



# Boswell Regional Center Bulletin

# February 2017

A Publication for Employees, Family and Friends of BRC

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# Valentine's Ball

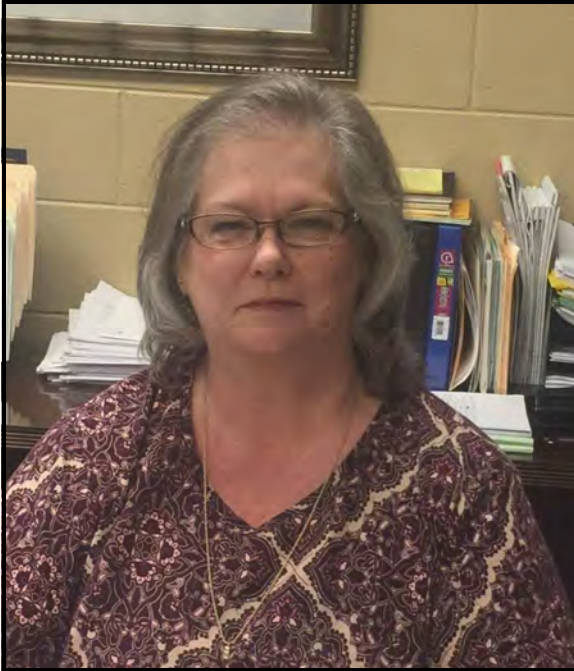
On February 14th, Boswell celebrated its Annual Valentine's Day Ball. Campus individuals enjoyed the fellowship together and delicious snacks. The menu consisted of: pigs in a blanket, Rice Krispy treats covered with chocolate, and punch. As always, everyone had a great time! BRC would like to thank the staff that helped make this event possible, especially the Recreation and Nutritional Services Departments. Events like this are possible because of the great staff that BRC has that come together to help out and make sure that each event reaches its full potential.



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, February 2017 Issue.

# Spotlight on Janet Applewhite

By: Janet Applewhite



The summer between my Junior and Senior year, I volunteered at a Tri-County program for children with physical and intellectual disabilities. There began my desire to work in this field. In the year of 1972 and being from the very small town of Bassfield, MS, my knowledge of the field of mental health was minimal to say the least.

I was from a family of 12. My father died leaving my mother widowed with seven children - I was the 4<sup>th</sup>. I had 1 sister and 5 brothers. My mother later remarried and added twin step brothers and a step sister. She and my step father then had 2 sons. So, there I was with 2 sisters and 9 brothers (seven of which were younger than me). I graduated from Bassfield High School in 1973. I then attended Pearl River Junior College for one year. In August of 1974, I married Ted Applewhite. I was a stay at home mom from 1976 until 1990. Ted and I had four children. In August of 1990, I began working at the high school as a teacher assistant to three students that were coming up from the elementary. They all had physical disabilities and two of them had intellectual disabilities as well.

When I was thirty five years old, it came to me that I was 35 years old with 4 children and I had nothing to fall back on if anything ever happened to my husband, so I began attending night classes in January of 1991. I continued working at the high school while I was pursuing my education to obtain a degree in Special Education. In 1995, as my oldest was graduating from high school, I quit my job and entered the University of Southern Mississippi to begin my Education classes. This was also the time that I got custody of my step-sister's 1 year old child. One day, around graduation, a lady that goes to my church approached me about a position becoming available at a place called Boswell Regional Center where she worked. Over the years, I had seen the sign on the way to Jackson but really had no idea about the place. I came and toured with her and put in my application for the position of QMRP-Qualified Mental Retardation Professional. I graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi in May 1997 at 41 years old and began working at Boswell on June 13, 1997.

In my nearly 20 years of working here, I have never forgotten two instances that, I feel, has made a huge impact on my career here. On the day of my first team meeting, as each team member was introducing themselves, the last person to my right introduced himself and then asked, "How long are you going to be here?" with a somewhat sarcastic tone. At first I didn't really understand the reasoning of his question. However, as time went on, it became clear why he asked his question. At that time, QMRP turnover was fairly rapid and direct care turnover was even more rapid. For individuals that often have a difficult time with change, they find themselves constantly having to deal with it. Almost twenty years later, I still do not know how long I will be here. The second instance was during orientation — a staff member stated that he once thought he could make a difference but now he was not so sure. That is so far from wrong and when I have a DC upgrade class, I always remind them that they WILL make a difference in the lives of the people they work with here — it is just up to them as to what KIND of difference that will be.

