



YOUR CONNECTION TO

Riverside Industries Inc.

empowering people with disabilities

Matching Gift & New Venture

An anonymous donor has set the stage for Riverside to obtain \$6,000 for the Riverside Arts program. A \$3,000 gift has been offered to Riverside with the challenge of matching it dollar for dollar. This opportunity is exciting as Riverside is about to launch a new business which not only will help to raise additional resources to sustain the art program, but will also raise awareness of Riverside's mission by educating the community about the abilities, talents, and challenges of the people we support.

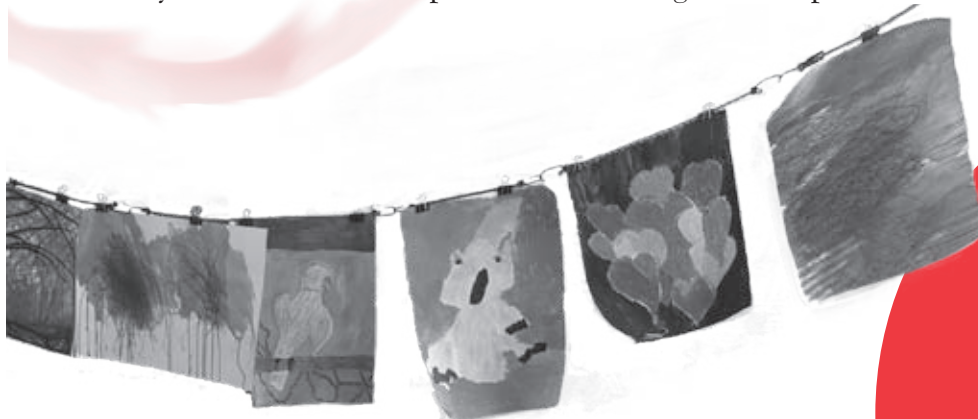
Riverside Arts has provided innovative therapy and an avenue for artistic expression for over 75 people. Through the creation of art, individuals have found a sense of personal development, satisfaction, self-esteem, and empowerment.

In the past three years Riverside Arts has had fourteen successful art exhibits which have boosted the confidence of the artists, and infused the program with energy and excitement. In addition to the sale of original art, greeting cards have been printed and sold in area stores, and at our home based bi-annual studio sales at One Cottage Street.

Riverside's Production Department plans to purchase the artist images, and then heat press them onto clothing, ceramic products, household items, etc. They will be marketed both locally and nationally via craft fairs and gift shows, as well as on the web and in stores and galleries. The production and packaging aspect of the project will employ people with disabilities and other local residents. In these economic times with almost double digit unemployment, Riverside is compelled to return to its roots and once again create its own product to manufacture. You may see some of the new product at the Cottage Street Open Studio Sales, December 4, 5, and 6th.



Jennifer White stands with cards designed from her artwork along with items in the new RSI arts product line.



If you would like to help us reach our matching grant goal please visit our website at www.rsi.org to make a donation or contact chargentes@rsi.org.

News to Report



Deb Thomas

In light of the Governor's budget cuts and its concomitant cuts to Riverside we are applying for grant monies in an attempt to bring work, services, and hope to people whose sense of wellbeing has been eroded by these economic times. Riverside's state funding was reduced by \$220,000. We have had some unfortunate layoffs, and services to the people we support have been diminished in certain areas. However, we are still a financially solid organization and continue to provide meaningful opportunities for people to grow and learn.

Given the increased unemployment and underemployment of people working in local businesses, and the decline of manufacturing in New England, Riverside envisions expanding its capacity of providing employment through entrepreneurial ventures. An Entrepreneurial Committee meets regularly, researching the viability of different avenues of success.

A grant award would be an investment in Riverside's future and in people's capacity to work and contribute to their communities. I welcome anyone's ideas, networking resources, or any other support to make this new venture successful.

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

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



Canson and Royal Talens have donated thousands of dollars of art material to the Riverside Arts Program over the last two years. Canson has been producing the world's finest art papers from mills in France for more than five centuries. The mission of Royal Talens, to facilitate and stimulate creative expression in painting and drawing matches that of Riverside Arts and we are grateful to be using quality materials from Canson and Royal Talens for this to happen.



