



Boswell Regional Center Bulletin

July 2016

A Publication for Employees, Family and Friends of BRC

Journey Skyward

Inside this issue:

Front Cover: Journey Skyward
 Message from Ms. Mikula 3
 MAC at Bass Pro Shop 3
 Spotlight on Sonjia Kittrell 4
 Zoo Day for MAC 4
 Co-Lin Nurses 5
 Dream Haven 6
 July 4th at the MAC 7
 Brookhaven Cookout 7
 Oakbrook/Ridgeview 8
 Watermelon Festival 9
 Chris' Dedication 10
 Pastor's Corner 11
 Mission Statement 11
 BRC Orientation 12
 BRC EOM 13
 Gov.'s Service Awards 14
 MAC June EOM 15
 Keep PHI Secure 16
 Announcements 17

Another successful year! Journey Skyward was held in Raymond, MS on July 23, 2016, at John Bell Williams Field. Many individuals served by Boswell Regional Center and Mississippi Adolescent Center attended this event, and will surely remember it for a lifetime. Being a Co-Pilot in an airplane was life changing for many of the ones we serve. As the sun beamed down, everyone awaiting their turn to get into the small engine airplane had the opportunity to chat with the cyclists on their "Journey of Hope." These cyclists ride from the West Coast to the East Coast raising awareness for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This event would not be possible if it wasn't for Matt Nalker, Executive Director of the ARC of MS and his staff. The smiles on their faces simply reflect their dreams becoming a reality.



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, July 2016 Issue.



Journey Skyward Photos



Message From Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health

Ms. Diana Mikula



As you are all aware by now, this has been a difficult year for many agencies throughout the state, including the Department of Mental Health. When I last wrote to you, DMH was still examining the full impact of the budget reduction we received in our appropriations bill. The end result of that was a reduction in force and a reduction in services in some of our programs.

Despite the difficulties of the year, I want to make sure all DMH employees know how much your hard work is appreciated by people at all levels – from supervisors, to program directors, to everyone in administration, and most importantly, by the people DMH serves.

All DMH employees face unique challenges, and I know you are rising to meet those challenges every day you are at work. We are thankful you continue to work for our agency and provide services to people living with mental illness, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders.

We are already preparing for the next legislative session, and will be presenting our Fiscal Year 2018 budget request in September. Just as in this past year, one of our top priorities will be requesting a salary realignment for our Direct Care employees. They have some of the hardest jobs in state government, and we want to support them by advocating for this realignment.

Our mission is to support a better tomorrow for all Mississippians, and that's what you all do daily. Our programs have received significant budget cuts since 2008. Despite that, we have continued to provide excellent services to those in need, and that is thanks to the work you accomplish as DMH employees. We have worked to share the importance of that work and the impact it has on people's lives with our legislators. I want them to know we are proud of the jobs you all are doing to help accomplish our mission.

As we move forward to our budget hearing and beyond, we will continue to share our mission with everyone we can. Remember that your voice matters. I hope you will take every opportunity to share it with others as well, including your own representatives and senators.

Sincerely,
Diana Mikula
Executive Director

Mississippi Department of Mental Health

MAC at Bass Pro Shop

The guys went on an outing to the Reservoir in Jackson and also enjoyed the Bass Pro Shop in Pearl.



Spotlight on Sonjia Kittrell



The spotlight for the month of July is Sonjia Kittrell, Director of Business Services. Sonjia began her career at Boswell in 1998 as the Maintenance secretary. Throughout the years, she has served as the property officer, purchasing agent, representative payee and assistant director of Business Services. She began her new position as director of Business Services on July 1, 2016, which is one of the busiest times of the year due to closing out FY16 budget, starting FY17 budget and writing FY18 budget.

Sonjia graduated from Raleigh High School and Jones County Junior College. She is a graduate of Belhaven University where she received a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

Sonjia is married to Craig who also works within the Department of Mental Health family at Mississippi State Hospital. They have two daughters, Carrie, 19, and Hannah, 16.

