

YOUR CONNECTION TO

Riverside Industries Inc.

empowering people with disabilities

Respect. Success. Innovation.

FALL 2008

CELEBRATING . . . RESPECT. SUCCESS. INNOVATION.
40
YEARS

This special issue celebrates our 40th anniversary with a look at Riverside's:



PAST
respect
pages 2 & 3



PRESENT
success
pages 4 & 5



FUTURE
innovation
pages 6 & 7

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Thank you

Over the years, many people have given so much of their time, energy, and love to Riverside and its mission. It is impossible to capture a complete list. The Riverside Board of Directors applauds the bravery of the founding members, the day-to-day dedication of staff, and the successes that participants have achieved. Today Riverside celebrates its 40th anniversary because of the unwavering commitment of so many individuals, parents, businesses, organizations, funding sources, and donors.

Riverside respect

60's

RIVERSIDE INDUSTRIES, INC. IS FOUNDED IN 1968

by a progressive and bold move on the part of local parents with the help of Father Robert Wagner. It was named The Occupational and Vocational Developmental Center for the Handicapped (OVDCH). With support from the Kennedy Foundation, OVDCH manufactures and produces Espère Perfume. Total OVDCH participants served: 6

FEBRUARY 1968

The City of Northampton donates the old Leeds School buildings for 50¢ each to OVDCH. Trade Union volunteers renovate the buildings making it possible for the workshop to open.



NOVEMBER 1968

The first Board of Directors.

The Occupational & Vocational Developmental Center for the Handicapped

25 Florence Street

Leeds, Massachusetts 01053

Board of Directors

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Mr. James Terrell

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

AGENDA

November 26 1968

1. Meeting called to order
2. Minutes of meeting
3. Treasurers Report
(Received as read and filed for audit)
4. Report of STANDING COMMITTEES
 1. Budget....Mr Paul
 2. Publicity...Mr Fennessey
 3. Membership....Mr Terrell
 4. Personnell Practice and Policy...Prof Siipola

70's

JUNE 1974

The name is changed to Riverside Industries, Inc. The first logo.



RIVERSIDE INDUSTRIES

APRIL 1976

The One Cottage Street building is donated to Riverside Industries, Inc. by J.P Stevens. Income from rent, and from the building's tenants, gives us a unique opportunity to support Riverside's mission.



APRIL 1978

Glendale Lawn Care, an innovative business venture, was established to create more jobs for people.



JULY 1978

Leeds Design Workshop, a woodworking school, becomes a significant tenant in the building. Graduates of the program continue to rent One Cottage Street space. Since 1986, they and others fill the building to capacity.

Riverside rejuvenates former factory

By JOE MAHONEY
EASTHAMPTON — Look closely at the L-shaped red-brick structure at Cottage and Union Streets, the former United Elastic building. With that shell, it still looks on the outside what it was for over a century — a factory. Then get an eyeful of the inside. There, you will see a bustling beehive of activity, brought to life by the building's owner Riverside Industries and a half dozen of its new tenants. Riverside, a private, non-profit sheltered workshop employing more than 100 handicapped people here, was given the building last year by J.P. Stevens & Co. "The hole would have been a struggling Riverside operation, not quite completed. "We're doing it all with our own crew of handicapped maintenance people," he boasts. "So we're kind of proud of it." In 1848, the former Easthampton Elastic Co., looking for more room to accommodate a surge in demand for its products, began construction for a new home. Later, Easthampton Elastic became United Elastic, and in 1968, United merged with J.P. Stevens & Co. But Stevens pulled out most of its operations here in 1971, leaving many to wonder if the building might decay into a hollow shell, a blight on the community. "That still leaves more than 110,000 feet in now occupied, according to Heon. Of that area, Riverside uses 40,000 square feet. Stevens leases 45,000, and 20,000 square feet or so is rented to a variety of businesses and activities. Four stories on one side, five on another, the building is now home to the following tenants: Western Mass. Food Coop, the Leeds Design workshop, sculptor Richard Rice, Warwick Press printer Carroll Blinn, wood crafters Ken Hassink and John Ring, and the latest entry, Najnah, a non-profit agency which offers services to emotionally/crippled adolescents. "We reduced heat losses by 30 percent last year. And we hope to go down another 30 percent this year." Other factors contributing to

Respect for individuals with disabilities, hard work, willingness to take risks, and perseverance are the sustaining values upon which the organization was founded. Riverside programs are changing the lives of many people for the better and changing public perceptions. Over the years, just as the founders had hoped, the people Riverside serves have become an integral part of our community.

80's

MAY 1980

Jobs are secured in local businesses. People with disabilities are integrated in their working communities.

NOVEMBER 1981

The need for day community programs for people with developmental disabilities is met by the opening of the Day Habilitation program. The program provides occupational, physical, and speech therapies, as well as medical, academic, and pre-vocational services to 36 clients. Today the program provides a broader spectrum of services to over 75 people including services to people in nursing homes.

