



Boswell Regional Center Bulletin

April 2018

A Publication for Employees, Family and Friends of BRC

A picture's worth 1,000 words...



The cross adorned with a crown of thorns and the purple cloth signifying the royalty of Jesus Christ, along with the beautiful Easter lilies, served as a visible reminder during BRC's Good Friday service of the true meaning of the holiday. BRC's choir performed a selection of hymns and a Good Friday message was presented by Bro. Rudy Jackson, BRC Chaplain and Patient Advocate.

See more photos on page 10.

Up the Ladder

The following employees were recognized at the March Directors' Meeting for their

selection as February Employees of the Month:

Right, Austin Keys, on left, was named Campus DSP of the Month in February. He received his award from Director Clint Ashley, right.



Carla Nichols, above left, was named Support/Professional Employee of the Year. Clint Ashley, right, presented the award.

Far right, Rhonda Blackwell, pictured on right, was named Community ICF/MR Employee of the Month.



Leadership Laurels

The following directors and staff members were recognized for a "Job Well Done!" at the March Director's Meeting:

- **Miracle Black:** "She's doing an excellent job; she's always willing to come in during her off-hours and help when there's a need." (from Don Thames)
- **Renee Meadows:** "During the third shift, she goes from home to home, helping where she's needed. Her knowledge of all the homes is invaluable" (from Don Thames)
- **Christy Maddox:** "She is always willing to help us with records whenever we call." (from Gary Runnels)
- **Dr. Yolanda Walker:** "She's a great teacher; is always willing to help us and is a very calming influence on all she comes in contact with." (from Will Beeson)
- **Ronald Britt, Nutrition Services, Employment Services and HR Teams:** "Anytime I call Ronald to schedule a special event or ask for help, his response is, 'We'll do whatever we need to do.' Gary, Tonya, Terry and the team were helping in planning the open house/tour. I couldn't have done it without Jennifer and the Nutrition Services team and assistance from Suzie's HR assistant, Jaylyn." (from Kara Kimbrough)
- **Nurses on the units and Sarah Kennedy:** "Our nurses go above and beyond, taking care of our individuals. And, Sarah is to be commended for her hard work on getting TB screenings done." (from Teresa Windham)
- **Krystle Drones:** "She's doing a great job in her new position as program manager." (from Ronald Britt)
- **Shan Crumpton:** "When Krystle was promoted, Shan absorbed her duties and is completing them, as well as her own." She never complains about taking on extra work." (from Ronald Britt)
- **Hanna Womack and Trusie Eubanks:** "They are so helpful and help Community Services run smoothly." (from Shan Crumpton)

*IDD Month activities****BRC staff, individuals engage with communities***

Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant recently announced that March is Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Mississippi. In honor of that designation, and in recognition of Boswell Regional Center, Magee Mayor Dale Berry signed a proclamation designating March 21, 2018 as “IDD Awareness Day.”

Berry presented Boswell Regional Center Director Clint Ashley with a signed proclamation listing the impact BRC employees and individuals make on the local economy.

Boswell has an annual economic impact of nearly \$57 million. A large portion of the center’s payroll is received by Simpson Countians, who own and rent homes, pay utilities, support local businesses, attend area schools and churches pay taxes in the county. Additionally, one of BRC’s individuals purchased his own home in Magee and lives an independent life.

Following the ceremony at City Hall, BRC hosted an Open House and Tour of Boswell Industries and Alpha House group

home in downtown Magee. Attending to show their support of Boswell were Berry and city department directors, members of the Simpson County Board of Supervisors and representatives of businesses that hire BRC individuals, including McAllister’s manager Brandon Jordan. The businesses were presented a certificate of appreciation from BRC.

Ashley expressed appreciation to the City of Magee for its continued support of BRC’s programs and services.

“We appreciate the support and encouragement we have always received from city leaders as we have sought to expand our community services,” Ashley said. “This partnership has resulted in increased opportunities and independence for those we serve, which is one of our primary goals.”

Also during IDD Month, BRC employees spoke to area high school students about the importance of completing school and about potential job opportunities at BRC; tutored at-risk students and attended career and job fairs to distribute information about BRC’s programs and services.



Magee Mayor Dale Berry, front row, is pictured signing a proclamation naming March 21, 2018 as “Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day” in Magee in honor of Boswell Regional Center’s significant contributions to the community. Also pictured are, from left BRC individuals Pam and Perry and BRC Director Clint Ashley. Perry owns his own home in Magee; both Pam and Perry are employed at Walmart.



