

**BCRC Staff Rescue
Abandoned Dog**

by Ashley Greenawalt

Abandoned and abused animals are an all too common reality. However, the generous and giving staff of the Beaver County Rehabilitation Center joined together recently to improve the life of one such animal.

Cindy Henry, Aurora Services Psychiatric Rehabilitation practitioner, wanted an older, smaller dog for herself and her husband. Her prayers were answered when an abandoned dog soon appeared at BCRC. This little dog obviously needed a great deal of care, and staff could think of no one more caring than Cindy. Cindy immediately fell in love with this small, black, curly haired dog that was very cute in spite of its ragged condition. The little dog had two bottom teeth that protruded outward. Staff and clients of Aurora services thought the little dog resembled “Manny” the woolly mammoth, from the Ice Age movie. Hence, the little abandoned dog was christened Manny, and he found a new home with Cindy and the folks at Aurora.

A trip to the veterinarian revealed the heartbreaking news that Manny had been hit so hard that one of his testicles was forced upward into his abdomen. He also had been hit in the mouth, breaking his jaw, and causing his teeth to protrude. Cindy not only wanted this dog, but she was determined to do whatever it took for Manny to recover. The cost of having jaw surgery, and an extensive procedure to be neutered was roughly \$650.00.

Cindy’s coworkers at BCRC were anxious to help. Staff quickly raised money for Manny’s surgery through a taco bar and a baked potato bar.

Manny had a successful surgery on 9/2/09. He is minus four teeth and two testicles, but he is doing very well in his new loving home. He has been an inspiration to the clients at Aurora Services, and he has a new job as a therapy dog.

Cindy Henry states “I knew I worked with caring people, but had no idea of the magnitude of their generosity. Thanks to them, Manny will now be living a happy life with a new loving Mommy and Daddy.” ■



Manny, a new Steeler fan, is dressed for the game.

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**EMPLOYEES
OF THE
MONTH SPEAK OUT**

*by Gloria Beighey
and Mike Little*

Our Employee of the Month winners for the third quarter of 2009 are Kathy Horn, Stephen Beckinger and Debbie Germusa.

Kathy Horn was the award winner for July. Kathy has been with BCRC for three years. She feels that people can keep a good work attitude if they just, “think positive.” Kathy is very excited about winning. She feels that “following the rules and staying in the building” helped her to achieve the award. In the future, Kathy wants to take computer classes.

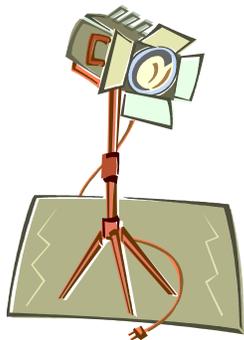
The August recipient was Stephen Beckinger. Steve has been employed at BCRC for two years. He keeps a good work attitude by “working a lot.” Steve describes his emotions about the award as, “it felt good.” Looking to the future, Steve would like to find an outside job.

Deb Germusa was chosen as the September Employee of the Month. Deb has been with BCRC for four years. She feels her work attitude is achieved by “showing up to work on time and being kind to her co-workers.” Deb’s future plans are “to get a job typing and filing.”

We congratulate all three of our most recent Employees of the Month. ■

Spotlight on: Joan Bell

by Jennifer Gengarella



Look around the workshop at BCRC’s production center and you are sure to notice the bubbly personality of BCRC Job Coach, Joan Bell. An employee at BCRC for the past 10 years, Joan’s love of her work with the clients is hard to miss. Her favorite moment at BCRC thus far was the clients’ performance of “God Bless America” in sign language at the summer picnic.

Joan and husband Bill are the proud parents of two boys, Billy, a student at CCBC, and Corey, a junior in high school. When she isn’t working with her group at BCRC or spending time with her family, Joan enjoys yard sales and reading. ■

Beaver County Board Welcomes BCRC Executive Director

Gratitude Is Best Served Spontaneously

by Frank Shialabba

Spontaneous awards can sometimes be the most meaningful. Such an award was presented recently to Program Specialist Hedy Pflugh as she left BCRC for a position as Beaver County Behavioral Health Supports Coordinator.

