Be Someone’s Superhero” in celebration of the amazing things that Blue River staff do in Southern Indiana every day of the year. Of course, our superheroes first appeared in 1959 with the Founding Families and have filled the organizational chart from then until today. The common factor has been a focus on the local mission that has driven the organization for the last 60 years. Blue River started as a grass-roots inspired organization committed to assisting children and adults with disabilities to lead self-sufficient, independent lives. Over time, Blue River has been able to serve others in the community with similar needs.

The following remarks -- made to the nearly 300 employees who attended the in-service -- offer another perspective of what it means to be a superhero. “I believe that the term hero is actually used too often, and therefore sometimes begins to lose the impact of what being a hero really is,” said Daniel J. Lowe, President and CEO. “There is one group that I think deserves the label of heroes. Those are the people that dedicate their lives and careers to improving the lives of others and making our world better for all. Those are the heroes this room is full of today. As we grow up, we have a choice to make as to what we will do with our working lives. You have chosen to work to help others live complete and fulfilled lives. I can say without a doubt that every person in this room is here because she or he has a passion for serving and helping... giving one’s being to the service of others... People Serving People... to me, that is one definition of hero.”

The commitment to the local mission is one of the factors that compels our own superheroes to serve their friends and neighbors with commitment and passion. The dedication to that local mission can be observed every day. Over the years, it has been said many times by many different people that they “bleed blue.” It is the positive impact our superheroes make locally that generates a trust and faith in the organization and allows Blue River to be woven into the fabric of the community.

The human service landscape has been changing over the past several years. Large, even multi-state organizations, have begun to have a significant presence in Indiana. The importance of the local mission and the commitment to the local community cannot be overstated. It’s what takes service providers and makes them superheroes.



Tom Paris, Board Chair



Daniel J. Lowe, President & CEO

Daniel J. Lowe

Blue River Services Brings Superhero Distinction to 2018 In-Service

A yellow and red comic book sound effect bubble with the word "Wow!" written in a bold, red, stylized font.A green and red comic book sound effect bubble with the word "Pow!" written in a bold, red, stylized font.A pink and yellow comic book sound effect bubble with the word "Zap!" written in a bold, yellow, stylized font.

From the energy of high-flying comic personalities, to spirited staff, consumer accolades, guest speakers and awards, the 2018 Blue River Services All-Staff In-Service was shrouded in superhero distinction.

When the agency's nearly 400 employees gather in one room, as well over half did at Lincoln Hills Christian Church in Corydon September 12, the magnitude and impact of teamwork is palpable. It's then that everyone is not only reminded of Blue River's mission, but shown.

"As we grow up, we have a choice to make as to what we will do with our working lives," said Daniel J. Lowe, President and CEO, who welcomed everyone to the mass agency training event. "You have chosen to work to help others live complete and fulfilled lives. Giving one's own being to the service of others ... People Serving People ... To me, that is one definition of a hero."

His words resonating with this year's theme, "Be Someone's Superhero," Lowe also acknowledged the dedication of staff and their passion to serve.

When summoning the crowd to stand if they had been with the agency at least five years, a wave of people responded. To the surprise of many, as the ante went higher – 10, 20, even 30 years – there were still people standing. Something Lowe called a true testament to those "who have chosen to dedicate their lives and careers to improving the lives of others and making our world better for all."

Although there are 151 employees who have been with the agency more than five years, the most notable milestones this year included those of Brian Bowen and Phillip Spaulding, who both reached 20 years with the agency; Kim Perry, Director of Industries, who celebrated 25 years of service; and Julia Baylor, Director of Children's Services, who marked an astonishing 35 years. Even President Lowe, the agency-equivalent of Batman's Commissioner Gordon (minus the trench coat and fedora hat), has been working, behind the scenes, manning the BRS Bat-Signal to summon a beacon of service for the last 34 years.

Since its humble beginning as a five-room crusade school for children with disabilities in 1959, Blue River Services has woven more than 20 programs and services into the communities of 33 Indiana counties. There, staff members team up to break down barriers to independence and help people lead healthier, happier lives in positive environments.

Whether more akin to The Avengers or The Justice League is debatable, but one thing is discernable – together, Blue River Services helps make Southern Indiana a great place to live by facilitating success for all residents, no matter the challenges they may face. The force behind the agency's ongoing mission, and its many achievements along the way, was exemplified as Lowe announced the winners of the Spirit of Blue River Awards, which are bestowed upon employees whose outstanding qualities far exceed those of their everyday duties.

From 38 employee nominations, three winners emerged – Mary Fetz, Production Manager for Corydon Blue River Industries (CBRI); Jennifer Sieber, Child Care Manager at Rainbow's End Child Care Center and

Preschool Corydon; and Jamie Stump, Residential Supervised Group Living Manager at McGrain Street Group Home.

In her nomination under the Day Services Programs, Fetz was recognized for “how dedicated she is, not only to her job but to others” and her “caring soul” at the CBRI sheltered workshop where adults with disabilities work alongside general laborers to fulfill light manufacturing contracts for local businesses. In an era when workshop employment choices for individuals with disabilities are facing serious threats, Kim Perry, Director of Industries, said the work of Fetz is even more important.

“Those who are not directly impacted may not realize the benefits of sheltered workshops for individuals with disabilities,” said Perry. “While there are some for whom community employment is a good fit, and we encourage and provide opportunities for that, there are others who need a safe, productive workplace. Removing this opportunity would be a detrimental step backward for the people we serve who love their jobs, staff, co-workers, and value the sense of accomplishment their work provides. That’s why it is crucial to make every day count, and Mary pours her heart and soul into that every day.”

Jennifer Sieber, hailed as the “spirit of Rainbow’s End Corydon,” stood out in the Children and Family Services Division for her tireless efforts to “make the center the best it can be and still strive to make it better.” No doubt, it takes a strong will to guide the learning, environment and safety for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and school-age children who call Rainbow’s End their second home.

