

PI Events

A monthly publication of news and views at Person Industries

January
2010

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PI Celebrates 25 Years of Service this Month



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Special points of interest:

- Effective January 1, 2010, the mileage rate for Person County employees is changing to \$.50. This is a decrease from \$.55.
- The Arc of Person is holding its monthly meeting on January 19, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the PCGH Office.

January 7, 2010 will mark 25 years since Person Industries opened its doors to serve people with disabilities in Person County. For some, 25 years represents a lifetime, but for PI, 25 years is just the beginning.

So much has changed while much has stayed the same.

Changes

The major change has been with the mission of the program. PI has changed from a sheltered workshop to a community rehabilitation program. What that means is that rather than our program participants being stationed inside PI, the goal has been to give all an opportunity to work in the community. All employees, regardless of the level of functioning, are given as much exposure to the community as possible.

The change in mission has dictated a change in staff, both the size and general duties. The

size of the staff has grown from seven to PI's current roster of 27. And of that 27, four are job coaches with duties of coaching people in community employment. In addition to job coaches, many of PI's Habilitation Assistants and Program Managers play a role in making sure everyone has gainful exposure within the community. This exposure may come in actual work but also leisure opportunities and civic interaction.

The Same

The things that have stayed the same relate to the employees that we serve. Many who were at PI when the doors first opened, remain in our services. Some have been very successful in community employment while others have chosen to work in-house. New ones have come aboard and a few of the



PI some 25 years later—operating the Person County Recycling Center

old have retired. Old or new, they all share a zest for work and a determination to get out of their homes each day to engage in meaningful activity. This attitude has led to an array of different production contracts and work initiatives over the years. But now, just as then, any new initiative continues to be embraced with diligence and perseverance. We hope that will be the same 25 years from now.

PCRC Begins Accepting Electronics on January 4th

Beginning January 4, 2010, the Person County Recycling Center (PCRC) will begin accepting electronics. Electronics will include computers, printers, monitors, laptops, etc. PI will also begin accepting small appliances such as microwaves and televisions and vacuum

cleaners. If you're confused as to what is accepted, see box on page 2.

Here's the twist ... There is a nominal fee when TVs, computer monitors and laptops are dropped at PCRC. The price for monitors and laptops will be

\$5.00 and \$10.00 for each TV. The fee is being charged to cover the cost to PCRC to have these items recycled.

You can be assured that any data remaining on the hard drive will be safeguarded until it is destroyed.

Expo Highlights Latest in Assistive Technology

Judith Casseday attended the North Carolina Assistive Technology Expo on December 3-4, 2009 in Raleigh. The Expo is presented every year by the NC Assistive Technology Program, which is a Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, and Partnerships in Assistive Technology.

This year the program featured informative sessions on assistive technology (AT) and employment. Meg Moss, Executive Director of Lee County Industries, Inc, presented a program on AT in the Community Rehabilitation Program. LCI, Inc has become a satellite center for Partnerships in AT. Through this partnership they have focused on engaging clients with severe limitations in programming activities. In addition, they have designed a wheelchair “backpack” that

attaches to the wheel of the chair. The person in the chair doesn’t have to struggle with reaching over the shoulder to get things out of the pack. Instead they can simply reach down to the side, which makes things more accessible.

Another highlight of the Expo was the Exhibit Hall where over 70 AT vendors and advocacy organizations displayed a wide range of adaptive products and resource information. Eye Response Technologies exhibited a computer with a cursor controlled by eye movement. Indigo Logix developed an embosser that can print any document in Braille. The Exhibit Hall included products for senior citizens and for home and vehicle modification.



The Wheel Deal features innovative ways to store daily items for easy access from both sides.

Person Industries maintains a resource directory to help people find AT devices and other products and services to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities. If you have questions about Assistive Technology needs, please contact us.

PI Adopts New Security Procedures

In this age of random shootings and senseless killings, PI has joined other companies taking stronger security measures. In December, PI installed new security equipment that limits access to the PI offices and programming area.