Sherry Lombardo, of BCRC's Candy Bouquet crew, expressed her heartfelt feelings of gratitude to Ms. Pflugh by presenting her with a home-made plaque and designating her as "Specialist of the Month". Ms. Pflugh had served as Ms. Lombardo's program specialist for a number of years.

Ms. Lombardo was also one of the first to welcome her new program specialist, Rebecca Pieri. We're sure that Ms. Pieri will soon experience the joy of working with Sherry and her many other BCRC clients.

Good luck Hedy and Rebecca in your new positions. ■



Safety Lights

by Cindy Kirkpatrick

Now that winter is here, dress for the cold weather conditions. Be sure to wear several layers of loose fitting clothing, a hat, scarf, mittens, ▶

The Beaver County Rehabilitation Center has long been an active member of the Beaver County community. Executive Director, Paulette Miller continues that tradition of volunteerism through her membership on a Beaver County board.

Ms. Miller currently serves on the Workforce Investment Board of Beaver County. The Southwest Corner Workforce Investment Board (SCWIB) was created in 1999 as a result of the Workforce Investment Act. Board members appointed by the commissioners of Beaver, Washington and Greene counties represent employers, educational institutions, training providers, community based organizations, organized labor, and government. Ms. Miller has been a member of SCWIB for 10 years.



The goals of SCWIB are to reduce labor shortages in targeted industries, reduce unemployment and underemployment and to increase integration and coordination across the workforce investment system. ■

BCRC Hires New Staff

New staff at BCRC include Rebecca Pieri, Program Specialist; Susan Smith, CAPS Program Specialist; Heather Hairhoger, Job Coach; Theresa Belcastro, STW Program Specialist; Amanda Pullinger, CAPS Vocational Evaluator; Denise McCormish, Secretary; Alyssa DeMello, WIN Employment Specialist; Jamie Habedank, WIN Secretary; Damon Neal, WIN Program Specialist; Colleen Sjoberg, WIN Employment Specialist; and Mathew Wunsche, Clerk for the Assessment Center.

Habilitation Program Grows

by Amanda Pullinger

Arising from an effort to help improve one woman's independence, BCRC's habilitation program was created in the year 2000 by Sheila Silbaugh, Director of Employment Services.

Today, BCRC's habilitation program is a highly utilized, successful, and comprehensive service. While once serving one individual, the program now provides services to 25 clients with a staff of twelve providers.

The habilitation program is an extension of BCRC's Supported Employment Program, now currently known as WIN Services. Though the numbers have changed since 2000, the purpose of BCRC's habilitation program remains the same - to expand a person's independence both in the home and in the community. Currently, habilitation services involve a comprehensive array of skill development opportunities to help each client achieve a greater degree of independence, self-efficacy, and satisfaction in his or her life. From cooking, meal planning, and



housekeeping to appropriate peer interaction, transportation, route planning, and time and money management, clients are provided with specialized, one-on-one training.

The supportive staff is quick to see each individual's potential. In an effort to uphold the self-determination concept, each client, as well as his/her family is encouraged to play an active role in directing his or her activities.

Although the habilitation program operating out of BCRC's WIN Services, has already accomplished great things, Sheila Silbaugh has high hopes for its future growth, development, and success. She explains, "As long as we continue to be goal oriented and provide this individualized program for interested persons, I feel that this program will continue to grow." What an exciting journey to take part in! ■



Clients Enjoy Carnival And Learned Something, Too

by Frank Shialabba



BCRC clients enjoyed beautiful weather and a fun-filled day on Friday, September 18, at the annual safety carnival. District Attorney Anthony Berosh, Beaver County Detective Joseph Fennich, Representative James Marshall, and Michael McGee of Poison Free-Frontline United were invited guests who attended the festivities.

