

News and Views

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www.malcolmeaton.org



Spirit Paper celebrates 11th Anniversary

Malcolm Eaton's choice to produce paper in 2002 pays big dividends today

Last year, Spirit Paper sold over 35,000 cases, almost 3.5 million rolls, of bathroom tissue and provided over 20,000 hours of paid vocational training to the people enrolled at Malcolm Eaton. This training is vital to the success of the individuals we serve as it helps each person develop important skills that help them work toward greater independence.

Most of the 200-plus people currently enrolled in services at Malcolm Eaton Enterprises have never known MEE without Spirit Paper. For most, the low hum of the paper conversion machine, the sight of toilet paper rolls slowly coasting down the conveyor belt, and the numerous pallets of bathroom tissue stacked seven-feet tall is simply a backdrop to their Monday-Friday work routine.

However, just twelve years ago, there was no such thing as Spirit Paper. Malcolm Eaton, like most agen-

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Top, One of the individuals in the Developmental Training (DT) program tapes a case of Spirit Commercial paper and prepares it for shipment. **Left**, Another individual in DT packs a case of bathroom tissue. These paid work opportunities help individuals develop a variety of skills that can help them become more independent.



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Coming Up

Dec 23-27: Christmas Break

Dec 30-Jan 1: New Years
Break

March 7: Institute Day
(Closed)

April 8: Good Friday
(Closed)

MALCOLM EATON Enterprises Board of Directors

Kam Stake, *President*
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cies that provide vocational training, relied solely on local work contracts and government grants to operate. For decades, this model sustained the agency well. However, with a growing population to serve, budget cuts, and an increased need for paid, hands-on training opportunities, it became apparent that Malcolm Eaton would need to generate more paid work opportunities, and to rely less on state grants, if it were to remain successful in the future.

That was when the idea of Spirit paper was born.

Much in the same way that Malcolm Eaton empowers adults to be more independent in their community by providing them with vocational skills; by founding Spirit, Malcolm Eaton empowered itself to create its own work opportunities and generate its own funding.

In 2002, the very first rolls of Spirit bathroom Tissue rolled down the conveyor belt. Initially, the first orders were buyers from the Illinois joint purchasing contract. Due to Spirit's exceptional value, it did not take long to convert first-time buyers into loyal and dedicated customers. Within months, Spirit Paper was filling orders for schools, rest areas, parks, jails and office buildings across the state. In the process, each of these orders provided hundreds of

hours of vocational training to people enrolled in Malcolm Eaton's Developmental Training program.

The next logical step for Spirit was to expand into the retail market. In 2006, two new consumer products were introduced and sold to area supermarkets. The retail products were well received by the public, and are now available at dozens of retailers throughout Illinois and Wisconsin.

For more information on Spirit Bathroom Tissue visit www.spiritpaper.com.



One of the individuals enrolled in DT packs a case of Spirit Bathroom Tissue for a commercial customer. Last year, Spirit produced over 35,000 cases, nearly 3.5 million rolls, of toilet paper.

MEE raising funds for upgrade

Malcolm Eaton Enterprises kicked off its annual fundraising campaign with a noticeable change from previous years. This year, instead of asking for general funds, Malcolm Eaton is asking the public to fund a specific project. This year, the project is a technology overhaul of the agency.

The agency has many technology needs. Innovations such as tablets, smart televisions, and Skype offer Malcolm Eaton's

trained staff a chance to innovate and offer new programs. Recently developed software applications, too, can improve efficiency and allow our staff to spend more time doing what they enjoy most, working directly with individuals.

You can support the technology upgrade by making a donation on our website: www.malcolmeaton.org. You may also call Brian Babcock at 815.235.7181, Ext. 115.