



Prospectus Berco

Reaching Beyond Expectations

DEVELOPMENTS

Seasonal Newsletter - Winter/Spring 2023



In the last edition of *Developments*, I shared the vision of Prospectus Berco is “Building an inclusive community where every person can live the life of their choice.” But why is building an inclusive community so important to not only Prospectus Berco partners, but also to current and future generations? Inclusion, in this instance, is defined as the act of including someone as part of a group or opportunity through intentional and supported interactions between peers with and without disabilities. What does inclusion look like? It is an environment of respect, acceptance, and valuing others. It is welcoming each person for who they are and what they bring to the table of life. It is being invited to serve on a committee or to attend an afterwork gathering. It is affording equal access to opportunities and experiences. It is having choices and having a say in decisions that impact our lives.

More importantly, what does inclusion feel like? Sadly, many people know what not being included has made them feel like. The vision for Prospectus Berco is a future where

every person feels a sense of belonging and is living with a purpose. Being appreciated for our individuality, fostering authentic relationships, feeling safe and accepted, and approaching each new day with a sense of well-being is the world we want to build at Prospectus Berco.

In recognition of our 45th anniversary as a Berks County service provider for men and women with intellectual disabilities and to punctuate the vision of an inclusive community, we launched a virtual “45 Hundred Campaign” to generate 4500 votes for inclusion. The goal of this campaign is two-fold. First, we are hoping to raise \$45,000 to support unfunded program and program participant needs. But here is the beautiful aspect of this campaign, In making a donation at whatever level you are able, you will be voting for inclusion. By going on to our website www.prospectusberco.org and clicking on the 45 Hundred Votes button, you can make a donation and generate votes for inclusion at a rate of one vote for every 10 dollars donated. You will be able to personalize your support by sharing your motivation for joining the 45 Hundred campaign in the comment section.

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If you are one of the many faithful friends and family members who already joined our 45 Hundred Campaign for inclusion, thank you. For everyone else reading this message, I encourage you to show your commitment to building a safe and inclusive community where all individuals with or without disabilities embrace life as fully participating members of the community. ■

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Senior Project Manager, RPA Engineering

Michael Billera-Smith, Treasurer
Vice President & Financial Advisor,
Fulton Financial Advisors

Nicholas Thomas, Secretary
Business & Community Development,
GAGE Personnel

Mark Chaknos
Associate Real Estate Broker,
Keller Williams Platinum Realty

Dr. Amanda Cipolla
Educational Consultant, Pennsylvania Training and
Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN)

Dale G. Derr
Retired Executive Director,
Berks County Department of Veterans Affairs,
Parent of Consumer

Michel deTurck, AIA
Architect, STV, Inc.

Eric J. Fabrizio, Esq.
Partner/Shareholder Bingaman Hess Coblenz & Bell

John Hunter
Lieutenant Colonel, USAF, Retired,
Parent of Consumer

Joelle R. Lauchner, D.O.
Doctor of Internal Medicine,
Tower Health, Douglassville

Jennifer Matten
Brand Strategy Manager, Sweet Street Desserts

C. Robert Rice, Jr., Esq., CPA
President, Rice CPA

Courtney L. Tull, MHS
Director of Violence Prevention Services,
Pennsylvania Forensic Associates

Thomas J. Wentzel
Head Estimator, VP
Boyertown Planing Mill Company

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

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Jonathan Colon
Chief Operations Officer

Nikki Roman-Cruz
Chief Financial Officer

James Bonner
Human Resources Director

Kristy Vigo
Community Services Administrator

Stacey Mikatavage
Corporate Administrator/Assistant to CEO

Jessica Penchard
Development & Public Relations Director

MEMORIALS

Melanie Feaster - It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Melanie Feaster on October 13, 2022. Melanie was a Residential Supervisor for one of our Community Homes. Melanie brought much love and enthusiasm to her work and had a positive impact on the lives of the individuals in her care and in her community. With her guidance, the ladies in the home crafted greeting cards for area nursing homes, volunteered at events, and brought joy and laughter to everything they did.

