

Winona ORC

Brighter Tomorrows Project

The Winona ORC Brighter Tomorrows Project is an initiative to ensure our neighbors with disabilities have fulfilling jobs waiting for them at WORC for years to come. We are in immediate need for \$55,000 for unfunded vocational services we provide to people with disabilities. This equals over 21,000 meaningful work hours to 45 people, helping them realize their potential.

The Need

From 2007 to 2010, our **annual budget** declined from \$4.4 million to \$3.7 million, a \$700,000 or **15.9% decrease**.

Governmental Revenue

A **3% governmental reduction** in 2009 hurt our budget by **\$54,000**. This does not include over \$50,000 in unfunded services WORC provides per year for clients that do not have adequate funding sources. For 2010, we are slated for more cuts by up to 10% which would equal another \$125,000 of loss revenue. We expect reductions to vocational services to continue for the coming years during the economic recovery.

Business Operation Revenue

Business operations have dropped 26% from 2007 to 2009 which is equivalent to **\$411,000** and attributed to the downturn of the economy. A significant job was lost that contributed \$130,000 to WORC in 2009. Efficiencies are continually worked on to lighten the burden of slow business operations. In 2009, we estimate we saved almost \$30,000 by cost cutting initiatives. A new project to stabilize our work load and improve our business operation revenue is currently in the works but not guaranteed to occur. A feasibility study is being crafted by an external consultant and should be completed by May 2010.

Support Team

From 2007 to 2009, we **reduced 15% of our staff** from 53 to 46. In 2009 alone, \$125,000 of wages and benefits were cut to help balance the budget. At the same time, we have been working on attracting and retaining better staff by increasing required qualifications and improving our pay scale.

Our Neighbors Need Your Help

WORC needs funding to secure jobs for our neighbors with disabilities to allow us to continue to serve over 300 people with disabilities. Approximately 45 clients do not have adequate funding to support vocational services provided by WORC. If additional funding can not be secured, these clients programs and 21,000 meaningful work hours are at risk.

There is dramatic underemployment of people with disabilities, with unemployment levels as high as 65%. Disabilities are strongly associated with an individual's ability to find work. WORC offers job related services for this population to alleviate this problem while **lowering the need for other costly governmental programs**. When people with disabilities are working and earning a paycheck, they have the **ability to give back** through spending, saving, and paying taxes.

Brighter Tomorrows Project Long Term Vision

In order to sustain services for years to come, the vision of the Brighter Tomorrows Project to turn into the Brighter Tomorrows Endowment Fund to properly supplement our budget as governmental sources decrease. This endowment would need to reach one million dollars to apply \$50,000 to vocational services.



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