

Spotlight on: Starlette McNutt Courthouse Job Coach

By Jennifer Gengarella



Three mornings a week, Starlette McNutt is one of the first people to arrive at the Beaver County courthouse. Starlette is the job coach for BCRC's courthouse enclave. As Starlette passes through the metal detector, she greets the sheriff's deputies with a smile and friendly hello. The deputies exchange her greeting and jokingly promise to find her a nice 'cell' where she can spend her day.

Starlette enjoys the friendly atmosphere of the courthouse. Even more, she enjoys working with six clients per day as they prepare courthouse files to be scanned or microfilmed.

Star and the clients at the courthouse are aware of the importance of their work. They prepare files from almost every office. This work includes removing staples and paper clips, unfolding papers and removing papers from envelopes. Most importantly, the files must be kept in perfect order.

Even though the work keeps them busy, Star and the clients always manage to enjoy their time at the Courthouse. According to Star, "The sheriff's deputies and the clients love to joke back and forth. The clients feel part of the courthouse because the employees treat them so well."

Star also enjoys having a smaller group to work with because she has more time to focus on each client. "I can help them grow in their confidence and abilities. I love to see the sense of accomplishment that shines through with each smile on their face."

Thanks to Starlette, BCRC maintains a smooth operation at the courthouse. ■

BCRC's 'Tinker Bell' Makes Magic

by Frank Shialabba

Sherry Lombardo brightens the lives of all who meet her with her enthusiasm and love of life. She has been a loyal member of the Candy Bouquet crew for many years. Sherry contributes greatly to the group with her energy, skill and enthusiasm. However, she always dreamed of contributing in a new and more satisfying way. She wanted to create and build a floral arrangement from top to bottom.

Sherry, known for her skill in wrapping candy and placing cello on stems, always admired the individuals who actually create and build the beautiful arrangements that are displayed in the lobby and conference room of BCRC. Together with her Program Specialist, Hedy Pflug, Sherry embarked on a goal to realize the dream of creating her own mug arrangement from beginning to end.

Sherry's project started with the purchase of a Tinker Bell mug. Sherry then chose chocolate and hard candies to place in the mug. She also picked the cellos that would coordinate with the color and design of the mug.

Sherry then completed all the steps of creating an arrangement: making brew in which to place the arrangement, wrapping candy, placing cello on stems and then placing the stems in the most appealing angle and position. Finally, Sherry chose coordinating ribbon to make a bow to place on the arrangement.

Sherry beamed with pride as she showed her masterpiece to everyone, including BCRC's executive director. BCRC's own "tinker bell" has fulfilled her dream and created a little magic for us all. ■



Sherry Lombardo displays her creation.

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Campaign Reaches Goal

by Marty Shafer



Beaver County Rehabilitation Center outdid itself once again in the 2007 Scouting for Food Campaign. BCRC collected over 1000 non-perishable food items and more than 3500 units of food for the food banks and soup kitchens of Beaver County. On July 17, eight consumers and two staff members from BCRC participated in the Scouting for Food Award Luncheon at the United Way offices in Center Township. They graciously accepted the Chairman's Award for being the top collector of food among all of the United Way Agencies. Congratulations to all who have once again made this campaign a success! ■



EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH SPEAK OUT

by Kelly Claypole, Lavinia Craft,
Linda Glaab, Mary Jane Hudak,
Stacey Quick and Cheryl States

Our July Employee of the Month has been with BCRC for 22 years. Richard Luketic has worked so long because he has a good attitude about his work and loves BCRC. He says, "Just doing the job and ▶

liking what I do keeps me going.” Richard feels that hard work and willingness to try new things like the janitorial enclave have helped him win this award. Richard hopes to acquire work outside of BCRC some day.



Chris Piper, our August Employee of the Month, started at BCRC in 2000 with our School to Work program. Chris feels by remaining calm and eager to learn he is able to keep a good work attitude. Chris feels it is a great accomplishment to receive this award. He has never won an award like this before. Chris wants to be a storm chaser in the future.



