

*Boswell Regional Center's*

# ***BULLETIN***



*April 2023*



# Easter Service and Activities

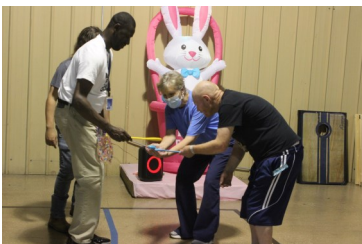
Good Friday chapel services were held in the Auditorium on Friday, April 7th. Chaplain, Charlie Meadows brought the message on the empty tomb, while Kathy Moorman

and Jarod Lee provided special music. Staff and Individuals from campus and the community attended the event which ended with the congregation joining together to sing, "Amazing Grace"



There was no lack of energy at the BRC Easter party this year. Staff had every detail lined out for individuals to enjoy party foods and a number of games and activities. The night began with staff and individuals dancing to the *Bunny Hop*. But not everyone made their way to the dance floor; some chose to dance in their seats instead. Afterwards, they played a

host of Easter-themed games, like egg toss and spoon race. Recreation Director, Cindy Sanders, and her staff made sure everyone had a great time, giving assistance where needed and rewarding all participants with yummy sweet treats. The festivities lasted into the night, and with so much music and dancing, it was hard to say who had the most fun.

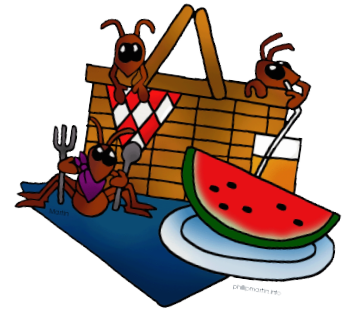




# Day Services Picnic at the Lake

Day Services held their annual picnic at Prentis Walker Lake in Mize this year. Several individuals brought along fishing gear to try out their angler skills.

Some brought lawn chairs to hang out by the water, while others just enjoyed the day relaxing on the deck or resting in the shade. There was plenty of sunshine, which meant it was also a perfect day for firing up the grill.







# Autism Awareness Month



Each year during the month of April, individuals and organizations across the globe celebrate Autism Awareness Month with events to educate local communities and raise public awareness about autism. Over 50 years have passed since the Autism Society held the first National Autism Awareness month in April of 1970. Since then, autism has become the fastest growing diagnosis in the world, with the diagnosis rate of children with autism increasing from 1 in every 2000 children in the 1970's and 1980's to 1 in every 68 children today. (Laura Danforth;

[stageslearning.com/](http://stageslearning.com/)) This year, Goodwater Group Home joined the rest of the country, and indeed the world, by celebrating Autism Awareness Month in their own unique way. Individuals and staff alike created a sea of orange by wearing screen-printed t-shirts with the Autism puzzle logo on the back in support of neurodiversity.

Individuals enjoyed a full day of fun, participating in a wide variety of games and activities, including football toss, corn-hole, memory games, etc., not to mention the bounty of

food prepared by the loving hands of staff.

The fact that staff went the extra mile to make it a special day couldn't have been more obvious. A great deal of attention went into every detail; from the outdoor decorations to the ribbon-wrapped utensils, every aspect of the center was geared toward the celebration of individuals with autism.







# BRC's Friends and Family Association Annual Meeting

BRC was proud to host the 2023 Friends and Family Association Annual Meeting on campus this year. With over 30 guests present, members were able to choose a new Board of Directors as well as nominate an Executive Committee for the upcoming year.



In attendance this year were current and former BRC employees, family members of Individuals, and a number of business leaders from the surrounding area. With a total of fourteen new Board members, we are very thankful and excited about the progress that will surely be made this year, as we enter into a time of restructuring from COVID-19. BRC Friends and Family Association is a very worthwhile organization that assists in providing goods and services to individuals that are not covered by the state plan. They also sponsor recognition efforts of our employees throughout the year.

## *BRC staff visit local students with recruitment efforts in mind*

Staff Development Director, Cassie Bynum, along with Mr. Arthur Milton and Katie Paige, traveled to the Simpson County Technical Center to present employment opportunities to local students. Below, Health Science Instructor, Brenda White, joins in to facilitate questions from students.