“I am so proud of Jennifer and her work that earned her this award,” said Julia Baylor, Director of Children’s Services. “She goes above and beyond each and every day.”

In all five nominations for Jamie Stump, there was an ongoing theme – she might indeed be Superwoman. From leader and role model, to mother-figure and cornerstone for residents and staff, Stump took home the award in the Residential Services Division in honor of her ceaseless positivity, enthusiasm and compassion.

“Jamie is the living example of the spirit of Blue River,” said Tim Beitzel, Director of Residential Supervised Group Living. “She has done so many extra things for the residents, I can’t keep track any more. She is truly dedicated to the service of others.”

The day’s events continued with a video made by consumers who celebrated Superhero Day at Blue River. In each clip, consumers shared who their favorite superhero was and what they liked most about them. Many attributed the same qualities to Blue River Services’ staff, including Jareth Snyder, who participates in day services at Salem Blue River Industries.

When asked if there was anyone at Blue River who was a hero to him, Snyder warmly responded, “All of them!” “Because they keep this place open for us to have a job.”

Several other consumers attended the in-service to receive a certificate of recognition in commemoration of more than 30 years with Blue River. Proudly showing off their certificates were Lisa Schultz, Bobby Plummer, Michael Ashabraner, Bill Ballard, Lynn Pelfrey, and Bryan Ackerman, who celebrated with program director Kim Perry. Also in attendance was Bryan’s mother, Judy Ackerman, who spoke about the services her son started receiving in 1987.



Daniel J. Lowe welcomes employees to the in-service.



In recognition of 31 years with Blue River, Lisa Shultz, left, receives a milestone award from Industries Director Kim Perry.



Bryan Ackerman high fives Kim Perry in celebration of his 31-year milestone.

Be Someone's Superhero!

"There have been staff changes, but Blue River remains the same environment and a pleasant place to work," said Ackerman. "Bryan is so proud of his paychecks, (noting to the amusement of the crowd that he keeps Goodwill and Salvation Army in business). I thank you all for the jobs that you do."

As part of the in-service training, Blue River employees also were introduced to two new heroes -- guest speakers Kerry Magro and Clay Dyer.

In his moving presentation, Magro discussed the benefits of people with disabilities in the workplace and personally demonstrated the results of commitment. Growing up with autism, Magro, didn't say his first word until he was two and a half years old, but he was determined to overcome his struggles. That determination began his journey making a difference in the lives of others by serving as a role model for the disabled community and educating businesses, schools, parent groups, and student clubs, among others. It's also what led him to Blue River to deliver a powerful message: "It takes a village... no matter if it's in your family life or in your work -- we all need a collective unit to achieve excellence."

The sentiment definitely resonated with Afterschool District Coordinator Shannon Hunsucker and her team, who were hard-pressed to engage students at Medora High School. One of the many success stories of the day, Hunsucker, Riley Morris and Kellie Barger, who oversee the Blue River after school enrichment program in Medora, shared their struggles and eventual triumph in capturing the interest of the sometimes stagnant teenage mind. In addition to the homework assistance, advanced placement college courses, electives and life skills offered through the program, the challenge of finding something the group really enjoyed led to an entertaining film project, which is certain to secure future enrollment.

And then, Clay Dyer took the stage. Securing everyone's attention at once, Dyer spoke. Even 55 minutes later, the room was stock-still, silent, captivated by his awe-inspiring, ever-comical rhetoric. For a man born without any lower limbs, no arm on the left side and only a partial arm on the right, his personality is massive. Through his clever storytelling (and maybe in part due to his pro fisherman status), an enamored room of professionals couldn't help but initiate a celebrity-esque Q&A.

Undoubtedly though, it was his D.R.E.A.M. acronym -- Determination, Resources, Effort, Attitude, Motivation -- and "If I can, you can" attitude, that we will continue to carry with us as we return to our respective duties in the various corners of Indiana. His astounding perseverance an everlasting reminder that you don't have to have superpowers to be a superhero, you don't even have to have hands or feet.



Mary Fetz receives the Spirit of Blue River Award from BRS President Daniel J. Lowe.



Jennifer Sieber won the Spirit of Blue River Award in the Children and Family Services Division.



Jamie Stump was the winner in the Residential Services Division.



BLUE RIVER SERVICES, INC. EARNS HIGHEST ACCREDITATION LEVEL

Blue River Services, Inc. was awarded the highest level of accreditation by CARF International for its programs in Employment Services (Supports, Job Development and Organizational Employment); Community Integration; Home and Community Services; Respite Services and Supported Living.



This is the eighth consecutive survey that the international accrediting body has awarded Blue River Services with the three-year accreditation.

The accreditation decision represents the highest level that can be achieved by an organization and confirms the agency’s substantial conformance to the CARF standards. An organization receiving a three-year accreditation has been through a rigorous peer review process, and demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an onsite visit its commitment to offering exceptional programs, personalized care and services that are measurable, accountable and of the highest quality.

Daniel J. Lowe, Blue River Services President and CEO, commended staff and all departments. “Although the standards are applied to a finite number of departments, it is well recognized in the report and by stakeholders that the same high quality exists throughout the organization,” Lowe said in a congratulatory email to staff. “The amazing work that every department and every person does, the impact BRS has on communities, and the difference we make in people’s lives really come together when we have everyone together explaining what we do. Congratulations and thank you for all you do.”



BRS RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE TO FAMILIES



Daniel J. Lowe, President and CEO of Blue River Services, Inc., second from left, accepted the award presented by, from left, Jason Copperwaite, Lisa Long, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Harrison County, and Jeff Shireman, previous Board Chair.

