

**BCRC Celebrates Annual Client Picnic**

by Kathleen Ayers

“That brings up batter Don ‘Mighty’ Midon, whose *mighty* swing will try to send Theresa ‘Quick Wrist’ Gist home from third base.” This announcement, by BCRC Project Director and perennial softball announcer Frank Shialabba, was heard at BCRC’s annual client picnic.

This year’s picnic was held on August 6 at the John A. Antoline Park in Monaca. The park was posthumously named for John Antoline, Monaca native and longtime BCRC friend. Mr. Antoline and the Recreation Board of Monaca invited BCRC to its first picnic 27 years ago.

More than 200 persons attended this year’s picnic, with 90 participating in the softball tournament. The Wild Thing, mascot of professional league baseball team the Washington Wild Things, was on hand to lead the cheering for our enthusiastic softball players. All softball participants received team colored baseball caps that were also donated by Monaca Recreation.

For attendees who did not play softball, there were bingo games and dancing in the pavilion. BCRC client Michael Hitt remarked, “I love the dancing at BCRC’s picnic. This picnic is one of the best ever.” Nancy Lewis, an avid bingo player remarks, “I won at bingo and I love playing bingo! It is so much fun.”

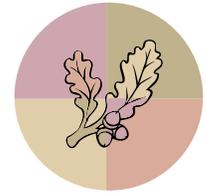
Donuts were provided through a generous donation from the Hill and Kunselman Funeral Home. For BCRC client David Borneo, this was the best part of the day. He said, “I loved the donuts the most!” Volunteers and members of the Monaca Recreation Board cooked and served a delicious lunch that was donated by the Monaca Wal-Mart. The delicious home cooked food and deserts included homemade cookies and ice cream.

The volunteers, headed by Theo Polce and her family, also enjoyed the picnic. According to Theo, “Of all the things we do for the Recreation Board, this is the most wonderful thing we do. We all enjoy doing this every year. It takes a lot of work but we have fun and we get to give to the community.”

Volunteer, Jan Perza, a member of Monaca Recreation Board, echoed the same sentiments. “I love doing the work. We always have as much fun as the BCRC clients, guests and staff. I’ve been helping for five years and I plan on continuing for as long as I can.”

BCRC maintenance man and *star* softball pitcher, Bob Nichol, remarked, “The clients enjoy themselves so much. Prior to the picnic, when I walked through the 601 Production Center, many of the clients would ask, ‘Are you going to the picnic, Bob?’ They are so excited about the picnic. For me the picnic represents a time to get to know both the staff and clients that I normally do not interact with. They have a ball and I get to know them in a relaxed setting. It’s great.”

Molly Miller, BCRC client and a veteran picnic attendee, summed the day up best. She said, “BCRC picnics are always great, but this one was *really* great! They get better every year.”



**Employees of the Month Profiled**

by

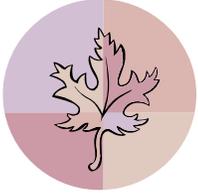
Karen Buccelli, Lavinia Craft,  
Rosalie Dizenzo, Dennis  
Gibson, Mary Jane Hudak,  
Joe Johnston, Janice McGhee

Without a doubt, this month’s Employee of the Month is one of our most faithful and loyal workers. David Borneo sets a high standard for all of us. One soon realizes that David is very happy and proud to be working at BCRC. As David says, “I enjoy working and talking with my friends. This helps me keep a good attitude.” David was especially pleased to become May’s Employee of the Month. He proudly wore his BCRC button displaying his honor for the entire month! David’s job coaches Joan Bell and Kim Hildman, have high praises for him as well. They say he never complains, accepts all jobs eagerly, is self-sufficient, well liked among coworkers and has a wonderful sense of humor. David’s goal for the future is to continue to work at BCRC’s workshop and Records Management facility. Recently, David has experienced some major life changes. He has kept a great attitude and adjusted very well.