The response from students was very positive. The staff had an opportunity to answer some really good questions as well as to share their own personal journey of how they became part of the BRC family.



Pictured from left: Instructor, Brenda White; Arthur Milton; Cassie Bynum; and Katie Paige.



2nd year Health Science students listen as BRC staff members explain the benefits of working at BRC.



## Staff Complete Supervisor Training Course



The BRC Supervisory class is an intensive 3-day class for upcoming and current supervisors. Each participant spent three days being introduced to the concepts and expectations of an effective supervisor. The class is tailored to meet the unique supervisory needs of Boswell Regional Center. The participants pictured above are from left to right: Zachary Tullos (Hazlehurst), Linda Wolfe (Oakbrook), Sarah Spoonhour (Rials Creek), Lottie Keyes (Nutritional Services), Jayla Newsome (Ridgeview), and Ashley Edwards (Success). The class was held from April 25th to 27th in the BRC Training Center. Instructors for the class were: Bobby Prince (Pictured below), Madelyn Gray, and Cassie Bynum.

*Instructor, Bobby Prine, gives final words of advice to course participants.*



*Director Clint Ashley and Ricky Grimes, Asst. Director congratulate students as they receive their certificates of completion.*



*Clint Ashley shares the value of and the growth opportunities for quality leadership at BRC.*





# Grad Fest at Co-Lin



Personnel Officer, Kassie Ibara, took advantage of the opportunity to share BRC employment opportunities with graduates of Co-Lin Simpson County Center. The community college invites Mississippi universities and area businesses to take part in their annual career fair. Grad Fest gives students an opportunity to pick up their cap and gowns, practice graduation commencements, and meet with representatives who can assist them with either university transfer processes or entry-level job placements. The Human Resources Department at BRC works diligently to fill vacancies for full-time, part-time and contract positions.

## *“Where Dreams Can Become Reality”... it’s more than just a motto*

Individuals from Community Services and Dream Extreme could not stop talking about the great time they had during their most recent outing to *Horses for Handicap*. About 40 individuals in all, some rode a horse for the very first time while others rode in horse-drawn wagons or enjoyed the petting zoo and other activities. *Horses for Handicap* is located in Brandon, MS at the Rankin County Multipurpose Pavilion Horse Park.







# Aloha, Spring Fling!

Another sunny day allowed individuals and staff to enjoy the annual Spring Fling at Green Park. This year's theme was the Luau, which worked out nicely, as it presented opportunities for staff to cater activities and giveaways with a fun, Hawaiian flair. Multiple booths were set up, and staff guided individuals in creating their own sun visors or simulated painted glass. Many played a round of BINGO or had their faces painted; others simply donned Hawaiian leis, listened to music, and fellowshiped with friends. Of course, everyone enjoyed the food, with a choice of a grilled sausage dog or a hamburger with all the trimmings, chips, drinks, and a cookie for dessert. Afterwards a few individuals and staff took to the field for a little team rivalry in a game of kick ball.

*A few pics from the event...*





# Spring Fling cont.

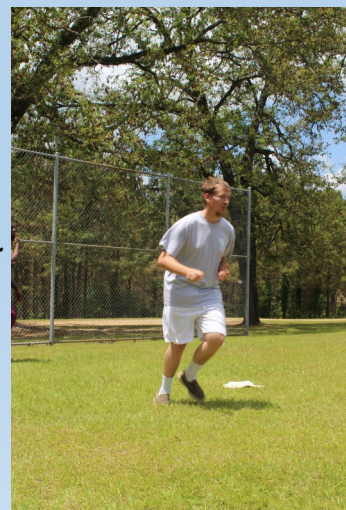
*Staff and individuals stopped long enough to have their pictures taken*



*Mrs. Lottie and her crew worked really hard to make sure no one left the event hungry.*



*Staff and Individuals paired off into mixed teams, using the downtime to engage in some healthy competition over a game of Kick ball.*





## *McLemore Retires after 28 Years*

*“It was just supposed to be a summer job.”*



*Director, Clint Ashley honors SCP Supervisor, Eric McLemore for 28 years of service.*

Born into a family of educators, Eric thought he would naturally follow in his parents' footsteps and become a teacher or coach himself, but after graduating college, he took a job at Boswell Regional Center, and it didn't take long before he too was calling it home.

