

Summer 2012 Edition
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Issue 2

BCRC is Non-Profit Business of the Year

On Friday, March 16, the Beaver County Rehabilitation Center was named Non-profit Business of the Year at the Beaver County Chamber of Commerce Fortieth Anniversary Gala at Seven Oaks Country Club. BCRC was chosen from among six well respected nominees.

BCRC was nominated for the award due to consistent development of new and innovative ways to provide vocational opportunities for persons with emotional, intellectual and physical challenges.

BCRC has been at the vanguard in the development of new businesses such as Gifts Delivered Featuring Candy Bouquet, BCRC Records Management, BCRC Mailing Services, BCRC Embroidery and contracts for Pennsylvania Industries for the Blind & Handicapped (PIBH). These work and business opportunities are offered to over 650 persons with disabilities and economic challenges in Beaver County.

BCRC also employs a staff of over 100 people. Many of the staff hold certifications in fields such as supported employment, psychiatric rehabilitation, peer support, drug and alcohol program and student assistance programs.

It was also noted that BCRC has positioned itself for the future with the purchase of a new 80,000 square foot building in Center Township, increased employer contacts, and the addition of many new grant-funded projects. ■



NAMI Supports Recovery at BCRC

The Beaver County National Alliance on Mental Illness has been very supportive of the efforts of the Beaver County Rehabilitation Center to initiate recovery oriented services for persons with mental illness. Their support has manifested itself through an invitation to speak at their regular meeting, an article in their newsletter and membership on the Beaver County MH Employment Transformation Advisory Committee.

Frank Shialabba of BCRC was invited to a NAMI meeting on Wednesday, March 15 to speak about BCRC's new Hope and Wellness Program that is based on the SAMSHA (Substance and Mental Health Services Administration) Illness Management & Recovery curriculum. Mr. Shialabba talked about the essential component of Illness Management & Recovery which is to inspire individuals to become hopeful about recovery by letting them define their own recovery. IMR also provides the skills needed to achieve and maintain recovery. As a precursor to Mr. Shialabba's presentation the Hope and Wellness program was featured in the March issue of the NAMI newsletter.

NAMI members Diane Watson and Connie Roman have also been active in the Beaver County Employment Transformation Committee which seeks to provide new for employment for hundreds of persons with mental illness in Beaver County. ■

Mental Health Transformation Evaluated by County

by Amanda Pullinger

On March 10, 2012, BCRC's Mental Health Employment Transformation program, located in the Aurora building, was evaluated by HPW Associates, LLC, a company contracted by Beaver County Behavioral Health to provide research and evaluation services to multiple human service organizations.

The evaluation lasted a full day and consisted primarily of staff and consumer interviews supplemented with chart reviews and documentation. Evaluators utilized two instruments- the General Organizational Index and the Supported Employment Fidelity Scale-to

determine BCRC's capacity to implement and sustain the evidence-based practice of supported employment, as well as the degree to which they are staying true to the philosophy and principles on which supported employment was founded.

With continued budget cuts, it becomes increasingly important that existing programs are routinely assessed to ensure methods of service implementation reflect fidelity to the evidence-based practices on which they are founded. Currently, scores are still being processed. However, upon the acquisition of results, the Mental Health Transformation program hopes to develop new strategies to ensure quality services and positive outcomes for consumers. ■

Staff are Motivated by Motivational Interviewing

by Frank Shialabba

Eight BCRC staff attended a recent training on motivational interviewing that was sponsored by BC Launch, BCBH and NHS. The two day training was highly beneficial to BCRC staff involved in psychiatric rehabilitation, the Work Ready Program, and the new Hope and Wellness Program for individuals with mental illness who attend BCRC's production centers. Staff learned to identify and address the ambiguity and conflict that people feel when confronted with change in their lives. Motivation occurs when people are put in charge of their own lives and the changes they desire to make. The training was intense and involved practical "hands-on" experience in guiding individuals through the change process. ■

Safety Lights



by Cindy Kirkpatrick

With the spring and summer rains, there is the possibility of flooding. It is important to know the difference between a flood watch and a flood warning. A watch means flooding is possible. A warning means flooding is occurring or will occur soon. When a flood is imminent, pack a bag with important items in case you need to evacuate. Don't forget to include needed medications. Have disaster supplies on hand such as flashlights, first aid kit and battery-operated radio. If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. During a flood, don't walk through moving water. Do not drive into flooded areas. After a flood, return home only when authorities indicate it is safe. Listen for news reports to learn whether the water supply is safe to drink and how to clean up from the flood. ■