Robert (Bob) M. Hirt, longtime resident of a Prospectus Berco Community Home, passed away on November 15, 2022. Bob, a true gentleman, was a great asset to the Vocational program where he worked for many years as a production worker. His infectious laugh and smile will be greatly missed by all the lives he touched over the last 45 years at Prospectus Berco. His concern and care for others were admirable, to say the least, which was evidenced by the kisses he blew to those he loved. Bob was also a big fan of Jody's homemade cherry pie.

William (Bill) Elliott will be remembered for his quick wit and love of radio and sports teams, especially those from Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. He also had an amazing memory and recall. In addition to memorizing hymns and Christmas songs and singing in perfect pitch, he was a trivia master who out performed the best on trivia night. He will be deeply missed.

Deb Kearse, savvy businesswoman; loving wife; mother; and grandmother, passed away on October 11, 2022. Deb was a member of Prospectus Berco's Property Committee in 2016 and 2017. Being the fourth-generation owner of her family building supply business, Kohl Building Products, her knowledge; advice; and resources made her involvement on this board advisory committee extremely beneficial. Deb exuded confidence and was always quick with a smile; everyone who knew her agrees, you couldn't meet a nicer person on earth.

Ruth Isenberg - The world lost a beautiful soul, and Prospectus Berco lost a dear friend with the passing of Ruth Isenberg on January 14, 2023. The amazing parents of four accomplished children, Ruth and her late husband Paul became involved with Prospectus Berco through their daughter Laura who resided in a Prospectus Berco community home and participated in our day program for many years. This supportive couple was responsible for the establishment of our corporate tuition reimbursement program when they created the Laura Isenberg Educational Enrichment Fund in honor of their vibrant and very social daughter. Ruth was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother who will be missed by all who knew her. ■

Four Appointed to Board of Directors

Please join Prospectus Berco in welcoming four new members to its Board of Directors: Dr. Amanda Cipolla, Ed.D; Robert Rice, Jr., Esq., CPA, CVA, CGMA; Michel deTurck, semi-retired architect with STV, Inc.; and Thomas J. Wentzel, Co-Owner of Boyertown Planing Mill Company. Jody Wagner, Chief Executive Officer, said “the new members will have a significant role in helping to shape the organization over the next couple of years.”



Amanda Cipolla, Ed.D., is an educational consultant with Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN).

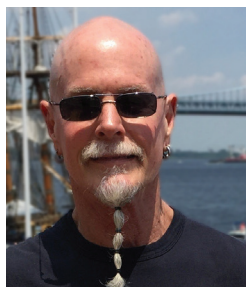
Dr. Cipolla has dedicated 18 years to education in the areas of special education, elementary education, Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTII), and leadership. Immediately before going to PaTTAN, she served as Assistant Superintendent for a public school in Berks County. Dr. Cipolla’s credentials include Pennsylvania certifications in elementary education, special education, reading specialist certification, principal certification, Superintendent Letter of Eligibility, and a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership.



C. Robert Rice, Jr., Esq., CPA, CVA, CGMA, is an attorney, Certified Public Accountant, and the founding member of an

Exeter Township accounting firm with tax planning, preparation, and compliance services for individuals, businesses,

and nonprofit organizations. His firm’s expertise also includes business consultation from initial startup to long-term and transition planning. Mr. Rice earned a law degree from Temple Law School, a master’s in business administration from Lehigh University, and a bachelor’s degree in Math & Business Economics from Albright College. He is also a Certified Valuation Analyst (CVA), Certified Global Management Accountant (CGMA), and Licensed Insurance Advisor. He serves on the Board of Directors of Barracks Fresh Start Recovery and Teachers-in-the-Parks. Mr. Rice was the former Treasurer of the Berks County Bar Association and recipient of the Berks County Bar Association Presidential Award of Merit (2012). Current memberships include the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA), Berks County Bar Association (BCBA), Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA), Berks Leads Group, National Association of Certified Valuators and Analysts (NACVA) and National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA). Mr. Rice resides in Exeter Township with his wife and business partner, Juliette, and their daughter, Chloe.



