

Goodwill Named Employer of the Year

by Sheila Silbaugh

Goodwill Industries of Rochester, PA was named Employer of the Year at the Mental Health Association in Beaver County banquet held May 27 at Jeffries Landing. For more than 15 years Goodwill has contributed to the wellness of persons with mental illness served by the Beaver County Rehabilitation Center.

Goodwill has provided the opportunity for individuals to grow vocationally and develop competitive work skills. In addition to providing an enclave work setting, they have hired numerous individuals to be part of the Goodwill team. Others have gone onto meaningful employment elsewhere after developing good work habits at Goodwill.

Goodwill's commitment to people with disabilities is demonstrated in the development of many of their employees. One person, hired several years ago, has assumed responsibility for Goodwill's loading dock and donations. He also provides training to new employees. Recently, he helped Goodwill provide the same opportunities and training to a new person hired to work on the dock.

Goodwill should be congratulated for their award and their continued commitment to persons with disabilities.

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EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH SPEAK OUT

by Gloria Beighey and Mike Little

Whether the weather was good or bad in the first quarter of 2010, BCRC was still producing some great Employees of the Month.

In January, Rick Morrow was named Employee of the Month. Rick started working at BCRC, March 20, 1997. Rick feels that he keeps his good work attitude by saying, "Stay in a good mood." Rick feels really good about receiving this award. He says by working hard and always trying to give a good effort he was selected. His future plans are to improve his work skills.

The February Employee of the Month was Christina Bruce. Christina has been with BCRC since December, 1999. She feels by being nice she is able to keep a good work attitude. Christina says, "It's nice to win." When asked how she won the award she replied that she is always happy and a nice person. Looking toward the future, Christina would like to learn how to drive.

March found us full of excitement because Kelly Claypole was chosen as Employee of the Month. Kelly started working at BCRC in March of 2002. Kelly believes she keeps a good work attitude because "I don't get upset." Kelly is very happy to be chosen and feels this happened because she has a good attitude and works hard. She feels that keeping an ▶

Travis Nicol is Worth a Million

by Frank Shialabba

Travis Nichol, son of BCRC Maintenance person extraordinaire Bob Nichol, has contributed his knowledge and enthusiasm to BCRC's annual safety carnival for the last few years. BCRC staff and clients hope to see Travis once again at this year's carnival on September 17.

Travis, a volunteer fireman wearing his full fire person regalia, helps BCRC clients as they put out simulated fires in a mock house that was made by his father Bob. According to BCRC Executive Director Paulette Miller, "Travis always gives one hundred percent effort to the safety carnival and he adds greatly to the realism of the event. Travis is known for his willingness to get involved and work for others."

Beaver recognized Travis recently for the work he does for the high school. Travis was recognized for his leadership as Assistant Squad Leader for JROTC, Beaver color guard, and his many years as a valued member of the Beaver High School maintenance crew.

BCRC would like to thank Travis for being a valued participant in our annual safety carnival. See you again this year Travis! ■

Travis shows carnival participant where to aim when putting out "burning building."



even disposition has helped as well. Kelly would like to get a new job some day.

Even when the weather outside is frightful, our Employees of the Month are delightful. ■

New Artists Discovered at WIN Services

BCRC's WIN Services featured the art work of some very talented individuals at their June 9 Art Show and Open House. The art work of 26 aspiring artists was displayed at the showing. Each piece of art was accompanied by a biography of the artist. Such subjects as the "Rainforest," "Indian Moon," "Butterfly World," "Passionate Sunset," and "Mozart," were detailed in the very diverse display of art. According to Director of Employment Services Sheila Silbaugh, "The artists poured their hearts and souls into the show, and it was wonderful to discover these new talents." The complete exhibition and artists' biographies may be viewed at BCRC's web site www.bcrc.net. ■



"Shapes"



"Sunflower"

CAPS is Pioneering New Boundaries

by Amanda Pullinger

BCRC continues to be an ever-evolving agency, pioneering new boundaries in hopes of providing the highest quality assistance possible to persons in Beaver County.

One of BCRC's newest programs, CAPS (Creating Alternative Pathways to Success), is a perfect example of this change and growth. The CAPS Youth Program is sponsored by BC SCORES, a federal initiative funded by SAMHSA through the Department of Health and Human Services. Ultimately, CAPS exists to provide vocational planning services to youth in Beaver County, specifically seeking out students with mental health or co-occurring issues and involvement in the juvenile justice system. Within the past six months, CAPS has serviced nine students. Approximately 12 students are on the current waiting list. The school districts these students attend range anywhere from Beaver Falls to New Brighton, Ambridge to Freedom, and Western Beaver to Central Valley.

Unique to CAPS are services such as case management with a preventative emphasis, assistance with poor attendance habits, and the exploration of interests and aptitudes.

This is accomplished through vocational evaluations, assistance with job acquisitions, and community based assessments. Each student's experience is tailored to their individual needs and personal goals, creating an environment where the student is valued and motivated. To provide an even greater support to students in CAPS, the staff has been busy collaborating and joining efforts with other Beaver County agencies and initiatives, including the Prevention Network, Beaver County Behavioral Health, Next Generation, Center of Hope, the Beaver Falls Educational Collaborative Initiative, and the Community of Hope, just to name a few. CAPS, along with the additional services provided by these agencies and initiatives, hope to provide students with the opportunity for holistic development, addressing each dimension of their lives.

