

BCRC Gets New Building, Bright Future

by Amanda Pullinger

The Beaver County Rehabilitation Center is excited to announce that two years of work and negotiating have resulted in the purchase of an 80,000 square foot building at 131 Pleasant Drive, Aliquippa (Center Township). The building, purchased in December 2010, is the former site of Druzak Medical.

According to Executive Director, Paulette Miller, the continued growth of clients, staff, and programs presented a daunting task-how to effectively serve nearly 700 individuals at five different locations. Ms. Miller, found herself faced with the challenge of consolidating operations in order to maintain the efficiency and quality of services offered at BCRC. In addition to improving efficiency, the building in Center Township provides significant production space for the present and the opportunity for future development.

The building was purchased through a long-term, fixed-rate loan provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Residing next to the Transit Authority, the new location will remain ever accessible to its clientele, many of whom rely on public transportation. While maintaining current collaborative efforts, Ms. Miller states that she looks forward

to developing new partnerships with local organizations to better serve the people of Beaver County.

Many of the programs offered by BCRC will now run out of this location, enhancing cooperation and communication among agency staff and departments.

The first program to transition to the new building is the Supported Work Program, a move that occurred in February, 2011. Other programs, including much of the Production Center and Administrative offices will move gradually over the next year.

Though many new experiences lie ahead for staff, clientele and their families, and local partners, Ms. Miller reminds those involved in the transition that, "In the midst of change, BCRC's mission remains the same *"...to provide the opportunity for vocational growth and independence while respecting the dignity and uniqueness of each individual."* BCRC highly values the individuals they serve and it is assured that every effort will be made to assist in making this transition as easy as possible for each client and their family. ■



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EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH SPEAK OUT

by Mike Little
and Gloria Beighey

As the brilliant fall colors faded and gave way to the winter snow, BCRC clients were still making strides. The employees that excelled as Employees of the Month for October, November and December were Kristina Stiteler, John Branthoover and Cathy Thomas.

Kristina Stiteler, the October winner, believes she keeps a good work attitude because she loves working on magnets. Kristina feels very good about the award. How did she win? She says "hard work" made it happen. Kristina started in the School to Work program in 1991 and has been at BCRC for almost 20 years. Her future plans are to continue working with BCRC.

The November winner, John Branthoover, also started in the School to Work program in 2003. He feels his best attribute is that he stays calm. Those who know him would agree that he is a calming influence on everyone around him. John feels "really good to be a winner of the employee of the month." He won, he believes, because he does "whatever is asked" of him and he "gets along" with his peers. John's future plans are to acquire a cleaning job at the Beaver County Airport.

Cathy Thomas started at BCRC in 1996 and was chosen as the December winner. Cathy says she does well because ▶

BCRC Program Relocates

by Kay Podbielski



The evaluation, MH Respite, and Work Ready programs have relocated to our newly acquired facility in Center Township. These programs were previously housed at our 5th Avenue building in New Brighton. The new location provides an expanded work area for additional computer setups and a separate assessment area for those in evaluation. The proximity (next door) to the public bus terminal adds the convenience of being dropped at the door as opposed to having to walk from the bus stop in inclement weather. Stop in and see us! ■

she asks the job coach if she needs instructions on her job. “Shocked” is the word Cathy used when she found out she won employee of the month. She says, “I can’t explain how I won.” However, her staff attribute the award to good work habits. Cathy’s future plans are to continue to work at BCRC as long as she can.

As we continue through the winter months and get ready for warmer temperatures, BCRC prepares for our next outstanding group of Employees of the Month. ■



Safety Lights

by Cindy Kirkpatrick

Fall Prevention Tips

Many people are injured each year due to falls. Most falls occur in the home. Effective housekeeping is the first level of prevention. Clean all spills immediately, remove obstacles from walkways, keep all areas well lit and clean of debris, and secure rugs, mats and carpets. In addition to making your house safe, begin an exercise program to strengthen your body and improve your balance and coordination. Also, have your doctor review your medications to ensure that a combination of medications is not making you sleepy or dizzy. Finally, have your vision checked yearly. You could be wearing the wrong prescription or be developing glaucoma or cataracts that limit your vision and increase your chances of falling. ■

Don't Get Too Taxed, Let RMC Help

by Pat Healey

BCRC Records Management provides a variety of solutions for both personal and business document needs. ▶

Anthony is Steadfast at Medfast

by Frank Shialabba

Anthony Ozenbaugh is a young man who uses his considerable strength to heave heavy mattresses onto high shelves. Anthony is paid for his efforts by the Medfast Company, where he has been employed since August, 2010.