JUNE 1983

Tucson and Savannah's Restaurant starts as a vending cart in 1978. It expands its quarters to the center of the building creating a dining room, a place for everyone at One Cottage Street to mingle.

APRIL 1985

Through advocacy and additional monies from the Department of Mental Retardation, more than 50% of the participants in the Day Habilitation program become employed for the first time in their lives.

SEPTEMBER 1986

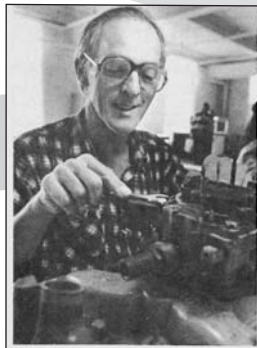
The 100th job is secured in the general community for people receiving services at Riverside.

NOVEMBER 1989

Riverside Industries group to join Statehouse protests



Clients and staff members of Easthampton's Riverside Industries Inc. and the Northampton-based Center for Human Resources Development join others at the Statehouse yesterday to protest possible funding cuts.



RIVERSIDE READY — Harold Bates of Northampton, a worker at Riverside Industries in Easthampton, learns how to rebuild an automobile carburetor for eventual employment in the community under a new training program. (T.T. Photo: Sischock)

Riverside attempts to lend stability to local job market



90's



JULY 1990

Riverside is encouraged by the signing of The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): wide-ranging legislation intended to make our society more accessible to people.

THIS case was a classic example of democracy in action. Citizens seeking redress for people that couldn't help themselves; a federal court providing the forum; a responsive Legislature, two responsive governors — Dukakis and Weld — and an attorney general, Francis Bellotti, who refused to defend what was indefensible. Working together all those elements achieved significant progress for the retarded people of the commonwealth."
— JOSEPH L. TAURO, chief justice, U.S. District Court, Boston.

AUGUST 1990

Riverside begins transportation services allowing for more flexibility in employment schedules and civic activities.



SEPTEMBER 1992

Riverside begins a joint venture with the Easthampton School System, helping to create a smooth school-to-work transition for individuals finishing high school.

FEBRUARY 1996

Riverside Rehabilitation is established and today provides Occupational, Physical, and Speech therapies to over 1000 children and adults in Massachusetts and Connecticut.



THROUGHOUT THE 90's major building renovations include several new accessible restrooms, Day Habilitation expansion, and a 5-story passenger elevator.

Riverside Success

Employment

Riverside has worked with hundreds of area businesses to successfully employ dozens of people in their communities.



Employers of **RSI**

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| American International College | National Yiddish Book Center |
| Ameriplast | NE Natural Bakers |
| Ames Department Stores | Newman Center (UMass) |
| Amherst College | Nonotuck Child Care |
| Amherst College Alumni Gym | Packaging Corp. of America |
| Autumn Realty | Panera Bread |
| Bed Bath & Beyond | Parents Center |
| Bela Vegetarian Restaurant | Paul & Elizabeth's Restaurant |
| Bertucci's Restaurant | Pizza Wings & Things |
| Beyond Works Bookshop | Pleasant Street Theater |
| Big E's Supermarket | Ponderosa |
| Big Y Supermarkets | Powdermill Village |
| Bruegger's Bagels | Pricechopper Supermarket |
| Burger King Restaurants | Pyramid Corporation |
| Caldors | Ralph's Blacksmith Shop |
| Calvin Theater | Roberto's Restaurant |
| ChartPak | Russell Cleaning & Maint. |
| Chesterfield Products | S&J Cleaning |
| Coachlight Condos | Salvation Army |
| Cooley Dickinson Hospital | Sarawood |
| Cooper's Corner | Serio's Market |
| CVS | Silver Spoon Restaurant |
| Depot Restaurant | Six Flags Amusement Park |
| Devonshire Apartments | Sodexo Food Services (Hampshire College) |
| Doyle's Package Store | Southampton Congregational Church |
| Eastern Mountain Sports | StanHome |
| Easthampton Senior Ctr. | Stop & Shop |
| Eddie Bauer | Susse Chalet |
| Florence Casket | Sylvester's Restaurant |
| Friendly's Restaurants | Taco Bell |
| Green Street Cafe | Temp-Pro |
| Hardigg Industries, Inc. | Texcel |
| Historic Northampton | Town of Williamsburg |
| Holyoke Community College | Trader Joe's |
| Hot Mama's | Tripplebrook Nursery |
| Joshua's Cafe | TubeD Products |
| JPS Elastomerics | University of Massachusetts |
| Kahunaville | Wendy's |
| Lord Jeffrey Inn | West. Mass. Long Term Care |
| Marriott Food Services | Williams House |
| Mastex | Williston-Northampton School |
| McDonald's | Wyckoff Country Club |
| Meadowood Nursing Home | Zoe's Restaurant |
| Mediplex | Zuzzy's |
| Montessori School | |
| Mt. Farms 4 Theaters | |
| Mullens Center (UMass) | |

Transportation

Because of Riverside's fleet of 22 vans, people are able to commute to work and access their communities which provide rich and meaningful life experiences.



