

# Developments

Fall Edition • Oct. 2024



## Inside This Edition

Healthcare Services

Commitment to Health

Awards Banquet

Commitment to Mission

Golf Tournament


Commitment to Success

## New Look, Same Commitment.

Prospectus Berco is thrilled to announce an exciting transformation for our organization! As part of our commitment to growth and innovation, we're undergoing a rebranding initiative to create a more vibrant and memorable image in our community, while incorporating our mission to serve people with disabilities.

While the name Prospectus Berco is meaningful to us, it posed challenges for the public. Often difficult to pronounce, spell, and understand, it caused confusion about our services and the people we support. We are excited to introduce a simpler version of our name and a tagline that reflects our mission. While our legal name remains Prospectus Associates, Inc., we will be using the fictitious name, **ProBerco**, for our daily operations.

This rebranding is more than a change of our image; it represents our commitment to innovation and excellence and reaffirms our dedication to exceeding the expectations of the men and women we serve and our community. By reaching beyond those expectations, ProBerco strives to be seen as an integral thread in the fabric of our community.

We invite everyone to embrace this change with us, and together we can envision a world of possibilities where everyone's abilities are celebrated and each person has the freedom to live the life of their choice with dignity and grace. 

## Jody's Message



*"Our role in accomplishing the mission of ProBerco is simple, get to know each person we support, their likes and dislikes, hopes and dreams, what brings them joy and a sense of value." - Jody Wagner*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Jonathan C. Becker, President**  
*Vice President, RPA Engineering*

**Michel deTurck, AIA, Vice President**  
*Architect, STV, Inc.*

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

**Nicholas Thomas, Secretary**  
*Business & Community Development,  
GAGE Personnel*

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

**Beverly Cummings**  
*Human Resources Manager, Kline Process Systems*

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

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

**Heather Hillmann**  
*Human Resources Manager, Unique Snacks*

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

**Jennifer Matten**  
*Brand Strategy Manager,  
Sweet Street Desserts*

**Cory Porrino, CPA**  
*Porina CPA, LLC*

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

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

**Daniel E. Wiekrykas**  
*Senior VP, Regional Credit Officer, S&T Bank*

## ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

**Jody Wagner**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

**Jonathan Colon**  
**Chief Operations Officer**

**Nikki Roman-Cruz**  
**Chief Financial Officer**

**Erin Miller**  
**Human Resources Administrator**

**Kristy Vigo**  
**Community Services Administrator**

**Stacey Mikatavage**  
**Corporate Administrator/Assistant to CEO**

**Jessica Penchard**  
**Development & Public Relations Director**



## Executive Director's Message

The mission of this corporation is to *enrich the lives of people with disabilities and their families*. But what does an enriched life look like and more importantly what does one feel like? In my experience the answer to these questions is different for each of us. While some people want to travel the world, others find meaning in fulfilling career goals, some take pride in maintaining a healthy and fit lifestyle, and still others may prioritize relationships with family and friends as the basis for a happy and rich life. Of course, for many of us, it is a combination of several of these values. Our role in accomplishing the mission of ProBerco is simple, get to know each person we support, their likes and dislikes, hopes and dreams, and what brings them joy and a sense of value.

On Sunday, September 15, 2024, partners in this corporation gathered to celebrate the achievements of individuals receiving services and the contributions of several community partners. This event was a long time in coming, since we have been unable to host an (Annual) Awards Banquet since 2019. The theme of the 2024 event was "The Red Carpet," and the 190 guests were definitely red carpet ready. What I love most about our awards banquet is the pride and pure joy our worthy award recipients display as they come forward to be honored. Their accomplishments varied from achieving a healthy weight and fitness level to exceeding work goals to setting a new standard for volunteerism. Watching each person as their achievement was announced to the group of friends and family and as they came forward to center stage to be honored, I knew we had truly enriched their life by supporting them in their success. Also having a front row seat to experience the kind and compassionate interactions between program participants and our team members further drives home our mission of enriching the lives of people with disabilities. Having mutually rewarding and caring relationships is so important to having an enriched life of meaning and possibilities for everyone.

What does an enriched life feel like? It feels like being in control of your destiny, it feels like being surrounded by people who care about you, it feels like being valued for who you are, and it feels like being happy with yourself because you are in a safe and accepting environment. That is the quality of life this corporation strives to create for the people with disabilities we are blessed to know. 🌈

# 30th Annual Golf Tournament

## Commitment to Success



## Record-Breaking Success

We are thrilled to announce that this year's golf tournament was a resounding success, setting new records and exceeding all expectations. Thanks to the unwavering support and dedication of our golfers and business partners, we raised over \$82,000 in gross proceeds through the tournament, raffle, and auction. This incredible achievement would not have been possible without the generous contributions from our sponsors, whose commitment to our cause has been truly inspiring. Your support has made a

significant impact, and we are deeply grateful for your partnership.

