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A HALLMARK CHRISTMAS



Once the Magee Chamber of Commerce decided on a theme for this year's Christmas Parade, "A Hallmark Christmas", it didn't take long for the BRC Parade Committee to meet and begin tossing around float-decorating ideas that would ultimately bring home a 1st place win.

Before coming to a conclusion, several ideas were considered: one person wanted to do a Christmas card float, while someone else wanted to do a train. Then, out of the blue, somebody said, "If we just had an us old truck, we could put a Christmas tree on the back of it..." Then, Director Clint Ashley said, "I've got an old truck; it was my Granddaddy Boyd's". And just like that, the "Boswell Tree Farm" was born.

Under the direction of Kerri East, the BRC Maintenance Department worked diligently, building the sign, blacking out the trailer, gathering greenery, etc., while Kerri decorated and provided the finishing touches to create the ultimate "Hallmark Christmas" float. *(continued on page 4)*

The Boswell Bulletin

is published without cost to inform the public, employees, friends and family of Boswell Regional Center's 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.

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 person, family, and community, dreams can become a reality

From the Editor

It's been another incredibly busy month at BRC. Campus, Community, and Group Homes have all celebrated Christmas in their own unique, meaningful way, and I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to be a part of many of them. It is my hope that this newsletter highlights, recognizes, and gives proper tribute to those events and the people who made them happen.

Having said that & personally speaking, this year the holidays have rushed over me like a raging river and have left me feeling a bit "washed out". Can you relate? Many times I feel pressured to overcommit, to take on more responsibility or more debt than I really feel comfortable with, and this leaves me feeling emotionally impoverished in the end. That's not a good feeling, and it's not a very pleasant place to be.

Now that things have slowed down and we're about to embrace the beginning of a brand new year, I'd like you to join me in becoming intentional about creating a balanced lifestyle, one that fosters the type of harmony and "peace on earth" that God's grace has made accessible to each of us.



Clint Ashley, Director

Renee Burton, Editor

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WELCOME to the TEAM!



DECEMBER 1ST ORIENTATION

Seated L-R:

Jasya Funches, Nicole Ward

Standing L-R:

Eli Duran, Thomas Lee,
Breanna Durr, Amy
Wadford, Justice
Berry, and Christopher
Hall

DECEMBER 16TH ORIENTATION

Seated L-R:

Destina Thornton, Haley
Langford, Alivia Berry, and
Amber Griffith

Standing L-R:

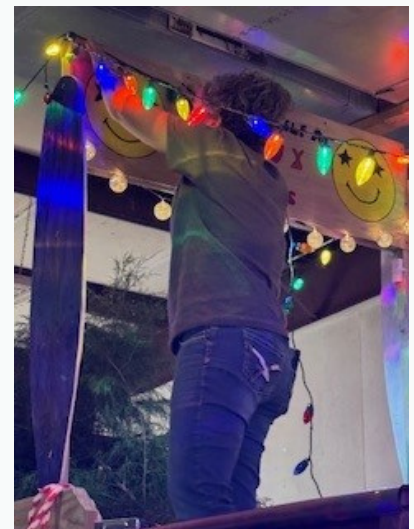
Michael McLaurin, Latonya
Smith, Kristy Smith, and
Candace Warren



Hallmark cont.

But the real star of the show was “Granddaddy Boyd’s” old 1968 Chevrolet pickup truck, driven by long-time employee, Ronald Britt, with his beautiful wife, Wanda, riding shotgun.

As the BRC float traveled down Mainstreet, you could hear “oohs and ahs” from local bystanders. saying, “That looks like something you’d see on the Hallmark Channel.” And evidence of all the hard work and dedication that was put into this years’ float, Boswell won the first place prize of \$100 for the “Boswell Tree Farm”.



A GROOVY CHRISTMAS

70'S



Just two nights after winning first place in the Magee Parade, Kerri and her team headed North to compete in the Mendenhall Parade, where the BRC float, decked out in true “Groovy 70's” fashion, won the second place award of \$60.