Sonjia says Boswell is a wonderful place to work. "We have an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the people we serve. Sometimes, I will get so overwhelmed by all the paperwork we have in the Business Office that I lose sight of the big picture. However, God always times it right for an individual or parent to come in the office to remind me of what I am here for." She goes on to say, "The staff in the Business Office are like family. They are a hardworking group of people that care about serving the staff and individuals. I am blessed to be a part of this group."

Zoo Day for MAC



On Friday, July 22, 2016, some of the individuals went to the Jackson Zoo. They took a picnic lunch and enjoyed a day with the animals.

Co-Lin Nurses Visit BRC

Boswell Regional Center was honored with a visit from a group of nursing students on July 12th-13th. The day began with a Virtual Dementia Tour. This tour is meant to give participants a firsthand experience of what it can be like to have Alzheimer's. After lunch, the touring began with a campus overview by Boswell Regional Center's Director of Nursing, Teresa Windham. The day also included a tour of the Pinelake Geriatric Unit, Day Services, and Boswell Industries in Magee.



Front row L to R: Angel Cook, Kayla Carey, Sherwiana Lamb, and Deanna Lyons **2nd row:** Faith Ashmore, Haley Greer, Cheyenne Snow, and Wanda Waters **3rd row:** Shameka Shelton, Hortensa McCorkle, Lane Flynt, and Teresa Windham.

Dream Haven



People at Dream Haven enjoyed assembling patriotic 4th of July wreaths in honor of the 4th of July



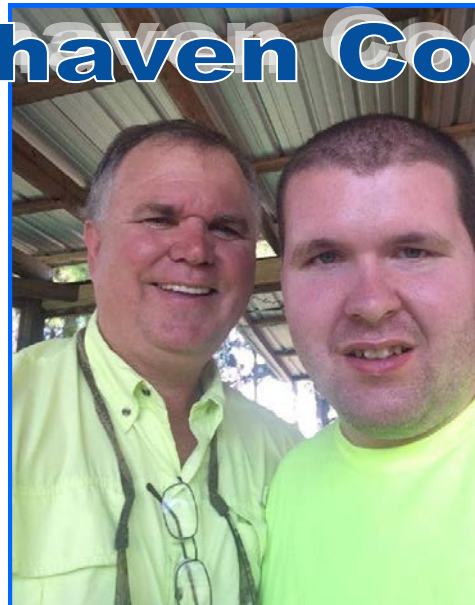
Some people at Brookhaven's Dream Haven enjoyed a day of putting together puzzles.

July 4th at the MAC

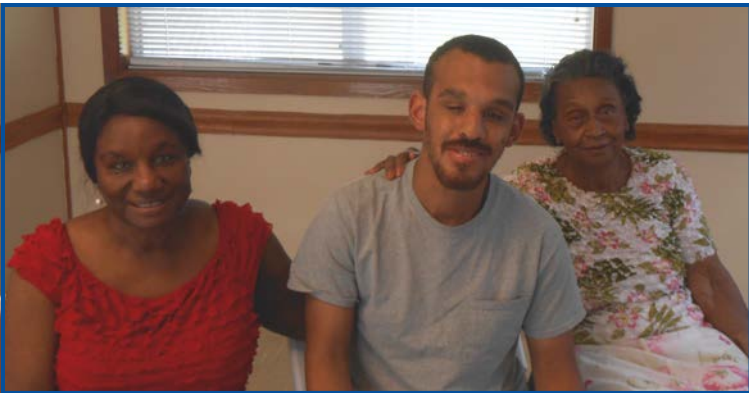


On Friday, July 1, 2016, the Recreation Department hosted a July 4th Celebration Cookout for the individuals. They grilled hamburgers and sausage dogs. The individuals also enjoyed water slides and water gun battles.

Brookhaven Cookout



Oakbrook/Ridgeview Family Day



Watermelon Festival



Ms. Amy Rose participated in the Watermelon Festival 5K Walk on July 16, 2016, and won 1st place! Congratulations, Amy!

Chris' Dedication



Chris Gaines says, “the mailroom is my priority.” He is one that enjoys his work and afterwards wants to go home and relax. Chris’ daily motto is, “we need to thank God this morning because someone did not wake up.” Rhonda Tillman works closely with Chris in the mail room and says he has such a beautiful spirit. Chris is truly a great employee and encourages everyone with whom he comes in contact. Chris does not like sitting around, so he stays busy.

