

# Boswell Regional Center's Bulletin

October 2023

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## Pumpkins & Porches

There's nothing wrong with a little friendly competition.

Congratulations to the staff and individuals of Pinelake, winners of this year's Pumpkin and Fall Porch Decorating Contest.



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## Warrior Walk



BRC staff and individuals gathered together to participate in the 2023 Warrior Walk, bringing an awareness of and demonstrating support for those impacted by breast cancer.

(cont. pg. 8)



*The Boswell Bulletin is published without cost to inform the public, employees, friends and family of Boswell Regional Center's 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.*

**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 person, family, and community, dreams can become a reality*

## From the Editor

Who doesn't love fall? The crisp, cool air, leaves changing colors, campfires, comfort food, SEC football... we could go on and on. The point is, that fall, particularly the month of October, stirs us with excitement like no other time of year. We know the busy holidays are right around the corner, and the sting of winter won't be far behind. But for now, we linger in what remains of sun-kissed days and brisk, cool nights.

It's no wonder so many things are recognized and celebrated during the month of October. Boswell is no exception; we've had a number of fall activities and events this year, each one unique and significant in its own way. It is my hope that this BRC Bulletin gives proper tribute to the individuals and staff who made it all happen.



***Boswell Regional Center***

***1049 Hwy 149  
Magee, MS 39111  
(601) 867-5000***



***[www.boswell.state.ms.us](http://www.boswell.state.ms.us)***

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Questions or  
Comments  
regarding  
information in this  
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please contact  
Public Relations:  
(601) 867-5078***



# Open Enrollment



BRC recently hosted its annual open enrollment, allowing all employees an opportunity to review their current benefits/deductions and make changes where necessary.



Above: Melissa Sparks and Robin Moss encourage team members to stop by their table to view and purchase pottery made by BRC individuals.

## Joint MH/IDD Conference

Several BRC team members attended the 35th Annual MH/IDD Conference in Natchez. There they received insight and information on the most innovative and effective services for treating Mississippians with mental health needs. The conference also provided opportunities for professional networking. Below: Shan Crumpton and Kerry Bynum participate in a poster presentation, showcasing waiver services provided through Boswell Regional Center.



Because the Joint MH/IDD conference had not taken place in five years, Employees of the Year from 2018-2022 were given special recognition via PowerPoint presentations. Each employee also received a special gift for their hard work and dedication. Above, BRC Director, Clint Ashley, with 2020 EOY, Katina Runnels.





# Representing BRC in the Community



Individuals and staff from Community came together to lend a hand at a recent Magee High School football game. Pictured above, working in the concession stand are L-R: Precious Patterson, Kerri East, Kim Middleton, Sam Banks, Willie Keyes, Angela Murphy, Michael Dudzienski, Frankie Lamb, and Jason Rose.

Kudos to these guys for stepping up and representing BRC well. 👍



## FRIENDS at CRAZY DAY

BRC's Friends and Family Board members were a "boots on the ground" force during this year's Crazy Day. Their booth, adjacent to Community Day Services, was designated for selling BRC's Centennial Cookbooks, a collection of recipes dating back to 1918, when Boswell was known as the MS Sanitorium Hospital.

Above: Board Member & former F&F President, Becky Wells (R) and Aaron Mooneyham.



## DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT



# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### *Curtis Ducksworth, Director*

Curtis is from Raleigh, MS. He is a Raleigh High School graduate and earned his BS in Management Information Systems from USM. He has been in the IT department at Boswell for 19 years. He enjoys fishing, cooking, and spending time with his family. He is also a USM and Auburn sports fan, and his favorite NFL team is the Philadelphia Eagles. He says his goal is to keep striving to be a better husband and father. The thing he likes most about BRC is working with a great staff.



### *Oh, the multi-faceted role of the IT department.*

Now more than ever, It's crucial to remember just how integral they are, not just for crisis management, but for daily operations as well. Their behind-the-scenes work keeps BRC running smoothly day after day. Not only do they serve as the main line of defense against cyberattacks, they handle all the technological issues that arise. They oversee the installation and maintenance of computer network systems within BRC, as well as evaluate and install proper hardware and software necessary to keep our network functioning properly. Should our network go down, the repercussions could be devastating, not for how we conduct business, but also in how we provide care for the individuals we serve. This underscores why it is so important for IT departments to have a crisis plan in place for getting networks back up and running as quickly as possible. The IT department at BRC maintains the organizational website and provides technical support for all users who need access to BRC's computer systems. So much of what they do goes unseen and unrecognized...as long as everything is running smoothly. Their importance is greatly amplified, however, when things go wrong.