Michael deTurck is a semi-retired architect with STV, Inc. and has extensive experience in a variety of building types, including higher education, high

security (top secret) facilities, institutional facilities, and commercial facilities. Mr. deTurck previously served on Prospectus Berco’s Board of Directors from 1999-2004 and 2006-2009 and is a former Board President

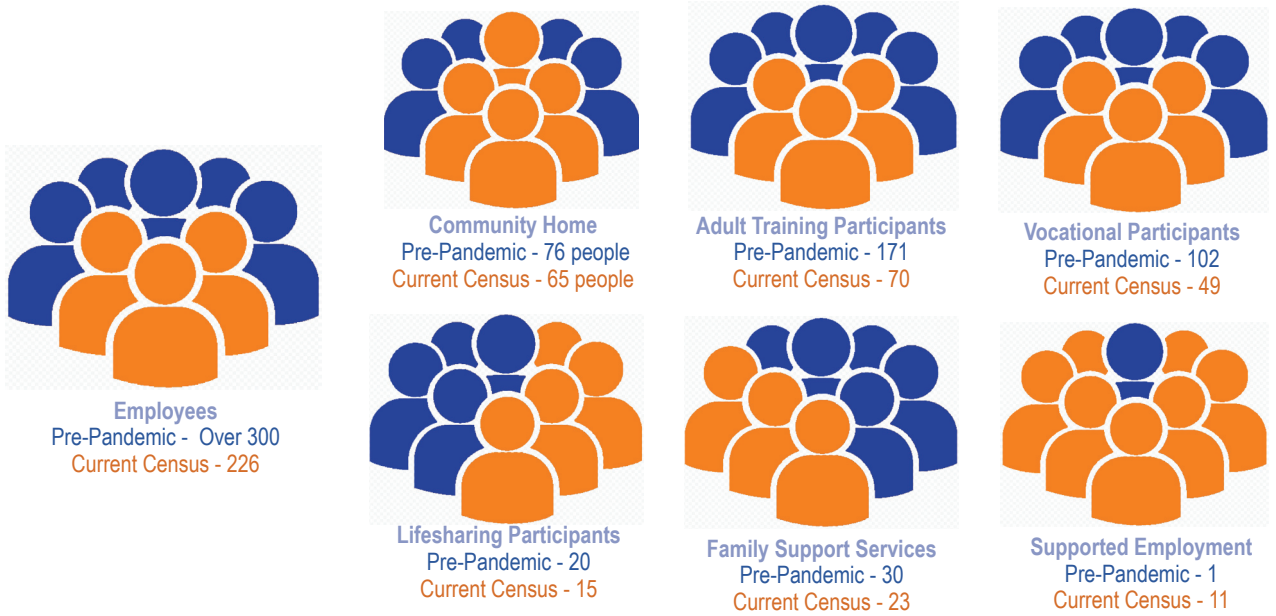
and Vice President. He also served on the Property Committee from 1999-2009, chairing the Committee from 2000-2002, and served on Property during the purchase and renovation of the William Lane building in Reading. Mr. deTurck is the father of two grown sons and his interests include playing the piano, riding his motorcycle, travel, and reading.



Thomas J. Wentzel, is VP and co-owner of Boyertown Planing Mill Company, an architectural millwork company formed in 1913, which he and his

wife Susan purchased in 2006. A lifelong resident of Berks County, Mr. Wentzel graduated from the former Holy Name High School and the Berks Career and Technology carpentry and cabinetmaking program. He started his carpentry career with Creative Kitchens and then started his own carpentry and remodeling business from 1978-1985. After working in the Philadelphia area, he opened a commercial construction company, Tom Wentzel Company, until 2012. Working at the Boyertown Planing Mill brought Mr. Wentzel back to his love of cabinetmaking, wood, and woodworking. He works with one of his sons who shares the same passion for wood and woodworking. Mr. Wentzel has volunteered in his church as church consistory member and president and served as a community volunteer as a firefighter and boy scout leader. He lives in Wyomissing with his wife Susan and their dog George. Tom and his wife have two sons, Joshua and Jacob, and three granddaughters and one grandson. ■