To our golfers, thank you for your enthusiasm and participation. Your competitive spirit and camaraderie made the event memorable and enjoyable for everyone.

The highlight of the post tournament came with Franny, who surprised us all by bringing three paintings to auction off in an effort to kick off our Annual Appeal Fund and initiative for a special

project. With the impetus of the paintings and the generosity of our golfers, we raised an additional \$7,000.

We look forward to continuing this tradition of excellence and community support in the years to come. Together, we are making a difference. Thank you once again to all our sponsors, golfers, and volunteers for making this year's tournament an unprecedented success! 🌈

## Tee Time Titans

### Lead Supporting Sponsors

Dolan Construction, East Penn Manufacturing, Fulton Bank, Gallagher, Herbein & Company, Merrill Lynch Maggs & Associates, Tompkins Community Bank

### Golf Cart Sponsors - UPMC

**Auction Sponsors** - Visions Federal Credit Union

### Happy Hour Sponsors - United Health

### Fairway Sponsors

Bachman's Roofing, Solar, & Remodeling, Boyertown Planing Mill Company, Edwards Landscape & Nursery, Purcell Construction Company, Sweet Street Desserts, Reading Plastic & Metal Advance Machining, RPA Engineering, Watkins Architect

### Sandtrap Sponsors - Stratix Systems

### Winners' Circle Sponsors

Auman Funeral Home, M&M Mechanical, Rich's Auto, West Reading Pharmacy

### Club House Sponsors

A Honey Dipper Septic Service, Kozloff Stoudt, Stevens & Lee Company, Wert Consulting, Z-Weldco

### Exclusive Sponsors

Hole in One: Davis Painting  
Snack Shack: The Pour House  
Putting Green: Kline Process Systems  
Circle of Gold: Ken Haupt

### Hole Sponsors

Alvernia University, Bell Media Group, Berkshire Building Services, Inc., Berkshire Systems Group, CrossKeys Insurance, Dale & Susan Derr, First American Abstract of PA, Gage Enterprises, The Harrison Group, Landis Bonfitto Mechanical Group, Inc., Northwest Mutual, Randy Weidner-ReMax of Berks County, Spayd's Outdoor Environments, Shurr & Company, Statement Apparel, Steven Reed Contracting, Three Minute Car Wash, VBA, YMCA, Reading

### Gift in Kind Contributions

Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., The Barley Mow, Berks Fire Water Restorations Inc, Berkshire Country Club, Cafe Sweet Street, Crayola, Davis Painting, Dieffenbach Potato Chips, Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom, DoubleTree Reading, East Penn Manufacturing, Goggleworks Center for the Arts, James & Beth Gdowik, Herbein + Company, Historic Hotel Bethlehem, Light Your Night, Lords & Ladies Salon and Medical Spa, Moselem Springs Golf Club, Frances Mulligan, Philadelphia Eagles, Philadelphia Phillies, The Pour House American Grille, Queen's Cafe, Reading Coffee Company, Reading Fightin Phils, Reading Royals, Nikki Roman-Cruz, Santander Arena, Anonymous, Saucony Creek Franklin Station Brewpub, Sight & Sound, Sorrelli, Sweet Street Desserts, Swing Evolution, TCO Fly Company, Tompkins Community Bank, Troegs Brewing Company, Turkey Hill Experience, Unique Snacks, Kristy Vigo, and Yorgy's Dry Cleaning

# Commitment to Better Health: While Investing in Our Employees

*“Definitely one of the best ideas we ever had.”*

*Jody Wagner, CEO*



## **Mamadou's Story**

Mamadou Diallo has been with ProBerco for 23 years. Having immigrated from West Africa, Mamadou had a degree in healthcare but, due to language barriers, found it difficult to advance in his career. He is fortunate to work in a field serving people with disabilities that allows him to use his skills and education while providing for his family. Married with four children, two of whom are attending college, Mamadou knew that attending post-graduate classes would not be possible with his family obligations. But ProBerco gave him the opportunity he needed to advance in his career while providing for his family. This past spring, Mamadou graduated from Penn State Berks LPN Nursing Program and passed his certification test.

Mamadou transitioned from supervising one community home with three individuals to sharing responsibilities for over 70 consumers in Community Living Homes. While succeeding in advancing his career, Mamadou said that his inspiration comes from the people we serve. “I’m very humbled. I admire the individuals for all they overcome, and I am humbled to be in this position where I can grow mutually with them,” he said.



## **Erica's Journey**

Erica Rivera has been with the company for 10 years, assisting the Healthcare Services Department with ordering medications among other responsibilities. In this role, Erica demonstrated a natural aptitude for the field, along with the compassion and understanding for the needs of adults with disabilities. Erica too gave up on her career goals when she began caring for her family. With the responsibilities of raising a family, Erica knew that she could not afford college, let alone quit her job to do so. ProBerco supported her so she could excel in her professional development.