## *Joe Allen*

Joe is from Magee and has been in the IT department at Boswell for 19 years. He is a Simpson Academy graduate and earned his MBA from MS College. He enjoys computers, family, church, and Mexican food. He says his goal is to retire and that his most favorite thing about BRC is the people he works with.



## *Jason Kittrell*

Jason is also from Raleigh, and has been at Boswell for 18 years. Before coming to the IT department, he served in Maintenance. He enjoys spending time with his wife and kids, as well as outdoor activities like, camping, fishing, and hunting. His favorite thing about BRC is the proximity to home and working with good co-workers & friends.

## *Reid Wilder*

Reid is from Mendenhall and has been at Boswell for 2 1/2 years. Before bridging over to IT, he also served in the Maintenance Department. His hobbies are scuba diving and going to concerts. His goal is to retire from Boswell one day, and the thing he likes most about BRC is his co-workers and being able to take time off.





# Employees of the QUARTER

*Rosalind Pittman*

**DSP, Rials Creek**

“

Ms. Pittman goes above and beyond with all the individuals; she makes sure all of our clients are well cared for. She is a team player and will help out other staff whenever needed. She has come in on her days off when we've had shortages, and she assists with appointments & shopping when needed.

~Sarah Spoonhour



“

*John Barnett*

**Maintenance Grounds Team Lead**

John takes satisfaction in doing above average work, and he consistently produces good results, even with arduous tasks. He always pushes himself to be productive and is committed to maintaining BRC grounds. This greatly improves the experience of our clients, their families, and our employees here at Boswell.

~Eric Titus



“

*Sakeyi Hayes*

**SCP, Pinalake**

Sakeyi sat with an individual who had not been feeling well; she comforted her and lifted her spirits. She takes time to actively listen to our individuals and show them she cares. She always makes sure they are dressed properly and well groomed, even taking time to braid their hair when needed. She comes to work on time, does her job very well, and helps to provide a clean, friendly atmosphere.

~Greg Grantham



“

*Aaron Berry*

**DSP, Morton Crisis Home**

Mr. Berry serves as a mentor to the staff and individuals at Morton Crisis Home. His compassion, dedication, and strong work ethic inspire his fellow coworkers and reinforce to our individuals that they are in a place where people care about them and want them to succeed. Aaron truly cares about our people, and it shows in everything he does; he is a highly valued member of our team.

~Kevin Runnels





# In OCTOBER WE WEAR PINK!



For several years BRC, like other organizations around the country, has observed the month of October as Breast Cancer Awareness month.

This year was no different, as staff and individuals gathered together to give special recognition to those who have either won the battle or are currently battling this dreadful disease.

The Warrior Walk, which started at the BRC bridge and ended at the Rainy Day Room, began as Director, Clint Ashley shared encouraging words for anyone impacted by different forms of cancer. He went on to urge those who have been personally affected by breast cancer to lead the walk by breaking through the "Believe" banner. The walk was completed with a balloon release and refreshments consisting of sugar cookies and pink lemonade.







There are not enough words to express what a great turnout this year's Fall Festival was. Not only were several booths made available by different BRC programs and departments, but Board Members of BRC's Friends & Family Association also represented their affiliate businesses with lots of delicious food, fun activities, and face painting. Business and representatives include: D.J. Luper - Tyson Foods, Inc; Lee Maddox - Priority One Bank; Lawana Thompson - Cadence Bank; Darrell Temple - Trustmark Bank; Ashley Jones - Peoples Bank; Jessica Cockrell - Vital Caring Group; and Pam Wallace - Magee General Hospital. We are incredibly thankful for their "boots-on-the-ground spirit", and we know they were blessed as much as we were by getting personally involved with the individuals and the staff they support.



*Trustmark Bank*



*Priority One Bank*



*Vital Caring Group*



*Cadence Bank*



*Peoples Bank*



*Magee General Hospital*



Board Member and Former F&F President, Becky Wells, served as DJ throughout the event.



Director, Clint Ashley and his wife, Alice assisted at the cup-shuffle booth and requested a picture with their choice for best costume.... "Flaming Hot Cheetos".