# Meet the Supervisor



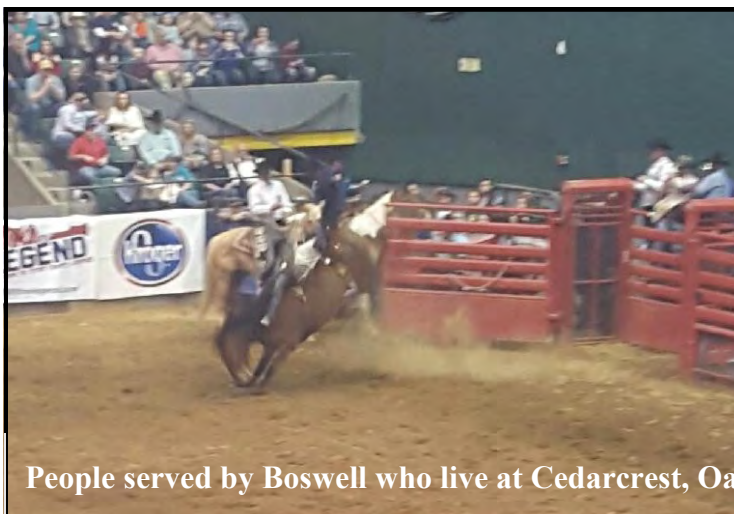
## *Tim Ware*

Years of Service: 18  
Hire Date: June 15, 1998  
Resides: Magee, MS  
Favorite Color: Blue  
Favorite Team: Dallas Cowboys  
Favorite Food: Fried Catfish  
Favorite Restaurant: The Outback  
Favorite vacation Spot: Biloxi Gulf Coast  
Favorite Music: 60 and 70's Rock, Old Time Gospel  
Favorite Song: In the Garden  
Favorite Movie: O Brother, where Art Thou?

“I have enjoyed looking after the individuals at Boswell, and thank the staff that have helped me when I needed help and have gone out of their way to see that we have a good and safe environment for our individuals to live and work in. To my superiors and fellow supervisors, I can honestly say that you are always glad to help me when I have a problem or just need someone to talk to about a situation.”

# Dixie National

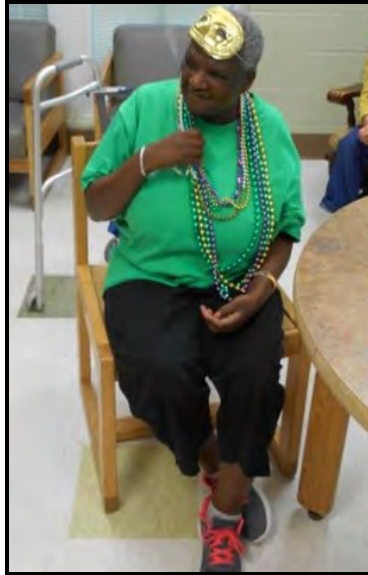
The Dixie National Wagon Train made its way through Boswell Regional Center's campus on Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> around 9:30 a.m. The wagon train was led by Ben Robinson, BRC employee. Many people stepped out on the porches to view this exciting parade of horses. Mississippi has been the host for this event since 1965. It is the largest rodeo and livestock show in the South. The wagon train consists of riding groups in covered wagons and horseback from all over the state. They were all headed to the Mississippi Coliseum for the beginning of the rodeo. There is no doubt that fun times and memories are made here!



People served by Boswell who live at Cedarcrest, Oakplace, 4th street, and Bradford went to the rodeo.

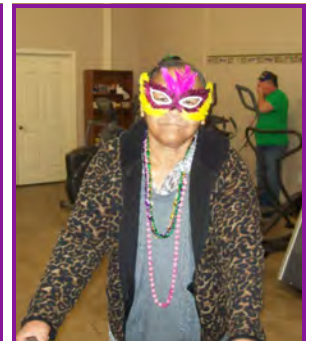
# Mardi GRAS

# At Pinelake



# Mardi GRAS

# At Brookhaven



# Valentine's in Brookhaven

On February 10, 2017, the Day Services Program in Brookhaven, MS hosted a Valentine's Day party for the participants of the program (Wesson Geriatric, Brookhaven Autism, Community IDD and MAC). The festivities included: dancing, singing, and enjoying a wonderful meal prepared by the staff.



# Valentine's Basket Winner



On February 14th, Special Olympics raffled a Valentine's basket. Crystal Toche won this basket full of goodies that she will surely enjoy. Thanks to all who purchased a ticket! Proceeds will benefit various Special Olympics events.

# National Wear Red Day!

National Wear Red Day is the first Friday each February. This day is set aside to raise awareness on heart disease which is a silent killer of women. On February 3rd, BRC supported this worthy effort by wearing red and placing red ribbons at the front entrance. Heart attacks and heart disease are associated with men, but one out of three women die from heart disease yearly. Some of the symptoms are different in males and females. Knowing your numbers matter! One should take action to live a longer and healthier life.



# Special Olympics Basketball Summit 2017

By: Calvert Sims, Jr.

On Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, The Pearl River Region Chapter of Special Olympics hosted their annual Qualifying Basketball Games at Southwest Mississippi Community College in Summit, MS. The Individuals participated in Basketball skills, 3 on 3 and 5 on 5 events for the day. It was a great day for the athletes, coaches and family members in attendance to cheer for their love ones. Over 120 athletes from Boswell Regional Center, Mississippi Adolescent Center, Millcreek, and Favorite Few participated in these events. A special thanks to Mr. Nathan Wells and Southwest Mississippi Community College for allowing us to host our Qualifying Basketball Games at their gymnasium.





# BRC Health Fair

Boswell Regional Center's Wellness Committee partnered with Copley Lincoln Community College Practical Nursing Students on February 21, 2017, providing a Health Fair. This event was held at the Training Center from 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Several services were provided including: cholesterol checks, glucose checks, body mass index calculations, and blood pressure checks. Pamphlets were available to educate staff on a healthier lifestyle. St. Dominic Hospital also had a booth and provided cold packs, hand sanitizer, pens and herbal plants. Door prizes were given away at the end of the Health Fair. A special thanks goes to the Wellness Committee for arranging this event in order to raise awareness of the importance of people's health.

***Congratulations to our Health Fair door prize winners:***

***Amber Canoy \*\*\* Jason Martin \*\*\* Kathy Pittman \*\*\* Jamie Prine***



# MIRACLE PATIENT

When nine-year old Ivan Manning Ellis of Vancleave, MS had his tonsils removed at the Jackson County Hospital in Pascagoula, MS in June 1937, his parents had no idea of the worries that would come. During his tonsillectomy, foreign matter entered into his right lung. It caused him to hemorrhage and have to return to the hospital; however, the doctors could do no more to help him. His parents decided to take him to the TB Hospital in Magee, hoping he could get help.

He entered the Sanatorium in January 1938, with his 1st treatment unsuccessful. So, Dr. Harter decided the only thing was to remove most of his right lung. His stay at the Sanatorium was a very grueling and long nine months.

He was the first successful patient in Mississippi to be treated with the new drug called sulfa. Ivan went to the operating room 27 times for surgeries and treatment. During his surgeries, his father Edward Ellis and other family members would give direct blood transfusions. He remembers always checking his water glass beside his bed; if it was empty when he woke up, that meant he was going to the operating room.

Ivan's mother, Jimmie, stayed most of the nine months with him at the Sanatorium, even though she had two small children at home being cared for by his aunts and grandfather. His mother stayed at Kemp's Boarding House in Magee.

Ivan missed three years of school and was able to make up two of them. He pressed forward and graduated from Vancleave High School and Mississippi Southern (USM) with a Degree in Education. Although the doctors told him he probably would not live a long life, he has lived a pretty healthy 88 years.

Recently, Ivan, his wife, and daughter returned to visit the Hospital that saved his life 79 years ago. Although the original building is gone, he was able to visit the museum and the grounds with a reflection on his time there. Ivan and his family wish to give a heartfelt thanks to Kathy Pittman, Public Relations Director, who so graciously shared her knowledge and time to make their visit memorable.



# TB Recertification Class

By: Sarah J. Kennedy, RN, BSN

I just wanted to take an opportunity to thank everyone at Boswell! Just to fill you in, BRC hosted its first TB recertification class for area nurses on February 24th. There were several of BRC's own in the class, but there were also nurses from Forrest General and medical practices from Clinton. Not only did BRC have Ms. Ann Jackson, an instructor that has been doing this for well over 25 years and is of course a nurse herself, but BRC also had Mr. Mike Holcomb, the head of the TB department for the State of Mississippi Department of Health here as well. Mr. Holcomb said that his grandfather was a patient of Sanatorium years ago.

Several of the visiting nurses commented as to what a great place Boswell is from beautiful grounds and delicious food at the LeGrand Café to polite and courteous staff. The instructor was very impressed with how well-equipped the teaching environment is at the Training Center. Ms. Jackson would also like to thank Mr. Lee Middleton, IT Director, for helping her set up and prepare for class.

I wanted to say thank you for making this such a wonderful place to not only work but also for our individuals to live. I feel like we truly do go above and beyond. Staff efforts were definitely noticed by the 26 non BRC employees here for the TB class.

## **Sarah J. Kennedy, RN, BSN**

Employee Health/Infection Control Nurse  
Medical Services  
Boswell Regional Center



# BRC Orientation Classes



**February 1st Orientation Class: Front row left to right:** Javanda Burrell (Community Services), Courtney Chaney (Nutritional Services), Iiesha Stuckey (Pinelake), Rosie Barnes (Magee Autism). **Back row left to right:** Evelyn Moore-Thompson (Pinegrove), Kary Young (Fairway), Adrana Graves (Pinelake), Billie Robertson (4th Street).



