

Production Center is ‘State of the Art’

100%

BCRC’s 601 Production Center was described as “state of the art” by officials from the Office of Mental Retardation during a recent inspection. All three of BCRC’s production facilities once again received 100% during the inspection. Officials had no recommendations as they praised BCRC as a “very well run program.”

The inspectors commended many areas of BCRC’s operation. They applauded the professionalism of BCRC’s staff and the wide variety of jobs offered by BCRC. They loved the bright, cheery atmosphere of the work areas and they felt that BCRC clients seem genuinely happy with their work.

Inspectors also praised the strong emphasis on safety that is evident in BCRC’s operation. They mentioned the frequent fire drills, numerous fire extinguishers and monthly building inspections as going “above and beyond” licensing requirements.

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**Employee
of the
Month Profiled**

by Bob Beaver, Mary Bender,
Karen Buccelli, Linda Glabb,
Robert Pollock and
Tammy Sentz

Each Day Is Like the First Day

by Frank Shialabba

Beth Hradecky acts like every day is her first day on the job. She has the enthusiasm of someone who is seeing the world for the first time, and in some ways she is.

At age 42, Beth had never held a job. She lived with her mother and her world revolved around home and family. When Beth’s mother passed away, she had to face the world alone and the idea of **independence** was new and frightening.

Beth began a **voyage of self-discovery** at BCRC’s Aurora Rehabilitation Program. She attended groups that were designed to help her find her **strengths**, needs and goals. Beth decided to focus on working in the community and she was referred to BCRC’s Supported Employment Program.



In April 2005, Beth gained employment at the Monaca Taco Bell. She was nervous about working in the community and she had to adjust to a new job and new coworkers. According to Program Specialist, Kristine Deasey, “Beth was just **determined** to do well. Being a good, **dependable** employee just came naturally to her.” Both BCRC job coaches and Beth’s supervisor at Taco Bell were very supportive. Ms. Deasey describes the manager at Taco Bell as “phenomenal. He supported Beth by going out of his way to compliment her work and arrange her work schedule to accommodate her transportation.”

Beth rewards her employer by being a star employee. She attends to every **detail**, as she prepares the store for the start of each new work day. The store shines as Beth cleans every nook and cranny. Her enthusiasm for her new job grows at a rate equal to her **confidence**. She willingly accepts every new challenge, while exclaiming “I love my job!”

Beth has paved the way for Taco Bell to hire two other individuals from BCRC. While others benefit from Beth’s work ethics and contagious spirit, she has grown greatly as she faces each day with fresh **enthusiasm**.

BCRC is pleased again to highlight three of our outstanding workers. Each of these workers is a great asset to BCRC.

November’s Employee of the Month, Jeff Deltino, is a “Jack of All Trades.” His abilities lend themselves to many different job tasks. His good work attitude is demonstrated when he says, “I listen to my job coach and do my contract job...she tells me I do a good job.” Jeff believes he won this award because he has a good work attitude and willingness to try many jobs. Karen Buccelli, Jeff’s Program Specialist at BCRC states, “Jeff’s attendance is good and he is always willing to help. He just loves the wellness classes at the YMCA”. Having worked for BCRC for 18 years, Jeff would like to some day get a job bagging groceries.



PEP RALLY SCORES TOUCHDOWN

by Gloria Beighey



Rosalie Drenzo, December's Employee of the Month, has been with BCRC since September 17, 2004. She feels that winning this award is "Okay!" She is pleased to perform her work with honesty and to the best of her ability. She feels she won the award by consistently doing her job well, having good attendance and a willingness to try any job. When asked about her wonderful work attitude Rosalie reports, "I love to work and enjoy knowing that my job coach has entrusted me to do my job well at all times. I feel valuable to my group and to BCRC." Rosalie would like to continue to work at BCRC while she builds her confidence in seeking competitive employment.



The year 2006 began with Patty DelGreco as BCRC's January Employee of the Month. Patty is a long time employee who has worked for BCRC for 30 years. She keeps her sunny disposition and good work attitude by focusing on her work. She's sure she was named Employee of the Month, "Because I work hard and do my best". She is thrilled to win this award for the first time. Patty's Job Coach, Linda Glabb, is quick to say, "Patty is nice to work with. She is considerate of her co-workers and BCRC staff and will help anyone. She is always willing to try new jobs." Patty echoes

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On Friday, February 3, 2006, BCRC celebrated the upcoming Super Bowl by trading its standard blue and green colors for black and gold. A pep rally was held at both the 1517 Administration Center and the 601 Production Center. The fun began early in the morning and lasted until late afternoon. Several drawings were held for prizes that included a number of terrible towels. BCRC staff and clients led the cheering with a skit and Steeler trivia. Darrick Cockfield appeared as Hines Ward, while Sherry Lombardo was voted "Number One Cheerleader". Other Steelers played by BCRC staff were: Big Ben, Coach Cower, Troy Polamalu, Terry Bradshaw, Jerome Bettis, and Ma and Pa Bettis. Staff and clients also enjoyed Steeler fight songs and a Steeler DVD. By the end of the day everyone was ready to cheer on the Steelers to a Super Bowl victory. **TOUCHDOWN!**



Aurora Program Shows Dramatic Growth

by Jennifer Gengarella

The Aurora Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program has grown dramatically since it opened its doors in June 2003. Sixty-five individuals participate in the program that is designed to improve the lives of persons with mental illness while living, learning, working and socializing in society.