Staff from Community had several booths, including popcorn and face painting.



Not pictured: D. J. Luper, F&F Board Member who coordinated efforts for Tyson Foods, Inc. to sponsor nearly 400 grilled chicken breasts for the event.



# F all family un





BRC staff and individuals saddled up early and hit the open trails Saturday, October 21st, heading to Lena, MS for another fun-filled Barnyard Dance, hosted by joni & friends. From the grub to galloping horses, hayrides and face painting, these buckaroos soaked up every ounce of fun and festivities this annual shindig had to offer.



# joni&friends Barnyard Dance



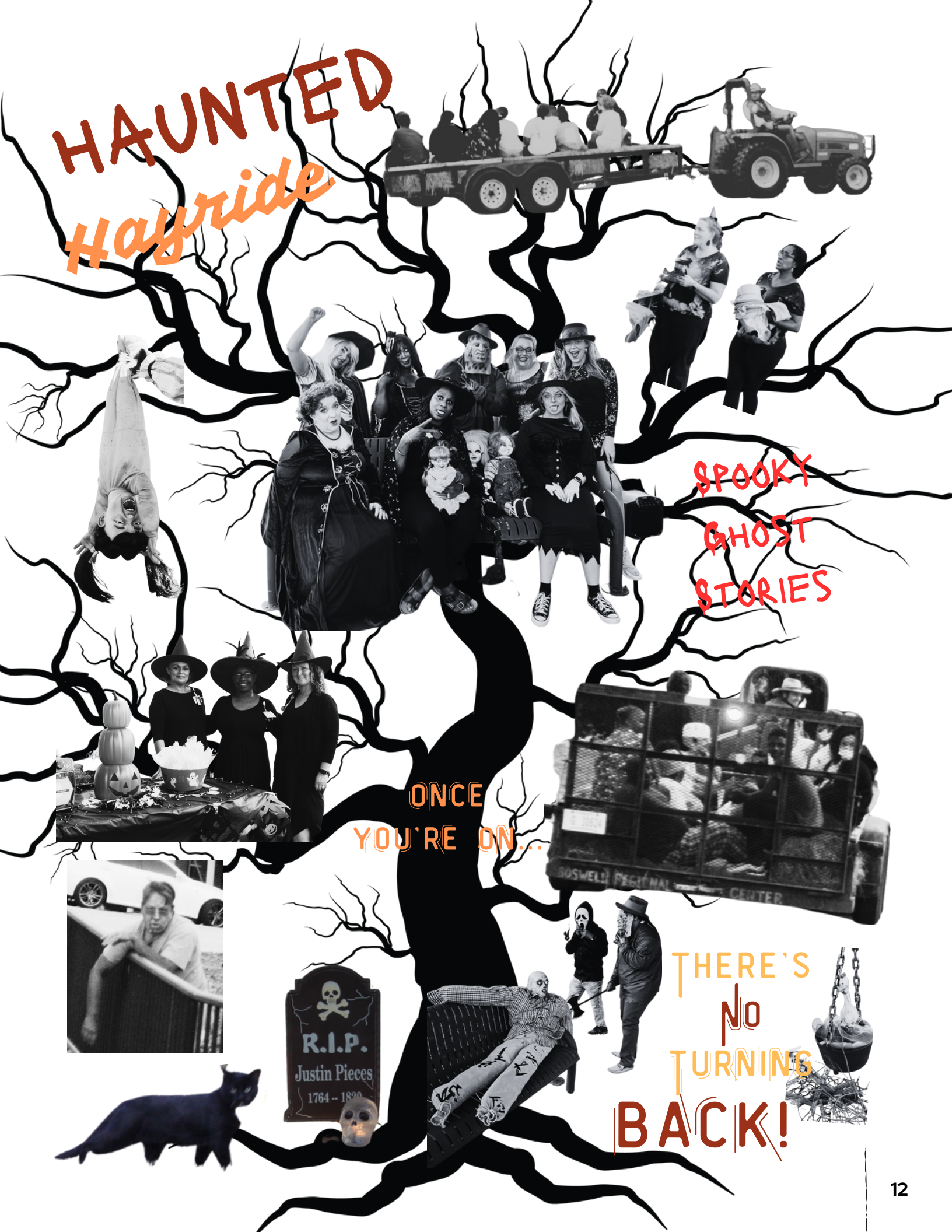


# HAUNTED Hayride

SPOOKY  
GHOST  
STORIES

ONCE  
YOU'RE ON...