Blue River Services, Inc. received the Outstanding Family-Friendly Business Award from the Chamber of Commerce of Harrison County at its 84th annual meeting held April 4 at Horseshoe Southern Indiana. The 14th largest non-profit in the Louisville metro area, Blue River Services received the award in recognition of its programs benefitting families in Harrison County and beyond.

“It is their passion for improving people’s lives by providing the opportunity to succeed and the support to make it happen,” said Jason Copperwaite, Chairman of the Board of the Chamber of Commerce of Harrison County. “They continue to find solutions to support the people and communities they serve. Please join me in congratulating the 2018 Outstanding Family-Friendly Business Award recipient, Blue River Services – People Serving People.”



AMAZING RACE

BLUE RIVER STYLE!



CBS may be the original proprietor of The Amazing Race reality TV show, but the Community Resources Department at BRS has redefined it as a fundamental team building series for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

In the American competition show, teams of two race around the world in competition with other teams to complete challenges, solve clues and win the grand prize of one million dollars. The concept led Community Resources Director Tammy Seitz to create Blue River's version as a friendly competition with clever challenges designed to capitalize and improve upon social, decision making, fine motor and problem solving skills while interacting with the community.

The month-long race between the Corydon and Salem habilitation groups took place throughout September. The teams competed two days a week, receiving clues with information leading them to the destination of their next challenge. The goal was to complete the challenges in the least amount of time without incurring any penalties.

After a scavenger hunt at Buffalo Trace Park, purchasing donuts at a local bakery and delivering them to the workshops, and various other stops, the teams made their way to the administration building, where they took a picture with Daniel J. Lowe, BRS President and CEO, for the next clue. Written at the top of the card was "Fluffed or Stuffed." The teams had to decide whether they wanted to fill a gallon jug with 150 cotton balls or guess the correct amount of cotton balls stuffed in a jar.

Another clue card led the groups to BR Gfx screen print shop in downtown Corydon, where the challenge was to find a blue painted rock. The final day of the competition was a whirlwind of five challenges, which gave the Salem team just enough to pull ahead and win the game. In the agency's version of the game though, it's not about money. The groups compete for bragging rights and a trophy. "This is a unique event that promotes teamwork and problem solving while accessing the community," said Seitz. "And it was very well received by participants. Many have asked if we can do this activity every month!"

As the Salem team celebrated their win, the Corydon team was already looking ahead to the next race. "We will get you next time," said team Corydon. Team Salem will be ready.



From left, Junior O'Neal, Jareth Snyder and Jon Combs work together to quickly stuff cotton balls in a gallon jug for one of the challenges.



Staff members Tia Wilfong, left, and C.J. Levell help Kelly Carter, center, read the next clue.



A clue leads members of Team Corydon, from left, Tia Wilfong, C.J. Levell, Matt Pitman, Tom Gunn and Dennis Oglesby, to the local grocery store to purchase donuts and return with them to Corydon Blue River Industries workshop.



Jon Combs celebrates as Team Salem is announced as the winner.

GETTING BY WITH A LITTLE HELP

HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAM OFFERS NEW PARENTS SOURCE OF COMFORT, HOPE

In rural Crawford, Washington and Harrison Counties, there were 2,431 single parents in 2017, according to STATSIndiana. There was also a continuing drug epidemic that does not discriminate.

Just ask Crystal Hess, a single mother who struggled with drug addiction for many years.

With the help of Healthy Families, though, Hess has become a nurturing mother, wife, homeowner and restaurant manager. The state-funded program, offered by Blue River Services, Inc. in the tri-county area, offers new and expectant parents free, voluntary and confidential assistance. Hess successfully graduated from the program in January 2018.

A Family Support Specialist, who helps parents like Hess cope with stress, identify needs and build on strengths, can even help families with parenting skills and developing goals. The ongoing services also include screening for post-partum depression, a grave condition affecting Hess, along with 600,000 other women in the United States annually, according to the Centers for Disease Control. With referrals to community resources and doctors, and developmental in-home assessments, Hess and her son also began receiving services through First Steps after Healthy Families staff identified a developmental delay. Her son received in-home speech and language therapy through First Steps, and at 3-years-old, he is now eligible to participate in an Exceptional Learners program at North Harrison Elementary.

Hess speaks publicly about her experience, shedding light on the dark side of motherhood – a world of debilitating depression, uncertainty and isolation. And she credits Healthy Families for her newfound success, in addition to the agency’s WIC and First Steps programs, which also are designed to help new moms and their children.

“Parenting is one of the hardest jobs anyone can have, but it is also the most important and rewarding,” said Jennifer Owens, Director of Family Services at Blue River Services, Inc. “We want parents to know that they are not alone. Healthy Families is here to support them in their new role as a parent, no matter the challenges they may face. That’s how Healthy Families is building strong families.”

It seems undeniable that the program is an important one – for the community and its members. However, Owens says many people still aren’t aware of the services available to them.

If you or someone you know could benefit from these services, please call the Program Manager, Denise Griffiths, directly at 812-738-0392.



PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION

Neither wind nor rain...On a breezy Tuesday morning ahead of stormy weather in Harrison County, Lacey Mitchell, left, and Stephanie Rex, plant pinwheels in support of Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month. After the first federal law to protect children from abuse and neglect was passed in 1974, it wasn’t until 1982 that additional efforts were made to identify and prevent child abuse, and the first National Child Abuse Prevention Month was designated in April. Now, leadership in the Children’s Department at Blue River Services, Inc. help bring awareness to the cause by placing pinwheels along sidewalks in Corydon. The blue pinwheels also represent the innocence of childhood and stand as a reminder of the great childhoods all children deserve. Blue River Services, Inc. leaders once again participated in the Harrison County Prevent Child Abuse Community Awareness Event in April.