In order for any person to move beyond the reception area, they must have an access code or be buzzed in the by PI receptionist. All other entrance doors are kept locked to persons from the outside except during designated hours when employees are on breaks and lunches. Staff supervisors are particularly vigilant during these times.

Employees are encouraged to report anything suspicious.

PI Staff to Participate in Training Day

On January 15, 2010, PI will be closed for an annual Staff Training Day. All staff of PI will participate in this day long training session that will cover the areas of health and safety, fire suppression and client rights. See training day agenda to right.

As a result of the training day, PI will be closed to all employees with the exception of those in the Production Department who are specifically requested to work and those whose positions require they attend a training session.

Presenter	Topic	Time
Wanda Rogers, PI Director	Announcements Workplace violence, new building security and other workplace polices	8:15 – 9:15
Becky Clayton, PI Program Manager	Client Rights, Confidentiality & HIPAA	9:15 – 10:15
	Break	10:15 – 10:30
Johnny Gentry Person County Fire Marshall	Fire Suppression	10:30 – 11:00
Tonya Ham, Physical Therapist	Back Safety	11:00 – 11:30
	Lunch	11:30 – 12:45
Rebecca Morrow, Public Works Safety Officer	Health & Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Star Certification ● PPE's ● Lock Out/Tag Out ● Hearing Conservation 	12:45 – 1:45
Matt Thompson , NC Safety Council	Defensive Driving Skills	1:45 – 2:45
	Break	2:45 – 3:00
Lisa Jeffreys, PI Safety Committee	General Safety Awareness for Community Contracts	3:00 – 3:10
Lisa Jeffreys, PI Safety Committee	Study Guide Review	3:10 – 3:15
	Testing on Health and Safety Information	3:15 – 4:00

Virginia Bullock Brings Versatile Work Skills to PI

On Monday, December 21st, Virginia Bullock became the newest member of the PI Staff as she started work as a Production Assistant at PCRC. Virginia replaces Carla Stone who resigned from PI in December to accept another position within Person County Government.



**Virginia Bullock,
New PI Production
Assistant**

able to secure a job with the Person County Group Homes ICF-MR Home. Having gained valuable production and direct care skills, she became the ideal candidate to work at PCRC where she must handle

the recycling load while supervising people with intellectual disabilities.

In her short period with us, she has shown that her experience has served her well and is up to all the new tasks being put in front of her.

PI welcomes Virginia!

Virginia's story is a familiar one to the Roxboro economy. She was employed at Collins and Aikman and was laid off when that industry closed. She took advantage of the job loss by going back to school for retraining as a Medical Assistant. With her degree, she was

PI Says Good-Bye to Five Ole-Timers



**Kennis
Baldwin
15 yrs**

**Adelaide
Clayton
34 yrs**

**Ernest
Jones
28 yrs**

**Esther
Villines
32 yrs**

**Richard
Woody
31 yrs**

When PI opened in Person County in January 1985, Adelaide Clayton, Ernest Jones, Esther Villines and Richard Woody were standing at the door waiting to come in, figuratively speaking. All four had worked at the program preceding PI—Person County Vocational Workshop (PCVW). When that program closed and PI opened to the community, these folks migrated over to PI. Now, after 25 years with PI, budget cuts are compelling

them to move on to retirement. Joining them in retirement is Kennis Baldwin. Kennis came to PI a little later but joined these four as they made their exodus from the world of work on December 23rd.

PI says a reluctant good-bye to these five individuals who have participated so loyally throughout the years. The retiring ensemble has a total of 140 years of service between PI and PCVW. We wish them great happiness in their retirement.