Katie Hanton was chosen September Employee of the Month. She has been at BCRC for approximately four years. Katie enjoys working with her co-workers and she believes this has helped her attitude at work. Katie was very surprised when she found out she was voted Employee of the Month. She believes her good work ethic helped her win this award. Katie hopes to work in a video store one day. ■



SAFETY LIGHTS

It's Carnival Time!

by Cindy Kirkpatrick

The air was filled with the sound of carnival music and the smell of hot dogs at the annual BCRC safety carnival on Friday, August 31.

The midway was lined with games and vendors. The “carnies” barked to passers-by, ►

Group 3 Cleans Up



It was a clean sweep for Group 3 as their Irish theme won BCRC’s Autumn Broom Decorating contest. Job coaches and program specialists worked with clients in each group to decorate the most beautiful and original corn broom, hand broom and dust pan. All three items had to be coordinated in a central theme. Group 1 featured a Halloween theme with ghosts and bats, while Group 5 had flowers and happy faces adorning their cleaning items. Other BCRC groups had the following themes: School to Work, mascots from every school in the county, Group 2, pumpkin face, Group 4, fall leaves and Candy Bouquet was autumn. ■

Want a Job? Just Choose Your Make and Model

by Frank Shialabba



Would you like to have your car customized? No problem, just choose your color, model and options from the manufacturer’s selection. Well, how about having your job customized? No problem, just prepare a 16 page personal portfolio describing your personal history, support system, available transportation, work experience, negotiable and non-negotiable, hot button issues, etc. This portfolio is one of the detailed and individualized steps of a process called customized employment.

Supported Employment Program Specialist, Sheila Silbaugh, recently completed training in customized employment in Pittsburgh. According to Ms. Silbaugh, “Customized employment is designed to match the needs and desires of the individual with the business needs of their potential employer. Instead of starting with a job and finding applicants to fill it, customized employment begins with a thorough understanding of the individual who is seeking employment.” Ms. Silbaugh believes that customized employment makes successful jobs more likely as it really tailors the job to the individual.

After a personal portfolio is developed, the employment specialist tours various businesses to see if they have opportunities that fit the skills and interests of the person seeking employment. “The person’s history and the needs of the business are considered equally in making a successful match,” states Ms. Silbaugh.

While being very time consuming, Ms. Silbaugh believes that “Customized employment adds another aspect to the quality services that we can provide to our supported employment clients.” ■



Gifts Delivered featuring Candy Bouquet is holding its Christmas Gift Sale on November 26, 27, 28, 29 & 30, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and special Saturday hours on December 1 from 9 a.m. -4 p.m.



Joanna Greco presents the Candy Bouquet to door prize winner, Patty Reich, at Gifts Delivered’s Fall Open House.



We Will Always Remember You, Cheryl

In Memory of Cheryl Beightley

Cheryl Beightly, a former employee of the Beaver County Rehabilitation Center passed away in September at the age of 39.

Cheryl had been a valued member of BCRC's "Candy Bouquet" team. She was known for her creativity and kindness. The following is a letter written by BCRC staff member Sheila Silbaugh that shared some of our memories of Cheryl with her daughter Stephanie.



Dear Stephanie,

I wanted to take a moment and let you know how much your mom, our friend Cheryl, meant to us. She was a remarkable woman who felt that to live, meant to give her all and always do her best. We have had the pleasure of working with your mom for quite some time now and always knew that if we wanted to feel better then we needed to say hi to her. She always had a pleasant greeting, friendly demeanor and warm camaraderie to share with both staff and fellow coworkers.

Cheryl spoke of you all the time. She always spoke with pride and joy of your accomplishments. We knew that you are a cheerleader and that you did well in school. She always looked forward to the end of work on Tuesdays as she was going to have the chance to spend time with you. We knew that you were a special young lady and that Cheryl had watched with pride as you grew into the person that you are today. It meant so much to her that you were proud of her too.