Representing BRC at “Day at the Capitol were, from left: R. McGill, Rhonda McCallum, Belinda Arrington, Daphne Lofton, Clint Ashley and Kerri East; front row, Eden.



Woody, right, one of BRC’s most lovable individuals, thoroughly enjoyed mingling with the crowd at the IDD Day Open House/Tour. He asked Mayor Dale Berry, left, to pose with him for a photo. Looking on is Ronald Britt, Director of Community Services.

IDD Month photos, cont.



Far left, BRC individual Mike, pictured on right, requested a photo with Clint Ashley at the Open House. Above, helping serve delicious “Boswell cake” were Elaine Bridges left, of Nutrition Services, and Jennifer Chennault, Director of Nutrition Services.



Brian Kennedy, District 3 Representative of the Simpson County Board of Supervisors, enjoyed visiting with BRC Staff and sampling cake made by the center’s Nutrition Service Department.



BRC’s “SUCCESS” program was highlighted on a new display board and accompanying brochures at Day at the Capitol. The program, directed by Uneika Tillman, is the only program in the state offering a unique combination of crisis services to individuals in need of immediate shelter and services.

Scripture:

“Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares for you.”

1 Peter 5:7

Give Your Worries to God

When Peter tells us to “give all your worries to God,” we may doubt whether he really could have imagined the complexities of modern life. In fact, with all of our present-day troubles, we can begin to doubt that God really cares at all. Marriage issues, health problems, career disappointments, and financial woes weigh in on us; add disease or disability into the mix, and we could approach the future with a panic attack. The truth is, Peter understood suffering pretty well—he had been beaten, imprisoned, and faced the threat of martyrdom for his faith and preaching.

Rarely would any of us voluntarily choose suffering and trouble; yet in some way or another, we all have to face them. But what we can choose is how to face them. We can believe the lies of the devil, who wants us to respond with despairing and blaming God, or we can choose to side with Christ, the one who suffered beyond all human comprehension and yet surrendered to the will of the Father, trusting in His goodness. We can lean on Him, too, because His care and concern for our well-being is always greater than we realize.

The joy we experience when God meets us in our suffering and the real hope we can have in Christmas promise of eternity with Him far outweigh our light and momentary troubles.

Excerpt of a devotion from “Beyond Suffering Bible,” by Joni and Friends (Joni Eareckson Tada)

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.

Where Dreams Can Become Reality

Clint Ashley, Director

Kara Kimbrough, Editor

Borrowing a line from Cyndi Lauper, 'Our individuals just like to have fun!'

BRC's individuals lead active lives that include holiday parties, going out to eat and attending sporting events and other activities. Trips to the Hattiesburg Zoo, bowling nights and special parties on the units for Easter and St.

Patrick's Day were just a few of the activities they recently enjoyed.

Here are a few photos from their fun times with staff members and friends:



Above, far left, individual E. Thomas enjoyed the Easter party at Pinelake and above, left, B. McNeese celebrated St. Paddy's Day with her friend, DSP Erica Caffie.

Left, individual J. Lofton, also a resident at Pinelake, was festive in her green hat and necklace provided by staff.

BRC Health Fair, Governor's Job Fair offered change to give back, promote our center



Representing BRC at the Governor's Job Fair/MS Employment Expo were, above from left, Jaylyn McDonald, HR assistant, and Cassie Bynum, Staff Development trainer.

Right, MSU Extension Service provided nutritional information at BRC's Health Fair. Co-Lin nurses, area physicians and health officials also attended.



Governor's Service Award

Mattie Rogers, far left, was awarded a 10-year Governor's Service Award at the March Director's meeting for her years of service to the State of Mississippi. Mattie does a great job of taking care of individuals in the Morton Group Home.

Good Friday Service was meaningful for all

It's wonderful to work at a facility that provides religious services for individuals, many of whom grew up in a church and still desire to worship and study the Bible as part of their daily lives at Boswell.

On Good Friday, the BRC choir, directed by

Claire Bevell, performed a variety of songs, highlighted by Scripture readings by individuals and special solos. The crowning touch to the moving program was a special Good Friday message presented by BRC Chaplain/Patient Advocate, Bro. Rudy Jackson.

