

# PULASKI COUNTY SHELTERED WORKSHOP: PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES

By *Bobbie Overshon*

The mission of the Pulaski County Workshop (PCW) is to provide a suitable place of employment for the mentally and physically handicapped where they can have the opportunity to make choices and realize their goals, accomplishments and achievements.

In 1976, the non-profit organization opened its doors in Crocker. As it expanded during the next 24 years, the workshop was located in three different locations. In 2000, the workshop moved to its present location in Richland. The City of Richland donated the land and the new building was built. Since that time, the workshop has continued to expand and employee numbers have increased from approximately 30 in 2005, to its greatest workforce of 60. Presently, however, there are 50 employees and a long waiting list, due to a hiring freeze.

The woodshop was started a few years ago and since then they have had some great local contracts with schools and day cares for refinishing furniture. They also hand make products like Adiron-

dack chairs, picnic tables and much more.

The Able Hands Market Farm is an innovative project instituted at the Pulaski County Workshop, a non-profit dedicated to providing meaningful employment opportunities and experiences that enrich quality of life for members of our community with physical and developmental disabilities. This project aims to foster a sup-

portive, positive environment that will empower all our participants to acquire and maintain the diversified skills for the growing "green collar" workforce.

The Able Hands Market Farm Project exists to cultivate curiosity and create a therapeutic learning environment for the disabled workforce through sustainable, bio-dynamic agricultural endeavors by utilizing meaningful vocational training, horticultural therapeutic techniques, and by engaging all "able hands" in the entire food farming process from planting all the way up to

selling at both the Farmers' Market at Fort Leonard Wood hosted by PCW and our Hometown Homegrown Mobile Market.

The Farmers' Market at Fort Leonard Wood brings together local farmers to support our military service members, their families and community by providing local, quality, producer-only foods. These farmers include those at the Able Hands Market Farm. The market strives to encourage meaningful interactions with the armed services and local farmers, foster sustainable agriculture, creating a vital civic institution for Fort Leonard Wood. More information can be found at [www.flwfarmersmarket.com](http://www.flwfarmersmarket.com).

Learn more about the Able Hands Market Farm at [www.pcsw.org](http://www.pcsw.org).

Some of the work done is long-term; i.e., each year since 2007, employees have filled more than four million plastic Easter eggs for a company out of Marshfield, they provide pre-filled Easter eggs at wholesale prices. The workshop also assembles and packages earplugs and other items for a company out of Memphis, a manufacturer of quality protective gear, including safety glasses, hearing protection, headgear and accessories. They also assemble parts of a respiratory mask for a nationally known company.

Other projects include 18"X6" reflective signs with 3" letters/numbers to make it easier for fire department and ambulance personnel to locate addresses at night in an emergency. The Pulaski County Sheriff's Department and ambulance personnel strongly promote use of these reflective signs.

PCW employees are happiest when they are the busiest. This year through our secure document destruction program they have securely shred 7,335 pounds of documents for several different businesses. You can call for prices and an appointment.

If you are looking for a way to help out your community this year or just get a nice tax break. PCW accept donations and love volunteers.

Those who would like to tour the workshop are welcome at any time Monday through Thursday 8:00 to 4:00. To learn more, visit their website, [www.pcsw.org](http://www.pcsw.org) you may place orders by email at [pcs765@outlook.com](mailto:pcs765@outlook.com), by phone, 573-765-2500, or in person at the workshop located at the junction of Highways 133 and 7 on the south side of Richland. You can also find PCW on Facebook.



## Where Friends Meet



Pastor Ron & Judith Hershberger

### Service Times:

Sunday 10 AM - Sunday School for all ages  
 Sunday 10:45 AM - Service  
 10:45 AM - Children's Church  
 6:30 PM - Service  
 Wednesday 7:00 PM - Service

20218 Hwy. 133 • Dixon, MO 65459

Located at the junction of 133 & HH  
 approx. 5 miles northwest of Dixon.

Contact Pastor Ron

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