Over the last 28 years, Eric has seen a lot of changes at BRC. He recalls when he first started there was one central location for all the individuals, the Jacquith Building. He describes how the clinic, kitchen, and business office were all in the basement, with three separate levels of individuals and staff. "I know we had to do better for the individuals, give them a more home-like setting, and the building was going down, but I miss those times when we were all together; it gave us a sense of family."

Eric says he will miss the individuals the most. "Before I can even get clocked in, they're calling me, Eric. Eric. Eric." One particular individual who made a lasting impression on him was a man named, Robert Lester. He recalls that the individual was very difficult to deal with, but he was able to turn it around by taking him to dialysis several days a week and spending extra time with him. "After a while, he started calling me, Eric Lester. He deemed me his brother. His mom even asked me to be a pallbearer at his funeral. When he passed, a part of me went with him. Helping him and knowing that he felt like I was his family... even though it's a job, you take pride in that."

Among the many supervisors he has had over the years, he says the one who made the most profound impact on him was a lady by the name of, Della Durr. "She was probably in her early 60s, and she was ALWAYS at work. Anytime I would ask to take a day off, she would say, 'Well, do what you have to do.' She taught me structure, how to manage my time wisely,

how to set goals, and how you can't get to point B without going through point A." "I remember, I was straight out of college, and I was walking the halls one day, when an individual came up to me, and out of nowhere, he just slapped me. Ms. Della said, 'That's what you can expect at Boswell' and she was right...it has to be about more than a just a check."

For the younger generation just starting out, Eric says he enjoys mentoring them and giving them free advice. He tells them to listen to their supervisors, be respectful, and speak to the individuals like they would a member of their own family. His best advice to them is to build relationships with them and establish a foundation of trust. "Once you do that, you'll be surprised what you can accomplish." Eric says he has enjoyed the management at Boswell Regional Center. From Raymond Johnson to Clint Ashley, he says, "They've all shown that their main concern was for the individuals, and that's all we can ask for."

After retirement Eric says he plans to take some time off to just reflect and spend time with his family. "I'd like to travel, you know, but not on a cruise because I can't swim. but I plan to do stuff around the house, maybe plant a garden." Eric says he has always had two jobs, and will continue his job in the gun department at Wal-Mart. He says he may enter into management or even look into doing something in mental health again.

One thing is for sure, Eric, the sky is the limit for you. We wish you the very best in whatever path you choose to take, and we sincerely appreciate the service and personal investment you've made in the lives of so many throughout the years.



# Leadership Recognizes Employees of the Quarter

## **Brecca Brown, Admin Assistant Community Office**

“Brecca has only been employed with Boswell for a year and a half, but in this short time has shown excellent skills as Community’s Records Clerk. She has been able to turn issues around by streamlining the Community’s records as well as making sure all required staffing paperwork is correct and complete, as well as maintaining a good rapport with Community’s Program Managers.”

*ShanCrumpton*

*Pictured with Ronald Britt, Left and Director Clint Ashley*



## **Batarsha Fulford, Direct Support Professional Bay Springs**

“Ms. Fulford takes time to get to know our residents in Bay Springs. She treats them with respect and dignity. She ensures their personal hygiene and physical appearance are maintained. She provides active treatment for the residents through formal and informal training. She is patient and gives them assistance as needed but encourages them to be independent.”

*Colleagues*

*Pictured with Asst. Director, Ricky Grimes Left & Clint Ashley, Director*



## **Trineisa Feazell,**

## **Direct Care Supervisor/Program Manager Cedar Crest Apt.**

“Trineisa has been a tremendous help in organizing the recent renovation at Cedar Crest. She ensured her clients always had what they needed and were comfortable where they were having to stay temporarily. She goes above and beyond for her clients. She frequently checks on them even when she is off work to ensure everyone at her site is happy and healthy.”

*Sheri Allen*

*Pictured with Ronald Britt, Left and Director Clint Ashley*



## **Kimberly Rawls**

## **SCP III**

## **Ridgeview**

“Kimberly has built a great rapport with many of the clients and staff at Ridgeview, even during her pregnancy. She has volunteered to go on off-campus trips and regularly volunteers to do the scheduled activities. She is passionate about her job...she sets the example for new staff while training them.”

