

**Fall 2006
Edition
Volume XIV
Issue 3**

Aragon Charms Staff and Clients

by Jennifer Gengarella



Pam Turner and Aragon.

On Tuesday, July 18th, BCRC had an exceptional four legged visitor. Aragon, a golden retriever, demonstrated his special talents as a grief therapy dog to BCRC’s staff and clients. He was accompanied by his handler, Pam Turner who was trained specifically to work with him.

Aragon was trained by Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) to respond to over 40 commands, including “get”, “wait”, “back” and “visit”. When he is working, Aragon wears a special vest, collar, and lead.

Clients and staff were permitted to pet him and ask questions about his work as a therapy dog. Aragon even won over a few clients who were hesitant about petting him.



Aragon holding a bag of dog treats.

Aragon has helped many families through the grieving process. His services are available at the Turner Funeral Home in Ellwood City.

While BCRC was very impressed with Aragon, Pam was also impressed with BCRC. She loved her Candy Bouquet popcorn box, and Aragon enjoyed his dog treats. BCRC’s staff and clients look forward to Pam and Aragon’s next visit with anticipation. ■



Aragon is held by Amy Jo Brandon while Ms. Turner looks on.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH SPEAK OUT

by Mary Bender, Karen Buccelli, Rosalie Drenzo, Robert Pollock, Kelly Claypole, and Linda Glaab

Andy Stack was voted Employee of the Month for May. Andy is very happy with this award. He feels hard work and following instructions have made it possible for him to receive this honor. Andy loves working at BCRC and he wishes to continue working on two jobs he does well, arc chutes and switches. Andy excels at assembly jobs and cleaning. His work attitude is to “just keep working.”



Lisa Lynn is our June Employee of the Month. Lisa has been at BCRC for 16 years, and she is thrilled to receive this award. Lisa loves to come to work and enjoys the work given to her. She feels her abilities and good work skills earned her the award. Lisa would like to continue at BCRC to maintain her good work record. ▶



How Does Our Garden Grow?

Fresh tomatoes and green peppers were seen sprouting at BCRC’s Administration Center and 601 Production Center this summer. The fresh produce was the result of the efforts of Rosalie Drenzo and her garden crew. Rosalie, Dan Gregorich and Manuel Alonso have spent the summer watering, weeding and nurturing the plants in the courtyards of the two BCRC buildings. The idea for the small gardens came from Ms. Drenzo who loves working with plants and flowers. ■



Pictured from left to right: Dan Gregorich, Manuel Alonso, and Rosalie Drenzo.

Student's Needs Answered by New Program

by Frank Shialabba

BCRC's Employee of the Month for July is Gary Webb. Gary has been employed at BCRC for 11 years and is very happy to be voted Employee of the Month. Gary has a good work attitude. Gary feels that he received this award because he maintains consistency in his work and his willingness to try new jobs.

It seems that all three individuals have the same thought. They all like to work at BCRC and they desire to "just keep working." Congratulations to all three of our Employees of the Month. ■



Safety Lights

Don't Let Autumn Leave You with a Backache

Be Careful when raking leaves. Consider the following safety tips from the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS).

Before raking, pick up any fallen branches, tree limbs or debris that may cause you to trip and fall.

Stretch to warm up your muscles for 10 minutes with light exercise. It is also essential to stretch your muscles after raking to relieve tension.

Pace yourself. Take frequent breaks and replenish fluids to prevent dehydration. If you experience chest pain, shortness of breath or other signs of a heart attack, seek emergency care, such as by calling 9-1-1.

See what you are raking. Do not let a hat or scarf block your vision. Watch out for large rocks, low branches, tree ►

The question, "How am I going to keep busy all summer?" was answered this year for 11 students who participated in the Job Training of Beaver County Summer Youth Program. The Beaver County Rehabilitation Center served as a JTBC work site and hosted students from New Horizon School, Beaver Falls School District, and Ambridge School District.

BCRC's first summer program for area students was a resounding success. According to School to Work Transition Program Specialist, Maureen Hawk, "This year's program met a need that has existed for a long time. It was a win-win situation for everyone involved."



From left to right: Justin Ehrenberg, Lisa McClure-Steals, Job Coach, Matt Ulizio, Jamie St. Esprit, Rusty Rounds and Jean Ann Barsotti, Director of Beaver Falls Library.

The seven week program exposed the students to a variety of work experiences. They worked at a number of job sites that involved clothing sales, records management, custodial work, and flower arranging. The students also toured a number of area businesses including colleges, restaurants, physical fitness centers, grocery stores and retail merchandise stores.

In addition to their many work experiences, students also attended classes designed to develop positive work habits.

BCRC would like to thank the students and their school districts. We would also like to thank Deborah Newton, JTBC CEO, Rick Riley, JTBC Program Manager and Beth Demorantz and Cyndi Brown, JTBC Youth Case Managers. ■

Transition Staff Attend State Conference

BCRC Program Specialists Maureen Hawk and Brenda Walsh attended the 2006 PA State Transition Conference at Penn State in July. Ms. Hawk states that "this was a chance to improve services for the students by learning the latest in available products and resources." Ms. Hawk and Ms. Walsh met school transition staff from across Pennsylvania and participated in an exchange of new and exciting ideas. They look forward to an exciting new year with students from school districts throughout Beaver County. ■



Scouting for Food luncheon attendees. Back row left to right: Don Midon, Patricia DelGreco, Chris Zalucky, Frank Shialabba, and James Lary. Front row left to right: Carol McCullough, Robert Beaver, and Katie Hanton.

