

Gifts Delivered is Franchisee of the Month

by Pat Healey



Candy Bouquet International, Inc. of Little Rock Arkansas recently named the **Beaver County Rehabilitation Center**, owner of Gifts Delivered Featuring Candy Bouquet, as **Franchisee of the Month for July 2002**. Gifts Delivered was selected because of their excellent practices in customer relations, development of their franchise, and relations with the corporate headquarters.

Owned and operated by the Beaver County Rehabilitation Center, Inc., Gifts Delivered Featuring Candy Bouquet has been open for business since August 2001. The franchise was purchased to provide work for persons with disabilities who attend BCRC daily. The sales floor is temporarily located in the Administration Center at 1517 Sixth Avenue, New Brighton, PA. Candy Bouquet is staffed daily by Job Coach Sue Middleman and several BCRC workers.

The arrangements created by Gifts Delivered Featuring Candy Bouquet are being sold in hospital gift shops in addition to the New Brighton location. Public response has been wonderfully positive.

Disability advocate and training pioneer Mark Gold's motto, "try another way" has guided BCRC staff as they invent new methods of production which allow more individuals to become involved in the business. These methods have also helped to make the operation more efficient. New Marketing Assistant, Sandee Monahan adds her experience in floral design and wedding planning to the Candy Bouquet operation.

There are over 550 Candy Bouquet franchise locations in 48 states and 30 foreign countries. BCRC feels honored to be considered among the elite group of franchises that have been chosen to represent the corporate offices as franchise of the month.

For more information call Gifts Delivered Featuring Candy Bouquet at 724-847-4513 Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or Beaver County Rehabilitation Center at 724-847-1306.

Antoline Foundation Holds Most Successful Outing

by Frank Shialabba

The John A. Antoline Foundation held its most successful Golf Outing ever on Saturday, July 27 at the Blackhawk Golf Course in Chippewa. Approximately 210 golfers participated in the event to raise money for a variety of charities, including the Beaver County Rehabilitation Center. The John A. Antoline Foundation has generously funded the BCRC Client Christmas Party for the past five years. John Antoline Jr. was very gratified that people still remember the work of his father and support the foundation.

BCRC Awarded Training Grant

The Beaver County Rehabilitation Center was recently awarded a training grant by the Department of Health, Bureau of Family Health. The training will be held at the Community College of Beaver County Auditorium in the Allied Health Building on October 8th. "Teaching Identification of Emotions to Individuals with Developmental Disabilities" will be presented from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. and "Enhancing Problem Solving Skills of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities" will be presented from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. Interested parents or agencies can contact Frank Shialabba at 724-847-1306.

Rec Night Celebrates Thirty Years

Beaver County Rehabilitation Center's Thursday night recreation program, "Rec Night," will begin its Thirtieth year of operation on September 12. The program was started in 1972 to provide a social outlet for BCRC clients and other individuals with disabilities in Beaver County. The program, offering music, dancing and socialization, was held at the Community Mental Health Center from 1972 to 1984. Passavant Memorial Homes was home for Rec Night until 1994, when it moved to its present location at New Horizon School in Brighton Township. Persons with disabilities interested in attending "Rec Night" may register at the BCRC Administration Center at 1517 Sixth Avenue, New Brighton, PA. Rec Night is held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. on Thursday evenings.



Dates for the 2002-2003 season are as follows: September 12, September 19, October 10, October 24 (Halloween party), November 14, December 5 (Christmas party), February 13 (Valentine's party), February 27, March 13, March 27, April 10, and May 8.

BCRC Interpreters Receive Coveted Certification

by Kay Podbielski

Marpessa Named Outstanding Client

by Kathleen Ayers

On June 4, 2002, Marpessa Adams, a former BCRC Supported Work Program client, received the Beaver County Welfare Reform Program's "Outstanding Client Achievement Award." Marpessa is currently employed at both the Beaver County YMCA Daycare and Housing Enterprise and Local Programming (H.E.L.P.).

The ceremony was held at the Community College of Beaver County. Case Manager, Dawna Bott and Employment Specialist, Kathleen Ayers, presented Marpessa with her award.

Marpessa first came to BCRC's Project Success in October of 2001. BCRC's SWP staff helped her find her vocational niche. Daycare work is something that comes naturally to Marpessa, as a mother of eight children.

Beaver County YMCA Daycare Director, Cindy Peterson said she is a "ray of sunshine, the kids love her and so do we." In fact Ms. Peterson recommended her for a part-time night supervisor position at the Housing Enterprise and Local Programming. Marpessa works two evenings a week, supervising at-risk children.

