



Boswell Regional Center Bulletin

December 2017

A Publication for Employees, Family and Friends of BRC

Christmas Party and Awards Celebration

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December is a busy month around Boswell Regional Center not only with parades, but with Christmas parties on campus and in the community. On December 15, 2017, Corinth Baptist Church, pastored by Brother Jay Westbrook, opened its fellowship hall to BRC. The room was decorated by Tiffany Harper Wyatt-Howell and Matt Robinson along with numerous other staff. Delicious Popeye's chicken and side dishes were enjoyed by all. The dinner was topped off with delicious cupcakes made by Tosha Craft. Many awards were given out in several program areas. Ronald Britt, Director of Community IDD Services, and all community staff prepare for this event months in advance. Dream Haven held their Christmas party on December 19, 2017. BRC appreciates the love and support shown for the ones being served.



The publication of the BRC Bulletin is made possible by contributions from 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, December 2017 Issue.

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Community staff entertaining everyone by singing Christmas carols



Gifts for every participant in the Day Service Program



Supported Living Citizenship Award
W. Green



Outstanding Participant
T. Cliburn



Pottery Award
M. Jones



Dream Makers Award
J. Bailey



Outstanding Staff Award
Delores Corley



Most Dependable-T. Taylor
Most Improved-H. Harris
Employee of the Year-R. Bethany



Citizenship Award
B. Wilkins

Cont. from page 2



**Supervised Living
Citizenship Award
C. Morrow**



**Most Improved-B. Kinsey
Most Dependable-M. Jones
Employee of the Year-T. Meaders**



**Most Improved Award
J. Johnson**



**Outstanding Staff Award
Ruby Dampeer**



**Dream Extreme Most Improved Award
A. Rambo**



**Outstanding Staff Award
Keisha McNair**

Meet Valerie Puckett



Years of Service: 7

Resides: Magee, MS

Favorite Color: Red

Favorite Team: Alabama

Favorite Food: Club Sandwich

Favorite Restaurant: McAlister's

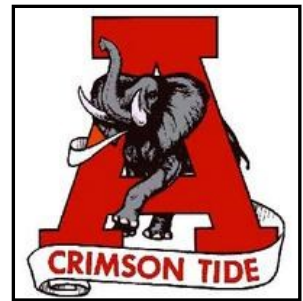
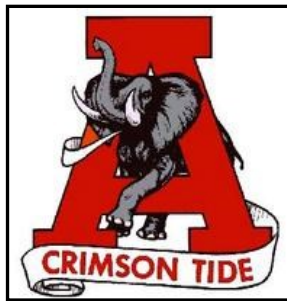
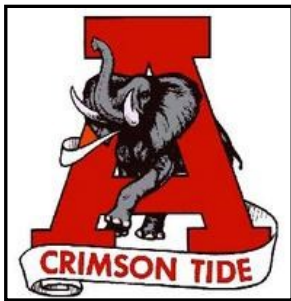
Favorite Vacation Spot: Mountains

Favorite Music: Country

Favorite Song: Tough by Craig Morgan

Favorite Movie: Open Range

Favorite Hobby: Fishing



Valerie has been employed with Boswell Regional Center since 2010. She has been married for 27 years and has three children (Laurie, Meagan and Bobby). She has two amazing grandchildren (Carter and Payton). Valerie attended Hinds County Community College. She previously received the Favorite Staff Award which is voted on by the individuals. When asked what she likes most about BRC she stated, "I love working with the individuals here at Boswell Regional Center; it's an honor."

PriorityOne Christmas Party

Priority One Bank has been celebrating Christmas with Boswell individuals since 2003. Several employees of the bank begin planning for this event by requesting a wish list from the individuals. The employees then go out and purchase gifts, wrap them nicely, and place them under the tree at the Bank Operation Center where the party is held. There is always a jolly, surprise guest that appears. Guess who?! Santa! Everyone is served dinner and afterwards they have the opportunity to sit beside Santa and take pictures while receiving their gifts. Boswell Regional Center appreciates the community involvement and looks forward to the continued relationship. Mr. Steven Allen, DMH Executive Deputy Director, stopped by to say Merry Christmas.



