

Welcome to our Quarterly Newsletter!

Many good things continue to occur for individuals selecting The Alpha Group as their service provider.

Wages paid as a result of contracting activity are at an historic high for Alpha and the availability of work in all vocational divisions was strong throughout the third quarter of 2008.

An objective established by the Alpha Board of Directors was to have work available for all and, while challenging, we are accomplishing that mission.

Wages paid through our Alpha Industries Division have increased fourteen percent over the same period in 2007.

Fundraiser Updates

The Friends of The Alpha Group successfully completed their Third Annual Tailgate Fundraiser on October 2nd. This year's proceeds went towards the purchase of a new service truck for the Alpha Office & Lawn division.

Attendance at this year's fundraiser represented a broad spectrum of the Delaware County community, including business leaders, political candidates and area professionals.



This year fun was again the theme of the Tailgate with entertainment by Roger Bishop and the attendance of members of the OWU football team.



Board of Director Updates

The Alpha Board held meetings in August and September, working on a broad range of issues and providing guidance for the future of The Alpha Group. This year's annual meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16, 2008.

Note Worthy

- *Katelyn Davis joined The Alpha Group in August as a part-time administrative assistant.*
- *Connie Kerns, our Sales Representative, is busy renewing existing relationships and starting new ones for us with area businesses. Anyone who has a suggestion or contact that could result in employment and work for individuals enrolled in any of our vocational divisions is encouraged to contact Connie by email at: conniekerns@alphagroup.net, or by telephone at: (740) 727-2442.*
- *eBay® Services are up and running and ready to do business. Limited marketing and promotion has resulted in several area businesses and institutions realizing that Alpha eBay® Services represent a viable way to sell off surplus and clean house. Contact Connie Kerns to find out more about our eBay® Services.*
- *A little wet weather couldn't spoil the Annual Alpha Picnic held September 5th at Recreation Unlimited. Activities were moved indoors to the new multi-purpose center and everyone enjoyed the food and fun.*
- *Club Advisor Jim Cornett and President Robin Lincoln were among a large contingent of Delaware Aktion Club members attending the Ohio conference on Saturday, September 6th.*

Upcoming Special Events

- ⇒ **October 24** *Fall Dance at the FOE*
- ⇒ **November 27-28** *Program Closed*
- ⇒ **December 16** *Annual Board Meeting*
- ⇒ **December 24-26** *Program Closed*

Ergon Employment Solutions

Project Search started with the new school year in August. Located at a large insurance company in Worthington, this project has individuals enrolled from both Franklin and Delaware Counties.

Ergon held their awards banquet for the Summer Career Connections program on August 1st at Olentangy High School. This year's program featured the largest enrollment and number of employment sites to date.

One result of the Project Search site has been the recommendation of Ergon to an area manufacturing company as a resource for employees. Preliminary work for this industrial enclave is underway and referral of interested and qualified individuals will be needed. Persons interested in this potential opportunity should contact Holly Shellogg by telephone at: (740) 368-5820, extension 418, or by email at: hollyshellogg@alphagroup.net.

Cutbacks in the State of Ohio funding to the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission is challenging Ergon in their efforts to maintain and expand community employment opportunities to individuals in the geographical areas they serve. With the start of the new Federal Fiscal Year on October 1st, it is hoped that restricted funding for Ergon's services will be forthcoming. The Rehabilitation Services Commission has introduced a program titled *Pathways* to substitute local money for State of Ohio matching funds. Unfortunately, Ergon has yet to establish as a partner to a *Pathways* participant.

Adult Day Support

Nice weather provided for some great activities during the quarter, including trips to Alum Creek for boating, the African Wildlife Safari, The Columbus Zoo, the Ohio State Fair, Columbus Clippers games, and the Anthony Thomas Chocolate Factory tour.

A new arts program was initiated and picture scrap books of the Fun Bunch were updated. Group activities included the making of tie-dyed T-shirts.

Two new individuals were enrolled in the Alpha Adult Day Support during the quarter.

Alpha Office & Lawn

The poor economy manifested itself with cutbacks and discontinuation of janitorial sites during the quarter. Office & Lawn was able to off-set the cutbacks and keep the crews working by establishing new janitorial contracts with the Ohio Department of Youth Services and Rinker Materials.

Office & Lawn is pleased to say "goodbye" to Old Rusty, a vintage service truck, and "hello" to the new service truck purchased, in part, through the 2008 efforts of the Friends of The Alpha Group. Even though Old Rusty is departing Delaware, it will continue to serve as the designated snow removal truck for our contract at the Federal Courthouse in Columbus.

Alpha Office & Lawn is currently selling pumpkins during designated hours at Clark's Greenhouse on London Road. It appears that the dry year has placed pumpkins among the many commodity shortages for 2008, so take advantage while the supply lasts.

Plan now for your Christmas tree purchase as Office & Lawn will be selling trees this year at the Delaware County Fairgrounds. Tree sales will start right after Thanksgiving.

Alpha Manufacturing

What happens when you mix sand with water? You get work opportunities for folks in Alpha Manufacturing, of course. Manufacturing was engaged throughout the quarter in providing sample bottles containing sand and water for PPG to test their new water-based paint manufacturing line and test packaging for transportation. Manufacturing used approximately one ton of sand for this PPG project.

Wages for Alpha Manufacturing through the third quarter of 2008 are substantially higher than for the same period in 2007. In addition to PPG, work remains strong with Delo Screw Machine Products and several customers new to Manufacturing in 2008.

Fin, Feather and Fur, a sporting goods outfitter in Ashland, Ohio is awaiting the first production order of the FireBug© fire starters. Equipment to produce the 'Bug is under development and production of the first 500 units is expected before the end of October.