During this interview, Chris grinned and placed a piece of mail in the proper slot while blurting out the word “inspiration.” He began listing names of people that inspire him. He began with Ms. Rhonda, then Teresa Johnson, Orlando Rankin, Teresa Hinsz, Cindy Quick, Vickie Nixon, Tiffany Wyatt, Ashlee Robinson, Valerie Puckett, Kathy Pittman, David Tedford, “Daddy Britt” and all of the Human Resources staff. Thank you, Chris, for your hard work and dedication!

Pastor's Corner



**Bro. Rudy Jackson,
BRC Chaplain**

Montana Daughter to Carolina Mother

Dear Mother:

"I'm writing this slow 'cause I know you can't read fast. We don't live where we did when you left. My hubby read in the paper where the most accidents happened within twenty miles of home, so we moved. I won't know the address for awhile yet as the last Montana family that lived here took the numbers with them for their next house so they won't have to change their address.

This place we're rentin' has a washin' machine. The first day I put four new shirts in it, pulled the chain, and I haven't seen 'em since. It only rained twice this week: three days the first time and four days the second time.

The coat you wanted me to send that you forgot here was too heavy to send in the mail. So we cut off the big buttons and put them in the pockets. We got a bill from the funeral home, said if we didn't make the last payment on Aunty's funeral bill, up she comes.

I heard that Sis had a baby this morning but I haven't been over there yet to find out if it's a boy or a girl so I don't know if I'm an Aunt or an Uncle. Our neighbor up the road fell in the whisky vat. Some men tried to pull him out, but he fought them off playfully, so he drowned. We cremated him and he burned for three days.

Three local kids from DeBorgia went off the bridge in a pick-up truck. The one that was driving rolled down the window and swam out. The two sitting in the back drowned. They couldn't get the tailgate down.

Not much to tell this time. Nothin' much happens 'round here.

Love, Your Daughter

Proverbs 17:22 A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

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

BRC Orientation Classes



July 1st Orientation Class: Front row L-R: Ethel Barnes (CS- Pine Grove), Natalie Duckworth (Magee Autism), Kimberly Lee (Magee Autism), Shakilyon McCollum (Emp Services), Kamesha Hooker (Oakbrook), Jahne' Lane (CS-Pine Grove), Libby Shivers (Pinelake) **Back row L-R:** Jazamine Moore (Ridgeview), Te'Lesha Coleman (Pinelake), Vanessa Fells (Med Services), Hope Speights (Wesson), Tania Hobbs (CS-Pine Grove), Aireol Perkins (Ridgeview), Angelica Easterling (Fairway), Timothy Boone (Security).



June 16th Orientation Class: Front row L-R: Ethan Mikell (Pinelake), Amanda Williams (Pinelake), Sandra Page (CS- Alpha House), Angelica Jordan (Pinelake), Brinda Maymon (Brookhaven Autism), Takiya Hall (CS - Chickasaw), Joel Winn (Fairway) **Back Row L-R:** Destyn Floyd (Pinelake), Sierra Williams (Nutritional Services), Layla Butler (Pinelake), Lashanda Holloway (Magee Autism), Zackeria Porter (Pinelake), Santoris Bridges (Oakbrook), Charlene Brown (Pinelake), Stanley Davis (CS-Bradford), Stacey Rhymes (CS- Magnolia Cove), Valerie Antoine (CS- Simpson Cove), Cornelius Magee (Pinelake)