Marpessa has gained enough confidence to also start a new endeavor. In addition to working both jobs, Marpessa will work toward a degree in Elementary Education. As Marpessa said, "I can't believe how far I've come. I just want my kids to be proud of me. Wait until I have my degree and I am teaching first or second grade!"

Collette Johnston and Maggie Brady, two of BCRC's sign language interpreters, have achieved the coveted status of Certified Interpreter. Ms. Johnston was certified through the National Association for the Deaf (NAD), while Ms. Brady received her certification through the Registry of the Deaf (RID), Inc.

In addition to Ms. Johnston and Ms. Brady, Barb Cox and Connie Sabol are also highly skilled sign language interpreters for BCRC. Each brings to the table much experience and passion in their quest to assure communication with persons who are deaf. Ms. Cox teaches sign language at CCBC, while Ms. Sabol has interpreted in a wide variety of situations. Most recently, she has assisted persons who are deaf to complete their academic studies. BCRC is proud of the skill and accomplishments of all four interpreters.

The certification received by Ms. Johnston and Ms. Brady is highly regarded and extremely difficult to achieve. Ms. Johnston traveled to Washington, D.C. where she was met with a panel of ten people. She had to interpret in six different situations and in six different styles. She interpreted from English to various forms of American Sign Language, then had to interpret from voice to sign, and from sign to voice. Many years of preparation preceded her certification. She took courses at the Community College of Allegheny County, and attended workshops in Michigan, Ohio, and Washington, D.C. Her experience interpreting in a variety of situations was also invaluable. She had interpreted for the police, medical

appointments, emergency situations, etc. She sees interpreting as a challenge.

Ms. Brady earned her certification by successfully completing the Certificate of Transliteration (CT) Performance Test. Ms. Brady describes her road to Certification as a "long and rewarding journey." She began taking sign classes many years ago, and in 1997, received her Associates Degree in Interpreting from the Community College of Allegheny County. In addition to her formal schooling, Ms. Brady states that it takes many years of practical experience to pass the performance part of the test.

She states, "I am an example for people to persevere in achieving their goals." The two-part test covered a wide range of knowledge and expertise, including the history of the Registry of the Deaf, ethical issues, linguistic questions, general knowledge about different types of signing and spatial awareness.

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation funds many of the interpreting services that are offered through BCRC. Interpreters have accompanied persons who are deaf to doctor's appointments, college courses, employment interviews, funerals, emergency room visits, etc. BCRC interpreters have also conducted educational sessions on deafness for family practice physicians. Beaver County police departments also contact the interpreting service to assist people with deafness in emergency as well as non-emergency situations. You can learn more about BCRC's Interpreting Services by calling 724-847-1306 or visiting our website at www.bcrc.net.



David Podbielski Leaves Legacy of Caring

Our heartfelt sympathy and well wishes are extended to BCRC Director of Vocational Evaluation, Kay Podbielski and her family. Kay's husband Dave passed away unexpectedly on June 16. David was only 48 years old, however, he left a legacy of caring and excellence that touched the lives of family, friends, students and anyone he came in contact with. As a coach he was respected and revered. As a father, he was in his son Andy's words "perfect." As a husband, he was dearly loved. All of us at BCRC wish to extend our friendship and support to Kay and her family.

We would also like to thank all of those individuals who generously contributed to the BCRC Client Christmas Fund in David's memory.

SHOP TALK

by Paula Cordes

BCRC participated in the Beaver County Chamber of Commerce Annual "Chamber Day at the Mall" on Saturday, August 24th. This fair gave Chamber members the opportunity to meet the public and explain their businesses. BCRC's booth provided the crowd a look at our beautiful Candy Bouquets and also displayed the microfilming and shredding capabilities of our Records Management Department.



Employees of the Month Speak Out

*by Jill McAlister,
Cheryl Beightley, Kathy Siget
and Sharon Nesbit*



BCRC welcomed three new staff in July. The Supported Employment Department's new employment specialist is Linda Shawger, while Sandee Monahan took on full-time job duties in Candy Bouquet. Rounding out the trio is Crystal Adkins, our newest job coach in the workshop. A hearty "Welcome Aboard" to all!

Everyone was a winner at this year's Annual Client Picnic held at John A. Antoline Memorial Park. One and all had a great time, whether playing softball, Bingo or just listening to music and enjoying the wonderful meal provided by the Monaca Recreation Board & Volunteers. The highlight of the day was the appearance of the Pirate Parrot at the annual softball game. If you missed the picnic, you missed a very enjoyable day. A special thank-you goes out to each and every member of the committee for all their hard work. You made a lot of people very happy!