**February 16th Orientation Class: Front row left to right:** Amanda Gates (Pinelake), Gwenda Phillips (Pinelake), Constance Traxler (Medical Services), Pheobe Snipes (Community Services), Haley Hill (Community Services). **Middle row left to right:** Janelle Bryant (Chickasaw), Dalphanie Lofton (Community Services), Amanda Keyes (Alpha House), Sharon Jaynes (Community Services), Mercedes Collins (Magee Autism), Lisa Blackwell (HCBW). **Back row left to right:** Corey Hubbard (4th Street), Dorcas McInnis (Community Services), Aaron Berry (Fairway), Milton King (Fairway), Quinston Woodard (Ridgeview).

# Pastor's Corner



Bro. Rudy Jackson,  
BRC Chaplain

Joe Theismann enjoyed an illustrious 12-year career as quarterback of the Washington Redskins. He led the team to two Super Bowl appearances--winning in 1983 before losing the following year. When a leg injury forced him out of football in 1985, he was entrenched in the record books as Washington's all-time leading passer. Still, the tail end of Theismann's career taught him a bitter lesson: "I got stagnant. I thought the team revolved around me. I should have known it was time to go when I didn't care whether a pass hit Art Monk in the 8 or the 1 on his uniform. When we went back to the Super Bowl, my approach had changed. I was griping about the weather, my shoes, practice times, everything."

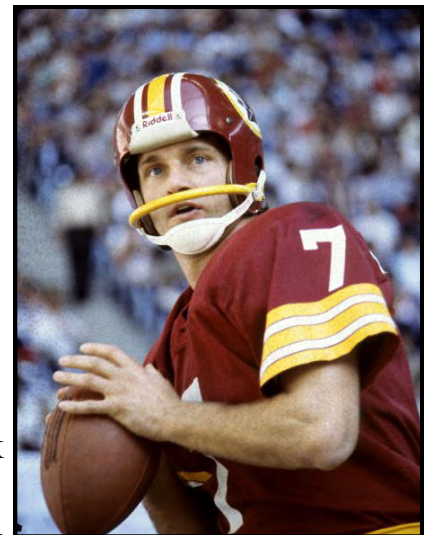
"Today I wear my two rings--the winner's ring from Super Bowl XVII and the loser's ring from Super Bowl

XVIII. The difference in those two rings lies in applying oneself and not accepting anything but the best."

**Pro 23:7** For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:

There is much power locked up in a positive attitude, not to mention that it is very contagious. Joe Theismann's attitude didn't just

cost "him" that last Super Bowl game but his whole team. My challenge for you today is to take a look within and make an accurate diagnosis of your attitude. Then take a look around and count the cost of a bad attitude. Now take a look up and find the one who can fix a bad attitude. Jesus is just the right surgeon for the job because he specializes in heart producers.



Have a blessed day, Bro Rudy

## 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*

# Governor's Service Awards



Boswell Regional Center employees received Governor's service awards in recognition of a total of 70 years of state service. They were recognized for their dedication to BRC at the February Directors' Meeting. Pictured on top are: Janice Cockrell (20yrs) and Glenda Gray (20yrs). Pictured on bottom are: Lashina Keyes (10yrs), Joan Johnston (10yrs) and Kathy Dampier-Pittman (10yrs). Congratulations! BRC appreciates each of you!

# BRC EOM



During the February Directors' Meeting, Boswell Regional Center recognized Employees of the Month in the area of support/professional staff. Employees of the Month for January are Juanita Duckworth, Community Services; Tameka Cooper, Pinelake and Jayci Brown, Medical Services. Congratulations to you all!

# MAC EOM



The January 2017 EOM at the MAC is Lonnie Baggett. Lonnie is a 1<sup>st</sup> shift Residential Living Staff. He has been employed since 12/1/2014. Congratulations! The MAC appreciates you!



# MAC 2016 Employee of the Year Banquet



The MAC 2016 EOY Banquet was held on Friday, February 24, 2017. A big congratulations goes to Employee of the Year James Kees, 2<sup>nd</sup> Shift Residential Living. Pictured on top: William Gates, Director of MAC; James Kees, EOY; and Renee Brett and Steven Allen from DMH Central Office. Pictured below are the 2016 Employees of the Month who were in attendance for the banquet. MAC appreciates your hard work!

# How to Contact Your Legislator

The 2017 Legislative Session will begin on January 3, 2017. 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](http://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](http://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/](http://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](http://ecm.coop/roster) on a web browser for their guide.

With the 2017 Legislative Session approaching, 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. DMH has been discussed often in the off season, which only means it will continue to be discussed during session. 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

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## 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**

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Boswell Regional Center

Post Office Box 128

Magee, MS 39111

Telephone: 601-867-5000

[www.brc.state.ms.us](http://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!*