



Boswell Regional Center Bulletin

April 2013

A Publication for Employees, Family and Friends of BRC

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The publication of the BRC Bulletin is made possible by the contributions of our dedicated and talented employees. The articles and pictures were written, taken and formatted by BRC employees. Their contributions are greatly appreciated! We sincerely hope that you enjoy this edition of the Boswell Regional Center Bulletin, April 2013 Issue.

A Day in the Life of a Princess/Prince

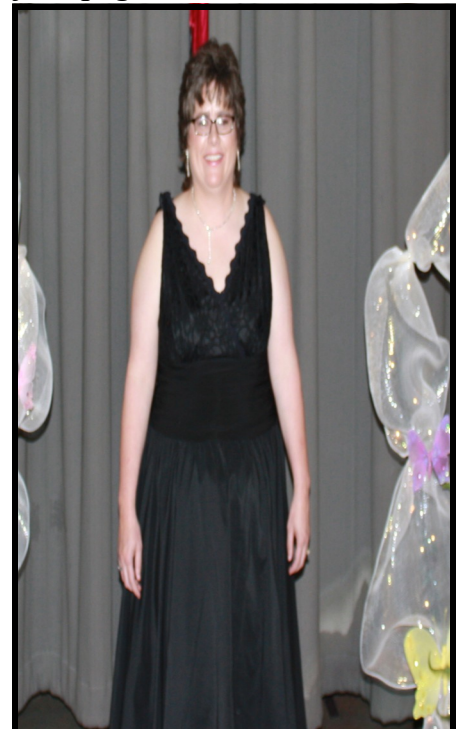
On April 13th, I was honored to host a beauty and beau pageant for special needs people and Boswell residents at Magee High School auditorium for my senior project. I provided dresses and suits as well as hair and makeup. I made sure the auditorium was clean and decorated to perfection. I could not have done any of this without the help of my parents, family, friends, volunteers, and Mrs. Kathy Pittman. I believe everyone who participated had tons of fun and those of us who watched and volunteered were truly blessed. I thank God for giving me the opportunity to host something as special as the pageant and to see the smiles on their faces. I just wanted them to feel beautiful and loved and I hope they did.

Temper Russell, Senior at Magee High School

All of the beauties and beaus were treated like royalty and all participants received a crown at the end of the pageant.



Temper Russell pictured with Michael Terry, one of the pageants participants.



Pam Webb smiles as she models a flowing evening gown.

Spotlight on: Susan Kelly



Susan Kelly began her career at BRC as a direct care worker in the Recreation Department in June 1987. Finding her passion was working with individuals with developmental disabilities, Susan worked as a DCW on the weekend shift for Community DD while pursuing her Bachelor's degree. Upon receiving the degree along with her Recreation Therapy License in 1993, Susan became the Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist for the newly opened Brookhaven ICF/MR Homes. Coming back home to the BRC campus in 1998, Susan served as Support Coordinator in the HCBS Waiver Department while pursuing her Master's Degree in Education Administration. Upon receipt of her Master's, Susan returned to the ICF/MR Community Homes as the Director of the Program.

In August 2003, Susan was asked to become the Director of the HCBS ID/DD Waiver Program. While serving as director, Susan received the HCBS MR/DD Waiver Administrative Support Person of the Year Award. "Being honored by my staff, fellow HCBS directors from across the state, DMH, and community providers was an honor I will always treasure," stated Susan. She further stated that the past 10 years in that position have been a reflection of all her BRC experiences. The individuals from campus and the community ICF/MR homes have successfully moved into the community and are served through the Waiver. "It's the best of both worlds. Serving families in the ten county BRC catchment areas who reside in their family home as well as our BRC individuals, in obtaining and maintaining their personal independence is our goal." The program has grown from less than 100 individuals when Susan first became a Support Coordinator to 242. Susan stated, "The success is not mine but the Support Coordinators whose hard work and dedication to their individuals has made this program something to be admired. I know with confidence that BRC will continue to strive for success; the sky is truly the limit for this program."