District Attorney Berosh thanked the clients for their work at the courthouse and help in converting

four large file cabinets of records to a small file box. He encouraged clients to place safety information cards with their vital information on their refrigerators. These cards have saved lives as emergency personnel have been able to identify medical conditions quickly and take decisive life-saving action.

Michael McGee of Poison Free-Frontline United encouraged the clients to stay away from substances like drugs and excessive alcohol that may "poison" their bodies. Mr. McGee stated that such substances impair an individual's ability to respond quickly in an emergency. Mr. McGee also talked about his organization's efforts to help people build strong, healthy bodies by growing organic gardens. Poison Free has helped initiate many gardening projects throughout Beaver County.

Representative Marshall thanked the clients for being such a positive influence in Beaver County and for helping him do his job by being good, productive citizens. He was joined by Craig Conforti from the representative's office.

In addition to the speakers, the New Brighton Fire Department conducted demonstrations, while the New Brighton police provided photo ID and fingerprinting services.

BCRC clients also enjoyed Bruster's ice cream, fresh popped popcorn, a picnic lunch, Sparkle the Clown's balloon creations and a wide array of games and prizes. ■



and water resistant coat and boots. When the temperature and/or wind chill is near or below zero, stay indoors when possible. If you take the bus, it may be wise to request a vacation day from work. Don't forget to listen to the radio or television for any business closings during extreme weather events. ■

More Safety Carnival Fun



Marlene Shialabba serving up popcorn to hungry crowd.



Two friends share a happy memento.

BCRC Focuses on Accomplishment

by Frank Shialabba

Two very interesting people from BCRC's Evaluation Center were the focus of a "Celebration of Accomplishment" that was presented to a gathering of admiring BCRC staff recently.

Chris Norris talked about her struggle to overcome the effects of a debilitating stroke that she experienced in 1988. Told that she would never walk or be able to sit straight, Chris accomplished both while maintaining a lively sense of humor. She talked freely about her struggles and her ability to find happiness while making day-to-day accommodations for her disability. Short term memory loss has made life a challenge, but Chris copes by using sticky notes to keep her on track with her everyday activities.

John Koehler of BCRC's School to Work Transition Program has tackled a different kind of challenge. John's inquiring mind and love of video games lead him to research that resulted in the creation of his own web site and video game. John studied Java Script on-line and used his new-found knowledge to create Prince Light Adventure, a game with 12 to 13 quests.

Executive Director Paulette Miller thanked Chris and John for sharing the joy of their accomplishments. The staff of the evaluation center, especially Amanda Pullinger and Kelly Newhouse, deserves our thanks for recognizing these special individuals. ■



Debbie Jewel displays one of the many balloon creations of this year's carnival.

Shop Talk

Representatives of the Power Team met recently to discuss issues of concern to BCRC clients. The main topic of conversation dealt with the need for all persons at BCRC to treat each other with respect and dignity. Client representatives of the Power Team will ask the work groups that they represent for feedback on this issue in an effort to bring about greater respect for all.

On September 2, BCRC was the grateful recipient of a “Day of Caring” sponsored by the United Way. Volunteers from the Bruce Mansfield Plant and Roomful Express donated their time and talents by sprucing up the landscaping at the administration building in New Brighton and the Aurora building in Beaver. Shrubs were removed, old trees were cut out and new mulch and groundcover were laid. Both sites looked beautiful when finished. Thank you so much to these two companies and their hardworking employees.

BCRC would like to thank the United Methodist Women of New Brighton for their recent donation. The donation was given after a presentation by Frank Shialabba on BCRC’s mission and programs.

Everyone who attended the “Celebration of Accomplishments,” presented by the Evaluation Center, would like to thank George Nelson for the wonderful food that he prepared.

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The 601 courtyard (Salmon Court) was resplendent in color this fall. Salmon Court was dedicated to BCRC Board member Judge J. Quint Salmon, who passed away recently.