BCRC completed a successful Scouting for Food Drive recently. As one of the top companies in Beaver County, BCRC received the Chairman's Award. ■

2006 Picnic Scores with Happy Clients

On Friday, August 25, more than 200 people attended the annual BCRC client picnic at John A. Antoline Memorial Park in Monaca.

The highlights of the day's activities were the softball games between the Shadows and the Thrashers and the Halls-Bells and the Parkays. Approximately 90 clients participated in softball, while BCRC staff assisted with coaching, base-running, umpiring and announcing. Hats for softball participants were generously donated by ESB Bank.



Softball participants wait for their turn to bat at the 2006 Client Picnic.



Members of Monaca Recreation prepare to serve staff and clients.

BCRC clients also played bingo and danced to the tunes of a local DJ. Cheryl Beightley exclaimed that "this was the best picnic ever."

The picnic was sponsored by the Monaca Recreation Board. Theo Polce and her group of volunteers provided a wonderful picnic lunch that they served with their usual heaping helping of hospitality. ■

Jakena is Beaver County's Rocky

by Frank Shialabba

Philadelphia is the home of "Rocky", the fighter who overcame impossible odds to win the heavy weight championship of the world. Philadelphia is also the home of Beaver County's own version of "Rocky," Jakena Costen.

Jakena came to Beaver County five years ago from Philadelphia with a young baby, no family, no car and no means of support. She needed a job, but she was a stranger to the area, who did not have a high school diploma. She worried about her baby's present and her future. She needed a mentor or "trainer" in order to face the fight ahead with hope and confidence.

Jakena's "trainers" were the staff of BCRC's Project Success and Supported Employment Programs. Her "gym" was BCRC's Skills Training Program at Goodwill Industries. Jakena came out swinging and she earned high marks from

Goodwill's Norma Russell. Jakena's work ethics and friendly disposition earned her a full time job as a cashier at Goodwill.

BCRC staff helped Jakena get a car and insurance. According to Supported Employment Program Specialist, Sheila Silbaugh, "Jakena always did what she had to do. She learned how to survive, and she learned how to be a good mother and a good employee. She gained more confidence with each new challenge."

Jakena loves people and someday she would like to get a job where she can help others. She does her best now to help her coworkers by greeting them with a smile. She takes time to get to know each of her coworkers and she offers them support and encouragement.

You may not see Jakena running up steps to the tune of "Eye of the Tiger", but BCRC's Rocky has won many important battles in her fight for a brighter future. ■

stumps and uneven surfaces. Avoid falls by wearing shoes or boots with slip-resistant soles.

🍂 Use a rake that feels comfortable for your height and strength. Avoid using a rake that is too short or long. Wear gloves or use rakes with padded handles to help prevent blisters.

🍂 Vary movements when raking. To rake without strain, alternate your leg and arm positions often. When picking up leaves, bend at the knees, not the waist. Also, keep the leaf piles small, so you don't strain your back while gathering.

🍂 Avoid overfilling the bags, especially if the leaves are wet. You should be able to carry bags comfortably, so make sure they aren't too heavy or large.

🍂 Do not throw the leaves over your shoulder or to the side. This requires a twisting motion that places undue stress on your back. ■



Annual Holiday Open House Scheduled

Mark your calendars now for the Gifts Delivered Annual Holiday Open House. It will be held on November 6, 7, 8 and 9 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tea, coffee and cookies will be served. Among holiday items being offered is a vast array of original seasonal wreaths. This is an ideal opportunity to do some holiday shopping. And remember, we can also ship your purchase anywhere in the US. ■

SHOP TALK

By Paula Cordes

Competitive Edge Editorial Staff

Gloria Beighey, Paula Cordes,
Jennifer Gengarella, Pat Healey,
Cindy Kirkpatrick, Kay Podbielski,
Frank Shialabba,
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BCRC has added a number of new employees to our ranks. They include part-time RMC job coaches Darlene Fox, Tara Kraus, Glenda Yount and Tammy Bathgate. Part-time summer coaches included Andrew Flowers, Kristen Walsh and Heather Battaglia.



BCRC recently purchased a template for a new web site. Information and photos are currently being compiled for the new site.



At Mike Veon's Annual Children's Fair, BCRC recently sponsored a booth where we did face painting for children and handed out "chore charts" and stickers, as well as School to Work Information.



BCRC would like to welcome Moon Area, Mohawk, and South Side School Districts to our School to Work Transition Program. BCRC looks forward to a long and productive working relationship with these school districts.



You can help buy a Christmas Gift for a BCRC client by purchasing a ticket to Boscov's October 17 fundraiser, "Friends Helping Friends." Five dollars entitles you to a 25% off shopping pass, free refreshments, entertainment, and chances to win prizes like a big screen TV, iPod, set of luggage, or shopping spree from \$10 to \$500. You can purchase your ticket at BCRC's Administration Center at 1517 Sixth Ave., New Brighton.



The United Way of Beaver County is currently conducting its annual campaign. You no longer must use a donor option number. If you would like to donate to BCRC just fill in "BCRC" on your pledge form.