Congratulations to everyone who had a part in this year's Christmas parade wins 

Special Thanks to:

- BRC Community Individuals*** for representing BRC so well by riding in each of the Christmas parades
- Kerri East*** for tirelessly designing and decorating BRC floats for two separate Christmas parades
- The BRC Maintenance Department*** for their fantastic work and patiently following Kerri's orders
- Director Clint Ashley*** for graciously allowing us to use his late grandfather's antique vehicle
- Mike Sellers & Eric Titus*** for carefully pulling BRC's floats in the Magee/Mendenhall parades
- Ronald Britt & his wife, Wanda*** for riding in the truck during the Magee Parade

Mingle on Main



On Tuesday, December 5th, the City of Magee held its annual Mingle on Main, where all of Mainstreet is blocked off to allow vendors and shoppers an opportunity to get in on early Christmas sales. This year, BRC's Tonya George, Director of Community Day Services, and her team at Connections had a booth, where anyone who stopped by could register for an original piece of hand-made pottery. Congratulations to Mrs. Nancy Brown from Priority One Bank, winner of an original Aaron Mooneyham designed Christmas platter. (above-right: Nancy Brown is presented with the winning pottery dish by Aaron Mooneyhan, along side Tonya George, right.)



Lyle Machinery, a leading full-service dealer in the construction, paving, energy, and material handling industries, made a very generous donation of \$5,000 to BRC's Friends & Family Association, just in time for Christmas.



Pictured above, L-R: Ricky Grimes, Asst. Director; Clint Ashley, Director; Jessica Cockrell, Vice-president of Friends & Family; Lee Maddox, President of Friends & Family; Lee Middleton, BRC Retiree and Systems Analyst for Lyle Machinery; Lee's wife Anita; Becky Wells, BRC Retiree and former President of Friends & Family

Winners of the Building Locator Signs Contest



Fairway's Winter Wonderland

Several departments around campus competed in the Building Locator Sign contest, where there's usually just one \$50 winner. However, this year the judges were so impressed with everyone's creativity that they included additional winning categories.

Recreation Director, Cindy Sanders, expressed her appreciation to everyone who participated in the event and remarked on how much cheer was added to our campus and how the individuals would enjoy riding around campus on the Star Cart viewing all the decorations.



The guys at Fairway were very proud of their big win.



"Oh Deer, Pineview, Santa's coming down the chimney!"



The Pinelake Express is coming down the tracks!



The Auditorium features a special Nutcracker Ballet 3D



Oh Christmas Tree!

The Lighting of the Christmas Tree

Campus individuals look forward to the lighting of BRC Christmas Tree each year. It was a very cold night, but the cookies, hot chocolate, and Christmas carols made it all worthwhile.



A special thanks to the guys in Maintenance for getting the tree up and decorated for us.

The Pastor's Corner



Rev. Charles Meadows
BRC Chaplain

“Trust God”

Growing up attending VBS I was taught different verses of scripture that are still taught to this day and are still just as true today, as when they were written. Verses like John 3:16, Philippians 4:13, and Romans 10:9 are just a few that I learned as a child and hold dear to my heart because they remind me not only of God’s love for me, but also that I can endure anything this world throws at me if I have a relationship with Christ. Also, as I type this devotion Proverbs 3:5-6 which says “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Notice how King Solomon said with all thine heart and not just part of your heart. Anytime we are faced with trials if we trust in the Lord with our whole heart then the Lord will make a way. We are also encouraged in these verses of scripture to not follow our own heart because it can sometimes be deceiving. At last, we are not to only trust in the Lord with all our heart, lean not unto our own understanding, but we are also to acknowledge the Lord. Only when we are totally devoted to the Lord do we trust Him.

It's a
Dream Haven
Christmas



Corinth Christmas Party



Opening Remarks by Leadership



Community Services Director, **Ronald Britt**

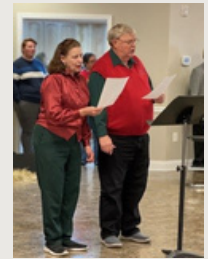


BRC Director, **Clint Ashley**



MS Ag Commissioner/ Interim Pastor, **Andy Gipson**

Special Music



BRC Staff Lead by Serving



ICF Group Homes Director, **Rhonda McCallum**



Human Resources Director, **Suzanne Wilder**



Safety Inspector, **Don Thames**

Behind the Scenes

While everyone out front enjoys being entertained with special music, staff behind the scenes are busy preparing plates and keeping drinks & desserts replenished.



Individuals enjoying the show

Individuals enjoy special music and instruments played by BRC individual and Corinth Baptist Church members.



Corinth Christmas Entertainment



1
Rhonda McCallum stars in, A partridge in a pear tree



4
Four Calling Birds by Patrick Flagg



7
Angela Murphy in, Seven Swans a Swimming



10
Shan Crumpton nails it with Ten Lords a'Leapin'

Staff members have too much fun acting out the “Twelve Days of Christmas”



When Santa breaks out “Run, Run, Rudolph”, Everyone dances.