According to Certified Psychiatric Specialist Marty Shafer, "In the beginning we were lucky to have two or three people per group." Now the average group size is between eight and twelve.

While the groups are growing, consumers are flourishing. Several participants have gone back to school. Several more are either competitively

employed or are doing volunteer work. One has even been hired for the Consumer Family Satisfaction Team.

Located on Third Street in Beaver, the program utilizes the Boston University Method of psychiatric rehabilitation. Marty Shafer and Cindy Henry, both certified psychiatric specialists, conduct groups directed at assisting the participants in achieving an overall rehabilitation goal.

According to Program Director, Marianne LaSalle, "Aurora passed a state inspection in September, 2005 with flying colors." According to program participants, Aurora is helping them get through life "with flying colors."



Power Team Celebrates Humor and Pets

At a recent meeting of the BCRC Power Team, clients voted to celebrate "National Humor Month" in April by submitting jokes that will be read over the intercom between April 10th and April 13th.

The Committee also asks clients and staff to bring in a picture of their pet or a picture from a magazine. The pictures will be used to form a collage that will commemorate "Pet Owner's Day" on April 18th. Pictures should be given to Job Coaches during the week of April 10th.



Record Number Attend Party



BCRC's annual Christmas Party was the place to be this December. The Monaca Turners swelled to overflowing as 340 persons attended this year's party. Party attendance has been growing each year, and this year's attendance was the best ever. Individuals from all three Production Centers, Aurora Rehabilitation and the School to Work Program attended.

Numerous BCRC clients were honored at this year's party. Duwaine Haskins was honored with the Samuel M. Lippincott award; Rick Morrow was recipient of the Betty J. Meador Memorial Award; Kevin Bonnar received the William Lewis Merit Award; while Frances Vujaklya was given the Competitive Employment Award. Years of Service Awards were also presented to many BCRC clients.

Congratulations

Clients and staff were entertained by illusionist, Kevin Hurley, and DJ, Chuck Webb. Party Coordinator and Director of Client Services Kathy Davis states, "people seemed to really enjoy the entertainment. I particularly like the fact that there was a lot of client participation."



The party was sponsored by the John A. Antoline Memorial Foundation. Candy was donated by the IBEW Hall in Vanport, while the Monaca Turners donated the soda.



Safety Lights

Committee Receives Department of Labor Training

In February, Ray Adams of Guard Insurance conducted annual Safety Committee training, according to requirements of the PA Department of Labor and Industry. This training enables the BCRC Safety Committee to retain certification. The Committee received training on the functions and duties of a workplace safety committee, hazard identification and inspection, accident investigation and report writing, and the proper method for conducting a workplace safety committee meeting. A loss analysis report was also incorporated in the training.

In addition to the training, Mr. Adams conducted safety inspections of the BCRC Administration Center, Production Center and Evaluation Center.



BCRC Opens Doors with LearnKey

BCRC staff will be learning various applications of Microsoft Office Professional Series through some new software called LearnKey. Microsoft Office Specialist Master Instructor, Erin Olsen, will guide staff step-by-step from the basics to more advanced features. The series provides three sessions each of Access 2003, Outlook 2003 and PowerPoint 2003, and five sessions of Excel 2003 and Word 2003.



Ms. Olsen has personally trained more than 10,000 people worldwide in a wide variety of applications and technologies. She combines technical knowledge with real-world experience allowing her to provide a wealth of practical examples and inside tips to help her audience retain and actually apply their skills.

Employees (continued)

those comments when she says, "I want to continue to work hard at BCRC and try new jobs".

BCRC is proud of all these workers and grateful for the fine work they do.



Teas Promote Self Advocacy

by Kay Podbielski

The Beaver County Rehabilitation Center recently held a series of teas that gave clients the opportunity to express their dreams and wishes to their supports coordinators from the Beaver County Base Service Unit. The teas were a follow-up to self advocacy classes that were facilitated by the BCRC program specialists.

The classes focused on skills such as identifying likes and dislikes, choosing goals, making decisions, and relating interests and preferred jobs. Each supports coordinator met with clients from his/her caseload to share refreshments and to discuss the things that they learned in their classes.

BCRC hopes that clients will become comfortable discussing their dreams and hopes for the future. When people begin to practice their new skills, they will become proactive in developing their Individual Supports Plans.



Competitive Edge
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SHOP TALK

Two new employees were added to our ranks. *Roseanne Smith* was hired December 7, 2005 to work with our Gifts Delivered program and *Lisa Scundi*, was hired part time on February 2, 2006 for our Records Management Center.

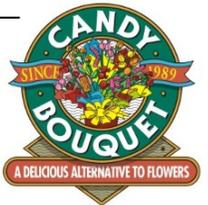
WELCOME

Eleven people received Intermediate Sign Language certificates recently from the Beaver County Rehabilitation Center. Instructor Mike Bobanic will teach a beginning Sign Language class starting April 24. Mr. Bobanic will start an advanced class on Wednesday April 19. Both classes are two hours for eight weeks and the cost of each class is \$35.00. To enroll in either class, call 724-847-1306.



Twenty BCRC staff recently completed training in CPR. The training is integral in BCRC's ongoing commitment to safety.

Gift Delivered's Thanksgiving and Christmas Open Houses were very successful.



BCRC participated in a task force at New Horizon School for children with special needs who are receiving services in the schools.