Community Impact of Programs & Services



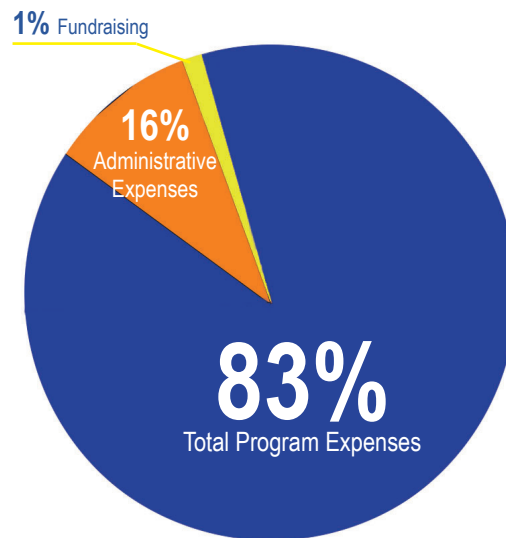
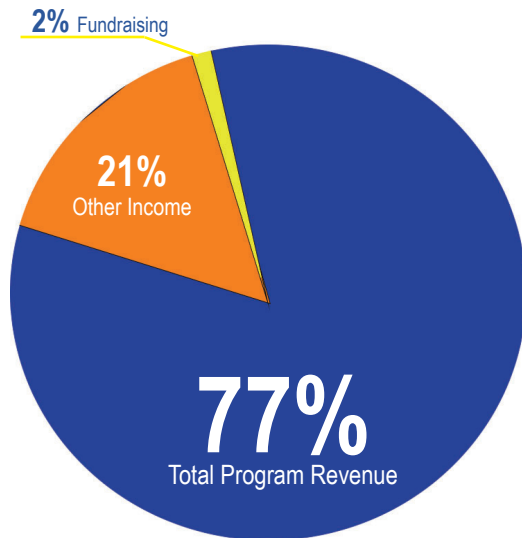
Program Funding

Income	Expenses
Residential \$13,620,607	Residential \$12,678,328
Lifesharing \$943,905	Lifesharing \$585,722
Adult Training \$1,879,665	Adult Training \$2,122,297
Employment /Vocational Services \$778,958	Employment /Vocational Services \$959,914
Family Support Services \$242,671	Family Support Services \$164,702

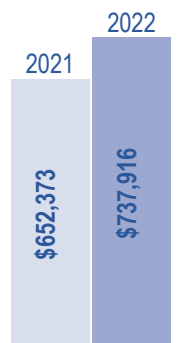
83%

Every Dollar Generated Supports Programs and Participants

Total Revenue & Expenses



ENDOWMENT FUND





Thank you Reading City Council!

Prospectus Berco is fortunate to receive a \$200,000 ARP Grant from Reading City Council to support its Day Services Programs which have been greatly impacted by the pandemic. The funds are intended to help Prospectus Berco rebuild its capacity for its Adult Training and Employment/Vocational Services programs.

Prospectus Berco secured the grant. In addition to serving on the City Council, Wesley is a student at Kutztown University and is on their basketball team. Wesley visited while making 45 free throws in honor of our 45th Anniversary while participants in our Day Services programs cheered him on. ■

Pictured above is City Councilman, Wesley Butler, of District Four. Mr. Butler was instrumental in helping



For many years Prospectus Berco has been helping businesses achieve their goals by offering an array of services. We updated our website and added a Business Solutions section under our Employment Services to guide businesses on the many ways that Prospectus Berco can help them achieve their goals.

Did you know that we have a well-established production and assembly business located in Reading, PA, and have contracted with many local and regional businesses to provide efficient and timely services at affordable costs? In addition, we have Employment Teams that can go out to your place of business to provide ongoing support. Teams include a professionally trained Employment Specialist who supervises individuals and provides

Let us do the work for you!

ongoing training as needed for the successful completion of assignments.

Most recently, Prospectus Berco expanded its services to include Supported Competitive Employment to assist program participants. We work 1:1 with individuals to provide them with the skills and training they need for competitive gainful employment.

We are inviting businesses to join our Partnership Network to help us be more responsive to the needs of our community. Why become a business partner?

- We're a staffing resource
- Improve work culture by promoting diversity
- Create a positive community image of your company
- Businesses can pursue Federal & State tax incentives
- We provide Liability insurance coverage
- We provide the training and onboarding

Austin Hardware is one of our longtime Business Partners. We provide a variety of services for them, including customized assembly and packaging. Pictured above is Vicky who is threading chains through a plastic sleeve for shipping. ■

Learn more at www.prospectusberco.org. Click on **Employment Services, then Business Solutions.**