While at Boswell, Susan has completed many educational endeavors. She completed the Certified Public Managers Program, attended Stennis Institute and completed the FOCUS program. Her professional membership for the past 20 years in AAIDD included serving in various offices from Secretary to President Elect. As an AAIDD member, Susan received the much respected 2011 Paul D. Cotton Leadership Award. This award was even more special for Susan as Dr. Cotton was the facility director who hired Susan in 1987, starting her journey in the field of ID/DD. Susan stated she encourages BRC employees to seize every opportunity for networking and knowledge, "It will not only provide you with job knowledge but once in a lifetime learning experiences and friendships."

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Susan Kelly receives an award from Dr. Hendrix.

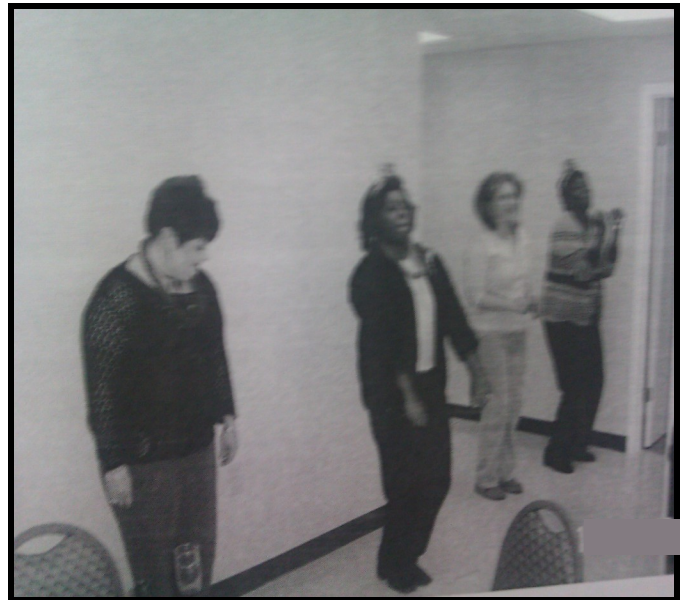


Ms. Kelly attending Day of Diversity Program.

Spotlight continued



Susan celebrates Mardi Gras with her staff.



Celebrating New Year's eve in 2005..



Mrs. Kelly stands surrounded by her staff as they wish her well during her retirement.



Going Red for heart awareness.

Susan's parting words are that success is not measured by the number of degrees, certificates, awards or accomplishments you earn but by the choices you make. "Reflecting on 25 years brings joy. I'm so fortunate to have gained success, knowledge, a wealth of experience and most importantly life-long friendships. I've worked for some wonderful supervisors and supervised the best staff a boss could hope for. If you strive to make the right choices, you'll have not only personal rewards but eternal. God Bless!"

Pastor's Corner

There once was a king who offered a prize to the artist who would paint the best picture of peace. Many artists tried. The king looked at all the pictures. But there were only two he really liked, and he had to choose between them. One picture was of a calm lake. The lake was a perfect mirror for peaceful towering mountains all around it. Overhead was a blue sky with fluffy white clouds. All who saw this picture thought that it was a perfect picture of peace. The other picture had mountains, too. But these were rugged and bare. Above was an angry sky, from which rain fell and in which lightning played. Down the side of the mountain tumbled a foaming waterfall. This did not look peaceful at all. But when the king looked closely, he saw behind the waterfall a tiny bush growing in a crack in the rock. In the bush a mother bird had built her nest. There, in the midst of the rush of angry water, sat the mother bird on her nest - in perfect peace. The king chose the second picture.



Bro. Rudy Jackson, BRC chaplain

When I read this story I'm reminded of John 16:33, "These things I have spoken unto you, that **in Me** ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." I am always amazed at the power of God to send peace in the believer's life. I have watched a very good friend of mine lose his mother and within two weeks lost his home to a fire. When you might think he would lose faith, I've seen his faith at work as it is providing the peace that God promised in Philippians 4:7; that peace that passes all understanding. It is only in Christ that this kind of peace can be found, but you can't have this peace from God until you've made peace with God through Christ himself. Then no matter what kind of picture life paints around you, no matter how troublesome it looks, you will find shelter in Him. Isaiah 26:3 says, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in

Employee Recognitions



Ms. Shirley Havard received her 10 year Governor's Service Award.



Direct Care Employee of the Month Kenneth Thompson.



Professional Employee of the Month Paige Pierce.