Though CAPS remains in its early stages, it has a dedicated staff with a passion for engaging students in the community and helping them obtain personal, academic, and vocational goals. ■

Spotlight on: Linda Glaab

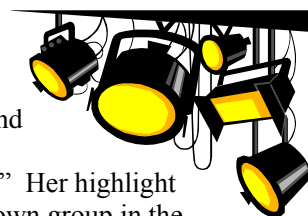
The Spotlight of this issue of the Competitive Edge shines ever so brightly on Linda Glaab, BCRC job coach. Linda has worked at BCRC for "nine wonderful years." Known affectionately by her coworkers as "Anna," she receives praise for her positive attitude and lively sense of humor.

Linda credits her good attitude to "enjoying her job very much." Her highlight as a BCRC employee is "achieving full time status and getting her own group in the Production Center." She says, "I loved getting my own group and getting to know the personalities of everyone that I work with each day. They are very unique and great to work with." Linda also enjoys "seeing people grow and discover new talents that they didn't know they had."

Linda is from New Brighton and she has been married for 17 years. She is the mother of three boys, all of whom live in the Beaver County area. One son recently moved back to the area from Nevada after living away for twenty years.

Linda's hobbies are walking, reading, babysitting her grandchildren and rooting for the Steelers, Penguins and Pirates.

Linda is truly loved by the members of her work group, and she brings caring and experience to her job each day. ■





Safety Lights: Internet Safety

by Cindy Kirkpatrick

With the popularity of computer social networking sites, such as craigslist, don't forget to take precautions just as you would when meeting anyone new. Although the majority of users are trustworthy and well-intentioned, it is important to take a common

sense approach. Remember to insist on a public meeting place, tell someone where you are going, take your cell phone, consider having a friend accompany you and trust your instincts. Following these precautions helps make social internet sites safer for everyone. ■

Special Needs Trust Planning is Free

One of the most frightening concerns of parents whose children have disabilities is "What will happen if I can no longer provide my child with care?"

The Good Shephard Legal Foundation provides answers to this question free of charge. According to the Foundation, "parents need to be concerned with numerous issues, including financial planning, the orderly distribution of assets to the disabled person, the preservation of government benefits, and the appropriateness of residential placement."

The Good Shephard Foundation helps parents establish a "special needs trust." The Special Needs Trust is different from a typical trust in that it enables a person with a disability to maintain government benefits while still receiving family assets.

Attorney John A. D'Onofrio, through his association with Good Shephard Legal Foundation, will draft a special needs trust free of charge. According to the Foundation, "All you have to do is ask, there are no hidden costs."

Attorney D'Onofrio was the recipient of a generous gesture many years ago that helped him establish a successful legal career. He promised his benefactors that he would "pay it forward." He has more than fulfilled that promise through his work with the Good Shepherd Foundation (see enclosed flyer). You may contact Attorney D'Onofrio at 412-893-2552, jdlawyer@aol.com. ■



"Heavy Metal"



"Mozart"



"Fun Times in the Summer"



"All Stars"



"Circles"



"Somewhere Over the Rainbow"



Steven pictured at Penn Dot building.

Lambert is Runner-up for Prestigious Award

Steven Lambert was named 2010 runner-up for the prestigious Nettie Mann Award, given annually by the Pennsylvania Industries for the Blind & Handicapped (PIBH). Gary Crowelle, President and CEO of PIBH, presented Stephen the award on Tuesday, June 8 at a ceremony in Harrisburg.

Steven received a \$100 cash prize, plaque, dinner at the award celebration in Harrisburg and an overnight stay at a hotel. Steven was most proud of the fact that he met guest speaker Lou Ferigno, and that he was featured in a video montage of the nominees. Stephen was accompanied at the ceremony by his father and BCRC Director of Contract Acquisition, Joanna Greco.

According to Ms. Greco, "Steven works tirelessly cleaning the Penn Dot building and it has never looked better. He even reported to work immediately after returning from his four hour trip."

Sheila Silbaugh, BCRC's Director of Employment Services states, "The other workers at the Penn Dot facility have accepted him as part of their staff." During the two years that Steven has worked there, numerous Penn Dot staff have commented on the tremendous job that Steven does for them. ■

Shop Talk

by Kay Podbielski

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Congratulations to Stacey Quick and Michael Ritchie for being honored as carriers of the month for the Beaver County Times.

Stacey delivers newspapers in addition to her work at BCRC to earn extra money. She is saving her earnings to buy a PlayStation 3. Stacey relates that she is a good newspaper carrier because she walks her route. She said that she was thrilled to see her picture in the paper that she delivers.



Michael Ritchie is a student at Aliquippa High School who also participates in BCRC's School to Work Program. Michael has been delivering newspapers for eight years. He became a carrier because he thought it would be a nice job. Michael likes to use his earnings buying things for himself, and surprising his niece and nephew with new toys. Michael thought that being recognized as a carrier of the month was, "cool."

Michael Hitt is a quitter and we're so proud of him! After 28 years, Mike has quit smoking. Cigarettes were getting too expensive for Mike so he decided to quit four months ago. Aside from the extra money in his pocket, Mike said that he also has more energy and is not coughing. Congratulations Mike!

More WIN Service Client Art Work



"Passionate Sunset"



"Paradise"



"No Trees on a Spring Day"