

# Boswell Regional Center's

# BULLETIN

Volume XVI, Issue 1

March 2023



# *IDD Awareness Month*

## **March is IDD Awareness Month**

Each year Boswell Regional Center (BRC) celebrates Intellectual Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Awareness during the month of March. This year, clients, staff, and Director, Clint Ashley, traveled to the State Capitol representing BRC as Governor Tate Reeves signed the proclamation, declaring March as IDD awareness month. This proclamation assists in bringing to the forefront, the inherent value, contributions and needs of individuals with IDD, as well as those entrusted with their care.



*Where Dreams Can Become Reality*

## *Dr. Jim Herzog Confirmation Hearing*



Dr. Jim Herzog of Oxford appeared before the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee and was confirmed by the full Mississippi Senate for re-nomination to the Board of Mental Health. Dr. Herzog received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Creighton University and a master's and Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the University of Mississippi. Dr. Herzog has more than 40 years experience in providing services in community mental health through several community mental health centers and other providers, as well as providing individual therapy and assessment with adults, adolescents, and children. Dr. Herzog was appointed to serve as the Clinical Psychologist representative on the board. Pictured are DMH Deputy Director for Intellectual and Developmental Disability Services Craig Kittrell, DMH Executive Director Wendy Bailey, Dr. Jim Herzog and his wife Angela Herzog, DMH Chief of Staff Katie Storr, and DMH Deputy Director for Behavioral Health Services Jake Hutchins.

# Sunshine and Smiling Faces at the 2023 St. Patrick's Day Parade



## The Show Must Go On

Canceled due to rain just one week prior, the 2023 Boswell Regional Center's St. Patty's Day Parade was ushered in with lots of sunshine and smiling faces. BRC staff, family members, friends, and community helpers made a big showing, as spectators lined sidewalks, eager to catch a glimpse of vehicles decorated in true St. Patty's Day fashion. Others experienced the luck of the Irish, catching beads, bracelets, and assorted snacks items thrown by parade participants.



# Local Business Gives Back



Alecia Floyd, manager, along with Clint Ashley, BRC Director Left and Wayne Hilton, owner, Right

Magee Rentals recently received a one-of-a-kind, hand-made pottery piece in recognition of their generous donation. A Taylorsville Group Home individual will rest easier, now that he has a more fitting bed. When the client came to the group home, he received a standard-sized twin bed, which is appropriate for most individuals. However, staff soon realized this was not sufficient for this particular client, that someone of his height would greatly benefit from a larger bed.

After reaching out to area businesses for donations, Taylorsville Group Home staff contacted Alecia Floyd, manager of Magee Rentals. Along with owner, Wayne Hilton, Alecia took the lead on ensuring this client received a full-sized bed and headboard. The staff at Magee Rentals are to be commended for their generosity and customer service.

*Thank You to Our Community Partners*

# *A Beautiful Smile ...*

## *Jewelry for the face*



Diamonds are a girl's best friend, or at least that's what they say; but this sweet lady proves otherwise. She knows that true happiness is something that just can't be bought; it comes from a place deep in the heart and is shared with the world through the escape of expression.

The Masquerade Jewelry Sale is a fun time for staff and individuals alike. Most items are just \$5, while some are 2 for \$5, making it possible for most anyone to treat themselves to a little something special. And the timing couldn't have been better this year, with Easter just a few days away.

The two-day event takes place twice a year and is open to everyone on campus and the surrounding areas. What makes it even better is that 15% of the proceeds goes to Boswell Friends & Family Association, which assists clients in receiving goods and services not covered by the State. It also helps fund employee recognition efforts and provide coffee for new hires during orientation. Now that's something we can all smile about.

## More Pics from the Masquerade Jewelry Sale

Vendors worked hard to keep supplies on hand, as staff, individuals, and nearby community members took advantage of the bargains on home goods, personal items, accessories, and everyday apparel. Many staff members found time throughout the

day to shop as new products were being put out on the shelves. The reasonable prices and great selection made it easy to support this very worthy cause, especially with the convenience of paying by credit card or payroll deduction.



Once the sale is over, the real work begins: breaking down jewelry displays, packing boxes, and loading the truck for the next sale destination. And in the spirit of true southern hospitality, the BRC Maintenance Department was quick to lend a helping hand as vendors prepared to depart, following the last day of the sale. "We've never gotten this kind of service anywhere," commented one vendor.



## *Staff and Individuals Gather to Say a Final Goodbye to Mr. Jack Cummings, Jr.*

A memorial service for Mr. Jack Cummings, Jr. was held in the BRC Auditorium on Tuesday, April 3, 2023, with friends and staff members gathering to pay respect to their beloved friend and share sentiments of his life.

