

## LaSalle Receives Distinguished Service Award

There was a wave of excitement at BCRC recently as the staff learned that Program Director, Marianne LaSalle, was to receive the 2003 ARC Distinguished Service Award. The award was presented at the annual ARC Awards Banquet held on May 8 at the Fez in Hopewell Township. Thirty of Ms. LaSalle's co-workers and family attended the event. Ms. LaSalle was recognized for her many contributions to persons with mental retardation during her more than 30 years of service at the Beaver County Rehabilitation Center.

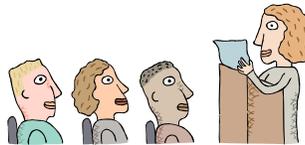
The outpouring of support shown to Ms. LaSalle is a testament to the respect she has among her co-workers. Ms. LaSalle is held in high regard by the individuals she supervises in BCRC's Supported Employment Department. Employment Specialist Linda Shawger states, "We were all so excited to learn that Marianne received this award." Employment Specialist Gary Hewitt agrees, "I have a lot of respect for Marianne. She's very knowledgeable and her door is always open. She's dedicated to her job and the well being of the clients. She wants to see all of us succeed in this field. Marianne guides us, but let's us learn to make our own decisions." Linda Smega states, "We all just love her, not only as a co-worker, but as a person."

Ms. LaSalle obviously shares a great deal of respect for the members of her department. She credits them for the successful record of job placement that BCRC enjoys every year.

BCRC is fortunate to have someone with the experience, dedication, and caring of Program Director Marianne LaSalle.

## Psychiatric Rehabilitation Staff Receive Over 200 Training Hours

by Pat Healey



Staff associated with BCRC's new Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program has each received more than 200 hours of training during the last year. Licensing procedures for this program are very stringent and training is closely reviewed.

Roni Wise, Director of Mental Health Services, is certified by IAPSRs as a CPRP (Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner). Training requirements for this totaled 50 hours in various forms. Marty Shafer fills the position of Psych Rehab Specialist. He sat for the CPRP exam in early April and has accumulated more than 250 hours of training just in the past year. Cindy Henry holds the position of Psych Rehab Worker and has clocked many training hours along with her co-workers.

The staff associated with the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program studied the tools and techniques of the Boston University Approach with consultant Bill Kennard of BCPR Consulting. They have attended numerous trainings on Psych Rehab offered by OMHSAS (Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services). They have also participated in the IAPSRs conference for the last two years, the conference sponsored by the Boston University Center for Psych Rehab, and a two-part series called "Psychiatric Rehabilitation Here Today, Here Tomorrow" at Mayview.

Staff also received training on Mental Illness & Substance Abuse, cultural diversity and morale thanks to a scholarship offered by Beaver County MH/MR.

## Employees of the Month Speak Out

by Joe Conca, Lavinia Craft, Aaron Croisant, Mary Jane Hudak, Mike Little, Janice McGhee, Molly Miller



It should be no surprise that Ryan McKim has been announced as February's Employee of the Month. He receives rave reviews from his Job Coach, Joan Bell, and his Program Specialist, Karen Buccelli. Joan sites his good work attitude and his willingness to go to different job sites. His attendance is consistent, and he always dresses appropriately. Ms. Buccelli describes Ryan as a friendly person who is always ready with a smile and a handshake. Ryan has been working with BCRC for eight years. He first came as a student in our School-To-Work Program and now works mainly in the workshop at the Production Center. When asked how he felt about winning, he said, "He was loving it." We love having him here.



Without exception, everyone at BCRC smiled in agreement at the announcement of Donna Runyan as March Employee of the

Month. During the past 7½ years, Donna has worked on many jobs at a variety of work sites, including the Rochester Goodwill store. Currently Donna divides her time between packaging cutlery and assembling candy pieces for Candy Bouquet. Both of Donna's job coaches give her glowing reports. They describe her as very conscientious, thorough and honest. Peggy Sue Tribone says, "You help Donna set up her work and she's good for the rest of the day." Leahan Bock agrees that "Donna works slowly and carefully. She checks her work and let's me know if she's made a mistake." Donna's co-workers know her as a quiet but friendly person, who shares her love of crafts with others. They enjoy her cheerful manner and dependability. When asked about her future goals, Donna states that she wants to continue working at BCRC because she likes it so much.



