



Boswell Regional Center Bulletin

February 2014

A Publication for Employees, Family and Friends of BRC

Valentine's Day Ball

By Kerri M. East

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On February 13th, we celebrated our annual Valentine's Day Ball in the Big Kitchen. People attended from campus and community and enjoyed fellowship together. The menu was meatball sliders, red velvet cupcakes and punch. Everyone had a great time. Thanks to the individuals who attended and to Expressive Arts for making paper flowers to help with decorating. It was a beautiful event thanks to all the staff that attended and assisted. A special thanks to the DJ, Mr. Greg Barnes. Events like this are possible because of the great staff that we have that come together to help out and make sure that each event reaches its full potential.

Photo Highlights from the Ball



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, February, 2014 Issue.

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Photo Highlights from the Ball



Photo Highlights from the Ball



Basketball Tournament

By: Jason Holloway

On February 19 -20, “Boswell’s Bad Boyz” participated in the North Mississippi Regional Center’s Annual Basketball Tournament. The players were excited and anxious about competing in this tournament, just as they are each year. The “Bad Boyz,” coached by Jason Holloway, started off with an “L” in their opening game of the two-game-elimination-style tournament. Their hopes of bringing home a trophy greatly diminished after this devastating loss, but their will to win was unscathed. The “Bad Boyz” along with their coach refocused on the game and strategized a new game plan that led them to go undefeated throughout the remainder of the tournament. The “Bad Boyz” were victorious in bringing the championship home to Boswell Regional Center.



Austism Services Donation

By Peggy Kelly

Smith County's Country Mississippi Homemaker Volunteer (MHV) Club donated \$120 to Boswell Regional Center's Autism Services and its mission to educate and provide support to individuals and families affected by autism. Deloris Smith, on behalf of the Smith County Country MHV Club, presented the donation to Lisa Bryant, Director of Autism Services, and Steven Allen, Program Director of Boswell, on Monday, February 24, 2014, in honor of Autism Awareness Month (April).

Boswell Regional Center's Autism Services Division will be lighting up some of the landmarks on the Magee campus and group homes with blue commemorating World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD), or "Light It Up Blue" Day, celebrated April 2 annually. This day was adopted by the United Nations in 2007, spotlighting autism as a growing global health crisis. Autism is one of only three health issues to be recognized by the United Nations with its own day.

"Awareness of, and support for, individuals and families affected by autism are fostered through community partnerships to expand understanding and celebrate unique talents," said Lisa Bryant.



Autism Training

By Peggy Kelly

Knowledge is power...and powerful

Boswell Regional Center hosted the kickoff of the pilot training program of the Mississippi Statewide Autism Training Initiative entitled Autism Foundations Training for the Lifespan. Over a year in the making, the basic training course was implemented due to the growing need for qualified and trained professionals, para-professionals, and family members, who can provide proven strategies to help improve the outcome for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) throughout the state of Mississippi.

The Autism Foundations Training for the Lifespan course was held at Boswell February 4-5, with 50 participants, from parents to doctorate level professionals, attending. The initiative is to provide free Foundations Training about autism throughout the state. Much is packed into two days, providing basic information regarding ASD, evidence-based practices in the areas of social, sensory, communication and behavior, strategies for effective teaming and advocacy, and state and national autism resources.

This is only the beginning for the Autism Foundations course, as training offerings are expected to be scheduled around the state through the various MDMH regional centers. As they are scheduled, information will be posted to the Mississippi Statewide Autism Training Initiative website (<http://www.brc.ms.gov/Pages/autismtraining.aspx>).



Chris Francl explored from social to behavioral practices as part of the pilot training.



Janet Mora and Chris Francl (left and center) were the two presenters of the Autism Foundations Training for the Lifespan course held at BRC earlier this month. Lisa Bryant (right) is the Director for Autism Services for Boswell Regional Center and Chair of the Mississippi Statewide Autism Training Initiative.



Janet Mora (far left) goes through an elevator activity to describe the theory behind Hidden Curriculum, or ways to teach the unwritten, unofficial, and often unintended lessons, values, and perspectives.

Governor's Service Award



Boswell Regional Center employee receives Governor's service awards in recognition of 10 years of state service. Earlene Sanders was recognized for the dedication to BRC at the February directors meeting. Earlene is from Raleigh, MS.

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

January Employee of the Month



During the February Director's Meeting, Boswell Regional Center recognized Employees of the Month in the area of support/professional staff. Employee of the Month for January was Vicki Nixon, Administrative Assistant for Administration.

BRC Goes Red!



American Heart Association®



National Wear Red Day® — the first Friday each February — is our special day to bring attention to this silent killer of women. BRC encouraged everyone to wear red, raise their voices, know their cardiovascular risk and take action to live longer, healthier lives.

A Decade of Success!



1. 34% fewer women now die from heart disease, saving 330 lives every day.
2. More women are taking ownership of their health by developing healthy lifestyles:
 - 37% are losing weight
 - 43% are checking their cholesterol
 - more than 50% exercise more
 - 60% have improved their diets
 - 33% have developed heart health plans with their doctor.
3. Awareness is up. 23% more Americans now realize heart disease is the #1 killer of women.
4. Awareness among minorities is up, doubling among Hispanic women and tripling among African American women.

5. 15% have quit smoking, and high cholesterol has declined by 18%

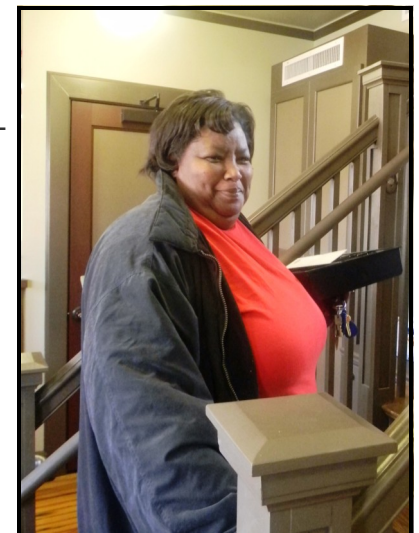
6. More communities have joined the fight. Registration in Go Red For Women is now more than 1.75 million. More than 25 million Red Dress Pins have been worn to support the cause. More than 185 cities host GRFW events and luncheons. And more than 2,000 landmarks light up in red on National Wear Red Day.

7. Legislative efforts are making a difference. Women no longer pay higher premiums than men for health coverage. And 20 states have programs for low-income women to get screenings for heart disease and strokes through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's WISEWOMAN.

8. More gender-specific guidelines have been developed, because women's symptoms and responses to medication differ from men's.

9. Gender-specific medical research is up. The FDA now requires clinical trial results be reported by gender.

10. Gender-specific inequalities have been identified; ensuring women receive the same level of heart treatment as men.



<http://www.goredforwomen.org/wearredday/about/>

BRC Goes Red!



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 are:

Scrub Sales

Jewelry Sales

Book Fairs

RADA Knives

T-shirt Sales

Special Hosted Events



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 2012-2013

- Single/BRC Employee - Free**
- Single/Non-employee \$5** Membership Card
- Bronze \$25** Membership certificate designating level of giving
- Silver \$50** Membership certificate designating level of giving
Name on all Friends & Family sponsored events
- Gold \$100** Membership certificate designating level of giving
Name on all Friends & Family sponsored events
Recognition in each issue of the Bulletin newsletter
- Platinum \$500** Membership certificate designating level of giving
Name on all Friends & Family sponsored events
Recognition in each issue of the Bulletin newsletter
Publicity in local media
Boswell 35th Anniversary cookbook