BUILDING BOUNTIFUL TEAMS

COMMUNITY RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HOLDS ANNUAL TEAM CHALLENGES

Now in its 17th year, the Community Resources Department at Blue River Services, Inc. held its annual team building event, where In-Home Services and Habilitation program staff go head-to-head in team challenges and are recognized for their outstanding work.

On December 14, In-Home Services North and South once again battled it out, and the south won bragging rights. On December 20, Habilitation staff competed. Challenges included building the highest structure possible with Legos while wearing oven mitts, and moving candy canes from the table to a coffee cup using only their mouth and another candy cane. Teams also competed in a spirited Jeopardy-inspired Q and A game and scavenger hunt.

“The point of the challenges is that groups must work as a team to accomplish the task,” said Tammy Seitz, Director of Community Resources. “Working well as a team significantly impacts our consumers’ success. That’s why staff have participated in the annual team building challenges since 2000.”

Two staff members also were honored for their hard work and dedication. Cindy Ehle was named Residential Staff of the Year, and Marlea Williams received Day Services Staff of the Year.



Team In-Home Services South are, from left, Donna Davis, Charla Levell, Elizabeth Johnson, Jess Pendencygraft, and Tia Wilfong.



Kaitlin Thompson attempts to pick up candy canes and place them in a coffee mug using only her mouth and another candy cane.



Elizabeth Johnson makes building a tower out of Legos while wearing an oven mitt look easy.



BLUE RIVER SERVICES, INC. TEAMS UP WITH PCA TO HOST BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

Blue River Services, Inc. teamed up with Prevent Child Abuse Harrison County to host a free Back to School Bash for students in Harrison, Jackson and Washington Counties. Children received free school supplies, backpacks, and haircuts.

The event pooled resources from multiple community agencies in three counties to gather school supplies. More than 20 community resources also were on hand to distribute information to make life a little bit easier for families. One resource, Safe Kids Harrison County, provided car seat safety checks and handed out 30 plus free car seats. There were more than 700 in attendance and more than 300 backpacks filled with school supplies were given away. The community response was amazing and organizers hope to make this an annual event.



SITS AWARDED INDOT FUNDING TO CONTINUE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN FOUR COUNTIES

Blue River’s Southern Indiana Transit System (SITS) was awarded \$743,543 by the Indiana Department of Transportation through Federal Sections 5310 and 5311/5339. The funds will be used in fiscal year 2019 to continue public demand response transportation in Harrison, Crawford, Washington and Scott Counties and purchase three new vehicles.



Although the program stopped providing transportation to Medicaid participants June 1, following a decision by the State of Indiana to contract with an outside transportation broker, transportation to doctor’s appointments and medical facilities is still available through public transit services. Transit to other common areas, such as parks and shopping centers also continues for minimal fees – \$2 per way, per person for up to 10 miles. Service is available Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. To schedule a ride, please call 812-738-1681.



METRO UNITED WAY CONTINUES FUNDING FOR CHILD CARE AND YOUTH SERVICES

Metro United Way

Funds were once again allocated through the Metro United Way for two critical programs offered by Blue River Services. The youth shelters will receive \$8,816 in support of the 24-hour care provided to youth ages 10 to 18 at the emergency and long-term residential homes, and Children’s Services will receive \$16,515 in support of its Rainbow’s End Child Care Center in Harrison County.

HCCF PRESCHOOL GRANT GIVES HARRISON COUNTY KIDS A JUMPSTART!



Blue River Services, Inc. received a continued grant from the Harrison County Community Foundation for its Jumpstart Preschool program that allows eligible 4-year-olds in the county to attend for free. The grant will pay about \$24.80 per day for children to attend – a designation of up to \$169,632.



While the goal continues to be for all 4-year-olds to receive a quality pre-k education, there are now two funding sources available to families in Harrison County – Indiana’s new On My Way Pre-K program and HCCF’s Jumpstart Preschool initiative.



On My Way Pre-K awards grants to students who turned 4 by August 1, 2018, and are from low-income families to ensure they have access to a high-quality pre-K program. Families who qualify may use the grant at any approved On My Way Pre-K provider, including all three programs operated by Blue River – Rainbow’s End Corydon, Morgan Elementary and North Harrison Elementary. Families may choose from a program that is full- or part-day, as well as programs that end with the school year or continue through the summer.

“The number of children in the North Harrison school district who are taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity is lower than expected,” said Julia Baylor, Director of Children’s Services at BRS. “There are currently 10 low-income preschoolers enrolled at Morgan Elementary (three On My Way and seven Jumpstart) and eight at North Harrison (five On My Way and three Jumpstart). These lower numbers are surprising because last year’s Free and Reduced Lunch rate was at 51.15% if you average the two schools together.”



In Harrison County, all families who fall within 127% or below of the federal poverty level must first apply for On My Way Pre-K funding. To qualify, both parents must either work or be enrolled in school. The On My Way Pre-K program, administered through the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, is part of the Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning. To apply for an On My Way Pre-K grant, families should contact the local intake agency, River Valley Resources, at 812-949-4381.



Those who do not qualify for an On My Way Pre-K grant may qualify for preschool funded by the Jumpstart grant, which requires the annual household income to be below 200% of the federal poverty level.

“No matter where you choose for your child to attend, getting a quality preschool education is what’s important,” Baylor said.

For more information about preschool programs offered by Blue River Services, please call 812-364-1142.

BLUE RIVER SERVICES CONQUERING 'WEALTH OF SOCIAL ISSUES' ONE SCHOOL AT A TIME

Blue River Services, Inc. has received funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant that will provide afterschool programming at North Harrison, Morgan, East Washington and Medora schools in Harrison County for the next four to eight years. Blue River Services was awarded \$300,000 per year and Medora Community Schools, in partnership with Blue River Services, was awarded \$175,000 for programming at the elementary and junior high schools.