Santa Claus is Coming to Town



Mr. Matt Nalker, Director of The Arc of Mississippi, stopped by Boswell Regional Center's campus and the Day Services Programs to spread some holiday cheer. Santa even gave peppermint to the individuals which brightened their day.

Merry Christmas!



Magee Elementary Show Choir Performs

On December 18, 2017, the Magee Elementary Show Choir stopped by Dream Extreme Day Services to spread the joy of Christmas by performing several holiday songs. This kicked off the holiday season for not only the ones we serve but for staff as well. Everyone joined in on the caroling. Boswell Regional Center always welcomes the community. Boswell appreciates any opportunity to educate the community, families and schools and to raise awareness through outreach activities and efforts. The Magee Elementary Show Choir is directed by Ms. Tammy Sanford.



Pinelake at Christmas



Pinelake Geriatrics enjoyed the holidays with hot chocolate and goody bags before lunch. Staff and individuals gathered in the day room for food, fun and fellowship! Everyone was all smiles. Pinelake also held a Food Drive and the goods were donated to a local church pantry. It's a great feeling to give back to the community.

Milk and Cookies



Will Beeson, STS/SS Administrator, and his family have been delivering milk and cookies to the people at the units for several years. Every Christmas Eve they load up the back of the truck and deliver the goodies to all individuals and staff. Everyone looks forward to seeing the big, red, bouncing belly and long, white beard. It's always a delight to get a hug from Jolly Ole' Saint Nick.

BRC Christmas Float



The Boswell Regional Center float won third place in the Magee Christmas parade which was held on December 14, 2017. This year's theme was "A Disney Christmas." BRC also participated in the Wesson and Brookhaven parades. A special thanks goes to everyone that worked so hard on the float. Staff and individuals enjoy this bonding time. A BIG thank you goes to the Boswell Regional Center maintenance department for building the beautiful castle. The hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated!

BRC Orientation Classes



December 1st Orientation Class: Back row left to right: John Layton (Bradford), Melissa May (Simpson Cove), Marshionna Fails (Powell Apts.), LaSheena Tally (Broadhead), Mary Williamson (Powell Apts.) **Front row left to right:** Ayanna Wolfe (Oakplace), Laketha Rankin (Pine Grove), Jeqwansa Feasell (Pinelake), Ka'Dasia Newsome (Pinelake). **Not Pictured:** Lisa Bynum (Pinelake), Joseph Cook (Ridgeview), DeAndrea Morris (Oakbrook).



December 16th Orientation Class: **Top row left to right:** Jeremy Craft (Fairway), Selena Hampton (Cedarwood), Verma Robinson (Oakbrook). **Middle row left to right:** Shamara McCullum (Success), Conswayla Ducksworth (Rials Creek), Sa'Quetta Oatis (Powell), Jennifer Smith (Ridgeview). **Bottom row left to right:** Devon Owens (Fairway), Lee Winn (Community Services), Carolyn Thompson (Oakbrook), Katlin Clark (Powell Apts.), Christian White (Brookwood).

Snow at Boswell



December 8th everyone woke up to a blanket of snow. The snow fall was around six inches and it was beautiful. The staff and individuals had a chance to get out and build a snowman, throw a few snowballs and get back in quickly to keep warm. The pictures below verifies the breathe taking sceneries around Boswell Regional Center. This was an exciting time since such great snow accumulations are rare for Mississippi. This sure did put everyone in the Christmas spirit, although, the snow began to melt the next day.



Pastor's Corner



Bro. Rudy Jackson
BRC Chaplain

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

BOSWELL
REGIONAL CENTER

Another year is dawning,
Dear Father let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with thee.
Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.
Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace,
Another year of gladness,
The glory of thy face.
Another year of leaning
Upon thy loving breast,
Another year of trusting,
Of quiet, happy rest.
Another year of service,
Of witness for thy love,
Another year of training
For holier work above.
Another year is dawning,
Dear Father, let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven,
Another year for thee.

Written by: Frances R. Havergal.

I pray a Happy New Year for all.