It had been almost three years since Anthony’s last job. As a single man living in his own apartment in Monaca, he was anxious to find employment to help meet his expenses. Anthony turned to BCRC’s WIN Services for help. Program Specialist, Faith McAnlis and Employment Specialist, Adam Loverich were assigned to work with Anthony. Ms. McAnlis describes Anthony as “extremely courteous and kind. He is very respectful of his coworkers, and he would give you the shirt off his back.”

In addition to being a kind person, Anthony is also conscientious. Employment Specialist Adam Loverich states, “Anthony is doing a wonderful job. There have been absolutely no complaints about his work, and he has a very difficult job.”

Anthony’s job is to clean and sanitize medical equipment according to very stringent medical guidelines. After the equipment is cleaned it must be bagged and made ready for customers. Anthony’s work is inspected periodically by the “mattress police.” Inspectors use a light to determine whether enough disinfectant has been applied to each piece of medical equipment. According to Loverich, “They showed up one day and although we were nervous, Anthony’s work passed with flying colors

Anthony also has to make many decisions during the course of a day. He tags medical supplies as green (good), yellow (needing repair), or red (beyond repair). He also decides which departments receive each item as it is prepared to be shipped.

Anthony is proud of his accomplishments and he hopes to do even more in his young life. He states, “The job has helped give me money for groceries and I have learned new social skills.” A shy man, Anthony has gradually become more comfortable in his surroundings. He is learning to make eye contact as he wishes coworkers, “Good morning.” Anthony’s coworkers like him and he enjoys greeting new people as he goes from office to office distributing medical supplies.

Anthony has grown socially and in his work skills. He wears his Medfast jacket proudly as he faces the future with confidence. ■



Spotlight On: Trish Sarver

by Jennifer Gengarella



Patricia Sarver, commonly known as “Trish”, has worked as a job coach at the BCRC for three years. Recently, Trish was given her own group, in the 601 production center.

Trish, a valued member of the staff, is known for the positive support and encouragement that she gives to her clients. According to Trish, the part of her job that she enjoys most is getting to know the clients themselves. “It is so rewarding to watch them mature, grow socially and learn new job skills.” Trish tries to give everyone the opportunity to work on contract work and she takes great pride in their accomplishments.

Previously, Trish worked with the BCRC School to Work Program and the janitorial enclave.

When asked her thoughts about BCRC’s move to Centerplace, Trish predicts that although there will be a period of transition, the move will be a positive one.

Trish has seen plenty of positive moves in the past three years with the introduction of many new staff, new contract jobs and programs, and overall growth for BCRC.

In her free time, Trish enjoys reading, walking, being active in her church, playing both the piano and flute, and spending time with her husband and four sons. We are grateful for the time Trish devotes to being a part of the BCRC staff. ■



New Birthday Cake Celebrates Candy Bouquet's 10th Year

by Frank Shialabba



Happy 10th birthday to BCRC's Candy Bouquet! Candy Bouquet celebrates its 10th birthday as a BCRC enterprise with a new candy birthday cake created for its line of edible arrangements. The candy bouquet birthday cake, made of small bags of candy and candy bars, is one of many unique gift items created over the years.

Candy Bouquet began when The Beaver County Rehabilitation Center Board of Directors approved the purchase of the franchise on April 26, 2001. Operations started in August of that year. Pat Healey, BCRC's Director of Business Development, remembers those early days. In fall of 2001, Ms. Healey along with three other BCRC staff members traveled to Little Rock Arkansas, the home of Candy Bouquet International. BCRC staffers learned the business from Margaret MacIntyre, a special education teacher from Little Rock, who originally started the business out of her home.

Ms. Healey remembers selling bouquets at the Beaver County Court House, Giant Eagle grocery stores and the Beaver County Human Services Building. In July, 2002, BCRC's Candy Bouquet franchise was named franchise of the month by Candy Bouquet International. BCRC was selected because of our excellent practices in customer relations, development of the franchise and relations with corporate headquarters.

