

The CW REPORT

Empowerment through Employment

Fall 2009

CW Group, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation with the mission of creating employment opportunities for persons with disabilities and other challenged populations, as well as supporting and assisting small businesses.

It is comprised of three subsidiaries:

CW Resources,
Connecticut Enterprise Center
and
CW Enterprises.

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45th Annual Meeting of CW Group



Joe Coute, a visually impaired worker at CW's River Valley Products, explains to the crowd that cashing a pay check instead of a welfare check has given him back his pride.

This past fiscal year, CW cleaned over 8 million square feet each day, maintained and plowed 640 acres of property, placed 124 people in competitive employment, served 4,770 seniors, provided job sites for 511 clients, employed 315 staff and had a combined client/staff payroll of \$18,400,000. In addition, CW provided services in three states, maintained 130 vehicles, provided 7,000 meals on wheels each day and assisted in the feeding of 50,000 sailors every month.

These are some of the figures that President, Ron Buccilli, used to give a 'verbal snapshot' of the agency at its 45th Annual Meeting of CW Group, Inc. and its subsidiaries, CW Resources, Connecticut Enterprise Center and CW Enterprises. He attributed much of CW's success to its willingness to take calculated

risks towards expansion and diversification.

Other highlights of the year included packaging millions of pounds of coffee and instantized milk, partnering with 22 other agencies to provide employment for their clients, providing federal services for DSCP, Navy, Army, Air Force, Marines, Department of Defense, USDA, GSA and the US Coast Guard and providing custodial services to child development centers, gymnasiums, hospitals, clinics, and the offices of 20 commissioners and federal judges.

City of New Britain & CW Team Up to Clean Up

CW has received a one year contract with the City of New Britain to provide lawn care and sidewalk snow removal to the low-income elderly and the disabled population. They will also partner up to help fight blight in the city under the new 'Clean and Lien' Program.

CW Resources has been awarded a \$46,000 CDBG grant from the Department of Municipal Development to assist some of the eligible New Britain residents take care of a couple of chores of home ownership, namely leaf and snow removal. At the same time the grant will enable 15 persons with disabilities to be gainfully employed. CW will work with the New Britain Park & Recreation Department and the City Assessor's Office to coordinate the program and determine eligibility. Work is expected to begin this fall.

In addition, a new 'Clean and Lien' law in New Britain will allow the city to take action when owners refuse to maintain their property. They can now send in a team to clean up the blighted property and the city will bill the owner in the form of a lien. The lien should motivate owners to pay up.

In promoting the new Clean and Lien program Mayor Stewart said, "One of my priorities has

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U.S. Congressman Christopher Murphy (center, standing) listens to Chris Cauffman explain about the ear plug inserts that CW packages for the U.S. military and commercial customers.



TD Banknorth and the Bristol CW sponsored a fundraising lunch for the CT Special Olympics. Pictured are representatives from CW, CT Special Olympics, TD Banknorth and Bristol CW Special Olympians.



Michael Giguere, one of the hundreds of Camp Harkness participants, enjoys a meal and a laugh with fellow campers. Each summer CW runs the camp food program employing about 25 staff and clients.

2009– 2010 Boards of Directors

CW Group and CW Resources

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| *Frank Amodio | *Robert Laundy,
<i>Vice Chairperson</i> |
| *Sharon Braverman | *Gary Lee |
| *Ronald Buccilli,
<i>President</i> | *Robert Primmer,
<i>Treasurer</i> |
| *Mirya Catanzaro | Marco Savona |
| *Raymond DeCormier | *Rollin Schuster |
| *Cheryl Farmer | *Steve Tillona,
<i>Chairman</i> |
| *Larry Gallupe | *Jeannette Varkal |
| *Josephine Giguere | *Robert Voroscak |
| *Richard Harris | |
| *Janis Jerman,
<i>Secretary</i> | |

* Denotes Directors of CW Resources and CW Group

Connecticut Enterprise Center

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Aime Brochu,
<i>Secretary</i> | Richard Mullins |
| Ronald Buccilli,
<i>President</i> | Arnold Schwartz,
<i>Chairman</i> |
| Chet Camarata | Peter Spano |
| Connie Collins,
<i>Vice Chairperson</i> | William Weber |
| John Eveleth,
<i>Treasurer</i> | |

CW Enterprises

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Frank Amodio | Robert Voroscak |
| Ronald Buccilli,
<i>President</i> | Marco Savona,
<i>Chairperson</i> |
| Alexandra Capsalors,
<i>Vice President</i> | Robert Williams,
<i>Treasurer</i> |
| Valerie Lavenski,
<i>Secretary</i> | |

Why Work?

I work because I am well and I am well because I work.



The author of this article, Kathleen Munier, works as a stocker at the Newport Naval Base Commissary.

There are a multitude of reasons to work. The most obvious is that you make money. Money can be a motivator. It gives you the opportunity to have more and different options in your life. You can make goals about what you'd like to purchase. Money can validate you. It can lend itself to raising your self esteem and can help you feel valued. You also take on another role that most people are already a part of. You become part of the rank and file of being a tax payer.