Life Connections Tour the Magee Police Station

On Monday, April 15 and Thursday, April 18, individuals that participate in Life Connections visited the local Police Station in Magee. The purpose of the trip was for individuals to gain exposure to this community service and enhance their understanding of local law enforcement. Assistant Chief Brad White was very informative and provided the interested tourists with a lot of information. They got an explanation of everything from finger printing to prison cells as he led the individuals through different areas of the police station. The individuals and staff had a great time. They even got to meet to meet a member of the K-9 unit!



A Trip to Piggly Wiggly



On April 25th a small group from Boswell that participates in Life Connections took a trip to the local Piggly Wiggly. This shopping trip was in preparation for a picnic the following day. The group you see pictured here, along with the other Life Connections members, went to LeFleur's Bluff State Park. While there, they also visited the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science which is located within the park. At least once a month members from the Life Connections group take turns shopping. Pictured here from left to right are: A. McLemore, R. Durr, J. Phillips, S. Barnes, and D. Johnson.

Autism Awareness Month

For over 40 years, April has been celebrated as National Autism Awareness Month. This year, Magee's Mayor Jimmy Clyde signed a proclamation in honor of the residents living in the area with autism. Friday, April 26, 2013, Autism Awareness Day for BRC's Autism Program participants was held at Morton Group Home. The day-long event kicked off with Mayor Clyde issuing the special proclamation. Keeping the fun times rolling throughout the day, residents, staff, family members, and guests celebrated with games, crafts, and a cookout.

BRC's Autism Program provides support to adults 21 years and older with an autism diagnosis in a community setting. As part of the program, BRC has four homes for adults with autism, two in Simpson County and two in Lincoln County. Three of the homes are for males and one for females. The group homes provide an environment that takes the needs of those with autism into account, while providing the necessary support for success in a community setting. The ultimate goal is for residents to move forward to independent living.



Steven Allen (l), Mayor Jimmy Clyde (middle), and Lisa Bryant, join together as Friday, April 26, 2013, is proclaimed Magee's Autism Awareness Day at Morton Group Home. The day was celebrated with residents, staff, family, and guests.



Morton and Goodwater Group Home residents celebrated Autism Awareness Day with games and a cookout.



Residents and staff from the Brookhaven group homes traveled to Morton Group Home for the fun and games.

Baileys' Open House

On April 9, the Baileys had an open house. They were ready to show hospitality to the many friends that came to visit from Boswell's main campus and other areas. Members of the Friends and Family Association were also present to share in the festivities. There was much food and fun to be had at the open house. Emma Bailey was even seen giving guests guided tours of her new home.



Priority 1 Bank Sponsors a Hawaiian Luau



Priority One Bank sponsored a Hawaiian Luau on April 18, 2013, at the St. Stephen Catholic Church Parrish Hall. Forty individuals who receive support from Boswell and who bank with Priority One attended this event and had a blast. They had their picture taken as they arrived and got to take it home as a keepsake. Also, they were provided supper and participated in many games for which various prizes were given out. The individuals, bank employees, and volunteers who participated in this event had a blast!!!

A Look Around Boswell



Dr. Cotton brought a group of his students to tour Boswell Industries and the Magee campus on April 5.



One of Dr. Cotton's students gets a lesson on how to use some of the equipment at Boswell Industries.



One of the Light it Up Blue light bulbs found around BRC campuses during Autism Awareness Month.



Participants playing games and making a few crafts during Autism Day at Morton Group Home.



Teresa Johnson shows her support for Autism Awareness by wearing blue for Light it Up Blue for Autism Awareness.

Mission Statement

Boswell Regional Center offers specialized program options to Mississippians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. These programs are designed to identify the necessary supports for successful community transition. With collaboration between the individual, family, and community, dreams can become reality.

BOSWELL
REGIONAL CENTER
Where Dreams Can Become Reality

Relay for Life!



Boswell Regional Center was recognized as a silver sponsor of Simpson County Relay for Life on Friday, April 26th. Three cancer survivors who also happen to be individuals receiving services from Boswell, presented the colors at the opening ceremonies. Simpson County has raised over \$ 110,000 to donate to the American Cancer Society. Boswell is proud to have been a sponsor of this event through generous staff donations.



Beth Luper presents a sponsor check to Debra Cockrell on behalf of Boswell Regional Center. Ms. Cockrell represents the American Cancer Society of Simpson County.