Cheryl was not only loved by us, but by the people at Mental Health Association where she worked as an interviewer. The Goodwill staff also thought highly of your mom. Everywhere we spoke this week, the same things were said. Your mother was a kind, gentle woman who always had time to say a kind word to the person next to her. She gave of herself from the heart to all that she met. Everyone deserved her time and she always wanted to help out where she could. She gave guidance and friendship to those who needed it when she could and never expected anything in return. She will be greatly missed by all of us.

Enter Web Contest and Win

by Dawna Bott

You can win a surprise gift from BCRC's Gifts Delivered business merely by entering the new facade/website contest at www.bcrc.net. Just comment on the web site and the new facade at the Administration Center at 1517 Sixth Avenue, New Brighton and you will be eligible for a prize drawing on November 1, 2007.

The website was designed to familiarize the public with BCRC and its wide range of services. The site at www.bcrc.net features the history of BCRC, client programs, employment opportunities and business services. In addition, there are slide shows, newsletters, news releases, detailed program descriptions and soon an online store. Some of the programs featured are supported work, school to work transition and Aurora Psychiatric Rehabilitation. Also displayed on the website are business



services such as, mailing services, corporate gifts (through Gifts Delivered) and records management.

The new facade at 1517 Sixth Avenue, New Brighton is prominently displayed on the web site contest page. It is the fulfillment of the dreams of Executive Director, Paulette Miller. She states, "People with disabilities deserve to work at a place they can be proud of. We have strived to achieve those values in all our work environments. I am very happy that BCRC clients have a safe and comfortable place in which to work."

So come and see all that BCRC has to offer; beautiful buildings, a state of the art web site and first rate programs. And don't forget that while you are viewing our web site take a minute to enter the BCRC website contest. Hurry and enter before time runs out! ■

enticing them to spin the wheel or daring them to have their fortunes read. The summer safety carnival, hosted by the safety committee, was in full swing. The event began with a pedestrian safety video that featured BCRC staff participating in a mock trial. Following the video, Twinkle L. Star, the clown, mingled among the crowd as a picnic lunch was served.

This year's carnival featured a "burning house" which was extinguished by the clients with the help of firefighter, Travis Nicol. Other games included the bean bag toss, duck pond, and wheel match. All of the games had a safety theme and a message that imparted the importance of safety to everyone at BCRC.



Safety Committee Chair Person, Janet Simon, accepts a donation from Sylvania Hills for the Safety Carnival.

The safety committee thanks the many local merchants, who helped to make the carnival a success through their donations. Contributors included First Energy, Cutler Hammer and Sylvania Hills. The committee also wishes to thank the staff of BCRC for their enthusiasm and support of this very worthwhile venture. See you next August. ■

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Shop Talk

Dena Stewart has joined BCRC as a school to work program specialist. She was hired to replace Brenda Walsh who is now teaching special education in the public school system. Welcome Dena and best wishes, Brenda.



BCRC's clients are on track to filling orders for over 1400 cemetery wreaths by the end of October. The wreaths are lovely and truly beautify the cemeteries during the Christmas season.



One half million! That's the number of pieces of mail handled last year by the BCRC mailing services. All types of mail including first class, presort first class, bulk mail, and specialty mail were processed by the service. The largest bulk mail contract completed by the

clients consisted of 56,000 pieces. We also handled 1000 packages through our UPS center. Remind your friends and neighbors to keep us in mind when mailing those Christmas packages. Our professional staff does an excellent job of packaging and shipping those fragile gifts.



Congratulations to John Reeher who just celebrated his tenth anniversary of employment at Goodwill in Rochester.



Congratulations also go out to BCRC's Aurora Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program for passing their recent licensing inspection, to BCRC staff for reaching their United Way fundraising goal, and to Pat Sullivan for being recertified with "excellence" as a licensed investigator.

BCRC clients practice using a fire extinguisher at this year's annual Safety Training Day.