One other aspect of working is that working can give you structure. There are 24 hours in the day and work can be an important part of your day versus having an endless amount of time. For me what happens is that I get Balance. It seems the more I do, the more I do. I balance work with physical activity, intellectual growth, socializing and spirituality. Work is a cog in the wheel. A very important one.

Work is also a place to meet people. For me it is like a little family and I make people connections. We all need people. I bring baked goods to work. It gives my baking a sense of purpose. Work offers you a place to go to and a reason to get up and a place to get together. It helps you know that you are on a journey.

I find that I have better all around health and satisfaction because I am working. Another good thing about work is that there are supports in place for when you eventually determine that you are work ready enough and you are willing to give up your social security. I plan on doing this eventually. I also feel good that I am a contributing member of my family.

For me the money I earn goes for travel, dining out and fun. And you know what even if I didn't get paid I would still work. It's not Why Work it should be Why Not Work. Just the notion that I work overshadows I have a disability and I am unemployable. Work is an important part of my recovery. I am feeling more like a completed person. The job you have might not be the one you will always have but it can give you experience.

I am grateful to have a job and especially one that I like. I highly encourage people to get work, whether its volunteer or paid.

We've Got Milk

Twelve million pounds of it to be exact! CW's River Valley Products plant is humming. Converted to package coffee last year, it is now packaging both instantized non-fat dry milk AND coffee. To accomplish this the facility has had to undergo structural and scheduling changes as milk and coffee can not both be packaged in the same room.

A wall was constructed dividing the coffee and milk packaging equipment and two completely separate lines are now running night and day packaging thousands of pounds of both commodities daily. The plant is going 24 hours a day with two production shifts and one sanitizing crew working third shift.

The milk packaging contract with USDA runs from July 2009 until April 2010. CW receives the milk in 1,000 pound 'super sacks' and packages it into consumer size packets of 25.6 ounces under our River Valley Products

label. The milk is being used in the National School Lunch Program and other domestic feeding programs. The goal is to help support both low-income families struggling to put nutritious food on their tables and dairy farmers who have been challenged by high feed costs and low dairy prices.

"Thirty plus disabled people are now working and making a good wage. Putting employees back to work—that's what it's all about," said Alix Capsalors, CW Production VP.



Maxwell House Coffee (left) and USDA instantized milk (right) being packaged at River Valley Products.



October is Disability Employment Awareness Month

A 2008 study was conducted to determine the economic benefit of employment for people with disabilities within the AbilityOne Program. The AbilityOne Program is a federal initiative to help people who are blind or severely disabled find employment by working for nonprofit agencies (NPAs) that sell products and/or services to the U.S. government.

The results of the study demonstrate the positive impact the AbilityOne Program has on government entitlement program usage. As E. Robert Chamberlin, President and CEO of NISH, wrote "...when people with severe disabilities go to work on AbilityOne contracts, America wins. As AbilityOne employees become more financially independent, government balance sheets realize increased taxpayer contributions and reduced dependence upon entitlement programs."

Four business lines were surveyed — custodial, administrative services, food services and ground maintenance — with the following results:

- Saved government balance sheets between \$3,067 and \$6,918 per AbilityOne employee
- Reduced reliance upon SSDI, SSI and food stamps
- Eliminated and reduced the need for welfare benefits, public housing, Medicare and Medicaid
- Increased annual wages 30% to 56%
- Resulted in creating taxpayer contributions to federal and state income tax.

More than 600 nonprofit agencies associated with either National Industries for the Blind or NISH are producing products and services under the AbilityOne Program. The core criteria for nonprofit agency eligibility is that 75% of total direct labor hours must be performed by people who are blind or have other disabilities. In 2006, nearly 47,000 people were employed through the program, making AbilityOne the largest source of work opportunities for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities in the United States.

CW Resources has — contracts that employ ___ under the AbilityOne Program. Ron Buccilli, CW President, commended the program as a viable way for persons with disabilities to become financially independent. "Our people working at the US Coast Guard, Groton Submarine Base or packing coffee and milk are making a good wage and are able to become more independent," he said.

City of New Britain & CW Team Up, continued from page 1

been to make New Britain a cleaner and safer community. To that end, we will now be much more aggressive in moving in to clean up neglected properties that have been ruining entire neighborhoods where responsible homeowners take pride in keeping up their properties. By partnering with CW Resources, we can make great strides in making our neighborhoods more attractive and livable for local residents."

CW has been contracted to provide a variety of services such as: boarding up doors and windows, if necessary; clearing out debris, inside and out; trimming, mowing and keeping an eye out for unsafe conditions in the area. Funding for this project comes from the American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA), federal stimulus money.

Sandie Lavoy, CW Employment & Community Services VP, is looking forward to dispatching crews for both projects. "We have experienced workers ready to begin providing these services. We recently met with the parks and recreation department and will follow in their footsteps from last year with regard to the leaf clean-up. Our crews have also worked on property clean up projects and know first hand how important it is to keep properties maintained."

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