

Foothills Industries of McDowell County, Inc.



Focusing on the “Ability” in Disability

2022 Newsletter

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

On October 16, 2022, Foothills Industries reached a historic milestone; 50 years of service in McDowell County. For the last 50 years, Foothills Industries has been a beacon of hope for more than 1,400 individuals with disabilities who need training in independent living, education, work skills, and job placement in the community. Foothills Industries has also partnered with McDowell Technical Community College for compensatory education services and with McDowell, Burke, and Rutherford county schools for Pre-Employment Transition Services to over 200 high school students.

Medical drapes, test tube assembly, sub-contract rework, packaging, and assembly have been a vital part of the program. Many traditional workers work alongside individuals we serve to produce quality products for our customers. Individuals not wishing to work participate in community outings and service projects such as Meals-on-Wheels, Adopt-A-Highway, NC Litter Sweep, and volunteering at the Foothills Foodhub.



Foothills Industries began in 1972 at the Glenwood school. From there it moved to the Lukin Street location where it remained for 25 years. After several expansions, Ms. Joy Shuford saw the need to relocate to a larger facility. In 2005 Foothills Industries constructed a building in the McDowell Industrial Park where we continue to work, serve, and thrive.

SERVICES OFFERED AT Foothills INDUSTRIES

- Long Term Community Supports (LTCS)
- Day Supports (State Funded)
- Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR)
- Innovations Program for Persons with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities
- Adult Basic Education classes provided by McDowell Technical Community College
- Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VR)
- Vocational Evaluations
- Supported Employment
- Job Coaching
- Community Based Assessments
- Community Inclusion Services
- Pre-Employment Transition Services
- Long Term Vocational Supports
- Transportation for qualifying program attendees

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide vocational and life-skills training and employment for persons with disabilities in order to maximize independence and employment while providing quality products at competitive costs and on time delivery to our customers.



DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Thanks to all our clients, staff, and board members for a very successful year fulfilling our mission. Unprecedented challenges related to labor shortage, inflation, and supply chain delays have had a large affect on our manufacturing division, but the manufacturing team has done a great job despite the headwinds. The Human Services division has successfully added individuals served and implemented an electronic health record system. Our main growth regarding our mission is the addition of two more high schools with our Pre-Employment Transition Services division. Foothills Industries is serving 200+ students across 3 counties, and plans on the addition of more schools in Burke and Rutherford Counties. The 50-year milestone for Foothills Industries was achieved in October 2022, and we would like to thank everyone that has helped this organization thrive and maintain an active non-profit for half a century. Near term the legislative advocacy related to the services we provide will be a major focus. Additionally, we hope to grow our production team as our demand is speedily increasing. Thanks again to everyone that is part of Foothills Industries.



Thanks to all!

Andrew Tye

 **Attendance** *3 or less absences*
Mika S. Pete W.

Mika S.



2021-2022 Self Evaluation

Total Number Unduplicated Served.....	132
Placed In Employment.....	0
Accidents Requiring Medical Attention.....	0
New Admissions.....	91
Range of Ages Served.....	14-76
Client Satisfaction.....	95%

FI Board Members

Joy Shuford	<i>President</i>
Amy Stroud	<i>Vice-President</i>
Steve Early	<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>
Sarah Bright	
Harold Walker	
Danny Willis	
Steve Ward	
John Cone	
Martha Jordan	
Ken Burleson	
Mike Price	



SHARP



FI'S QUALITY POLICY

Committed to providing opportunities for adults with disabilities by meeting customer and regulatory requirements through a process of continuous improvement.

FOOTHILLS INDUSTRIES INDIVIDUAL HONORED BY MARC

Kenneth is well known at Foothills Industries. He joined the organization 40 years ago and has enjoyed working and socializing with his friends and staff. He had a dream of having a job where he could work for many years to come. Throughout the years Foothills has utilized Kenneth's strengths to help define his job tasks. He has performed numerous jobs since he has been with Foothills and has the utmost pride in all jobs that he performs. Some of the jobs that he has performed include assembling, packaging, and inspecting shield bonds. No bad work goes out under Kenneth's watch! But he is definitely not an "all work/no play" kind of guy! He has a great sense of humor and is a self-proclaimed ladies' man! During this past year Kenneth has overcome the loss of his mother. It is evident that Kenneth has gained a greater confidence through working and enjoys the independence and freedom that employment brings.

At our annual MARC meeting in October, Kenneth was presented the Dean Beavers Outstanding Citizenship Award. Nominees for this award must be individuals with a severe disability who demonstrates outstanding community influence. Kenneth is the embodiment of community influence as he is a role model for his peers and an encouragement to all he meets.