Denise Herzog, Manager of Riverside Arts, (far left) stands with Mike Biegner, IT Manager of Canson, Inc, Liisa McConnell, Royal Talen's Product Manager, and James Allery, CEO of Canson.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan Carhart

Judith Cernak

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Susan Fentin

Susan Frost

Kathy Hall

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Susan Lapointe

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Partnerships:

Serio's Market

When you walk through the front doors of Serio's Market on State Street in Northampton, you soon realize you've stumbled upon a gem of a store. From the friendly and heartfelt greeting at the door to the aroma of fresh spices that fills the air, Serio's is truly one of the last independent full-service grocers around. Strong ties to the community are evident through their selections of locally-produced and all-natural items, their commitment to customers and the leadership demonstrated by owners Chris Cavalleri and Gary Golec. It only seems natural that such a business would have a long-standing partnership with Riverside Industries.



Although the history of Serio's dates back to 1902, its relationship with Riverside began 20-30 years ago just as civil and human rights progress was being solidified for people with disabilities. The Serio's philosophy of community commitment doesn't end at only being a place for employment. Former Riverside Board of Directors member, John Serio, has recently renewed his relationship with RSI, as the concept of product development is being explored.



Stephen Pagoda re-stocks shelves at Serio's

For the past eight years, on Fridays, Stephen Pogoda has been shelving product that arrives from the wholesaler. He also rotates stock and has developed creative skills for maximizing shelf space when little room for product is available. "Working at Serio's is a major part of Stephen's community involvement, it's tremendously important to him," says David Peake-Jones, Stephen's follow along coach. It is evident that Stephen is part of the "Serio's family." A photo collage located near the produce section of the store was created by a customer who came in specifically on a Friday to ensure that Stephen's picture was part of the masterpiece. In fact, Stephen's photo is located in the center of the collage! Chris Cavalleri commented, "Everybody really does care about him. He adds such a nice dimension to us with his really great outlook."

To learn more about Serio's Market, its product availability and history, please visit their website at www.seriosmarket.com.

"Your Riverside Connection" is published periodically by Riverside Industries, Inc., One Cottage Street, Easthampton, a non-profit, CARF accredited organization empowering people with disabilities. To learn more, contact the President, Deborah Thomas, at 413-527-2711, 800-339-2711, Fax 413-529-9715, TTY 413-527-4911 or through our web site at www.rsi.org.

Artistic expression is innate to all people

We have created an art program providing individuals with the necessary tools to explore their own creative potential.

This program provides people with disabilities an in-depth, perhaps first time opportunity to make art and exhibit their work in the community.

Every individual has the potential to flourish through the creative process.



Participating in the arts gives individuals a sense of purpose, self-empowerment, and community.

Exhibitions of work are opportunities to share these accomplishments thereby fostering awareness in the broader community.

Riverside Arts exhibits in a variety of venues on an on-going basis.



people.



Visit rsi.org for our current exhibition schedule, and please join us for the artist's receptions listed there.

If you have suggestions or ideas for exhibition opportunities, please contact Denise Herzog at 413-527-2711 or dherzog@rsi.org.

We invite local artists to become involved through studio visits, artist demonstrations and a visiting artist program.

We are interested in creating relationships with educational institutions, art groups, businesses, retirement centers and other members of the community.

If you would like to learn more about Riverside Arts and how you can become involved, please call.



Riverside Arts
a subsidiary of Riverside Industries, Inc.

For more information please contact Denise Herzog at 413.527.2711 x146 or dherzog@rsi.org

CHOICE-GIVERS FUND

Riverside Industries values each and every donor and each and every dollar that supports our mission. Our core values call us to honor and celebrate all people regardless of ability and all donors regardless of financial capacity. Therefore we purposefully thank our donors individually and collectively without categorizing people by the amount of their donation. Truly, every gift and giver matters. Your generosity makes possible Riverside Industries' mission to empower people with disabilities to live rich and full lives. This list reflects gifts from Jan. '09 - Aug. '09 Thank-you!