This summer Erica graduated from a nursing school in Lancaster. Her transition to being an LPN was a natural progression. The biggest difference now is that she has the responsibility. In the past, Erica would contact an LPN or RN to address concerns; now she is the person taking care of the needs of the individuals and following up with staff. While attending clinicals in school, Erica visited several hospitals and worked in different nursing environments. Although the hospitals were exciting, she realized that she is in the right place. “I come back to ProBerco and I realize I am where I need to be. I know I make a difference. I enjoy working with this population,” she said.



*ProBerco Healthcare Services Department: (back row left to right) Anita Donato, LPN; Mamadou Diallo, LPN; (front row left to right) Yari Helena, LPN; Brooke Wagner, BSN, RN; Jammie Shuman, LPN; Erica Rivera, LPN. Absent from picture is Michelle Guistwite, Health Information Specialist.*

“We are so proud of you guys,” said Jody Wagner, CEO, when speaking with employees Mamadou Diallo and Erica Rivera. ProBerco faced challenges in hiring a nurse and, after two years, decided to look internally for potential candidates. We sought employees in good standing who had served us for many years and had the aptitude to succeed in an LPN program. We selected Mamadou Diallo and Erica Rivera.

When Mamadou and Erica were offered the opportunity to enroll in LPN programs, they were overwhelmed by the implications of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Both, being older and well into adulthood with families and responsibilities, thought that their dream of going back to school and earning a degree wasn’t possible. However, thanks to a grant that ProBerco received through the Department of Public Welfare and Human Services, ProBerco paid for their schooling and additional support to help them provide for their families while attending classes.

It wasn’t easy for them. Both continued to work full time to provide for their families while attending classes and clinicals. But today, they can look back with pride, knowing that they have accomplished something great for themselves, their families, and the individuals enrolled in our programs.

## **The Importance of Our Healthcare Services Department**

Having a nursing team is critical to the health of our consumers. Often, the population we serve cannot communicate for themselves, so we need people to be their eyes and ears, helping to assess, diagnose, plan, and implement nursing strategies. Jody explained that the needs of the individuals are increasing as they age. Being able to attend to their needs while residing in our Community Living Homes is an extension of our commitment to the quality of care we provide. We become like their family.

This journey highlights the dedication and growth of our employees, who have not only advanced their careers but also enhanced the quality of care we provide. Their stories are a testament to the power of opportunity and support in transforming lives, not only for individuals we serve but for our employees as well. 🌈



*Partners in Fun Award Winners, Give Us A Minute Band:  
(left to right) Wesley Bahorik, Terry Parsons, Jody Wagner,  
Ken Reisch, and David Cocuzza.*



*Andrew dresses the part in his stylish hat, vest, and tie  
before hitting the dance floor.*



*The star-studded procession from Sinking Spring  
stroll onto the red carpet in grand style.*



*Debbie and Sabrina Aponte, DSP,  
have the same taste in fashion.*



*Vicky and Scott enjoy dancing together  
after the presentation of awards.*



*Christian, John, and Laura Hunter. John is the  
recipient of the Partner in Progress Award.*



*Doug and Gina Strimple enjoy dinner with Amanda.*



*Partners in Success Award Winners, Greater Reading Chamber Alliance: Lauren Adele Little, Audrey Krupiak, Leah Fassnacht, along with Kyra Denlinger and Zach Bell of Bell Media.*



*Jody Wagner with Michael Billera-Smith, recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award.*



*Award winning smile goes to Rodney.*



*Cyndy Richards, DSP, shares the experience with Neil, Xavier, and coworker Luis Mena, DSP.*



*Friends of Family Support Services and Life Sharing show everyone what it means to party.*



Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 19  
READING, PA

**ProBerco**

840 William Lane  
Reading, PA 19604  
610-372-4637  
proberco.org

*Developments* is a seasonal publication. Comments regarding the content of the newsletter, or to have your name added/removed from our mailing list, contact Jessica at [jpenchard@proberco.org](mailto:jpenchard@proberco.org). Stay connected, sign up for our e-newsletter, and follow us on social media @[goproberco](https://twitter.com/goproberco).



Member of:



**PROSPECTUS BERCO**

**PROBERCO**  
imagine the possibilities

THEN ————— NOW

**New Look. Same Commitment  
for Adults with Disabilities.**

ProBerco.org

*ProBerco enriches the lives of people with disabilities and their families by providing innovative community participation, community living, employment opportunities, and family support services. We fulfill our mission by engaging and supporting a talented and compassionate workforce; being inclusive; and living the guiding principles of accountability, communication, and trust every day.*