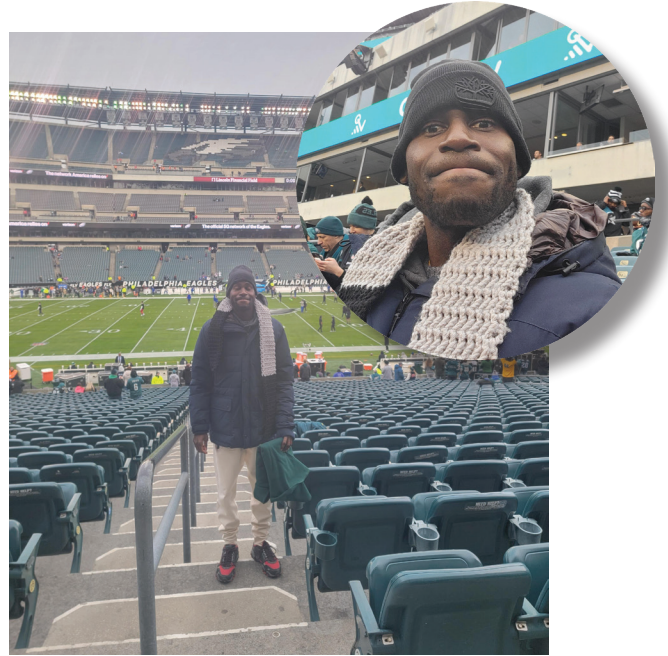
Ashley is one of several participants who assist Bimbo's Bakery with cleaning their towels weekly at the laundromat. All in a day's work at Prospectus Berco.



Jerek visited Lincoln Financial Field where he watched the Eagles secure #1 Seed in the NFC. As you can see, he had great seats for the game. Aside from watching a great game, the experience is one that he will remember for many years to come.

One more example of how Prospectus Berco promotes self-determination, inclusion, and opportunities for individuals enrolled in programs.

Out & About



Shout out to our big winners of this year's Harmony Walk. Left is Nick and the Yan-Van Squad. Nick raised the most funds for the Harmony Walk and won four Bench Passes to hang out with the Reading Royals before the game. Later, Nick kicked off the game by singing the National Anthem. Well done Nick!

More winners of the walk were Jose and Jocelynn. Jose was one of several individuals who walked all 45 laps – he really is Superman. While Jocelynn Vigo was the drawing winner of the commemorative Reading Royals Halloween Theme jersey.



Participants had a great time on a recent trip to the local bowling alley. Pictured left to right are Patty with Day Program Supervisor David Kisilu; Todd; and Stephen. Looks like a strike to me, Stephen.





Participants enjoyed a festive holiday season thanks in part to an anonymous donor who donated gifts and party supplies for individuals. Pictured left to right are roommates Betty, Patty, and Joanne, followed by Debbie with Santa, and Terry who is painting a Christmas ornament. Thank you, DJ Brandon, for providing the jams for our festive holiday dance.



Red & Green Festivities



Philly Fan Day has many showing their true colors before the Super Bowl. Pictured are some of our biggest Philly fans. One of the programs went all out making tie-dye T-shirts with the Eagle's logo. As a special treat we handed out soft pretzels from the Philly Pretzel Factory. Top left is Kelsey; bottom left is Kim McCurdy, Payroll Coordinator, with Randy; center is Amanda; and above are Melissa; Clarissa Yard, Day Services DSP; Sanae; Beverlyn Santiago, Day Services Supervisor; Sherry; Andrew; Debbie; Felipa Vasquez-Dominguez, Day Services DSP; and Ernesto.

Thank you!

Saint Vincent DePaul Society of the Holy Guardian Angels church spread holiday cheer by including Prospectus Berco in their Angel Tree. The group collected donations of various arts and craft supplies, along with games and an assortment of goodies for our Adult Training program. Programs used the items for their holiday parties and celebrations. Representing Holy Guardian Angels is Caroline, pictured with Laura Murga Administrative Office Coordinator for Prospectus Berco. Both are members of the Saint Vincent DePaul Society. Thank you, Laura, for reaching beyond expectations to share our mission with your church!





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29TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

MONDAY JULY 24, 2023


 PROBERCO.ORG/GOLF

Moselem Springs Golf Club



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WATCH 45 Reasons Why on our Social Media Channels

30%

HUNDRED VOTES

\$13,565

FOR INCLUSION & OPPORTUNITIES

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