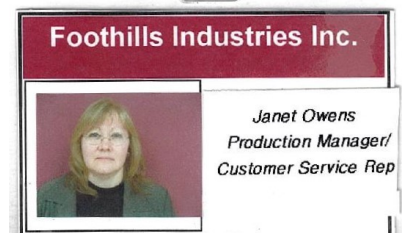
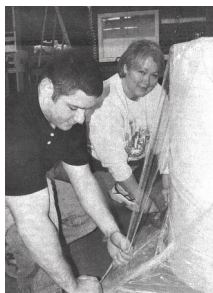
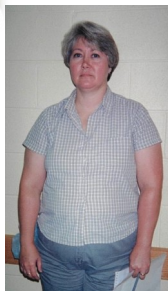
FOOTHILLS INDUSTRIES BOARD HONORS MS. JOY SHUFORD

At their November meeting, board members honored Ms. Joy Shuford for 50 years of dedicated service to the Foothills Industries program. She was presented with an award commemorating her time spent as CEO and board member. "I would like to thank Joy on behalf of the entire organization for being the founder, a strong leader, and a continuous supporter of Foothills Industries," Andrew Tye, current CEO said. "She has impacted many lives through her 50 years of service to the organization."



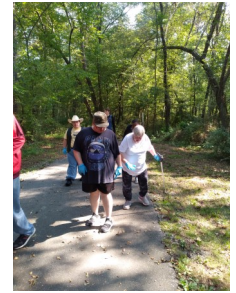
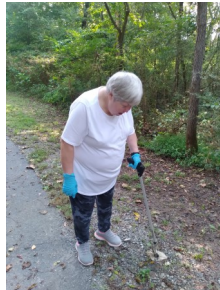
JANET OWENS RETIRES AFTER 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

In April, following 35 years of dedicated, faithful service, Janet Owens retired. Janet has served in many capacities such as production manager, safety coordinator, and customer service representative. She has tirelessly worked to ensure our individuals served have the opportunity to work. She plans to devote more time to her grandchildren, crafting, spending time outside with her yard work and her chickens. We are thankful for the legacy she leaves behind and wish her well!



KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY CLEAN—NC LITTER SWEEP

This September, individuals served through Foothills Industries participated in the North Carolina Litter Sweep at the Fonta Flora Catawba Trails. We worked to clean up this beautiful park in McDowell County and following our trash pickup, we had a picnic at their beautiful, covered picnic area. This was just one way we can give back to our community while we enjoyed a beautiful fall day.



HAPPENINGS AT FOOTHILLS



Hickory Crawdads Ballgame



July 4th Celebration



Fall Festival at Jason's Getaway



Foothills 50th Celebration



FOOTHILLS INDUSTRIES CONTINUES TO EXPAND Pre-ETS

The Foothills Pre-Employment Transition Services has expanded in two new schools, Draughn High School in Burke County, and East Rutherford High School in Rutherford County. In both schools we are serving more students than what we had anticipated. We had previously predicted that with all 5 schools we would be working with around 160 - 170 students. However, we exceeded this number and are serving over 200 students. We are also now serving the Extend/Life Skills students at Chase, East Rutherford and Freedom High Schools. Through our expansion, we increased our partnerships with local Vocational Rehabilitation agencies and the school staff members. We also increased our communication and collaboration with the students and their families through meet and greet events, and participation in IEP meetings. Our Pre-ETS instructors are collaborating with staff at local NC Works Career Centers and various businesses for work-site tours and instructional meetings.

Carla Allen, Pre-ETS Coordinator, has added 4 new instructors to the team that now serves McDowell, Rutherford, and Burke county schools. If you would like more information about this program, please email her at callen@foothillsind.com.



Foothills Industries Is a Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP)

A Community Rehabilitation Program is a work-training program for adults who have a disability that may encounter challenges in community employment. The goal of the program is to offer rehabilitation services and job placement in the competitive labor market for those individuals who have the capacity for competitive employment, or long-term work training and independent living skills training for those individuals who choose the service.

In order to train in work skills, the company procures jobs from industry. Work is brought to this plant, performed under strict quality control standards, and shipped to the customer. Some work may be performed in the community.

FI will provide contract labor for any labor-intensive process that may cause a bottle-neck in your manufacturing process.



FOOTHILLS INDUSTRIES
Celebrating 13 years as a
proud participant of the
North Carolina
“ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY”
Program.