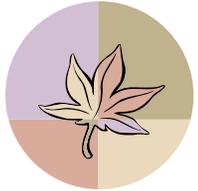


# Mailing Service Enters New Era

by Frank Shialabba



Our Employee of the Month for June could have earned his award on cheerfulness alone. Each morning Manny Alonso starts the day by telling everyone "I'm feeling chipper on a Monday (or Tuesday or Wednesday, etc.). Manny is known for his good attitude and work ethic. Whatever his assigned work, janitorial, boxes, bearings or mailings, Manny says, "I'm glad to do it." Manny is especially proud of his work on boxes. He works hard to keep his mind on his work and stay at his work station. His Program Specialist, Katie Grable, says, "Manny loves to learn new things. When on outside tours, he is interested, polite and asks good questions." Manny has good attendance here at BCRC and is helpful to both coworkers and staff. Manny has been working at BCRC since 1970.



Jonathan Ciamelle is our Employee of the Month for July. Since returning to BCRC in 2002, Jonathan has excelled. He has proven himself to be an excellent worker. He also makes sure that he keeps a friendly attitude towards coworkers and staff. He received high praise from his Job Coach, Trina Hall. "Jonathan is a great worker. He is always

Employees continued page 3

The Beaver County Rehabilitation Center has begun a new chapter in its business development efforts. BCRC has reached agreement with a local company to assume their first class mailing operation. As of July 1st, BCRC began processing and preparing first class mail for the first time.



For the past 25 years BCRC has been involved in the preparation and processing of bulk mail. The expansion into first class mail will enable BCRC to provide area businesses with a one-stop, full service mailing center. According to BCRC Production Manager, Frank Sniezek, "BCRC is now a one stop mailing service. We can save area

companies time and money by handling all their mailing needs. This will provide new and rewarding work opportunities for the clients of BCRC."

BCRC will soon begin a parcel mailing service, as well. BCRC has purchased a metering machine, specialized software and a computer system that will allow us to determine the most cost effective way to ship parcels across the country. This service will be available to area businesses and individuals. For information about this service or BCRC's Mailing Service, phone Frank Sniezek as 724-847-1306.



## SAFETY LIGHTS



Summer safety awareness was raised along with a lot of laughter as the staff of BCRC presented a skit, written by Frank Shialabba, titled "Dudley Do Wrong." As the plot unfolded, the "Do Wrongs" lived up to their moniker, demonstrating the wrong way to keep safe. The crowd promptly stepped in to "do it right". After the skit everyone present sang

and signed to the song "I'm Proud to be an American". Immediately following the presentation a picnic lunch was held with music and dancing until dismissal. Special thanks to the safety committee and all those who willingly gave of their time and talents to make BCRC's first summer safety day a success.



## 2004-2005 United Way Campaign Begins

The United Way Campaign has officially begun. This means there will be a flurry of events in the coming months. Speaking engagements, The Day of Caring, BCRC's United Way Campaign, and the United Way Kickoff Breakfast are some of the United Way activities that BCRC will participate in. This

funding is vital as sources of funding are becoming more difficult to find. Donor pledge forms may be obtained by visiting the United Way office or calling 724-774-3210. You can pledge directly to BCRC by including our donor option number **685** on your pledge card.

# I'd Like a Burger With Ketchup and Spider Man To Go

by Frank Shialabba

"Can I have a hamburger with mustard, ketchup and onions, please?" "I would like to check out a copy of the movie Cold Mountain." "We have an order for two eggs scrambled with a side of hash browns." "Where would I find a copy of Gone with the Wind?" Can I have a salad instead of the cole slaw? Imagine having to deal with all of these requests in the course of the same day. As waitress, cook and video clerk, Amy Johnston handles all of these issues and more during a typical day at the Lion's Den in New Brighton.



Amy's youth and energy serve her well as she switches her many hats frequently and seamlessly. According to BCRC Employment Specialist, Linda Shawger, "Amy can be frying up a burger one minute and checking out a video the next." According to BCRC Kristine Trozzo Deasey, "Amy is very hard worker, who is extremely dependable.

Amy was referred to the Beaver County Rehabilitation Center by Jodi Pense of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. Amy needed help in finding a job, and that help was provided by BCRC's Supported Employment Services.