BCRC is proud to announce that Rosalie Drenzo has been voted April's Employee of the Month. In the past seven years, Rosalie has worked a variety of jobs including the workshops, enclaves and in the community. Her work has always been excellent. As Rosalie says, "I come to work to do a good job and respect my co-workers." She is quite capable of producing great quantities of work, but is also patient enough to do tedious jobs that require more time. Rosalie sets high standards for herself and

## Center Youth Provide "Helping Hands"

by Crystal Adkins

Thanks to Congressman Mike Veon's *Youth Day of Service*, spring cleaning at BCRC received some welcome *helping hands* this year. On April 29, eight students from Center High School cheerfully washed tables and chairs, pulled weeds, and cleaned windows. BCRC Property Manager, Janet Simon, had nothing but praise for the program. She said, "I think that the *Youth Day of Service* is a wonderful idea. The girls were great to work with. They were very mature and respectful of the work that we do at BCRC. They did a great job. I am very appreciative of their efforts, and the work done by Congressman Veon's office to make this day a success."



Participating in this year's *Youth Day of Service* were Jenny Selby, Shawn Lucci, Christine Snyder, Allison Casoli, Kate Kuhni, Ashlee Boylan, Corrissa Croft, and Erin Egnot. The students were accompanied by Kweillin Adams, a teacher's aide at Center High School. BCRC staff working with the students were Bob Nichol and Janet Simon.

The *Youth Day of Service* provides a good opportunity for young people to give back to the community and to experience firsthand the satisfaction of helping others. As a result of their efforts, students are treated to a special lunch at Center Stage. Special thanks go out to all those who participated in this event.

## CSBG Provides Funding For Valuable Follow-Along Service

by Frank Shialabba



It has been nineteen months since Stacy Russo began her first community job at the Center Township Foodland. Recently, Stacy sat down for a leisurely breakfast with BCRC Program Specialist, Sheila Silbaugh, and ordered her usual breakfast bagel. She was so happy at BCRC and leaving had been difficult. Stacy, who was featured in the Summer 2002 newsletter, currently maintains contact with BCRC through the Follow-Along program. Beaver County's **Community Service Block Grant Program** provides funding for follow-along service to people who have been placed in community employment. According to BCRC Program Director, Marianne LaSalle, "Follow-along is an invaluable service that allows BCRC to provide continued support to individuals in the community."

Stacy did very well at Foodland. The Center Foodland closed, however, and Stacy was faced with a difficult decision. According to Ms. Silbaugh, "I have a lot of respect for Stacy. She could very easily have returned to BCRC after Foodland closed. Although she missed BCRC, she had the motivation to work in the community. Stacy is so determined; she always chooses the more difficult path." Stacy chose to get a job at the Shop N' Save in Center Township. Leaving her co-workers at Foodland was difficult, but Stacy made the transition successfully.

Follow-along can help with that transition. According to BCRC Program Specialist Sheila Silbaugh, "Follow-along allows Stacy to receive continued encouragement and advice. It enables her to maintain her connection with her friends at BCRC and this is very important to her."

Stacy Russo is a friendly, energetic person who bubbles with enthusiasm. She cares deeply about her friends, her family and her job. Her desire to grow as a person has helped her to make many difficult choices. As she enjoys her breakfast bagel with her good friend Sheila Silbaugh, she can be proud of her ability to face life's obstacles with strength and determination. BCRC extends our thanks to the **Beaver County Community Services Block Grant** Program for letting us provide support to Stacy and many other individuals as they strive for independence.

# SHOP TALK

By Paula Cordes



This year's State Inspection was conducted by Michael Zwirek and Sandra Latherow of the Office of Mental Retardation in Pittsburgh. BCRC is thrilled to report that it received 100% for all three of its production centers. Mr. Zwirek reported that this was not unusual for us as we have done very well over the years.

BCRC has added two new Job Coaches - Kim Hildman began her job coaching duties on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and Jeff Lagios began working at BCRC on April 7<sup>th</sup>. The Clerical and Accounting Departments welcomed our new Receptionist Joan Gerace on March 4<sup>th</sup> and our Medical Biller, Janet Petrucelli, on March 26<sup>th</sup>.



In addition to Candy Bouquet sales at the Beaver County Courthouse for Easter, Candy Bouquet completed its first fundraiser and also provided centerpieces for the Annual Athena Awards Banquet where each nominee wore a Hershey Rose Corsage.

Congratulations to the new Psych Rehab Team. They have recently moved to their beautiful new location in the Aurora Building at 363 Third Street in Beaver. Call Roni Wise, Director of Mental Health Services, at 724-847-1306 for a list of services and referral information.



