

Continue to support Nelson County Industries

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By The Kentucky Standard Editorial Board

The old saying goes, “Give a man a fish and you’ll feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you’ll feed him for a lifetime.” Nelson County Industries has embraced that concept and then some, and now it has a new facility to complement its success.

The Guthrie Opportunity Center is having a reception 1-2 p.m. today followed by a grand-opening ceremony 2-2:30. Business owners who have worked with NCI, family members and friends of employees, along with anyone interested in the NCI program are invited to attend.

Nelson County Industries is operated by Communicare, a nonprofit organization. Its mission is providing employment for developmentally disabled adults. Founded in 1974, NCI now employs 90 workers who do a variety of tasks, such as sorting recyclables. Those employees formerly worked in a rundown facility on Allison Avenue, but now they are enjoying a brighter, twice-as-big workplace in the former Intertec building on Nutter Drive.

The new facility was made possible by generous benefactors who recognize its significance to the community.

Pat Guthrie, a native of Nelson County, along with about 15 other family members organized the Guthrie Matching Fund, in which they would match any community contributions to the project up to \$500,000. The community, at the encouragement of supporters such as Bardstown Mayor Dick Heaton and Communicare CEO Dan Simpson, met and exceeded the Guthrie family’s expectations, and NCI has raised \$1.7 million for the project to date.

The better facility is not only a more attractive place in which to work, but also makes it possible for the work to flow more efficiently, meaning NCI may be able to bring on additional jobs and thus more workers.

We applaud those who made NCI possible in 1974 and those who continue to support it. As Kristy McGrew, assistant to the CEO of Communicare Inc., put it, it gives adults with developmental disabilities a sense of worth others take for granted.

NCI still needs our support and is requesting donations to cover the remaining costs of the Guthrie Opportunity Center. Checks can be made payable to the Nelson County Industries Building Fund. Donations may be mailed to Nelson County Industries, 900 Nutter Dr., Bardstown, KY 40004.

If you are able, please support this worthwhile endeavor.

Before NCI, many developmentally disabled adults “had no provision for a meaningful life,” Guthrie said. We are fortunate and blessed that in Nelson County, they do. You can’t put a price tag on that.