Words of Wellness

*Leigh Ann Creson,
Health Promotion
Coordinator
Person County
Health Department*

The holidays are not the only time most of us are rushed and have trouble finding the time and energy to cook a healthy meal at home. This can happen at any given time of the year. When you have the basics on hand in your kitchen, pulling together a healthy meal is a snap. Make sure your kitchen and pantry are stocked with a variety of these essentials for quick meals in a hurry. Here's a simple grocery list to get you started:

Around the edges of the store:

- Fruits and vegetables
- Bag salads and veggies
- Low-fat milk and yogurt
- Low-fat cheese
- Eggs
- Meats
- Fish and poultry
- Onions

Down the Aisles:

- Beans (canned or dry)
- Brown rice and pasta
- Breadcrumbs and cornmeal
- Whole grain breads (English muffins, waffles, bread, pitas)
- Canned tomatoes, vegetables, fruits
- Tomato based pasta sauce (not cream sauces)
- Dry fruit
- Canned tuna/salmon
- Peanut butter
- Balsamic vinegar, cider vinegar
- Olive oil, canola oil, non-fat cooking spray
- Tortillas
- Minced garlic
- Ketchup, mustard, sauces
- Salad dressing

Freezer Section:

- Frozen vegetables and fruit
- Chopped frozen onion
- Meats
- Fish and poultry

Now that you have the essentials, you are ready to get started. Most meals have three or four basic components that you can mix or match. Have fun with it and create your own signature meals! For a fast, healthy meal with virtually no clean-up do the following: take a 12" x 12" square of foil; put hardy veggies (potatoes, carrots) on the bottom, brush with olive oil, add tender veggies (tomatoes, mushrooms); add a topping/sauce; fold the sides of the packet to meet in the middle and fold down, fold ends to seal; place on baking pan and bake 450 degrees for 20-30 minutes. If you prefer a piece of meat with your meal, put a boneless, skinless chicken breast in the packet and drizzle the meat and veggies with a light or fat-free Italian dressing. Happy and Healthy Eating in 2010!

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Dear Miss Rhi,

I heard you're accepting electronics at the Recycling Center. I have a love for computers so I still have the first computer I ever bought—a 486 processor (before Pentium), 10MB ram, 500 or so MB hard drive, 15inch monochrome crt with Windows 95. Boy she was a beaut in her day! But I've finally decided to get rid of her since I have at least five computers with 1000 times more computing capacity. Can you take her off my hands and give her a good home?

Signed The OCD Geek

Dear OCD:

Yes we'll take her. Regardless of the technical specifications, we'll take her and allow her to share the same comfortable home we're offering to old printers, keyboards, laptops, microwaves, TV's and other small appliances. Here's the thing, getting rid of that monitor will cost you five bucks, even if it is monochrome. If your OCD has compelled you to keep a stash of old TVs, we'll take those as well—even if they are black and white and without the digital converter box. Getting rid of it will cost you \$10 though. You may drop off any of your other small electronics for absolutely nothing.

Here's the good news. Certain parts of your old computer can be removed and reused! So, when you drop her off at PCRC, she will embark on a new phase of her life. Knowing that should make it easier to recycle her AND not aggravate your disorder.

Miss Rhi



Miss Rhi Sytle is a renowned recycling expert for Person County Recycling Center. Please e-mail your recycling questions to her at: recycling@personcounty.net. You will receive a response to your question immediately and representative questions may be published in her monthly column in PI Events.

PCRC Now Accepting Electronics

(any brand or size)

TV \$10.00
Monitor \$5.00
Laptops \$5.00

Also accepting the following items at no charge:

Misc Electronics

keyboards, fax, scanners, DVD & VCR players (anything with a cord)

Small Appliances

microwaves, vacuum cleaners, coffee makers, cell phones (must have batteries)

PCRC staff asks that these items be dropped off ONLY during operating hours when an attendant is on duty.

PCRC Operating Hours:

Monday—Friday
7:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Saturday
8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day PI & PCRC Closed	2
3	4 PCRC begins accepting electronics See left	5	6	7 PI Open 25 Years!	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Staff Training Day PI Main Closed	16 PCRC Open
17	18 MLK Day PI & PCRC Closed	19 Arc Meeting See page 1 for details	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						