

# PEvents

June  
2008

A monthly publication of news and views at Person Industries

Volume 11, Issue 6

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### Special points of interest:

- Income Verifications are due by June 16th, 2008. If you did not receive an income verification form in your newsletter, you are not required to complete one. Please return the forms to your program manager.
- Life Line Screening will offer tests for the following conditions on Monday, June 23, 2008 at the PC Office Building: Stroke Screening/ Carotid Artery, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, Peripheral Arterial Disease. The cost for the screening is \$129.00. Pre-registration is required (1-800-324-1851).

## PI Participates in Project AWESM

Most parents of sick children have felt the frustration of seeing their child suffer because they cannot tell them what hurts. A similar scenario may exist for people with disabilities who are not able to communicate their how they may feel. The difference, however, is that for the adult, the illness may be more than an ear infection but something far more serious. So, how should families and care givers approach health and health education issues for people with disabilities?

Fortunately, PI has teamed up with the NC Office on Disability and Health to help combat one adult health issue—breast cancer. Project AWESM, which stands for All Women: Educate, Screen, Mammograms, is funded for one year by a grant that will provide education and screening services to women with intellectual disabilities who receive services in community

rehabilitation programs like Person Industries. The project will also provide education to caregivers, mammography technologists and healthcare professionals.

**Aside from non-melanoma skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common form of cancer in women. Breast cancer is the number one cause of cancer death in Hispanic women. It is the second most common cause of cancer death in white, black, Asian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaska Native women. In 2004 (the most recent year numbers are available),**

- 186,772 women and 1,815 men were diagnosed with breast cancer
- 40,954 women and 362 men died from breast cancer

PI was asked to participate by Karen Luken of the UNC Child Development Institute. After hearing the goals of the project, PI Director Wanda Rogers gladly agreed to participate, given the population that PI serves. (See box for statistics on breast cancer.)

### Goals and Activities of Project AWESM

The project comes with several different goals:

- To educate women with disabilities about three recommended steps of breast healthcare which are: the self breast exam, the clinical breast exam and the mammogram. This will be done by incorporating the "Women Be Healthy" curriculum into the current classes being taught by PI Field Supervisor, Annie Gibson. To qualify to teach the

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## PI Participates in Legislative Advocacy Day

With the economic picture for Person County being somewhat dismal, PI staff took matters into their own hands on Wednesday, May 21st. A small contingent from



The PI contingent with Rep. Winkie Wilkins (C)

PI traveled to Raleigh to participate in the Legislative Advocacy Day sponsored by the Coalition, a state-

wide organization that advocates for people with disabilities.

Among the list of things on PI's agenda was to secure support for the proposed Recycled Materials Recovery Center

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## Roxboro Recycling?

*As a nation coming to terms with wastefulness and abuses to the environment, the focus is on going green. Person Industries is trying to make it possible for Personians to contribute to the green effort by opening a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) here in Person County.*

*A MRF is a specialized plant that receives, separates and prepares recyclable materials for marketing to end-user manufacturers. Whether the MRF becomes a reality is the decision of the Person County Board of County Commissioners. But here is where we are in the process ...*



On May 5<sup>th</sup> Wanda Rogers stood before the Person County Commissioners with a plan for Person Industries to expand recycling in Person County.

The Person County Board of County Commissioners authorized PI to secure a business plan for the possible formation of an expanded recycling center to be located in the former Irvin Industries Plant (PI Mfg). Ricky Hardee, a DavCo Steel representative and architect of the proposed PI MRF, and Wanda Rogers, Director of PI, presented the proposal for the MRF before the County Commissioners. To signify the solid support for the facility, there was a great round of applause at the conclusion of the presentation from members of the audience that included members of PC PRIDE and other staunch recyclers.

As requested, on May 19<sup>th</sup> Wanda Rogers presented the requested MRF Business Plan to the Board of Commissioners. Ricky Hardee was also present to answer any questions. The Board asked for additional information such as tonnage estimates for Person County Schools and the City of Roxboro, as well as the estimated cost of worker's compensation. They especially wanted a 3<sup>rd</sup> party consultation into the feasibility of this project.

Where are we now? Wanda has contacted Jim Hickman with the NC Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (NCDENR) as the 3<sup>rd</sup> party consultant. Jim Hickman along with Matt Todd also with NCDENR will visit PI in the next few weeks. We'll keep you posted.

(see story on page 2). To that end, Wanda Rogers was able to get a nod of support from Representative Winkie Wilkins and Senator Ellie Kinaird for the facility.