In Honor Of

Lisa Griffin
Jeff Mathers*
Myron & Yvette Pietraszkiewicz
50th Wedding Anniversary
Riverside Arts

In Memory Of

Jim Acus
Joseph Acus
John J. Kubasek*
Jan LaBelle
Julie Potorski
Michael Patrick Sullivan
Lynn Wolf*
**Multiple mentions*

Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
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Iris Sawin
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Debja Steinberger
Mai Stoddard
Sean Sullivan
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Turbo Care, Inc.
John Tuttle
Anne Van Nostrand
Steven Veit
Warwick Press
Barbara Ween-Visage
Margo Welch
Whalen Insurance Agency, Inc.
Brian Wright
Cynthia Yeaw

A Warm and Heartfelt THANK YOU

Our fifth annual
Taste the Arts, Taste the Eats, Taste the Beat East of Paradise Silent and Live Auction
was a wonderful success.

Over \$69,000 was raised to help Riverside continue its mission to support people with developmental disabilities to live rich and full lives.

We are overwhelmed and filled with gratitude for the generosity of our community. This incredible evening could not have occurred without the support and big heartedness of our auction sponsors, item donors, ticket holders, volunteers, committee members, Riverside staff, and the more than thirty establishments who provided delicious food, beverages, and in kind donations.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

We could not have done it without you.

Save the Date Friday, April 9, 2010

Life Skills Scoop

Great Green Goings-On!

Life Skills most recent attempt at making our planet a little cleaner culminates in the acquisition of a brand new, Energy-star rated dishwasher. Gone is the need for paper plates, plastic utensils, and paper cups. This dishwasher has 2 minute cycles that reuse rinse water from the previous cycle for the next wash cycle, thereby saving water with each load it runs. It also has a reservoir where the water is heated once for the day, and maintains that temperature for the 3 or 4 cycles necessary to complete cleaning the dishes for Life Skills. While this model of dishwasher was expensive, it was well worth its money for doing our part to be green and eliminating the need for costly and non-renewable paper products.



Lisa Griffin loads the new "green" dishwasher.

New Therapeutic Music Group in Life Skills

Riverside is happy to announce another innovative program in Life Skills. Randi Humphrey has been hired to provide two therapeutic music groups every two weeks during the summer. These groups are designed to use music as a tool for developing fine and gross motor skills, to increase social development, to enhance self esteem, and to expand quality of life and self expression.

Mrs. Humphrey, who teaches at the Springfield Conservatory of Music, focuses on rhythm and sensory integration with the first music group through the use of rhythm instruments. The second group is an active dance group which focuses on singing and movement as well as rhythm instruments. It is all very exciting and people love it. Who knows, there might be a future performance.



Deycy Ferrer (above) and Sherri Minihan (below) get into the beat in the new music class.

Ways to DONATE

Want to make a difference?

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

- **Make a gift**
All contributions make a difference and are greatly appreciated.
- **Remember a loved one**
Honor a family member or loved one through a memorial gift.
- **Leave a bequest**
Consider acknowledging Riverside in your will.
- **Set up a charitable gift annuity**
Receive income for life and support Riverside in providing comprehensive services to people with disabilities.
- **Use stocks and bonds for gifts**
CD's, retirement plan assets, stocks, and bonds can be used to establish a fund for Riverside.
- **Ask your financial advisor**
Your financial advisor can offer you guidance, if you would like to make a special gift.

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.

Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

www.rsi.org

Riverside Industries Inc.

empowering people with disabilities

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www.rsi.org

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U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

EASTHAMPTON, MA
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Save the Date

April 9, 2010

Our sixth annual
Silent and Live
Auction

**Support
The Bears**
*Support
Riverside*

easthamptonbearfest.com

www.rsi.org

YOU ARE INVITED!



Come see our mission in action! **Riversides' Annual Open House**

One Cottage Street, Easthampton, MA
Tuesday, October 27th, tour starts @ 9:15 a.m.
Friday, October 30th, tour starts @ 1:00 p.m.
Light refreshments will be served. Tours last an hour.

RSVP preferred but not required
527-2711 or chargent@rsi.org

Creating opportunities for people with
Developmental Disabilities to live rich and full lives!

PLEASE JOIN US!