BRC Director Steven Allen holds the Silver Sponsor plaque presented to Boswell Regional Center for their Silver level sponsorship of the Relay for Life event.



It's your skin. Wear it well!

Protect your family from the sun.

Skin cancer, the most common of all cancers, occurs in more than 2 million people each year. Since skin damage can happen year-round, it's important to protect yourself and your loved ones from the harmful effects of the sun. Avoid the sun when ultraviolet (UV) rays are strongest, generally between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., and remember to **Slip! Slop! Slap!® and Wrap!**

Slip! on a shirt.

Cover up with protective clothing when out in the sun. Choose comfortable clothes made of tightly woven fabrics you can't see through when held up to a light.

Slop! on sunscreen.

Sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 30 or higher provides good defense against the sun's harmful UV rays. Apply sunscreen 20 to 30 minutes before going outdoors, and be sure to reapply it at least every 2 hours, especially after swimming, perspiring heavily, or toweling off.

Slap! on a hat.

Cover your head with a wide-brimmed hat, shading your face, neck, and ears. If you choose a baseball cap, remember to protect your face, ears, and neck with sunscreen.

Wrap! on sunglasses.

UV rays can also damage the eyes. Wrap-around sunglasses with 99-100% UV absorption provide the best protection for the eyes and surrounding skin.

For more information about skin cancer, call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-227-2345, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, or visit cancer.org/sunsafety. We want to help you stay well.

May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month



Responsibility



Consumers have a personal responsibility for their own self-care and journeys of recovery. Taking steps towards their goals may require great courage. Consumers must strive to understand and give meaning to their experiences and identify coping strategies and healing processes to promote their own wellness.

Think Recovery is a collaboration effort between the Mississippi Peer Support Specialist Network and the Mississippi Department of Mental Health.

RECOVERY: A process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential.



Success Stories



For a long time there has been a stigma that came with the words mental illness and addiction. Individuals with a mental illness or an addiction were considered hopeless. I am an addict and I am bipolar. For years I used drugs and alcohol to cope with life. With help and a lot of support my life has completely changed.

I have been clean and sober for seven years, and I now take medication. Knowledge is power, and I would like to bring back the knowledge of what the certified peer support specialists are doing and implement it in my own workplace. A peer support specialist is going to play an important role in recovery. Individuals who have had similar experiences help each other to identify and find solutions to their problems.

I am so excited about this program. It has been needed for a long time. I'm ready and want to do the best job I can.

-Lisa Reck

RECOVERY: A process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential.

Boswell Regional Center's Friends & Family Association is a non profit all volunteer organization that works to ensure **Boswell** individuals are valued and loved.

All monies received from memberships are donated to the organization to purchase items for the individuals served by **Boswell Regional Center**.

Donations

Donations may be made in memory or honor of a loved one:

In Memory In Honor of

By: _____

Acknowledgement should be sent to the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: () _____

Email: _____

Purpose

- To promote and support the individuals of Boswell Regional Center
- To foster the development of programs on their behalf
- To recognize and reward the efforts of employees of Boswell Regional Center
- To raise and receive funds for the accomplishment of the above purposes.

Fundraisers

Some examples of fundraisers that have been held on campus are:

- **Scrub sales**
- **Jewelry sales**
- **Book Fairs**
- **RADA knives**
- **Donut sales**
- **T-shirt sales**
- **Breakfasts**



Friends & Family Association



How to become a member...

Membership Information

Indicate at right which type of membership you wish by placing a check mark in the appropriate box.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: () _____

Email: _____

Please make your check payable to:
 Friends & Family Association
 P.O. Box 128
 Magee, MS 39111

Annual Membership Fees

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|-------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Single | \$5 | Membership Card |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bronze | \$25 | Membership plaque designating level of giving
Name on all Friends and Family publications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Silver | \$50 | Membership plaque designating level of giving
Name on all Friends & Family publications
Name on all Friends & Family sponsored events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Gold | \$100 | Membership plaque designating level of giving
Name on all Friends & Family publications
Name on all Friends & Family sponsored events
Recognition in each issue of the Bulletin newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Platinum | \$500 | Membership plaque designating level of giving
Name on all Friends & Family publications
Name on all Friends & Family sponsored events
Recognition in each issue of the Bulletin newsletter
Publicity in local media
Boswell 35th Anniversary cookbook |