BCRC's continuing commitment to improving staff skills through training this quarter included training on Basic First Aid/CPR, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder/Substance Abuse, Job Training/Placement, Fee for Services, and Certified Investigative Training.

BCRC has begun its 2003 United Way campaign. BCRC staff contributes a significant amount to the campaign, and the twenty-two member agencies in the Beaver County United Way offer valuable services to the community. Contributors may contribute to the general fund or may contribute to a specific agency through donor option. BCRC's United Way agency code is 685.



BCRC's Scouting for Food Campaign was a huge success this year, thanks to everyone's generous contributions. A special thank-you lunch was provided at Chi-Chi's on June 21st.

Whitney Christley won the honor of Employee of the Month for the month of May. According to Whitney, BCRC is one of her favorite places to work because she likes everything about her job. This is what makes having a great attitude about work so easy for her. When asked what gave her the winning edge, Whitney said, "I improved my behavior, I get along with others, I have good hygiene, and I have a good attendance record."

June's Employee of the Month award was given to Randy Sanner. Randy is proving to be an exemplary employee. He feels the key to a good work attitude is learning all he can from his co-workers. He does admit though that he was "stunned" to find out he had won. Randy does the best he can when he is at work, and thinks that this may be why he was chosen for the award. Randy's hopes for the future include getting a job in the community.

Linda Crawford was titled Employee of the Month for July. She believes the accomplishments that made her stand out were having a good attitude, great attendance, following directions, and being kind to everyone she works with. Being honored for her achievements made Linda "very happy and excited". Linda wants to continue doing contract work, whether it is at BCRC or outside of the workshop.

Safety Lights

by Debbie Howell



"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". It may be an old saying, but it has new relevance to BCRC's Safety Committee, chaired by Janet Simon, Property Manager. Instead of waiting until state inspection time, Janet prefers to take that proverbial ounce. She has implemented **monthly** safety inspections at all four BCRC sites, which she says, "keeps us State Inspection ready, and safe at all times."

In conjunction with BCRC's proactive approach to safety, Janet works closely with the New Brighton Fire Department. Recently, Fire Chief Ken Bock paid us a surprise visit and did an impromptu fire drill at the Administration and Production buildings. Overall, BCRC Staff and clients responded well, with Mr. Bock making a few suggestions. Janet says, "We really appreciate New Brighton's Fire Department's involvement and the concern they show". I think we can say the same thing to Janet and her Safety Committee!



Sallie Faces Future with Confidence

by Frank Shialabba



It was March 2001 and Sallie Blasco was a single mother facing an uncertain future. She was an accomplished individual who possessed many skills and a great deal of experience. She graduated from the Community College of Beaver County in 1988, and had also spent some time in the United States Navy. However, her recent experiences had not been positive. She was not sure what direction to take. One thing was certain; she had two children to support and she needed a job. She contacted the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and was referred to the Beaver County Rehabilitation Center for a Vocational Evaluation.

It was quickly obvious that Sallie had many of the attributes necessary for employment. The food service training that she had in the Navy made her a strong candidate for a position as a cook at the Beaver Falls Holiday Inn. She was hired by the Holiday Inn in April 2001.

Sallie was hired as a Prep Cook and by her own description that means “doing anything that needs to be done in the kitchen.” Sallie cooks, bakes, prepares salads, slices cheese and meat, and on weekends prepares the breakfast buffets. She cooks up a wonderful array of breakfast delights including bacon, sausage, eggs and waffles. Sallie says, “I like my job. It makes me feel good. I feel like I’m doing something with my life.”

BCRC Program Specialist, Sheila Silbaugh describes Sallie as “a hardworking, delightful person who is very motivated.” Sallie tackles her job with enthusiasm. She is well liked by her coworkers and according to Ms. Silbaugh, “She tries to be helpful to the people she works with. She is an extremely compassionate individual, who will always lend a helping hand.”

Sallie developed the ability to know what it takes to maintain her employment, and this was a key to her success. She learned when to ask for the support she needed. BCRC was able to provide assistance in seeking and maintaining appropriate medical insurance that would meet her needs. This was a long and trying process that Sallie weathered successfully.

Sallie has advanced from part-time to full-time employment at the Holiday Inn. She recently was voted Employee of the Month. She is a vivacious individual who will light up a conversation in the same way she has brightened up the Beaver Falls Holiday Inn. Sallie is someone who “jumps in when I’m needed. When something needs to be done I get it done.” As Sallie’s friend David McElhinney states, “Sallie has the desire to improve herself. I’m real proud of her.” Sallie’s pride and desire to grow have given her the strength to face the future with confidence.

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