

BOSWELL REGIONAL CENTER'S BULLETIN

Vol. XIV • January 2020





Job Well Done!

Employees of the Quarter

Boswell Regional Center's

The Boswell Bulletin is published to inform the public, employees, family members and friends on Boswell Regional Center's activities, programs and progress. This publication also seeks to provide information to those interested in the work conducted by Boswell's employees to enrich the lives of those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD).

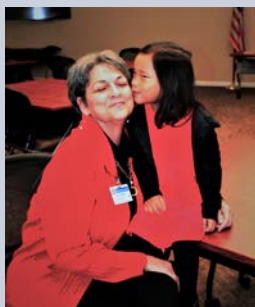
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ON THE COVER:

As if celebrating her retirement wasn't sweet enough, getting a heart-felt kiss from her little granddaughter, Josie, was the icing on the cake for Laurie Magee, a trainer in Staff Development. Laurie retired Dec. 31 after having played an integral role in teaching CPR to almost every employee that joined Boswell in the past 15 years.



Quarterly Employee Recognition Reception and Retirement ceremonies draw large crowd

The afternoon of Dec. 12, 2019, was a busy one at Boswell. Four employees were honored as top Employees of the Fourth Quarter, several received Governor's Service awards and two were given heartfelt send-offs as they said their good-byes and headed into retirement.

Laurie Magee, trainer in staff development, named support/professional of the quarter; Debra Johnson, direct support professional in Wesson group home, ICF group homes employee of the quarter; Frances Lofton, direct support professional on Boswell's main campus, campus employee of the quarter and Ken Hammons, direct support professional, top quarterly employee in Boswell's Community Services department.

Each employee received a \$25 check from Boswell's Friends and Family Association and a certificate, along with coupons to area businesses. The employees received the awards at the ceremony held during Boswell's quarterly employee recognition reception.



Pictured from left are top employees and their supervisors, including: Cindy Quick, supervisor of staff development, Laurie Magee, staff development; Debra Johnson, Wesson group home; Frances Lofton, Boswell campus; Arthur Milton, supervisor on Boswell's main campus, Ken Hammons, community services and director Clint Ashley.



The last "Boswell cake" of 2019 and the decade was served at the December employee recognition and retirement reception. The cake is served at all official functions throughout the year.



2019 GOVERNOR'S SERVICE AWARDS



Receiving Governor's Service Awards were from left: Tonya George, 20 years, Mary Ann Smith, 10 years, Leigh Evans, 10 years and Annette Toston, 10 years.

Congratulations on your retirement

Laurie Magee, a trainer in Boswell's staff development department and Janna Means, behavioral health clinician and director of diagnostics and evaluation services, retired with 15 and 20 years of state service, respectively.

The retiring employees received an engraved award from Boswell's Friends and Family Association and were treated to a reception in their honor attended by co-workers and family members.



Laurie Magee, second from left, is pictured with the engraved trophy presented upon her retirement by Boswell's Friends and Family Association. She is pictured with Clint Ashley, left, director, her granddaughter, Josie, and assistant director Cindy Womack, right.



Janna Means, second from left, is pictured with, from left, Boswell director Clint Ashley, her mother, Anita Means, and Cindy Womack, assistant director. She was presented an engraved trophy from Boswell's Friends and Family Association.



Spotlight On...

A snapshot of some of our favorite Christmas activities

As usual, the 2019 Christmas season was a busy time at Boswell, filled with parties, parades, special meals, hay rides, gifts and outings to view Christmas lights. The season was kicked off by the annual Christmas tree-lighting ceremony on Dec. 5 organized by Recreation. From then until Christmas, individuals stayed busy going from one special event to the next. When it was over, everyone agreed it was their best Christmas yet.

Here are a few scenes from what turned into a very enjoyable Christmas season!



Boswell's Christmas tree was placed near the front gates for the enjoyment of everyone during the holidays. A tree-lighting ceremony heralded the beginning of the Christmas season.



Campus individuals enjoyed listening to Christmas carols and visiting with friends as they awaited the lighting of the Christmas tree.



Sipping hot chocolate and enjoying sugar cookies served by staff was the icing on the cake at the Christmas tree lighting.



Special Christmas parties in each campus unit, all of which were funded by Boswell's "Friends and Family Association," was the highlight of the season for many. Cookie, a long-time Boswell individual, was excited about wearing her handmade Christmas shirt and awaiting the arrival of the food at Pinelake's Christmas party.



Each campus unit was decorated with festive Christmas décor to make the holidays brighter for those who reside in the units.



Spotlight On...

A snapshot of some of our favorite Christmas activities



Pinelake staff members made festive Christmas shirts for the ladies on their unit to wear at their Christmas party. Pictured with the shirts they made are, from left: Jennifer Cole, Kay Adcox, Kadasia Newsome, Shania Green and Marsha Robinson.