The original grant cycle is for four years, beginning with the 2018-19 school year. However, for the first time, if grantees remain compliant with all expectations during the initial four-year period, the state will allow them to request annual extensions for four additional years.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers program is a federally-funded program that provides at-risk students a safe environment during non-school hours. Programs may be held at one or multiple sites, which may be in schools, or community or faith-based facilities. All centers must provide a range of high-quality services to support regular school-day academics and development, including tutoring and mentoring, academic enrichment, such as homework assistance, reading, math, science, and technology programs, service learning, character education, physical education, recreational activities, and dropout prevention.

As reported by the Indiana Department of Education, this application round was "incredibly competitive." Of the 94 applications received and nearly \$23 million requested in funding, only 38 applicants received funding.

In addition to the schools mentioned above, Blue River Services provides afterschool programming at North Harrison Middle School, Eastern High School, and Medora High School.

"Our elementary programs focus on improving student achievement in reading and math, middle school programs concentrate on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), and high school programs work to enhance college and career readiness," said Julia Baylor, Director of Children's Services at Blue River Services.

Heather Richard, Afterschool Program Manager, added that a mental health component of the grant is a new and unique aspect of afterschool programming. Blue River Services will partner with Associates in Counseling and Psychotherapy to provide easy access to needed therapy and counseling when student problems or family concerns may be hindering student learning.

“Through this counseling and therapy programming, we will be able to provide a new facet of support services to students and families in the school setting,” said Richard. “We also will use this opportunity to look for ways to expand upon this much-needed service in the near future.”

With the constant threat of 21st Century funding being cut or eliminated, Baylor said the extended grant is “big news” for students and families.

“I read recently that a major reason for wanting to cut this funding from the federal budget was because there is no evidence that the program has been effective,” said Baylor. “But nationwide, 21st Century programs have been extremely effective (and critical) by providing quality extended day learning/afterschool programming for 1.6 million children annually.”

Programming is educationally based and designed to increase the students’ chances for success while in school and throughout life.

“In my opinion, through 21st CCLC programming, America is getting way more bang for their buck than they realize.”

Baylor says drug and alcohol abuse in the nation, especially rural areas, combined with child abuse, neglect, and poverty make teaching and learning difficult for children who hurt physically or mentally, are hungry, lack proper clothing, or live in unsafe environments, and low-income parents are often overwhelmed without the means to cope effectively – feelings that often get passed along to their children in the form of insufficient nurturing, negativity, and a general failure to focus on their children’s needs.

“Not only do we provide a vast array of programming,” said Baylor, “but we partner with local community action agencies to effectively make a positive impact on those struggling with alcohol and other drug abuse issues involving our youth.” “Our Afterschool programming is perhaps the only source of supplemental enrichment in literacy and math, nutrition education, technology, and extracurricular activities that many students may have. We work to connect students and families with community supports to ensure, we offer an effective and affordable way to help children and families overcome obstacles, we conduct food and clothing drives, and we level the playing field by ensuring that 21st Century students are afforded the same opportunities more affluent children have, such as gymnastics, music, dance and theatrical experience.”

“We are conquering a wealth of social issues, one school at a time.”



ANNUAL PROM CREATES 'EVENING AT THE OSCARS' FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Community Resources Department at Blue River Services, Inc. hosted its eleventh annual prom with celebrity flare October 13 at Southern Hills Church in Salem, Indiana. More than 60 Blue River consumers and their dates enjoyed an Evening at the Oscars, which was this year's theme.

Staff and volunteers rolled out the red carpet for adults with disabilities who arrived to camera-clad "paparazzi."

After pictures, everyone hit the dance floor. DJ Allen Grant kept the crowd entertained and even made an appearance as Elvis. As he swayed, shook and shimmied, lip-synching the King of Rock and Roll's greatest hits, he had some competition from prom-goers who belted out the tunes as they danced along.

The royal prom coronation was announced by Tammy Seitz, Director of Community Resources, with the help of Donna Davis, Habilitation Manager, and Seitz's daughter Bailey, who volunteered. Chad Vandeventer was crowned King, and Jasmine Orndorff was this year's Prom Queen. Jon Combs and Stephanie Ladd were named Prince and Princess, and David Edwards and Samantha Holt were the Duke and Duchess. The sweethearts of the prom were Junior O'Neal and Annie Gilstrap.

At the end of the night, everyone left with a beaded necklace or a key chain as a memento of their special night.

"Several volunteers came together to make this a night to remember," said Seitz. "We had a wonderful turnout and look forward to continuing this tradition for many years."

A special thanks to all our staff and volunteers: Charity and Jeffrey Ash, Liz and Jess Pendergraft, Sonja Oakes, Darius, Destiny and Cynthia Porter, Bailey Seitz, Ashley and Malania Hubbard, Elizabeth Johnson, and Donna Davis.



Junior O'Neal, left, and Prom King Chad Vandeventer.



Slow dancing: Rebekah Mosley and Brian White share a dance at the 2018 Prom.



Eric Spicer, left, and Jess Pendergraft.



DAY OF ACTION BRIGHTENS SENIOR HOUSING COMMUNITY

As the sky grew dim above Country Trace senior housing September 21, a team of volunteers shrugged off the humid air. It was Metro United Way’s Day of Action, and it made a huge impact for the residents at the senior affordable living community in Palmyra.

Together with volunteers from accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers in Louisville, Metro United Way’s Kim Lansdell, community giving manager, and Blue River housing staff helped transform the eight-acre property in just three hours. After flooding earlier in the year, Blue River Services staff have dedicated their time and efforts to rehabilitating the apartments and getting tenants back home. The assistance of volunteers to complete work outside was much needed and greatly appreciated by agency staff and residents.