THERE'S  
NO  
TURNING  
BACK!





# Bay Springs Group Home Receives Donation



Each year the Jasper County Homemakers donate cleaning and health supplies to a local group. This year the supplies were donated to the BRC Group Home in Bay Springs. Below: Staff and individuals of Bay Springs Group Home receiving the donation.

*Thank you!*



## WELCOME! to The BRC Family



1st Row- Elexus Page, Alesia Capels, Heather Fairchild, Bobbie Autman, Kenzie Boone  
2nd Row- LaTonya Newsome, Madyson Mobbs, Yasmine Crosby, Ka'Shyah James, Courtney Chaney  
3rd Row- Morgan Burke, Desmond Barnes, Wilma Moore, Shaun Riptoe





# Mississippi Museum of Natural Science



In late September, Individuals from Community Day Services took a trip to the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. To say it was a day filled with fun and adventure would be a gross understatement. Visiting any museum is an enlightening experience, but visiting the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science gives one a fresh understanding and a renewed appreciation for the environment and biological diversity that is unique to our area. While some were more squeamish than others, each individual had an opportunity to be 'hands-on' with some of Mississippi's most interesting and misunderstood wildlife.





# Robert Soniat

May 14, 1957 - October 29, 2023

On Thursday, November 2nd, staff and individuals gathered together to remember and celebrate the life of long-time friend, Robert Eugene Soniat. Special music was provided by Kathy Moorman and Jarrod Lee, and the service was officiated by Rev. Charles Meadows.

Graveside services were held Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at New Palestine Cemetery in Picayune, MS.



Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Hebrews 12:1, NIV



For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

1 Corinthians 13:12,  
NIV



# THE PASTOR'S CORNER



**“The Ultimate Shelter”**

*by:*

*Rev. Charles Meadows, BRC Chaplain*

One of my favorite Old Testament books in the Holy Bible is the book of Job. Job was a man who feared God and lived in such a way that gave God the glory. If you have ever read the story of Job, you will read where God gave Satan the power to test Job's loyalty to Him. The only stipulation that God gave Satan was that he couldn't take his life from him, but everything else he could. Satan took away Job's wealth, possessions, health, and even his children to try to cause Job to curse God. Even after Satan had taken away everything dear to Job, he used those close to him to encourage him to curse God, but when you finish reading the book you will find out that Satan was not successful. My favorite verses in the book of Job are found in Job 19:25-26 which says "For I know that my redeemer lives, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God" (KJV). One thing is for certain and that is Satan tries his best to cause those who truly believe in the Lord Jesus Christ to give up when times are tough. Only when a person has a personal relationship with the Lord do they have shelter and the ability to withstand the attacks from Satan. Jesus is our ultimate shelter, and through him we can endure all things. Those who remain faithful to the end will be saved from destruction.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Boswell Regional Center's



Contact Public Relations  
601-867-5078

The BRC Friends & Family Association is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that partners with BRC to provide goods and services for our individuals that are not covered by the state, for example, Christmas and/or birthday gifts, outings, activities, personal items, even final expenses. They also help to provide employee recognition efforts throughout the year, such as Employee of the Quarter and Employee of the Year cash awards, retirement trophies, and our annual BRC Employee Appreciation Picnic.

### Membership Update:

27 new members joined Friends and Family during the month of October.

*Thank you!*





# November

*Dates to Remember*



- 1-2 : Masquerade Sale, Training Center
- 3 -5: Special Olympics, Fall Games @ Camp Shelby
- 7th: Events Team Meeting, 1:30, Nutritional Services Classroom
- 8th: Breakfast for the Brave, 9:30, Co-lin. Simpson Campus (RSVP) 601-849-0124
- 9th: Friends & Family Board Meeting, 11:30, Nutritional Services Classroom
- 10th: State-observed Veteran's Day
- 11th: Veteran's Day
- 14th: BRC Thanksgiving meal
- 23rd: Thanksgiving Day
- 28th: City of Magee Christmas Parade, 5:00



## 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 PER YEAR)
- MS PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT
- 8 HOUR SHIFTS

*Scan me*



**CALL US !**

 **601-867-5000**