Santa's Helpers:

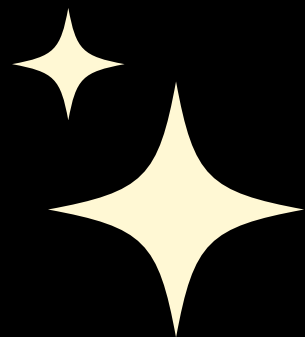
L-R back-
Angela Murphy,
Kelly Jones

L-R front-
Shan Crumpton,
Tonya George,
Sheri Allen,
Patrick Flagg, and
Ronald Britt
(Santa)

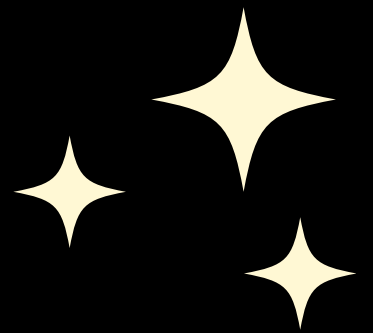
Some people just never get too old for sitting on Santa's lap



Department Spotlight



Staff Development




Chances are good, if you're reading this, you've already met the Staff Development team at BRC. Each of us spent our first few days of employment with them, learning the various processes, policies, and procedures for Boswell Regional Center. They imparted into us the the high performance standards and expectations for compassionate care in serving our unique population. They also shared insight to potential underlying reasons for behavioral issues that might arise while caring for the needs of our individuals.

The Staff Development Department provides a variety of training for the employees of BRC. In addition to Orientation and Monthly Training, they provide job-related knowledge to the workers and systematically relay skills for improving attitudes and perceptions of staff toward fellow coworkers, supervisors, and the organization as a whole. They identify required training needs and fill in that gap by using a host of training methods to ensure the best outcome and welfare for Boswell and its employees, all while striving to raise staff motivation and job engagement.

The work they do is critical to the success of new employees as well as those desiring to achieve professional growth within the BRC organization.



Cassie Bynum, Director

Cassie is from Mize and has been at BRC for over 28 years. She has a BS in Education from JSU. She enjoys shopping & traveling and looks forward to making memories with her family after retirement. Her favorite things about BRC include: the working environment, the professional growth opportunities, and the healthy work-life balance it offers. Most people don't know that she has a miniature goat farm called, "Whispering Oaks Mini Goats", and she invites you to check them out on Facebook. 



Myricks Cole

Myricks is from Magee and has been at BRC for 17 yrs. He holds a BS from Alabama State University. He enjoys sports of all types, singing, coaching, and serving. His goal is to, "Continue to serve as He calls me to be!" His favorite thing about BRC is the motto, and he would like to share about the "Iron Sharpens Iron . Near and Far, LLC Ministry"



Carrie Webb

Carrie is from Taylorsville and has been at BRC for 13 years. She holds a BS in Psychology from William Carey University. She loves spending time with family, yardwork, and anything outside. Her goal is to live for God, help people, and be her best self. She is loyal, has a big heart, and is passionate about connecting with people.



Madelyn Gray

Madelyn is from Magee and has been at BRC for nearly 8 yrs. She holds a MS from USM. She enjoys relaxing by the water, whether it's an ocean, a lake, a river, etc. She wants to one day travel the world and says that everyone on her team has the same goal, to impact peoples' lives so that BRC clients will be taken care of with compassion.

Priority One Christmas



The Priority One Christmas party is a tradition that many Community Individuals look forward to each year. Not only do they get to enjoy a great meal with fun entertainment, they also get to visit with Santa and receive personalized gifts. What most people don't know, however, is that none of this is sponsored by the Priority One Bank Corporation, but instead the entire event is paid for by Priority One employees who choose to give back to their community during this very special time of year. From decorating the Senior Center, to providing the food and gifts, and even cleaning up after everything was over, the employees at Priority One Bank, from the President to the drive-thru teller, had a hand in making this happen for the Individuals we serve.

A Few Pics from the Event



BRC CHRISTMAS PARADES





Congratulations to Community Services
for winning the
“Most Christmasy” award.





Campus Christmas Parties

JOY



Christmas with Friends

On December 18th, Individuals on campus and in the community received a special visit from some very special guests. **joni & friends** Operation Manager, Kate Williams, brought along several of Santa's best helpers to lend a hand in serving snacks, assisting with activities, and singing along to some of the most popular Christmas carols, making the holidays that much more Merry and Bright.



joni&friends





DMH

Directors Meeting

On December 20th, BRC hosted the DMH Directors Meeting, and understandably, a lot of effort went into preparing for the 38 Directors who traveled from around the state to visit our campus. Because not only do they come to meet with their peers to review operational updates, they come for the unique Christmas hospitality that can be found at Boswell Regional Center.