*Derrick Lewis*

*Not Pictured*

*Employees of the Quarter were invited to attend morning meeting and share breakfast with leadership.*

*Each employee received a certificate, \$25 from Friends & Family, and coupon from Popeyes*

**Thank you for all that you do!**

*Breakfast provided by Friends & Family Association*



# MAY 2023

## UPCOMING EVENTS

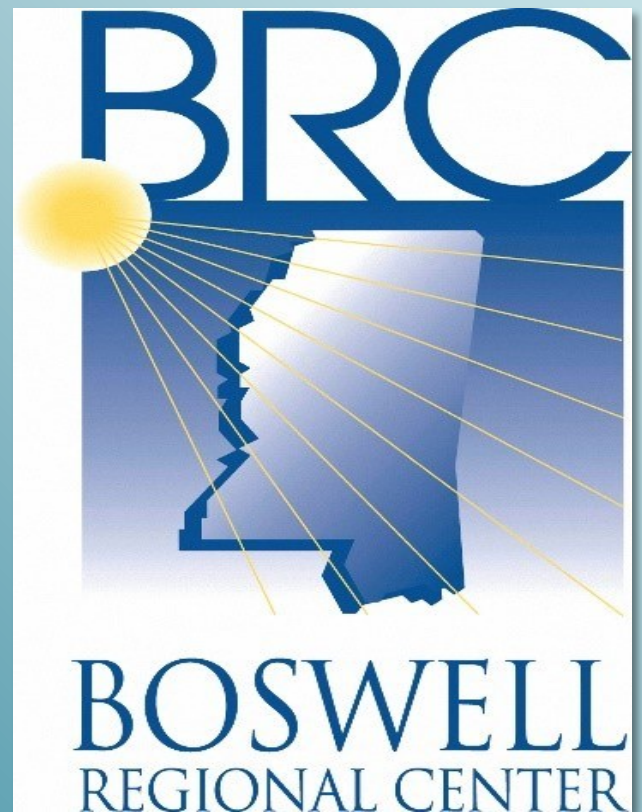
<i>May 1-31</i>	<i>Mental Health Awareness Month</i>
<i>May 4</i>	<i>Autism Awareness Day, Brookhaven</i>
<i>May 5</i>	<i>EOY Celebration, MAC</i>
<i>May 6</i>	<i>Nurses' Day</i>
<i>May 6-12</i>	<i>Nurses' Week</i>
<i>May 8-12</i>	<i>Teacher Appreciation Week</i>
<i>May 10</i>	<i>Law Enforcement Officer Torch Run, Green Park, 1:00</i> <i>Co-Lin Graduation, BRC Auditorium, 10:00</i>
<i>May 11</i>	<i>Friends &amp; Family Board Meeting, Le Grande, 11:00</i>
<i>May 12-14</i>	<i>Special Olympics Summer Games, Keesler AFB, Biloxi</i>
<i>May 14</i>	<i>Mothers' Day</i>
<i>May 14-20</i>	<i>Police Week</i>
<i>May 18</i>	<i>Speech Pathologist Day</i>
<i>May 19</i>	<i>Employee of the Year Celebration, Green Park, 11:00-3:00</i>
<i>May 20</i>	<i>Human Resources Day</i>
<i>May 26</i>	<i>Memorial Day Picnic, Green Park, 2:30</i>
<i>May 29</i>	<i>Memorial Day**</i>
<i>May 30</i>	<i>Pool Open (tentative)</i>



# We Are Hiring

- Full –Time State Benefits
- State Sponsored Health/Life Insurance Plan
- Paid Personal Leave (12 Hrs. Monthly)
- Paid Medical Leave (8 Hrs. Monthly)
- Paid Holiday Leave (10 Days Annually)
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*Full Time & Contract Positions Available !*



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## **BRC BULLETIN**

The Boswell Bulletin is published without cost to inform the public, employees, friends, and family of Boswell Regional Center's (BRC) activities, programs, and progress. This publication also serves to provide information to those interested in the work conducted by BRC employees to enrich the lives of those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD).

*Clint Ashley*

Director

*Renee Burton*

Editor

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### **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...

*where dreams can become reality.*