BRC EOM's



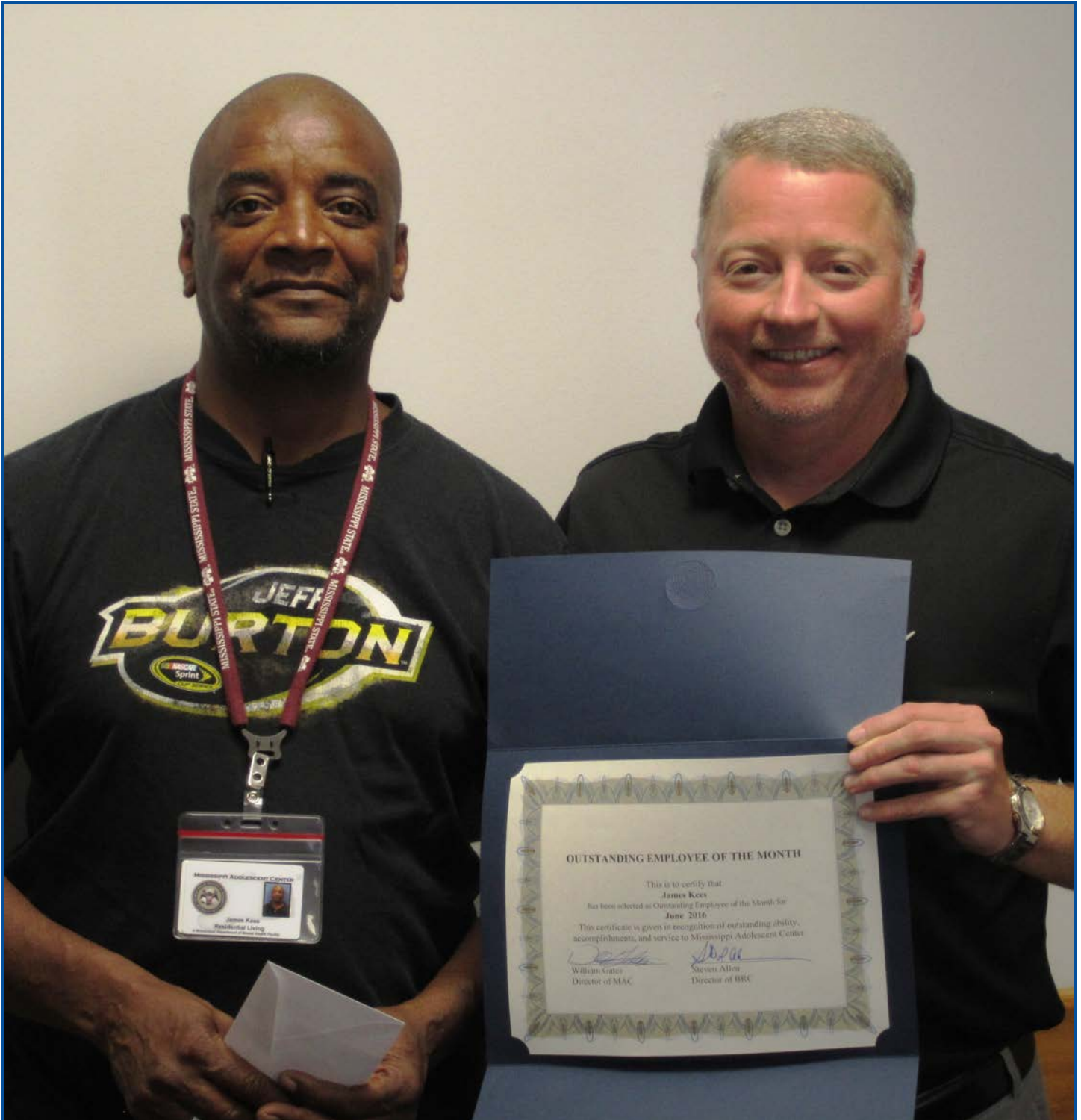
During the July Directors' Meeting, Boswell Regional Center recognized Employees of the Month in the area of professional/support staff. Employee of the Month for April was Natisha Polk, Ridgeview Social Worker, (top right). Employee of the Month for May was Safari Barnes, Nurse at Wesson Group Home (top left). For the month of June, employees Johnnie Sue McKinnis from State Farm Apartments (left) and Jennifer Cole, QIDP at Pinelake Geriatrics (right) were named Employees of the Month. Congratulations to each of you!

Gov.'s Service Awards



Boswell Regional Center employees receive Governor's service awards in recognition of a total of 20 years of state service. They were recognized for the dedication to BRC at the July Directors' Meeting. Pictured is Dridra Fairley (10) years and Ben Robinson (10) years. Congratulations to you both!

MAC June EOM



James Kees, June EOM for the MAC, is a 2nd shift Residential Living Staff.