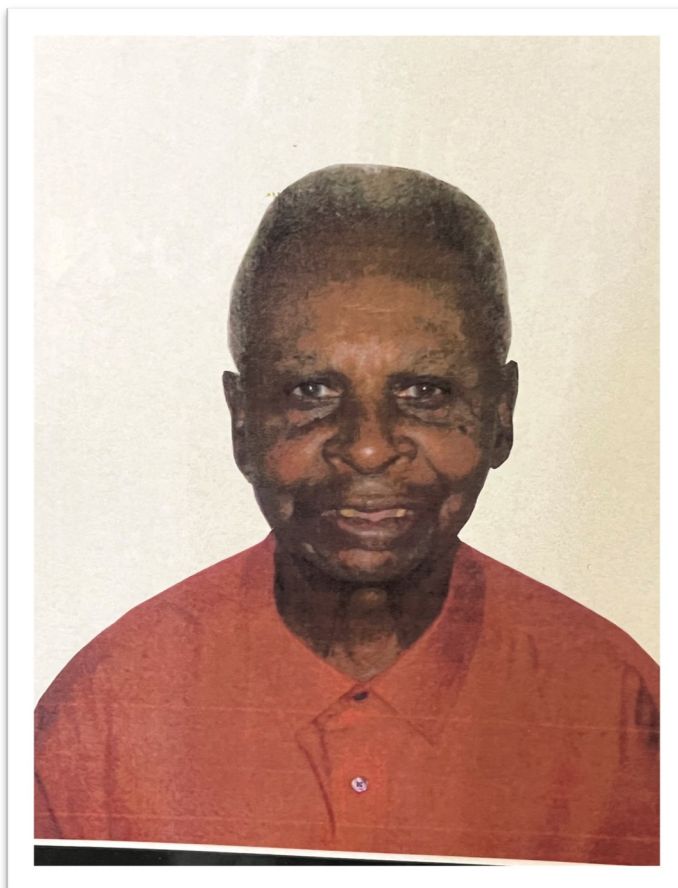
Many told stories of how he impacted their lives for the better, how he was a real friend and a good person to all. Most recalled his love and skill for the game of Checkers and how he was an expert in the game. One staff member stated, "He'd beat you like you stole something."

Saying good bye is never easy, but it's especially difficult when it's someone who meant so much to so many. Mr. Jack Cummings, Jr. was one of the first individuals to enter Boswell Regional Center, in fact he was nearly as old as BRC itself, missing just over 120 days. He outlived many individuals here and saw a number of staff and leaders come and go. He was truly an eye witness to changes the rest of us will only hear about.

Overall it was sweet remembrance of who Jack Cummings, Jr. was, the hardships he endured as a child born in the Mississippi Delta during the Great Depression and the triumphs he

was able to achieve throughout his life, despite living with an intellectual developmental disability.

The service lasted approximately one hour and included opening prayer by Don Thames, special music by Jarod Lee and Kathy Moorman, and closing prayer by Arthur Milton.



**July 20, 1933—March 26, 2023**



*Don Thames opens the service with prayer and shares how Mr. Jack Cummings, Jr. was an icon at BRC for most of the center's existence.*



*Will Beeson tells of his relationship with Jack Cummings, Jr. He recalls how they met, how they celebrated Jack's birthday each year, and how he attributes him with being the anchor that kept him at Boswell for over twenty years.*



*Jarod Lee plays guitar while Kathy Moorman sings special music honoring the memory of the late, Jack Cummings, Jr.*



