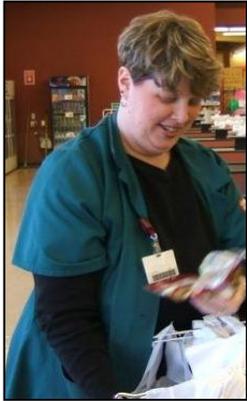


Shari Will “Make Your Day”

by Frank Shialabba



Shari works with ever present smile.

You’ve probably heard the expression, “Make my day!” Shari Jurasko makes the day of her many customers in Aliquippa because she cares. Shari has worked successfully in the community for the last 16 years because she cares so much about people and about her job.

After working behind the scenes at Pizza Hut for 15 years, Shari decided to utilize her bubbly personality by starting a new career where she could work with people. On May 1, 2006, BCRC placed Shari as a customer service representative at Giant Eagle in Aliquippa. Shari took to the new job immediately. According to Supported Employment Program Specialist, Sheila Silbaugh, “Shari is a very pleasant and kind person. She is always smiling, and she interacts well with others. She is always glad to see her customers, and they are genuinely glad to see her.”

While performing her customer service duties at Giant Eagle, Shari sees many of her customers from her days at Pizza Hut. She makes them feel special with her own brand of warmth and personal attention. They recognize that she is genuine in her feelings, and they are quick to return them.

Shari’s personal attention extends to one customer who always asks for Shari whenever he enters the store. Shari assists the customer, who is disabled, by escorting him around the store and retrieving groceries that are out of reach. Ms. Silbaugh states, “Shari will do anything she is asked to do, and she always does it with a smile. It is very important to Shari that she does a good job.”

Shari’s concern for her job sometime causes her to worry. Encouraged to become more independent, Shari schedules her transportation to work on a daily basis. She worries about whether her DART ride will get her to work on time. She is reassured by both Ms. Silbaugh and her employers at Giant Eagle that she is a valued employee who is making every effort to get to work on time.

Yes, Shari cares, and that spirit of caring is on display every day at Giant Eagle in Aliquippa. If you need a smile or a friendly hello, stop by and see Shari. She’ll be happy to “make your day!” ■

How Sweet It Is!

by Frank Shialabba

On Friday, March 30, coworkers and family of Duwaine Haskins celebrated his retirement from the Beaver County Rehabilitation Center after 39 years. Duwaine’s tenure at BCRC is one of the longest in the agency’s history. Program Specialist, Mike Little, echoes the feelings of Duwaine’s coworkers when he states that it has been “an honor to work with Duwaine.”

Duwaine began working at BCRC on August 5, 1968. He quickly established himself as BCRC’s “Goodwill Ambassador,” greeting visitors with a cheery smile and a friendly hello.

Duwaine is proud of his many accomplishments over the years. He loved working at his first community enclave at the courthouse. He was also the first recipient of the Frank DeMatteis Memorial Award from the ARC of Beaver County. Duwaine’s positive outlook and friendly personality has been a daily award to all who know him.

Duwaine looks forward to his retirement and activities at the senior center with the same enthusiasm that he brought to his work. As he is often fond of saying, “How sweet it is!” ■



Duwaine enjoys his retirement party.

**Spring 2007
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**EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH
SPEAK OUT**

*by Lavinia Craft, Linda Glaab,
Duwaine Haskins, Mary Jane
Hudak, Richard Luketic, Debbie
Zubroski*

John Verzella was voted Employee of the Month for January. Almost three years have gone by since he started working at BCRC. John says he keeps a good work attitude by doing what is asked of him. John is very excited about his selection and he enjoys the praise he receives. John’s desire is to remain at BCRC and do outside work whenever possible.



Julie Lane, our February Employee of the Month, started working at BCRC in 2004. She says working hard helps her keep a good work attitude. Julie feels good work skills have made it possible for her to win. She looks forward to many more years at BCRC.