Riverside is proud of the success we have had in fulfilling our mission. Over the past 40 years, there has been tremendous growth in the types of services we offer and in the number of people we support. The success of those we serve inspires us.

Rehab

Through Occupational, Physical, and Speech Therapies, Riverside Rehab has successfully enhanced the lives of thousands of people of all ages and in all kinds of settings.



Life Enrichment

Life Enrichment offers an extensive array of therapeutic and clinical services. Since its inception, the program has more than doubled, and expanded its service options to include a variety of alternative therapies.



ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES

Riverside has expanded services to include alternative therapies, which offer participants innovative medium to explore hidden talents and provide stimulating and enriching therapeutic experiences. Some of these include Music, Aquatic, and Pet Therapy.



NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Riverside has consistently acquired innovative technologies to support people to live with more ease and independence. Some of them include the Golvo, which has made it possible for people to walk for the first time as well as computers and devices which assist people to communicate more effectively.



FUNDRAISING

Through the establishment of development activities, Riverside has been able to acquire a new funding stream which has been vital to our ability to provide quality and necessary services. THANK YOU!



In 1968, Riverside was founded on the ideas and initiatives of a group of innovative thinkers. Over the years, our programs have become successful because of the innovative ways we approach each challenge. Looking to the future, we will continue to strive to improve and expand the programs and services that have become so vital to our community.

RIVERSIDE ARTS

Riverside has established an art program which provides people with the necessary tools to explore their creative expression. It offers people an in-depth, perhaps first time opportunity to make art and exhibit their work in the community.



Forty years ago, Riverside was founded by a small group of people who had a vision of communities welcoming people with disabilities to participate in typical life endeavors and enjoy the same rhythms of life as others. 1968 was a tumultuous time in America, the year that Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy were assassinated. It was also a time of hope. The Civil Rights movement was underway.



Riverside's roots began in our community with family members, local businesses, and Father Robert Wagner establishing a sheltered workshop in Leeds. Riverside has grown to be an organization that not only supports a ready workforce for local employers, but also provides rehabilitation services. Valley businesses currently employ 180 respected workers affiliated with Riverside, while Riverside Rehab and Life Enrichment provide traditional clinical services (Occupational, Physical, and Speech Therapies) as well as alternative therapies (Pet, Music, Art, Horticulture, to name a few) to over 1000 people in Western Massachusetts. Also, Riverside is one of the largest employers in Easthampton with more than 150 people working with us.

We could not have had these successes without the community embracing and investing in our mission. In the tradition of our grassroots' beginnings, Riverside has been asking what hopes and dreams people have for our future. This is what we hear:

- Continue our going-green efforts in our One Cottage Street building
- Expand our Sunflower Farm and Arts Project
- Support new ways to connect with our community
- Develop an innovative manufacturing product.

We look forward to how things will unfold in the next forty years. Please join us in our adventure!

Deb Thomas, *President*

*Celebrate 40 years of success and
be a part of our future*

DONATE

Riverside Industries, Inc., a non-profit organization, welcomes all tax-deductible contributions.

- Make a gift • Remember a loved one
- Leave a bequest • Set up a charitable gift annuity
- Use stocks and bonds for gifts • Ask your financial advisor

For more information, please call Char Gentes, Director of Community Relations at (413) 527-2711 ext.155, send a fax to (413) 529-9715, or send an e-mail to chargetes@rsi.org, www.rsi.org

Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Riverside Industries, Inc.

Invites you to its

40th Anniversary

Open Houses & Celebration Reception

Tuesday, October 14th

Tours start at 1:00 pm

Thursday, October 16th

Tours start at 9:15 am

Thursday, October 16th

5:00 - 7:00 pm

Refreshments will be served

Please join us in celebrating 40 years of empowering people with disabilities in their quest for satisfying jobs, life direction, and a meaningful place in their community.

RSVP: (413) 527-2711

Vist our web site www.rsi.org

**Riverside
Industries
Inc.**

EXISTS

to serve people with perceived limitations and typical ambitions

ENCOURAGES

those it serves to be participating members of their communities, sharing the privileges and obligations of their fellow citizens

ENABLES

people who choose to work to get the jobs they want, with the assistance they need

ENSURES

that people maximize their abilities through therapeutic options

EDUCATES

people to take control over the things in their lives that they value

ENLIGHTENS

the community about the abilities and challenges of the people we serve and asks for its philanthropic support

Riverside Industries Inc.

empowering people with disabilities | 40 year commitment

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