Special Recognition and Appreciation:

This year's Directors Meeting was an overwhelming success because of dedicated staff members who stepped in and gave maximum effort in their designated areas. Department Directors, like Beth Luper, Lottie Keyes, Eric Titus, and Cassie Bynum would likely deflect any accolades aimed in their direction. They would instead give credit to their team for working hard and bringing it all together. It's this kind of humility that makes them great leaders. None the less, they are to be commended for taking the lead and once again, making BRC shine.

Ducksworth Retires after 26 years.



On December 20th, the staff at the Taylorsville Group Home held an intimate retirement party for Mrs. Sherry Ducksworth, LPN who has faithfully served in this capacity for over 26 years. Prior to becoming a nurse, She served as a bank teller for 10 years at Trustmark Bank .



Though she does not plan to continue nursing after retirement, she did say that her colleagues shouldn't be surprised to see her somewhere saying, "How may I help you?" She says she knows she will get bored easily sitting at home, and she wants to stay sharp and up-to-date on current events. Regardless of where your endeavors take you, Sherry, we wish you the very best.

January

National Blood Donor Month

- 1st** New Year's Day
- 9th** Law Enforcement Appreciation Day
- 11th** Friends & Family Board Meeting
(11:30 in the classroom of Nutritional Services)
- 11th** EOQ and Service Award Recognition
(2:00 in the Training Center)
- 15th** Martin Luther King Jr. Day

2024
H A P P Y N E W Y E A R



365.25 Days Around the Sun & Other Interesting Calendar Facts

for those of you who might like that sort of thing

365.25 days. That's the approximate amount of time it takes for the earth to make one full revolution around the sun. Every 4th year, known as Leap Year, an additional day is added to the 12 month calendar. But did you know that the calendar we follow today has been modified several times over the course of history? It's true. Our calendar, also known as the Roman calendar, is attributed to Romulus, the legendary founder and first king of Rome (753-716 BC). It originally consisted of ten months and was determined by the cycles of the moon and the seasons of the agriculture year. It began in March in the spring and ended in December with the autumn planting. It had six months at 30 days each and four months at 31 days each, for a total of only 304 days.

The remnants of this early calendar can still be recognized by the original Latin-numbered names for months 5-10: Quinctilis(5th) now July; Sextilis (6th) now August; September (7th); October (8th); November (9th); and December (10th). So, you may be asking, "How did we go from a 10 month calendar to having 12 months?", "Where did January and February come from?", and "Why is Quinctilis now July and Sextilis now August?". Without getting too bogged down with the details, I will attempt to make this simple.

The last two months of the year were not accounted for in the original Roman calendar; essentially they were not regarded because it was winter, and no work in the fields took place during this time. Remember, the original calendar (304 days) was for agrarian purposes; they still counted 365.25 days, as this was in accordance with the phases of the moon, but the 61 days of winter were not included in the original calendar. It wasn't until Numa Pompilius, the second king of Rome (715-673 BC) who divided the year into 12 lunar months that the Roman calendar went from being 10-12 months.

The two new winter months were given the names January and February. While January appropriately takes its name from "Janus", the Roman god of beginnings and endings, February comes from the word februum (purification) and februa, the instruments used for purification in preparation for the coming spring. Though the addition of these two months caused the "numbered" months (Quinctilis (5th)- December (10th)) to now be completely out of sequence, there were no further changes made to the calendar for over 600 years.

On March 15th, known as the "ides of March", 44 BC, Julius Caesar was assassinated by 40 Roman senators. His death resulted in a long series of civil wars that ended in the death of the Roman Republic and the birth of the Roman Empire. Before Caesar's death, however, he had the 7th month (Quintilis, formerly the 5th month) renamed "July" in honor of his family's Roman deity.

Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus, the adopted son of Julius Caesar and also known as "Octavian", was the founder of the Roman Empire and reigned as the first Roman emperor from 27 BC until his death in AD 14. In 8 BC, twenty-two years prior to his death, Augustus had the 8th month (Sextilis) renamed "August" in honor of being elected during the 8th month. As significance of their name change, July and August each received one extra day, making for 31 days instead of the original 30. These days were taken from the month of February, which was left with 28. Interestingly, Augustus died from natural causes at the age of 75 on the 19th day of his namesake month,