Keep PHI Secure

H **e** **a** **l** **t**
I **n** **s** **u** **r** **a** **n** **c** **e**
P **o** **r** **t** **a** **b** **i** **l** **i** **t** **y**
A **c** **c** **o** **u** **n** **t** **a** **b** **i** **l** **i** **t** **y**
A **c** **t**



HIPAA regulations are complex and can mean different things to different areas within a single organization. Staff with access to Protected Health Information (PHI) should follow these general tips to help keep the information of the people we serve secure and prevent accidental disclosure to unauthorized staff, other individuals, family members or visitors:

Learn what sorts of information qualify as PHI, including the following:

- Names, addresses and telephone/fax numbers**
- Email addresses**
- Social Security numbers**
- File/Account numbers**
- Dates of birth, death, admission and discharge**
- Photographs and comparable images of the people we serve**

- Access personal information only for valid reasons related to treatment, care, billing or record maintenance. Only access the information to the minimum degree that you need to do your job.
- Keep PHI out-of-sight and secure when not actively in use. Do not leave PHI unattended on workspaces or in storage areas.
- IF PHI must be transmitted via email, be sure to use secure, encrypted email. Contact the IT department if you are unsure if the email you send is encrypted. Never transmit PHI or any other confidential email using your personal email account.
- Use proper procedures when disposing of any material containing PHI. Remove labels or black out information on the label before throwing away pill bottles, vials or any other label containing PHI. Documents containing such information should be shredded and never recycled.

Keep computers secure:

- ⇒ **Do not share computer passwords or make them easy to guess**
- ⇒ **Always log off or lock your computer if you are going to be away from your desk**
- ⇒ **Do not allow others to use a computer if another user is still logged on**
- Avoid public conversation or discussion about the people we serve. This includes public areas within the organization itself, as well as in any area outside the organization.
- Do not post PHI or any other confidential information online.
- Make sure you understand what constitutes a breach and how to report a compliance issue or a suspected breach.

***Creating Your
Own Path:
Successful Transitions for
Persons with Autism***

A conference by the
Mississippi Statewide Autism Training Initiative.

Hosted at:

Broadmoor Baptist Church
1531 Highland Colony Parkway
Madison, MS 39110

****SAVE THE DATE****

September 8, 2016

8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If you require any auxiliary aids, services, or special requirements, please contact: Peggy Kelly at 601-867-5000 ext. 75241, pkelly@boswell.state.ms.us or Teresa Johnson at 601-867-5000 ext. 75018, tjohnson@boswell.state.ms.us. For more information, please visit our website at: <http://www.brc.ms.gov/Pages/autismtraining.aspx>.



Center for Discovery, Integration & Transformation

Advanced Professional Social Work Continuing Education:

2016

Trauma Series: Matthew Vasquez, PhD

- May 20 Trauma informed practice for social workers: An advanced overview of traumatic stress and innovative approaches to its treatment (3CEs)
- June 11 The new science of neglect: An overview of brain development, affect regulation, and the implication for social work practice (3CEs)
- July 16 Understanding trauma and traumatic stress for health care professionals (3CEs)
- August 13 Trauma informed practice for social workers: An advanced overview of traumatic stress and innovative approaches to its treatment (3CEs)
(Repeat)

Child Maltreatment Series: Tamara Hurst, PhD, LCSW

- September 16 Recognizing and reporting child maltreatment: An overview for helping professionals (3CEs)
- October 14 Understanding forensic interviews of children for mental health, health care, and criminal justice professionals(3CEs)
- November 18 Labor and sex trafficking: What is it and does it happen here? (3CEs)

Each class: \$60 Regular/\$45 Early Bird

Space is Limited/Pre-registration Required

Class Time: 9:00 am – 12:15 pm

For more information & to register visit our website www.usm.edu/social-work

Registration Opens on April 20, 2016



THE CLAIBORNE
PREMIER RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

All workshops are hosted by The Claiborne at Hattiesburg, 200 Whispering Pines Boulevard, Hattiesburg, MS 39402. Located off Veterans Memorial Drive between Timberton subdivision and the Family Y.

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!*