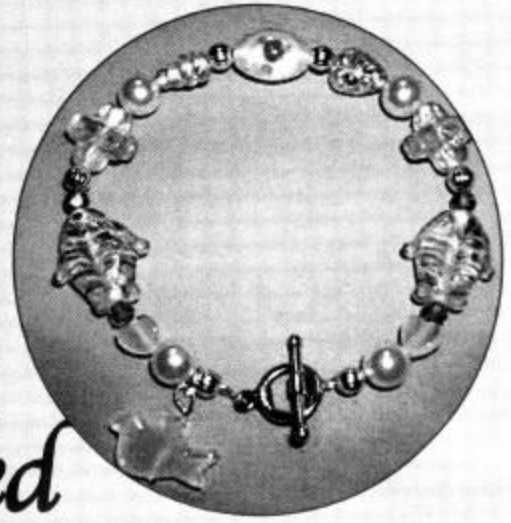




Jewelry, Faith & the Disabled



Kim Koss has a mission ... "to bring faith-building tools into the community marketplace, while providing job training and opportunities for disabled workers."

Kim who founded The Believer™ Products Company, L.L.C. partnered with her husband William Ehrstine to create the company that produces *Believer Beads™*, a trademarked line of Christian hand assembled prayer jewelry.

"Our goal is to produce quality Christian products that are hand-assembled right here in southwestern Ohio," Kim said explaining that while the company is in Warren County the jewelry is actually assembled in Butler County.

William, a local attorney, has spent a great portion of his professional life representing and advising disabled workers, who have been injured on the job.

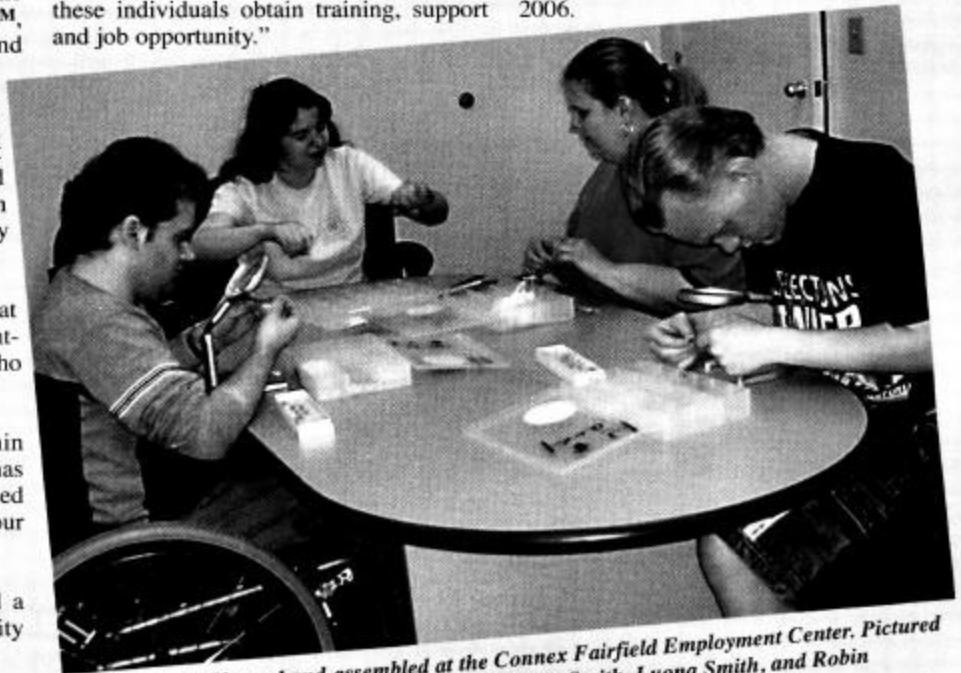
"Representing disabled clients within Ohio's Worker's Compensation system has given William a real sensitivity to the need for job opportunities for the disabled in our area," Kim explained.

"Together, Kim and I decided to build a business around this concept of disability employment," William said.

"Based on this fundamental precept, we have developed a *co-operative partnership*

arrangement with Miami Valley Industries for the hand assembly of Christian faith products by disabled workers. In turn, these individuals obtain training, support and job opportunity."

Miami Valley Industries is a subsidiary of the Connex Group, a non-profit organization that was incorporated in January, 2006.



BelieverBeads™ are hand-assembled at the Connex Fairfield Employment Center. Pictured left to right are employees: Brent Smallwood, Maria Smith, Luona Smith, and Robin McWhorter.

Above Photos show the two color schemes that Connex workers are currently assembling the Prayer Bead Bracelets. White bracelets are available in two lengths. Bracelets in patriotic red, white and blue are also available. For product information see www.believerproducts.com.

Through Miami Valley Industries, Connex provides services to individuals with disabilities, particularly those with mental retardation and developmental disabilities. The company has their bead products assembled at the Connex/ Miami Valley Industries facility in the Fairfield Business Park.

Brent Smallwood, a Connex employee, worked on the assembly. He is also featured on www.believerproducts.com, the company's Web site.

"Brent is truly a great ambassador for our products and a great spokesperson for our mission," says Kim.

Regarding the prayer beads, Brent wrote, "My mom says, she thinks of me every time she looks at them. There hasn't been a day since I gave them to her that she hasn't worn them!"

Another great spokesperson for the mission of Believer™ Products is Paul Barkman, M.B.A., a business executive with the Small Business Administration's *Service Corps of Retired Executives*. Paul has worked closely with Kim in establishing the company's foundation and business plan.

"I am very enthusiastic about this company and this venture. We truly have a productive partnership that is simply a win-win situation for all involved," said the executive.

"We're producing quality jewelry based on a Christian prayer concept that is hand assembled by disabled workers here in southwestern Ohio, also fostering a win-

win relationship with our customer base," said Paul.

The company's Web site states "that our products are designed to be faith building tools used in reminding believers that God



SCORE executive Paul Barkman is pictured with Believer Products company founder, Kim Koss.

listens to prayer anytime, any place and for any reason."

And by purchasing the jewelry, hope and opportunities are promoted several ways. It places faith building tools into a community, provides tangible biblical symbols of prayer, creates and maintains jobs for disabled workers, and endorses commodities assembled by hands in the US -- just to name a few.

"We 'believe' in helping others through faith, opportunity and hope," Kim notes on the Web site.

For more information about Believer™ Products, *Believer Beads™ Prayer Beads*, visit www.believerproducts.com or for the Connexgroup visit www.connexgroup.org.

Service Corps of Retired Executives

...an organization, dedicated to furthering entrepreneurship.

Paul Barkman is an entrepreneurial counselor with the Greater Cincinnati SCORE Chapter, 34.

His chapter was named Chapter of the Year, 2006, by the Small Business Administration

for its outstanding work in supporting the principles and purposes of the organization.

More information about Chapter 34 is available at www.scorechapter34.org.