Even after a torrential rain, the group continued working to lay landscape fabric, spread rock, shovel dirt, mulch, and plant grass and trees. Dirt also was used to fill in any dips, holes or indentations, especially around sidewalks, to help eliminate tripping hazards. Metro United Way Day of Action is an opportunity for employers to help meet a need in the community hands-on. The event included more than 500 volunteers in seven counties and more than 30 organizations impacting 5,000 children and more than 20 non-profits in one day.



Even as rain poured down, the incredible volunteers from PricewaterhouseCoopers in Louisville, worked on.



Amazing team at Country Trace for MUW Day of Action.



Residents showed their appreciation for Blue River, PwC and MUW for the work they did at Country Trace September 14.



BRS INSPIRES AT ANNUAL WCCF EVENT

As Blue River Services helped the Washington County Community Foundation celebrate at its 25th anniversary dinner, agency leadership also got to meet with more than 300 community members and dignitaries who attended.

“We have a strong presence in Washington County with more than 12 programs and services,” said Daniel J. Lowe, President and CEO of Blue River Services, Inc., who attended the dinner with several other agency leaders. “This annual event was a great opportunity to showcase those services and all the ways Blue River, and partners like the WCCF, are helping residents lead independent, healthy lives, no matter the challenges they may face.”



Blue River Services’ table centerpiece showed some of the many ways the agency inspires people to reach their full potential at home, work and in the community.

The annual event, held at Cornerstone Hall in Salem, also included an information session for the first time this year. Non-profits set up displays to help bring community awareness to their missions and compete for a \$25,000 endowment.

Even though Blue River did not win with its “Inspire” themed table, it was not a bleak moment of defeat to lose to the cutest guests in attendance – kids from a local STEM program dressed in lab coats who enthusiastically recited the Science – Technology – Engineering – Mathematics responsible for making a banana light up with a laptop.

FISCAL YEAR 2018

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

REVENUE		
Revenue, Gains and Other Support	REVENUE	%
Government Financial Assistance and Service Fees	\$ 14,398,342.00	84.50%
Sales/Contract Revenue	\$ 1,457,181.00	8.55%
Rental Revenue	\$ 578,230.00	3.39%
Donated Building, Facilities, and Equipment	\$ 258,316.00	1.52%
Contributions	\$ 228,649.00	1.34%
Investment Income	\$ 61,799.00	0.36%
Other Revenue	\$ 58,668.00	0.34%
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Assets	\$ (1,362.00)	-0.01%
Total unrestricted revenues, gains and other support	\$ 17,039,823.00	100%

Expenses		
Program Services	EXPENSE	%
Child Care	\$ 908,155.00	5.56%
21st Century	\$ 828,444.00	5.08%
Latchkey	\$ 578.00	0.00%
Jumpstart Preschool	\$ 105,149.00	0.64%
Prevent Child Abuse	\$ 505.00	0.00%
Healthy Family	\$ 203,277.00	1.25%
Healthy Family Harrison Co. HCCF	\$ 11,881.00	0.07%
First Steps System Development	\$ 107,517.00	0.66%
First Steps SPOE	\$ 1,737,191.00	10.64%
First Steps Ed Team	\$ 655,727.00	4.02%
Production	\$ 112,405.00	0.69%
Pre-Vocational Services	\$ 287,434.00	1.76%
Work Services	\$ 377,028.00	2.31%
Marketing	\$ 35,805.00	0.22%
Screen Print	\$ 199,623.00	1.22%
Driver's Education	\$ 33,489.00	0.21%
Employment Services	\$ 349,243.00	2.14%
Establishment Project	\$ 76,865.00	0.47%
Transition	\$ 5,033.00	0.03%
Stepping Stone Apts/Transitional Housing	\$ 125,075.00	0.77%
Wyandotte House	\$ 333,744.00	2.04%
Safe Place	\$ 13,700.00	0.08%
IDDD Home	\$ 315,812.00	1.93%
Department of Indiana Highways Janitorial	\$ 721,432.00	4.42%
Community Janitorial	\$ 9,879.00	0.06%
Hab Training	\$ 390,396.00	2.39%
Structured Family Caregiving	\$ 414,920.00	2.54%
Community Resources	\$ 772,504.00	4.73%
Oak Street Home	\$ 347,131.00	2.13%
Nichols Home	\$ 385,240.00	2.36%



FISCAL YEAR 2018

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Summit View SGL	\$ 396,160.00	2.43%
Milltown Home	\$ 338,464.00	2.07%
Klerner Lane Home	\$ 393,418.00	2.41%
Marvy Lane Home	\$ 361,419.00	2.21%
McGrain Home	\$ 355,436.00	2.18%
Residential Core	\$ 397,520.00	2.44%
Housing	\$ 90,988.00	0.56%
Oakview Apartments	\$ 79,016.00	0.48%
Autumn Ridge L.P. Management	\$ 26,400.00	0.16%
Hope Manor	\$ 20,850.00	0.13%
Country Trace LP Management	\$ 25,027.00	0.15%
BR Autumn Ridge II Management	\$ 41,526.00	0.25%
BR Country Trace II Management	\$ 10,703.00	0.07%
Jill's House	\$ 17,294.00	0.11%
BR Country Trace 3 Management	\$ 8,864.00	0.05%
Grandview Manor South Management	\$ 51,960.00	0.32%
Jill's Hope	\$ 99,686.00	0.61%
Jackson Court Apartments Mgmt	\$ 40,496.00	0.25%
Enterprise	\$ 28,686.00	0.18%
Housing Service Coordinator	\$ 28,382.00	0.17%
WIC	\$ 421,705.00	2.58%
Day Service Transportation	\$ 154,156.00	0.94%
Non Fixed Route Transportation	\$ 56,653.00	0.35%
Children's Transportation	\$ 26,618.00	0.16%
Charter Transportation	\$ 5,754.00	0.04%
Medical Transportation	\$ 71,323.00	0.44%
Public Transportation	\$ 570,322.00	3.49%
City Transit	\$ 69,517.00	0.43%
Maintenance Facility	\$ 83,284.00	0.51%
Non BRS Rental	\$ 83,413.00	0.51%
Blue River Autumn Ridge II LLC	\$ 201,356.00	1.23%
Blue River Country Trace II LLC	\$ 92,989.00	0.57%
Blue River Country Trace 3 LLC	\$ 54,765.00	0.34%
Grandview Manor South LLC	\$ 158,494.00	0.97%
Jackson Court Apartments LLC	\$ 34,385.00	0.21%
Administration	\$ 1,447,499.00	8.87%
IT Support	\$ 97,816.00	0.60%
Disallowable Costs	\$ 14,499.00	0.09%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 16,322,025.00	100%