Bro. Rudy



How to Contact Your Legislator

The 2018 Legislative Session began on January 2, 2018. The Department of Mental Health would like to make sure all of its employees are aware of the legislative process and are as involved as they would like to be. Remember that it is your right as a citizen to speak to your legislators and let them know your opinions and your feelings about the directions our state government is going.

We have had employees ask in the past how they can identify and reach out to their legislators. There are a few ways you can do this:

- If you happen to know who your legislators are, you can find their contact information at the Mississippi Legislature web site at www.legislature.ms.gov. You'll see a menu near the top of the page that has a button labeled "Legislators." You can hover over that to find your senators and your representatives.
- If you do not know who your legislators are, there are some online tools that can help you identify them:
 - Visit www.openstates.org. You can enter your address in a text box at the top of the page or browse by state. Entering your address will show you who your legislators are. Clicking their names will also give you their contact information.
 - Empower Mississippi is another site that will identify your legislators. You can reach it by using your computer to visit www.empowerms.org/do-you-know-your-legislators/. Once again, you can simply enter your address to identify and get contact information for your legislators.
 - The Electric Power Associations of Mississippi have a legislative roster available on their web site and as a smartphone app. Search for "Mississippi Legislative Roster" in your phone's app store or visit ecm.coop/roster on a web browser for their guide.

With the 2018 Legislative Session here, it is important to know how to effectively communicate with your legislators if you do decide to contact them.

During session, legislators are very busy and often don't have time for long phone calls or in person conversations. The best way to contact them is through letters or email. If you choose to contact your legislator this session be sure that you are contacting the legislator who represents the district you live or work in.

When you contact legislators be sure to clearly tell them what you want them to know, but be brief with your message and make sure you are prepared before you send it. Always be honest, accurate and timely with the information you send a legislator.

One thing to remember is that you should not use any state time or resources if you do reach out to your legislators. You will need to contact them on your own time, on your own phone, and through your own personal email address or stationery. While we appreciate our employees' willingness to get involved, it must be done as a private citizen, not as a representative of any state agency.

One final thing to remember is something to remember in all of our professional interactions – always remain polite and courteous. Both state employees and legislators are public servants, and the Legislature has been supportive of our agency's community expansion efforts over the past several years. Please make sure to thank any legislator you speak to for their support, and for taking the time to hear your concerns.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE
(Magee, Brookhaven, New Hebron
and Shivers)

Direct Support Professionals are needed
for all shifts and locations.

If you believe that helping people
matters, then we need you at BRC!

For more information contact:

Human Resources
601-867-5000 Ext. 75079

P. O. Box 128
Magee, MS 39111



Boswell Regional Center

Where dreams can become reality.

Mission Statement

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

Programs

Boswell Regional Center programs offer an extensive range of program and service options to those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD). The primary goal of each existing program using a person centered approach is to allow each person to live more independently and to fulfill their lives through meaningful days.

Programs and services offered through BRC include:

Community Options:

- In Home Services
- Community Living
- Crisis Transition Homes
- Employment Opportunities
 - Day Options
 - Behavior Services
 - Autism Services



Campus Options:

On Campus Residential Services

On Site Day Programs

Membership Information

Indicate at right which type of membership you wish by circling the appropriate amount.

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

Single/BRC Employee - Free

Single/Non-employee \$5

Bronze \$25

Silver \$50

Gold \$100

Platinum \$500

Fundraisers

Some examples of fundraisers that have been held are:

Scrub Sales

Jewelry Sales

Book Fairs

RADA Knives

T-shirt Sales

Special Hosted Events

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.

Boswell Regional Center's



Boswell Regional Center

Boswell Regional Center
Post Office Box 128
Magee, MS 39111

Telephone: 601-867-5000

www.brc.state.ms.us

A MS Department of Mental Health Facility



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 of _____

In Honor of _____

By: _____

Acknowledgement should be sent to the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

State: ___ Zip Code: _____

Phone: (___) _____

Email: _____

Boswell Regional Center

**Friends & Family Association
P.O. Box 128
Magee, MS 39111**

**Boswell
Regional
Center
Friends and
Family
Association**



*Where Dreams Can
Become Reality!*