Spotlight On: Pat Sullivan

by Jennifer Gengarella

A bundle of energy, Pat Sullivan is in constant motion as BCRC's Job Coach Supervisor. With BCRC since 1991, Pat's duties are many and varied. As the Job Coach Supervisor she oversees the job coaches and trains new hires. In addition to this, Pat manages some of the contracts BCRC has by distributing materials, ensuring quality, and making sure time studies are being followed. Pat also conducts monthly building inspections at our 601 and 1517 buildings. Along with these responsibilities, Pat is actively involved in our safety committee and the client Christmas party. As if these duties weren't enough, she is a certified investigator for the state and investigates any reported incidents. All of this movement around the shop enables Pat to interact daily with the clients, a perk she enjoys during her day.

Though always on the go, Pat does unwind in the summer on weekends. She and her husband Joe enjoy their camp at Lake Erie where she collects sea glass on the beach, and tends to her flower gardens. After her restful weekend, she is re-energized to buzz about BCRC with her usual unending energy. ■



"Shining Star" Shines Up PennDot

by Frank Shialabba

WIN Job Coach Linda Smega describes Steve Lambert as a "dream employee." Steve has "shined" at the PennDot maintenance garage since April 2008, where he has a "spotless" reputation.

Steve was hired to fill a maintenance position that had been vacant for some time. Ms. Smega states that, "The workers deal with a lot of dirt and grime and there had been a build-up over time." Steve, however, tackled this daunting job with determination and enthusiasm. Faucets that had been caked with grime were turned into shiny objects of beauty. PennDot workers praised Steve with comments like, "He's better than any maintenance worker we've ever had." "The place has never looked so clean." "We wish we had ten more like him."

Steve's winning personality was also a plus, especially to the secretaries who according to Ms. Smega, "wanted to take him home."

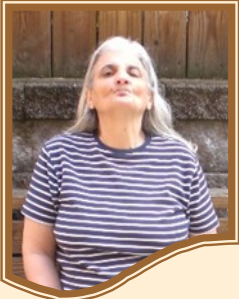
Steve has truly found a "home" at his job where he is readily accepted and included in parties and other company activities. Ms. Smega states, "One of the employees brought Steve a wrestling t-shirt because he knows Steve loves wrestling. He is included as part of the PennDot family of workers."

Steve's own family supports his employment and his independence. Steve has his own apartment in Beaver, where he lives independently.

Steve has put a shine on the PennDot maintenance building and has emerged as a "shining star," who is a conscientious and caring employee. ■

Linda is Recovery Leader

by Frank Shialabba



Linda Gatto, of BCRC's 1517 Production Center and Aurora Services, overcame much adversity to receive the coveted Value Behavioral Health "Leadership in Recovery Award" on Friday, April 20, 2012. She received the award at the annual VBH Recovery Conference at the Pittsburgh Marriot North. The award was highly competitive and Linda received the honor despite competition from persons in several Pennsylvania counties. Ms. Gatto was nominated by Susan Keppen, Intensive Case Manager of the Beaver County Direct Service Unit.

Linda was referred to Aurora Services by Ms. Keppen in April, 2009. At that time Linda communicated very little with others. Gradually, Linda began to respond to people who got her attention and attempted to sign with her. She worked with Deaf Specialist, Ashley Greenawalt, who helped her to open up and engage in conversation. After working with Ashley individually for a year, Linda decided to be part of the groups at Aurora. Linda built trust with staff and consumers and engaged in activities like picnics, awareness outings, playing games and socializing with others. According to Ms. Keppen, "Linda always brought great humor and personality to the games and it was easy to see that Linda was enjoying herself."

As Ms. Keppen stated in her presentation at the conference, "Linda's peers now look forward to her presence, and love it when Linda teaches sign language during culture and diversity group...Linda deserves to be recognized for her achievements and continued success." ■

A Final Cup of Coffee and Two Lives Shared

by Frank Shialabba



On Wednesday, April 11, 2012, Deloris Dean shared a final cup of coffee with her mentor and former Program Specialist, Paulette Miller. Life will go on for Deloris as a retiree of the Beaver County Rehabilitation Center after 42 years of employment. The cup of coffee was a tradition started in the early years of Ms. Dean and Ms. Miller's careers.