Amy worked twenty hours a week initially, but was soon promoted to full time employment at 40 hours weekly. According to Employment Specialist Linda Shawger, "Amy has a great deal of responsibility. In addition to running the cash register, checking out videos, cooking and taking orders, Amy is responsible for closing the store at the end of the day. She is an extraordinary cook and an excellent sales person and waitress. Despite the hectic nature of the job, Amy seems to love it."



Amy has proven to be a wonderful worker, as well as a caring mother to her two daughters. Whether scrambling eggs, finding a lost video, or just being "mom," Amy Johnston does everything with the same spirit of enthusiasm and caring. "Hey Amy, can I have a tuna melt, with a side of Harry Potter?"



## Open House Features Plethora of Items

*"Shop and Ship" Convenience Now Available.*



BCRC's Gifts Delivered Featuring Candy Bouquet plans an Open House for the week of November 2 to November 5. The Open House will feature a wide array of items for individual or corporate gifts as well as Gifts Delivered "Shop and Ship" convenience. A variety of beautiful fall and Christmas wreaths will be available in addition to seasonal bouquets. Shoppers may purchase artificial Christmas trees adorned with candy for Christmas decorating.

Other items include decorative baskets of flowers, vases of fall flowers in our "water illusions," BCRC's long stemmed roses or candy blossoms. Christmas gift baskets may be customized with candy, mugs, candles, ornaments, popcorn, coffee, golf balls, gourmet chocolates, etc. for individual or corporate orders. BCRC also has beautiful memorial wreaths available for the holidays.

Gifts Delivered features "Shop and Ship" convenience. Bring your Christmas list to BCRC. We will help with your gift selections and totally take the trouble of shipping the items out of your hands.

Shop early and beat the rush. Gifts Delivered is now accepting orders for wreaths, gift baskets, etc. Gift certificates are also available.

To order or get more information, phone 724-847-4513, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.



Employees *continued*

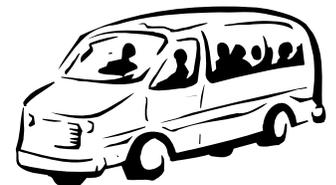
willing to try any job that comes into the shop and those outside also." Among jobs done in the workshop are boxes, mailings, keyways and Advanced Alloy. Jonathan has also worked at community sites such as the Medical Center. Jonathan has the ability, interest and desire to continue improving. As he states himself, "I am willing to try and do different contracts and enclaves."



## MH/MR Assists with Van Acquisition

by Paula Cordes

The Beaver County Mental Health-Mental Retardation Program has been instrumental in BCRC's acquisition of a 2001 Chevy Express van. The 15-passenger van will allow a large number of BCRC clients to be transported to various work sites and vocational programs throughout Beaver County. BCRC Executive Director, Paulette Miller says, "The acquisition of this van will increase our capacity to provide community work opportunities to people with disabilities in Beaver County. Everyone at BCRC wishes to express our sincere appreciation to the Beaver County Office of Mental Health-Mental Retardation."





# SHOP TALK

by Paula Cordes

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John Rackley, Hon. J. Q. Salmon,  
Jack Simon, William Steele

BCRC welcomed back an old friend and former Job Coach Heather Pisano. Heather rejoined the job coach ranks on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

This year's client Christmas Party will be held at the Monaca Turners on December 10. Once again the party will feature DJ Chuck Webb, as well as some surprise entertainment. The party will begin at 9 a.m. and lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.



More than 200 golfers participated in the John A. Antoline Memorial Golf Outing on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. This year's successful outing raised money for a number of local organizations, including BCRC. A number of BCRC clients volunteered to help serve lunch to the golfers.

BCRC participated in the Day of Caring on September 14. Volunteers from First Energy, Michael Baker and FedEx performed a number of tasks designed to make BCRC a more beautiful place to work.

With the new school year starting, BCRC eagerly welcomed the students enrolled in its School-to-Work Program. Approximately seven school districts participate in this program which provides job sampling assessments, tours, classes and actual work sites for students to begin their transition from school to the community work force.