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## APRIL

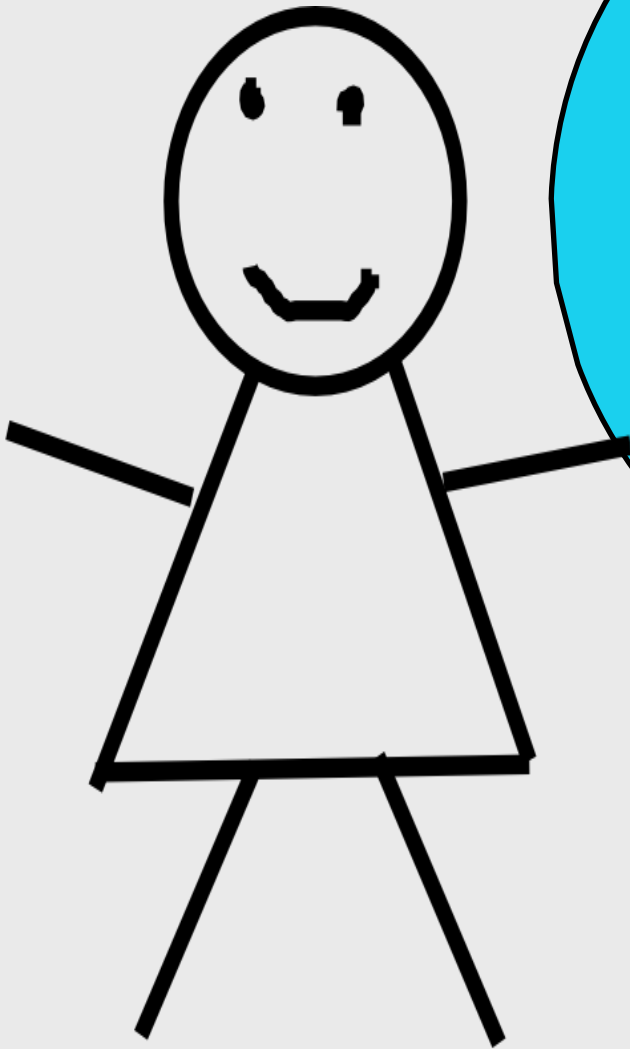
- April 7**                    **Good Friday Chapel service**  
**Auditorium 10:00 a.m.**
- April 9**                    **Easter Sunday**
- April 16-22**                **National Volunteer Week**
- April 21**                    **Autism Awareness Day**  
**Goodwater 10:00 a.m.**
- April 22**                    **Earth Day**
- April 24**                    **Confederate Memorial Day *State Holiday***
- April 26**                    **Administrative Professionals' Day**  
**Friends & Family Annual Meeting**  
**3:00 p.m. in Training Center**
- April 27**                    **Mississippi Blood Services Blood Drive**  
**10:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m. *Honoring Adley Sanders***
- April 28**                    **Spring Fling *Aloha Theme***  
**10:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m. Green Park**

# Our Donors Make it Happen

**THANK YOU!**

BRC's Friends & Family  
gained 26 new members  
during the month of  
March!

Remember to attend the  
annual meeting in April to  
receive your donor pin.



*Sign up today!*

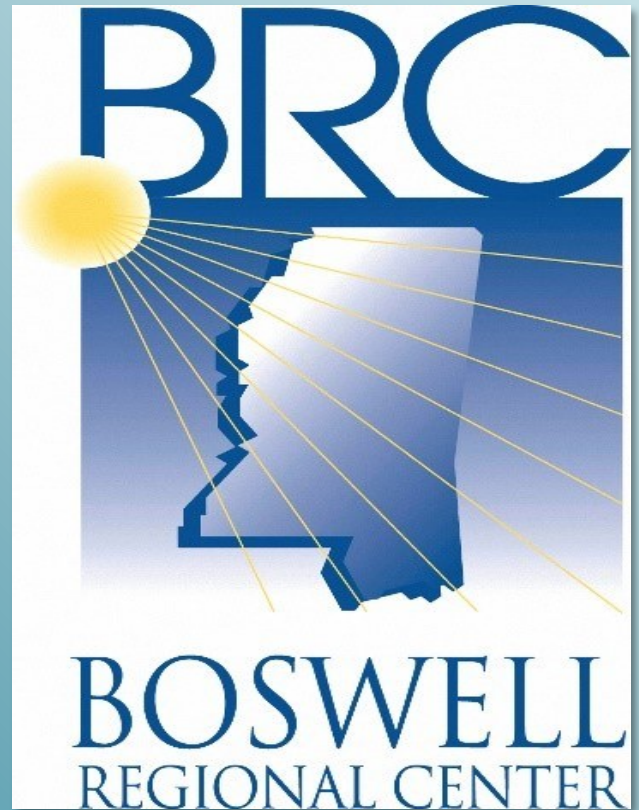
*Contact: Public Relations: ext 75078*



# We Are Hiring

- Full –Time State Benefits
- State Sponsored Health/Life Insurance Plan
- Paid Personal Leave (12 Hrs. Monthly)
- Paid Medical Leave (8 Hrs. Monthly)
- Paid Holiday Leave (10 Days Annually)
- MS Public Employees Retirement
- 8 Hour Shifts

*Full Time & Contract Positions Available !*





# BOSWELL REGIONAL CENTER

*Clint Ashley*

Director

*Renee Burton*

Editor, Photographer, Writer

## BRC BULLETIN

The Boswell Bulletin is published without cost to inform the public, employees, friends, and family of Boswell Regional Center's (BRC) activities, programs, and progress. This publication also serves to provide information to those interested in the work conducted by BRC employees to enrich the lives of those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD).

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## **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.*