Santa made appearances at campus units during Christmas parties highlighted by special meals and music



Westminster Presbyterian Church in Hattiesburg has been a long-time supporter of Boswell, providing gifts for all campus individuals for nearly 20 years. Cindy Womack, right, assistant director, is pictured loading up this year's gifts presented by one of the organizers of the gift drive at Westminster, left.



Individuals and staff enjoyed a hayride after an afternoon of caroling, roasting marshmallows and other fun activities organized by Recreation to celebrate the Christmas season.

Up the Ladder

Four staff changes, promotions

Susan Shoemaker has returned to Boswell after serving in a variety of nurse management positions in Texas. Previously, she served as Boswell's director of nursing. Her new position is director of Pinelake.



While working in Texas, Susan gained experience in home health care, Medicaid billing and coding, surveying and investigations, nursing home DON and her most recent position, nurse/investigator with the medical provider integrity division of the Office of Inspector General. She completed the Health and Human Services Extraordinary Contributor Program, became Resident Assessment Certified (RAC-CT) and served on the DON advisory committee for a large Texas corporation.

Welcome back, Susan!

Amanda Moseley-Diaz has been promoted to director of business services. Amanda is no stranger to the business office, having joined the department in 2013 as an accountant before being promoted to assistant director in 2016.



She was named director Jan. 1 upon Sonjia Kittrell's transfer to MS State Hospital. Amanda, a native of Magee, earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Mississippi College. Congratulations, Amanda!

Vicki Kettleman has been named director of diagnostic and evaluation services for Boswell. For several years, she worked in Oakbrook as a QIDP after joining Boswell as a behavioral health specialist.



She previously served as a psychologist at Mississippi School for the Deaf. She obtained a master's degree in educational psychology from Mississippi State University.

Congratulations, Vicki!

Orlando Rankin compiled a 30+ year career at Boswell, most recently in constituency services, before retiring in 2019.



After the departure of Bro. Rudy,

Orlando, an ordained minister, was asked to return as contract chaplain for Boswell. In his new role, he conducts weekly chapel and church services and visits with individuals on the units.

Welcome back, Orlando!

Community Christmas activities

Community individuals enjoy annual Corinth Christmas party

Attending a Christmas party at Corinth Baptist Church in Magee is something to which Community individuals look forward all year. Besides hosting the event held in their spacious Fellowship Hall, Corinth members provide funds for a gift to be presented to each individual. The church is a strong supporter of Boswell all year long. In addition to the Christmas party, the church hosts Boswell's choir every week to allow members to practice in a professional setting for upcoming church performances.

After the festive Christmas lunch, individuals were treated to entertainment from Santa, aka Ronald Britt, director of community services, and his assistant, Matt Robinson.

Here are a few photos from this year's party:



Community Christmas activities

Priority One Bank makes Christmas merry for community individuals

Priority One Bank in Magee has always been a strong supporter of Boswell, annually hosting cookouts, special events and prior to Christmas, a lively party complete with personalized gifts for community individuals that are bank customers. This year's Christmas party was no exception, filled with visits from Santa and Mrs. Claus, lively music, delicious food and all the items on each individual's "wish list."

Just a few of the special memories from the 2019 event are below:



'Make a joyful noise

A few more photos of Christmas joy in the form of musical entertainment

Christmas programs filled with sacred hymns and familiar carols and songs are a special part of the season to which Boswell's individuals look forward every year. Show choirs from Magee Elementary School and Magee Middle School came in to present special programs at which individuals were invited to sing along. Just before Christmas, Boswell's choir performed for the entire campus, presenting a program for which they had been practicing for months. Finally, Christmas caroling around campus to various departments and building was enjoyed by individuals, topped off by cooking s'mores around a fire and a hayride.



Boswell's choir performed a Christmas program for the entire campus. Choir members had worked long and hard to perfect the program filled with hymns and classics.



Robert Foster, a violinist with Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, performed with the choir during the Christmas program.



Magee Elementary Show Choir returned to Boswell by popular demand after their enjoyable program last year. Individuals were encouraged to sing along to many songs performed by the talented students.



Members of Magee Middle School's Show Choir visited Dream Extreme before Christmas and performed for the enjoyment of community individuals and staff.

A heartfelt thanks to everyone that helped make Christmas "merry" for Boswell's individuals, including:

- Corinth Baptist Church, Magee
- Joni & Friends-Mississippi chapter
- Magee Elementary School
- Magee Middle School
- Priority One Bank, Magee
- Westminster Presbyterian Church, Hattiesburg



To learn more about the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, its facilities, services and plans for the future, please click the links below:

2019 Annual Report:

<http://www.dmh.ms.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/DMH-FY19-Annual-Report-Final-11.19.pdf>

2019 Fast Facts:

<http://www.dmh.ms.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/FY19-Fast-Facts-11.13.19.pdf>

2020 – 2022 Strategic Plan

<http://www.dmh.ms.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/FY20-FY22-DMH-Strategic-Plan-Final.pdf>

For more information, visit the DMH website at: www.dmh.ms.gov.