Ending Net Assets

\$ 16,527,434.00

FISCAL YEAR 2018

**SATISFACTION
SURVEY
SUMMARY**



PROGRAM AND SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

Several programs and services performed especially well, according to fiscal year 2018 surveys.

Of the 22 surveys received from consumers and parents/advocates at Salem Blue River Industries, all respondents were 100 percent satisfied most of the time or always. The SITS Public Transportation program also received high praise with an overall satisfaction of 99.5 percent.

Those who participated in Supported Employment Services also were extremely pleased with 100 percent overall satisfaction. The Driver's Training program also achieved a respectable 98 percent satisfaction most of the time or always.

On the 17 combined surveys returned, the In-Home and Corydon Habilitation programs scored high with an average overall satisfaction of 100 percent and 99 percent, respectively. Although only two surveys were received, the referring agency and one parent for Blue River's Corydon Ramsey Youth Shelter reported 100% satisfaction.

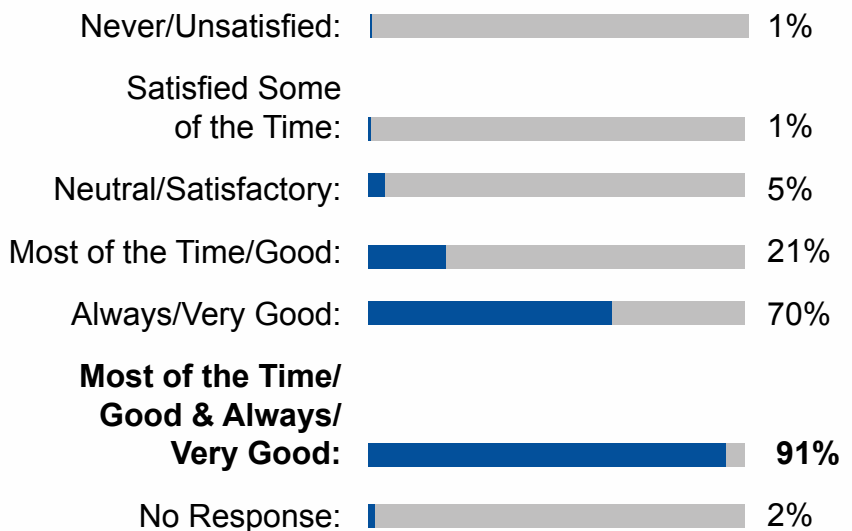
SATISFACTION SURVEY SUMMARY

GENERAL SATISFACTION

**TOTAL SURVEYS
DISTRIBUTED:
3,866**

**TOTAL
NUMBER
OF
SURVEYS
RETURNED:
657**

**AVERAGE
RETURN
RATE:
17%**



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

- Vocational Assessment and Rehabilitation
- Resume Services
- Discovery and Placement Services
- Supported Employment

DRIVER'S TRAINING

- Specialized training tailored to meet individual needs

FAMILY SERVICES

- First Steps
- Healthy Families

RESIDENTIAL SUPERVISED GROUP LIVING

- Summit View Group Home
- Klerner Lane Group Home
- Marvy Lane Group Home
- Milltown Group Home
- McGrain Street Group Home
- Nichols Avenue Group Home
- Oak Drive Group Home

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

TRANSPORTATION

- Children's Services
- Day Services
- Public

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC)

- Nutrition, education, health screening and breastfeeding support program in Crawford, Harrison, Orange and Washington Counties

YOUTH SERVICES

- Wyandotte Youth Shelter
- Corydon Ramsey Youth Services Home for children with disabilities
- Safe Place/Indiana Trafficking Victims Assistance Program Partner

ECONOMIC IMPACT

County	Number of Employees	\$ Payroll	\$ Spent Locally
Harrison	319	\$4,137,118	\$497,908
Washington	164	\$1,560,909	\$153,970
Crawford	55	\$574,670	\$47,686



TOGETHER WE ARE BETTER

Our agency believes that our commitment to inclusion across race, gender, age, religion, identity, physical or mental ability, ethnicity, perspective, and experience drives us forward every day.

This commitment makes us better as an employer and better as a provider of human services to our community. Most importantly, creating an environment where everyone, from any background, can do their best work and can have the opportunity to succeed is just the right thing to do.

Be you, because together we are better!