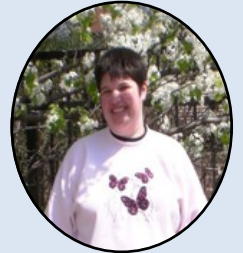
Ms. Miller speaks with pride about Deloris' years as one of BCRC's longest tenured employees. Deloris reflects back on those years and states, "I will miss you all." Deloris will especially miss the staff, "who were always nice to me." Ms. Miller says that, "Deloris loved to share the experiences of her family with the staff. She enjoyed bringing in pictures of her daughter and her three grandchildren, and she was always concerned about our families. She is a kind and caring person and we will miss her."

Along with the staff and her coworkers, Deloris enjoyed working on many of the jobs at BCRC. Her favorite jobs were taking apart plastic sleeves and working at the courthouse. Ms. Miller recalls one occasion when she drove by the Beaver County Courthouse and spotted Deloris as she was about to enter the front door. Deloris, dressed in a business suit and sneakers (the official attire of the business community) saw Paulette and yelled proudly, "Look at me!" Ms. Miller states, "This is one of my fondest memories of Deloris; it was gratifying to see the pride that she took in her work in the community."

It is also gratifying to see that Deloris will enjoy a well-deserved retirement at age 68. She plans to enjoy the good life. She will go for quiet walks, play bingo and relax in her home. However, she will always think back with fond memories of her many experiences at BCRC. Fondest in her memories is the special relationship that she enjoys with Paulette Miller. Deloris will always be welcome at BCRC. Who knows? Maybe there will be one more cup of coffee with her mentor after all. ■

Employees of the Month

Production Centers



Kayla Edgington
February



Alyssa Radatovich
March

School to Work



Michael Sabat
February



Shayna Wimer
March

Paulette Miller
Executive Director

Competitive Edge
Editorial Staff

Gloria Beighey, Robin Devine,
Jennifer Gengarella,
Ashley Greenawalt, Pat Healey,
Cindy Kirkpatrick, Kelly Newhouse,
Kay Podbielski, Amanda Pullinger,
Frank Shialabba
Sean Sen... Website Editor
Pat Tengeres... Layout and
Photography

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Fax: 724-847-1126
TTY/TDD Operator Services: 711
VP (Video Phone): 724-987-7946
Website: www.bcrc.net

**Chocolate Sunday is Fun Day
for Gifts Delivered**

by Susan Hill

BCRC's Gifts Delivered Featuring Candy Bouquet participated in the 10th year of "A Chocolate Sunday", held March 18 at the Seven Oaks Country Club. The event offers over 30 businesses the opportunity to display and discuss their wares. Over 475 people attended the event and received

information on BCRC and embroidery and mailing services.

Gifts Delivered featured a sampling of our best selling candy bouquets-the Pop-corn Box, Classic Rose Bouquet, Box of Smiles and the Candy Birthday Cake. Also featured were new embroidery items such as animal blankets, tote bags and stuffed animals. Silk wreaths and arrangements glowed with lighted branches in spring and summer designs as Gifts Delivered met many new and hopefully future customers. ■

Shop Talk

by Kay Podbielski

As BCRC continues to grow, we have had the pleasure of hiring many new staff over the past several months. WIN Services, in our Beaver location, has added Employment Specialists Jay Thomas, Stephen Zak, Alaina Arbogast, and Kiera Hostetler. Corey Getz, Sherry Kelly and Valerie Maloney have been hired as job coaches at the production center and the School to Work program has also welcomed Jennifer Price as a transition specialist. David Brailey is the facility manager at our new location in Center. The entire BCRC staff looks forward to getting acquainted with our newest co-workers. ■



Individuals at BCRC perform a variety of services for the community. Outsourcing services include mailing, assembly, drilling, shredding, digital imaging, microfilming, weighing, inspecting, packing, refurbishing, sorting, gauging, deburring, tapping and heat sealing. For more information on BCRC's business services call 724-847-1306. For production services ask for Joanna Greco; for mailing and shredding ask for Frank Sniezek; and for embroidering, digital imaging and microfilming, contact Pat Healey. ■



BCRC is an equal opportunity employer and provider. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). In addition, BCRC is funded in part by BCBH, OVR, DCED, USDA & United Way.