BCRC added items such as wreaths and silk flower arrangements to its line of edible candy and cellophane bouquets in 2003 and became Gifts Delivered Featuring Candy Bouquet. As the expertise of BCRC's clients grew, new creative items were added to the Gift Delivered line of products.

A number of BCRC clients were integral in this early growth. Donna Runyan was an expert rose maker who joined the crew in 2002, and the late Cheryl Beightly created some of BCRC's most original bouquets. Stacy Quick has been with Candy Bouquet since its inception. She joins Sherry Lombardo and Sarah Holly as the current team members with the longest tenure in Candy Bouquet.

Today, Susan Hill coordinates the day to day operations of Gifts Delivered Featuring Candy Bouquet. Along with Job Coach, April Connolly, Susan and her talented crew hope to create many new designs in addition to the candy birthday cake. While Gifts Delivered has bouquets at the gift stores of many local hospitals, Ms. Hill hopes to have a presence at many community events in the future. She states, "We hope to increase our marketing efforts and make Gifts Delivered a recognizable presence in the community." ■



Susan Hill (right) and April Connolly (left) display the new candy bouquet birthday cake.

How does one safely dispose of important papers after tax time? BCRC Records Management can digitize these records and store them on CD's for future review. Papers can then be securely shredded to eliminate notes and receipts that end up cluttering your desk and file cabinets for the next seven years.

Information can be also scanned into a searchable database and stored on a password protected, read only CD, or it can be scanned in PDF format and presented on a disk for hard-drive storage.

Just look around your home or business office; there are a multitude of documents that can be safely digitized and then shredded. Papers from a typical, overstuffed, four drawer file cabinet can fit on one CD. Six to seven of those same file cabinets can fit onto a DVD. Once information is scanned, entire file rooms can be eliminated, returning the workspace to more productive uses.

Time searching for files and specific papers is also greatly reduced when information is indexed and made immediately available on a CD or hard drive.

In addition, many businesses are mandated by government laws (Sarbanes/Oxley, HIPPA and others) to operate under a responsible records management and document destruction plan. BCRC Records Management conducts business with the confidentiality and security defined within these laws.

Pricing for our services is surprisingly affordable. Please contact either Nancy Perkins or Pat Healey at 724-847-1306 for a free consultation and sample of our work. ■

Like Art Work, Cards Are A Hit

WIN Services' 2010 art show is a gift that keeps on giving. WIN's art took shape as a new idea after Pat Healey, BCRC Director of Business Development, saw the wonderful work of the WIN habilitation clients. Why not turn the art work into note cards that more people can use and enjoy?

The note cards were based on the original works of art, crafted from canvas and acrylic.

BCRC secretary Denise McCormish added her creativity to the mix by

designing the cards, and BCRC's Evaluation Center helped Denise with the printing.

In addition to adding a new product to the Gifts Delivered line, the cards provided an array of new jobs for BCRC's clients. Jobs involved precise cutting, folding and packaging of each set of cards. Many individuals used a bone folder for the very first time.

Each box contains 12 cards and six different designs. There are nine different sets of card available. A box of 12 assorted cards and envelopes sells for \$5.00 plus tax. Stop in at 1517 Sixth Ave., New Brighton or phone 724-847-1306 to order your sets of all occasion note cards. ■



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Shop Talk



A pep rally participant waits anxiously for a lunch time treat.

BCRC clients and staff enjoyed pep rallies to cheer on the Steelers prior to the AFC Championship game and the recent Super Bowl. The Steelers were .500 on the field with one win and one loss, but we were perfect in the fun column with chicken fingers, hoagies, homemade football cupcakes, prizes, etc. Just wait until next year. Super Bowl here we come!



Homemade football cupcakes were a hit!

BCRC would like to congratulate Susan Hill for her promotion to Gifts Delivered Marketing Coordinator. Susan has been serving in her new position since November, 2010. Susan has worked at BCRC for five years, most of that time as the Gifts Delivered job coach. Susan oversees the day to day operations of the Gifts Delivered franchise. She states, "I hope to increase the business potential of Gifts Delivered by expanding our marketing efforts."

Other News: Theresa Belcastro has been placed on full time status as School to Work Program Specialist. Theresa has worked at BCRC since August 2009. Sue Bogdan has been placed on full time status in the accounting department. She has been employed at BCRC since April 2007.

School to Work Employees of the Month are: January, Abby Coulter and February, Sean Bresnahan.