BCRC had another record setting Scouting for Food campaign in 2003. One thousand two hundred seven nonperishable food items were donated for Beaver County food banks and soup kitchens. This year's successful campaign was the result of the generosity of BCRC clients, staff and their families and friends. A total of 85 people (54 clients and 31 staff) participated in this year's campaign. BCRC employees once again showed their community spirit.

## BCRC Workers Enjoy New Courthouse

by Cindy Kirkpatrick



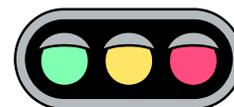
BCRC workers have been working in the beautiful new Beaver County Courthouse since August, 2002. For the last six years, a crew of BCRC workers has been preparing documents for the microfilm department at the Beaver County Courthouse. During this past year, 16 employees plus School-To-Work students have enjoyed working in a room specially designed for them in the Micrographics Department at the Courthouse. According to Project Director Frank Shialabba, "The County Commissioners have been very accommodating in developing a pleasant and accessible work environment for our crew." Everyone loves working in the beautiful new building, meeting "important people," and providing a much needed service for the county.

Along with the new changes to the courthouse have come new responsibilities for the dedicated crew. Initially, only one department used our workers' talents. Work is now coming from almost every department and we have even been asked to help alphabetize files. Director of Micrographics, Chuck Hilt, praises the BCRC crew saying, "The workers from BCRC have helped us to increase our productivity and they are a pleasure to work with. We hope they can be with us for many years to come."



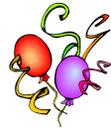
already is planning to reach her goal of competitive employment in the community. Past jobs have included the courthouse, Holiday Inn and Goodwill. Rosalie's Program Specialist, Kathy Smith, says that Rosalie is a "joy to work with." She is known as a quiet person, who gets along well with everyone, and is always willing to lend a helping hand.

BCRC wishes to congratulate all our winners, and thank them for their contributions to BCRC.



## Safety Lights

Driving safety is a vital element of BCRC's Safety Program. All staff who transports clients participates in the "Coaching the Van Driver" course. They also receive an over-the-road orientation to BCRC's vans. The Van Safety course stresses that staff use specific safety precautions when transporting individuals in a BCRC van. Staff are taught that vans are taller and have a higher center of gravity than ordinary passenger vehicles. Vans, therefore, require a wider turning radius. Vans are also heavier and require a longer following distance than most vehicles. Safe following distance for a van is normally four seconds. Due to the height and width of vans, drivers must also be aware of overhead and side clearances. BCRC staff has an excellent record of driver's safety. BCRC's Driver's Safety Program has played a



## Celebrating 60 Years

by Frank Shialabba



Seventy people celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of Joseph Lintz of Beaver on Sunday, March 9 at the Gentile Club in Center Township. Many more are expected to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beaver County Rehabilitation Center this year. The two events will be forever connected by William Lintz, Sr., who was one of the original organizers of the William Lintz Sheltered Workshop. The Workshop became the Beaver County Rehabilitation Center in 1971. Joe was one of the original workers at the William Lintz Workshop.

According to Joseph's brother, William Lintz, Jr., "It's a remarkable achievement. The doctors told us that with tender loving care Joe would only live to the age of 17." According to BCRC's Executive Director, Paulette Miller, "Joe has a tremendous joy for living. He's not thinking about retirement. He still looks forward to learning and trying every new job that we get. He is our goodwill ambassador at the Beaver County Courthouse, where he works as part of our document preparation crew."

Joe's brother feels that "Joe is only one of many people at the Beaver County Rehabilitation Center who deserve to be recognized and accepted by the community. Years ago there was very little acceptance of people with disabilities." Lintz feels that Joe represents the progress of medical care and services for people with disabilities. He feels that Joe's achievement is representative of the achievements of all people with disabilities.

Joe works with his co-workers in the Micrographics Department of the Beaver County Courthouse. BCRC job coach, Lorrie Elms says, "I have a wonderful crew of workers. They are so happy to be there, and they are so well accepted by the other Courthouse workers. We will be forever grateful to everyone at the Courthouse for creating such a positive work atmosphere."

The Beaver County Rehabilitation Center creates a positive work atmosphere as well. It has served hundreds of persons with disabilities over the last 40 years. Many of those individuals have been placed either in full-time jobs or at community work sites like the Courthouse. The Center prides itself on innovative programs like their new Candy Bouquet franchise and the Records Management Program.

Interested parties may visit Joe at the Rehabilitation Center during its 40th anniversary celebration which will be held on October 16 from 2 to 6 p.m., and October 17 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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