BLUE RIVER SERVICE LOCATIONS

THE AGENCY GLADLY ACCEPTS DONATIONS AT ANY OF ITS LOCATIONS. MONETARY DONATIONS ALSO ARE ACCEPTED BY CHECK OR ONLINE THROUGH PAYPAL.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

1365 Old Hwy 135 NW
P.O. Box 547
Corydon, IN 47112
P: 812-738-2408
F: 812-738-6281

HARRISON CENTER

405 N. Capitol Avenue
Corydon, IN 47112

Employment and Youth Services:

812-738-3198

Family Services/First Steps:

812-738-1987

Healthy Families:

812-738-0392, F: 812-738-0732

Residential Supervised Group

Living:

812-738-4996, F: 812-738-1985

Human Resources:

812-738-0776, F: 812-738-1617

Properties Manager:

812-734-0496

Community Resources:

812-738-2018, F: 812-738-4517

HOUSING

156 Autumn Ridge Drive
Corydon, IN 47112

Housing Director:

812-738-8016, F: 812-738-3460

Autumn Ridge Apartments:

812-738-9010

COUNTRY TRACE APARTMENTS

13590 Greene Street
Palmyra, IN. 47164
812-364-1100

GRANDVIEW MANOR SOUTH

509 Grandview Dr.
Salem, IN 47167
812-883-7171
F: 812-883-8181

BR GRAFIX

101 North Mulberry Street
Corydon, IN 47112
812-738-2437, F: 812-738-6089

RAINBOW'S END CHILD CARE CENTER, FIRST STEPS

310 S. Capitol Avenue
Corydon, IN 47112

Rainbow's End:

812-738-1979, F: 812-738-8875

First Steps:

812-738-1975 or 1-800-941-2450

F: 812-738-1867 or 877-674-2285

RAINBOW'S END CHILD CARE CENTER, FIRST STEPS

1099 Marci Lane
Georgetown, IN 47122

Rainbow's End:

812-951-3215

First Steps:

812-951-0321, F: 812-951-0358

CORYDON BLUE RIVER INDUSTRIES

3141 Progress Blvd.
Corydon, IN 47112

Corydon Blue River Industries, Habilitation, In-Home Services

812-738-4541

F: 812-738-7748

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

3143 Progress Blvd.
Corydon, IN. 47112

Transportation Director:

812-734-1000

Southern Indiana Transit System:

812-734-0285, 1-866-738-1681

F: 812-734-1036

SALEM BLUE RIVER INDUSTRIES

100 E. Progress Blvd.
Salem, IN 47167
812-883-1122, F: 812-883-8857

HABILITATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

14495 Huff Street NE
Palmyra, IN 47164

Habilitation:

812-364-4142, F: 812-364-6906

Children's Services:

812-364-1142, F: 812-364-1233

CRAWFORD COUNTY EMPLOYMENT SERVICES & WIC

6913 E. State Rd. 64
Marengo, IN. 47140
812-365-2325, F: 812-365-2374

WIC:

812-365-2943
1-866-527-5130
Fax: 812-365-9156

DUBOIS COUNTY EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

332 Third Ave.
Jasper, IN 47546
812-482-3989, F: 812-482-4669



BLUE RIVER SERVICE LOCATIONS

THE AGENCY GLADLY ACCEPTS DONATIONS AT ANY OF ITS LOCATIONS. MONETARY DONATIONS ALSO ARE ACCEPTED BY CHECK OR ONLINE THROUGH PAYPAL.

FIRST STEPS (FERDINAND)

202 E. 23rd St.
Ferdinand, IN 47532
812-367-1581, F: 812-367-2356

FIRST STEPS (EVANSVILLE)

981 B S. Kenmore
Evansville, IN 47714
812-402-4482, F: 812-477-1282

FIRST STEPS (TERRE HAUTE)

4130 S 7th St
Terre Haute IN 47802
812-917-2950 or 877-860-0413
Fax: 812-917-2862 or 866-395-6034

FIRST STEPS (WASHINGTON)

2212 E. National Highway
P.O. Box 700
Washington, IN 47501
812-257-1042 or 1-877-860- 0413
F: 812-257-1047 or 866-395-6034

WASHINGTON CENTER

504 Reid Avenue
Salem, IN 47167

First Steps:

812-883-9401,
F:812-883-8476

Healthy Families:

812-883-9701

Employment Services:

812-883-0566

Community Resources – Habilitation, In-Home Services,

Structured Family Care:

812-883-0567,
F: 812-883-0570

WIC:

812-883-1394, F: 812-883-1396

SUMMIT VIEW GROUP HOME

812-738-4557, F: 812-738-3196

KLERNER LANE GROUP HOME

812-945-6781, 812-981-3821

MARVY LANE GROUP HOME

812-364-4105
F: 812-364-6568

MILLTOWN GROUP HOME

812-365-2751
F: 812-365-2065

MCGRAIN STREET GROUP HOME

812-738-7904
F: 812-738-1393

NICHOLS AVENUE GROUP HOME

812-883-1528
F: 812-883-2827

OAK DRIVE GROUP HOME

812-883-4852
F: 812-883-1085

ORANGE COUNTY WIC

204 E. Main St.
Paoli, IN 47454
812-723-4131 or 1-800-449-4131
F: 812-723-4605

HARRISON COUNTY WIC

241 Atwood Street, Suite 205
Corydon, IN 47112
812-738-1601, F: 812-738-1602

I-64 WELCOME CENTER

8500 I-64 West
Lanesville, IN 47136-0302
812-951-2019, F: 812-951-2019

HENRYVILLE REST PARK

21505 N. Interstate 65
Henryville, IN 47126
812-294-3813 North Bound
812-294-4623 South Bound
F: 812-294-4187

WYANDOTTE HOUSE

100 Hilltop Drive
Corydon, IN 47112
812-738-3273
F: 812-738-2912

STEPPING STONE APARTMENTS

260 Summit View Drive
Corydon, IN 47112
812-738-4902
F: 812-734-0916

CORYDON-RAMSEY YOUTH SERVICES HOME

1820 Corydon-Ramsey Rd.
Corydon, IN 47112
812-738-0142
F: 812-738-0143



BLUE RIVER SERVICES, INC.

1365 OLD HWY. 135 • CORYDON, INDIANA 47112

PHONE: 812-738-2408 • WEB: WWW.BRSINC.ORG

TTY FOR DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING: 812-738-3526, 1-855-824-5655