In addition to PI's local need, the purpose of the rally was also to focus on the people who are not getting the services and supports they need because of budget cuts or inadequate funding.

The Coalition presented rally goers with "food for thought" wherein they outlined their position on service providers

## Legislative Rally Cont.

and those needing services. Some of their thoughts are as follows:



Rally goers hold up signs of advocacy.

- All three disabilities need a continuum of care, not just crisis services.

- There needs to be a way to accurately identify needs and then build services to meet those needs.
- There needs to be a focus on intervening early and consistently with adequate funding, thereby reducing the demand for services later in life.

In addition to the thoughts, the Coalition offered a funding plan for FY 2009.

In addition to Wanda Rogers, PI was represented by staff and consumers Sean Allen, JW Talley and Shelia Long.

## PI Holds 2nd Quarterly Safety Address

On Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, PI held the 2nd Quarterly Safety Address for 2008. The address, intended to promote a safer work environment, also serves to inform staff and employees of what's happening in the PI Health and Safety Program and what's happening in accident prevention.

During the 15 minute address, the audience was informed of PI's safety record for the quarter—no accidents

for PI Main and one accident at PI Mfg. They were also encouraged not to walk on or near pallets and to stay out of the areas with dotted lines as well as to keep the employee door closed at all times.

As an incentive to stay safe, employees at the site that maintained a safe work record were eligible for prize drawings. The winners were Tarsha Boyd and Ernest Bumpass.

## State Requests Income Verification

Starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, the State of North Carolina will require verification of income before authorizing any services.

### What does this mean for PI ?

It means that all program participants must complete the enclosed Income Verification Form and return to their program managers by June 16, 2008 or they will not be allowed to work at PI. The form simply asks that caregiv-

ers or guardians provide information on any income that the PI program participant has **that is not earned at PI**. This may be Social Security Disability Income, other governmental benefits, trusts, etc.

These income verification forms are required for all who receive IPRS Funding which includes participants in the ADVP and SE Long Term Support Programs.



## Up Close At Person

Congratulations to **Craig Marcus Reid**, son of PI Job Coach and



**Craig M. Reid** Bee-Line Designer, Sarah Reid. Craig, a graduating senior, is the recipient of a football scholarship to Campbell University and has been named a Person County Scholar. Craig played football

throughout his high school career and will now play for the "Fighting Camels" in the Fall. Campbell University has not had a football program since 1950 and Craig is excited to be a part of a reinstated football program. Besides playing football, he will major in pharmaceuticals.

Congratulations are also in order for **Derek Carver**, PI part-time employee and graduating senior. Derek is the recipient of a \$1000 scholarship from the Health Professions Network. He will receive his award on June 17 at the Health Occupations Students of America National Conference in Texas. Derek will also compete at the five day conference in the category of Extemporaneous Health Poster. He has already won first place in this competition category at both regional and state levels. Here's to coming home with a blue ribbon...

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## Implus Production Operations Winding Down

As June 30th approaches, PI is seeing production operations at the PI Mfg Division slowly wind down. When PI Management was informed of the shift of manufacturing operations to China, May 31st was the targeted deadline date. As Implus operations have progressed and regressed, it appears that operations will halt at the end of June.

It is bittersweet to see machinery removed for shipping to other locations as well as see employees laid off or moved to the PI Main loca-

tion. PI has been pleased to know that they will keep a



Kevin & Maurice work on can labeling job.

small amount of heat tunneling and can labeling work for the location. These opera-

tions will require only a small amount of manpower and machinery, however.

PI will also keep all packaging operations which include work currently being at done at the PI Main location.

Bittersweet is the word used because as Implus operations wind down, PI is hopeful to operate a Materials Recovery Facility (see story on page 2) from that location in the near future. In addition to the proposed MRF, that building will house the rain barrel contract.

## Staff Work Day and Appreciation Day Scheduled

June 20th has been set as both a Staff Workday and Staff Appreciation Day. How ironic that before staff is shown appreciation, they will have a dedicated period of time to work on annual trainings, goals and other issues.

On that day, PI will be closed to all employees unless they are specifically requested to work. The morning will begin with all staff convening in the conference room for a staff

meeting, followed by a discussion of progress on annual goals for the current and upcoming fiscal years. The group will also review and update PI's Strategic Plan, which will be somewhat challenging in light of the new direction PI is attempting to take with the MRF.

**“On that day (June 20) PI will be closed to all employees unless they are specifically requested to work”**

Policies that staff must be trained on annually will be reviewed at that time as well.

This will include the ethical conduct and a new corporate compliance policy.