The March Employee of the Month, Jeff Deltino, has been with BCRC for 17 years. Jeff and his mother are happy that he has won Employee of the Month. Jeff feels he won ►

Rec Night: 36 Years and Counting

by Brenda Walsh

due to his hard work and willingness to do what is asked of him. In the future, Jeff hopes to get a job bagging groceries. ■

Safety Lights

BE CAREFUL OF PHOTSENSITIVITY

by Cindy Kirkpatrick

Did you know that some medications could make your skin more sensitive to sunlight? It's a process called chemical photosensitivity, and it's characterized by an enhanced reaction to ultraviolet light. As a result, people can suffer severe sunburns after only a short time in the sun. The problem arises from direct sunlight and artificial light as from a sun-lamp. To protect yourself from the harmful effects of photosensitivity, know which medicines can potentially cause this problem. Check your prescription bottles for a sticker to alert you of a potential reaction or ask your pharmacist. If you are out in the sun, don't forget sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or more.  ■

Healthy Eating Anyone?

On Wednesday, March 14, Community Health Connections presented training to BCRC clients and staff on "Healthy Eating". Participants learned to make "good choices" in their food selections, and they learned the importance of eating less healthy foods in moderation. Although the picture of a hamburger and fries was greeted with a round of applause, we learned that fruit makes for a much healthier snack. *Healthy eating everyone!* ■

Do you remember the hit song, "Knock Three Times" by Tony Orlando and Dawn? Were you around the year *I'm O.K., You're O.K.* was a best-selling book? Do you recall gathering around the television on Tuesday evenings for one of the most popular doctor shows of all time, "Marcus Welby, MD?"

If you recollect any of these things, you were alive for the first ever BCRC Rec Night. What is Rec Night? It is a social event sponsored by Beaver County Rehabilitation Center for persons with disabilities who attend BCRC and other community agencies. It is currently held on Thursday evenings, 6:30-8:15, at New Horizon School.

But back in 1971, when *Love Story* was the most popular movie of the year, the first dance was held at the Community Mental Health Center. Later Rec Night was moved to Passavant Memorial Homes in Rochester. Fifteen to twenty people from BCRC attended the dance back then and the event provided a needed social outlet for these members of the community.



A typical night at New Horizon

Today, more than one hundred people from many different agencies attend Rec Night. Supervision is provided by staff from various agencies. Each "season" of dances runs from September through May and individuals register for each "season."

Those who attend concur that it is an evening to which they look forward. Chris says he enjoys the dancing. Nick likes talking to the staff. He also noted that Rec Night gives his coworkers a chance to be away from work and have fun. Jay enjoys the music and likes to request songs. He enjoys the chips and punch that are offered, but is especially fond of the cookies that are served at the holiday Rec Nights. Joe is always glad to go and see his friends that are in different work programs.

All agree that the efforts that go into making Rec Night possible are appreciated and provide a much needed social event for all. For more information on Rec Night, contact Frank Shialabba at 724-847-1306. ■

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School Students Will Have New Service

by Marty Shafer

BCRC received a pilot grant from the Office of Disability Programs via Beaver County Behavioral Health to provide job support to people working competitively in the community. It is designed to meet the individual needs of those who have transitioned from school to working and are ages 18 through 26. The Beaver County Behavioral Health Direct Service Unit Supports Coordinators will identify those who will receive services under this initiative.

BCRC will provide follow along services to students who have been placed in competitive employment. A program specialist will work closely with students, their families and employers to assure continued success on the job.

The program specialist will also work with the individuals to eliminate any barriers that could affect successful employ-

ment. If a person needs temporary transportation, BCRC may help the individual learn to use public transportation or seek alternative transportation. BCRC will also aid individuals to learn new job tasks, new schedules, or attend employee functions.

BCRC will also help new employees and their families understand the effect that employment may have on benefits like social security.