Upon completion of these trainings and meetings, staff will then meet at the home of Wanda

Rogers for their retreat and appreciation activities.

## VR Programs Scheduled for Review

On Thursday, June 19th, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) will review the vocational rehabilitation programs that PI offers. These include the Vocational Evaluation program, managed by Judith Casseday, the Work Adjustment Program, managed by Vernon Dowdall and the Supported Employment Program, managed by Lisa Jeffreys. The review will begin with a look at selected charts that PI keeps on file

for each person served in the respective programs. Then VR Specialist Billy Cupit will meet with counselors, unit managers and PI program managers to discuss any issues or problems they have experienced. He will also give his assessment of how well the PI programs are operating.

PI welcomes such reviews as it provides ongoing feedback that contributes to quality service offerings.

## Words of Wellness



Leigh Ann Creson, Health Promotion Coordinator for Person County Health Dept.

The “noon” hour has disappeared for many Americans. Hectic schedules often mean less time to eat and more time to run errands or continue working. Wherever you eat – home, work, or from a drive-thru – lunch is a time to harness the power of nutrition.

Eating in the middle of the day helps you:

- **Refuel** for work or play.
- **Maintain** your metabolism.
- **Focus** your brain for afternoon activities.
- **Nourish** yourself inside and out.

Foods that make a power lunch include:

**Carbohydrates:** High-energy carbs, especially whole grains, are essential for a power lunch and to get you through to the next meal. You can get energy without going overboard. Stick with a slice or 2 of bread, 1 or 2 tortillas, a small roll or a handful of crackers. Of course, whole wheat is best.

**Protein:** Protein helps build and maintain muscle. It is also a key to weight control by providing longer-lasting satisfaction after you eat. Try some lean meat, fish, poultry, and low-fat dairy, like cheese and milk.

**Fruit and Vegetables:** Sweet fruit makes a delicious dessert at lunch. Fruit will benefit your skin, hair and eyes. Veggies make a great side dish for lunch, whether raw or cooked. They will help you get your daily dose of disease-fighting, anti-aging phytonutrients (plant nutrients). Fruits and veggies are also a great source of fiber. Experts suggest 5-9 servings of a combination of fruits and veggies a day.

Make noontime nutrition a priority. Plan to eat before you start running errands or continuing to work. Reserve at least 15-20 minutes for food and you'll feel better all afternoon. Pack a brown bag for work to save time and money. Cook enough the night before to have leftovers for lunch the next day. Stock up at home and work on easy options, like freeze-dried soups, single serve fruit cups, dried fruit, trail mix, etc. If eating lunch out is the only option some days, choose a restaurant with “power lunch” options so you can apply some of these tips.



### Up Close At Person

Continued from page 2

We express our condolences to Evelyn Moore, PI Habilitation Assistant on the loss of her brother, Dallas Allen. Evelyn has been particularly challenged of late with the death of her mother in April and now with the loss of a brother.

Congratulations to Ms. Luci Warren, mother of PI Habilitation Assistant Jeff Villines. She was hired as Telecommunicator with PC EMS. She joins son Jeff as a PC employee.

# People Investing in People

## Person Industries

601 N. Madison Blvd.  
Roxboro, NC 27573

Phone: 336-599-7571  
Fax: 336-597-2834

E-mail: [vwilkerson@personcounty.net](mailto:vwilkerson@personcounty.net)



PEOPLE INVESTING IN PEOPLE

## From our Readers

### Article on Tom Bryan from May 2008 PI Events

*"What a beautiful tribute to Tom. He would have been so pleased – he truly loved PI and all of you there. Thank you for doing that."*

Kathy Bryan

[www.personindustries.com](http://www.personindustries.com)

## June 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day
15 Father's Day	16	17	18	19 VR Program Review See page 2	20 Staff Appreciation Day See page 3	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## Project AWESM cont.

- curriculum, Annie will team teach with a staff from the Office on Disability and Health and then teach the curriculum on her own.
- Promote access to mammography screening for women with disabilities. The UNC staff will set up mammograms in the local area and accompany the person to the appointment if necessary. Patients with inadequate insurance coverage will have the cost covered by the grant.
  - Link women with positive mammogram findings to the next level of care. Again, the grant will cover the costs for any patient without insurance.
  - Provide training for mammography staff and healthcare professionals. This is invaluable since healthcare professionals, although skilled in their craft, may not always know how to relate to people with disabilities.
  - The final objective will be to establish a plan of action for future regular breast health education.
- For more details on the grant, please contact the PI administrative offices.
- PI is pleased to participate in such a generous, farsighted project that is sure to improve the lives of some in our programs of service.