BCRC has over 45 years of experience working with school students in transition and competitive employment. We look forward to working with the BCBH DSU to ensure a continued support system for students who choose the world of work. BCRC's new "follow-along" program should enable students to find even greater success as they receive support long after they have been placed in the community. ■

Spotlight On: School to Work Program Specialists

by Jennifer Gengarella

The job of School to Work Program Specialist is an important one at BCRC. The position is currently in the capable hands of Maureen Hawk and Brenda Walsh. Having worked at BCRC for eleven years, Maureen has developed a close relationship with the school districts in Beaver, Lawrence, and Allegheny counties to transition students from school to the workplace. Maureen and Brenda aid students to begin the transition process at age 16. Students may remain in the program

Program Specialists ensure that students are given a variety of experiences.

for up to five years, or until the age of 21.

Maureen and Brenda

work to prepare the students for their future after graduation. After completing an evaluation period, goals are implemented to improve work habits, explore job interests,

and determine strengths. A program is designed to fit the needs, abilities and interests of the individual student.

School to Work Program Specialists ensure that students are given a variety of experiences at different sites in Beaver County. Students visit many community sites as they attend anywhere from half a day per week to five days per week.

Along with doing the billing involved with the program, School to Work Program Specialists help to compile monthly and quarterly reports on the student's progress. Maureen also attends the Transition Coordinating Council for Beaver County with all of the county's school districts.

Thanks to the work of BCRC's School to Work Program Specialists, students and their families have a much easier transition from school to the work environment. ■

SUPPORTED ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM INCREASING ENROLLMENTS



In January, 2007, BCRC's Supported Engagement Program was identified as one of the largest in this state. The program is funded and evaluated by the Bureau of Employment and Training Programs through the Department of Community and Economic Development.

BCRC added the Supported Engagement Program to the Welfare to Work Program in July 2005. The target group consist of clients who are experiencing multiple and significant barriers to employment. Within the first few weeks clients started to enroll and began to work on their GED's, driver's instruction, job search and computer skills. The Supported Engagement Program continued to grow during the first year to a

total enrollment of 26 clients. There were many successful clients who obtained full time employment, driver's licenses, GED's and computer literacy skills.

The many employment successes of the clients and the excellent organization of the program contributed to the success of the program. Comments from clients enrolled in the program ranged from, "I would have never gotten my driver's license and found a job without this program" to "I was able to study hard through this program to pass my GED!" The clients commended the friendliness of the staff and the positive atmosphere of the program. ■

State of the Art Web Site Unveiled

BCRC is tired of being "the best kept secret in Beaver County." We are shedding that image with an exciting new website that may be accessed at www.bcrc.net.

The website called "state of the art" by state officials, features pages on every BCRC program and service. Check out the flash effects on the welcome page. How about the slide show featuring BCRC activities and the great section on the School to Work Program? See Gifts Delivered's display of great gift items (where you soon will be able to shop). Learn about BCRC's history and mission, browse old newsletters, and see upcoming events. Also featured are BCRC's Prevocational Program, Production Services, Aurora Psychiatric Rehabilitation, Services for the Deaf, Welfare to Work Program, Supported Employment, Vocational Assessment Services, Life Enhancement Programs and much more. So go to www.bcrc.net for an exciting new look at BCRC. ■



Shop Talk

by Kay Podbielski

- ▶ Sue Leiper has been selected as the new administrative assistant. Sue had previously worked as the contract facilitator in the records management department at BCRC. Nancy Perkins has replaced Sue as the contract facilitator.
- ▶ Two individuals in the Project Success program recently earned their GED's.
- ▶ During the 2006 calendar year, BCRC:
 - recycled 88,762 lbs. of paper. This saved our environment 134.5 cubic yards of landfill space
 - completed 98,00 adjustment assemblies
 - assembled 441,000 cardboard traysThese are just a few of the examples of the productivity of the agency and its clients.
- ▶ BCRC received another 100 % from state officials during the agency's annual program audit. Among those areas commended by the state were the first aid and CPR training, the new "state of the art" web site and the many outside enclaves attended by BCRC clients. BCRC was also praised for the friendly and welcoming nature of the staff and clients.
- ▶ BCRC would like to welcome several new staff members: Abby Miller, Supported Employment Program Specialist, Kelly Newhouse, Employment Specialist/Program Assistant, Renee Morocco, Job Coach, Barbara Franksain, Business Manager and Joanna Greco, Director of Contract Acquisition.



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