

Chris Has Different Kind of Makeover

By Kathleen Ayers

Have you ever watched the show, "Extreme Makeover?" Well, not all makeovers involve radical surgery and physical changes. Some transformations occur more on the inside. Chris Zalucky is a person who's makeover involved development of the inner self.

Chris started at BCRC in 2000 as a "quiet, shy young man. He needed instruction and guidance on 'how to work,'" according to Maureen Hawk, School to Work Program Specialist.

Chris went from a shy student to a confident jack-of-all trades worker. He did it by persistence, determination and hard work. The path was not always easy for Chris, but he gained valuable friends and experience along the way.

From the School to Work Program, Chris was placed in BCRC's Work Activity Center. Job Coach, Lavinia Craft notes that "Chris got along very well with everyone. He *always* accepted all of his jobs without question."

At the request of the Salvation Army's Director, Major Antell, Chris transferred to the Supported Work

Department and a job at Salvation Army in Beaver Falls as a food pantry stocker and food packer. He also assisted in the Christmas distribution of food and presents to the needy. Chris worked from December of 2003 until February of 2004.

Sheila Silbaugh, Supported Work Program Specialist states, "When Chris worked in the community, he did a wonderful job. However, Chris missed the camaraderie of his friends and the support of the staff, so he returned to BCRC."

Chris returned to Records Management where Sue Leiper, Records Management Contract Facilitator, describes him as a "huge help and Records Management's handyman!" Later, she says Chris is "a wonderful employee. He works independently and I really count on him. He is my jack-of-all trades."

Chris likes the moniker 'jack-of-all trades'. He smiles when Ms. Leiper calls him that and replies, "I'm your Jack, right Sue!"

Chris is Sue Leiper's jack-of-all trades, but he is also the best example of the kind of makeover that involves the development of inner growth and confidence.

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Employees of the Month Profiled

by Jonathan Ciamelle, Darrick Cockfield, Joe Conca, Lavinia Craft, Mary Jane Hudak, Mike Little, Janice McGhee

Ron Hawk, February's Employee of the Month, has filled many positions at BCRC's Production Centers and community employment sites since 1991. Ron worked for several years at the Brighton Hot Dog Shoppe in Beaver Falls as part of BCRC's Supportive Employment Program. He also participated in the Good Samaritan and Applied Concepts enclaves. For the last two years, Ron's special contribution has been his ability to run the BCRC drill presses. Ron operates the 2-spindle and 4-spindle presses, which manufacture products in plastic, copper and steel. Despite his many talents, Ron has always been very humble about his accomplishments. When asked how he felt about being chosen Employee of the Month he said, "I liked it but was surprised." It is no surprise that Ron is very ▶



Kathy Davis Receives Recognition Award

Congratulations to Client Services Coordinator, Kathy Davis, who is the recipient of the 2004 ARC Recognition Award. The award is being presented to Kathy for her professionalism in employment and her relationships with the individuals whom the ARC supports.

Kathy has worked at BCRC for 26 years and has been committed to providing quality services for people with disabilities. She emphasizes staff development through extensive training and very thorough orientation programs. Despite the demands of her administrative duties, Kathy indulges her love for the clients by spending time on the work floor and knowing each one personally. While she is "humbled" by receiving recognition for doing the work she loves, BCRC is very proud of Kathy.



well liked by coworkers. His sense of humor and genuine interest in other people make him very popular.

Ron is an avid and knowledgeable NASCAR racing fan. He and his father have visited several speedways. More recently, Ron has taken an interest in sprint car racing as well.



The Employee of the Month for March is Sherry Lombardo. Since 1998, Sherry has been an enthusiastic influence on everyone at the Production Center at the Administration Building. She is a good, independent employee, who is proud of her work. She takes great care with even small details. Her Job Coach, Linda Glabb, states, "Sherry takes her work seriously. She tries hard and will even move to quiet areas to allow herself to concentrate on her work." Sherry works on the jobs like assembling boxes, snap-its and bearings, and packaging soaps. She is especially talented at making Christmas wreaths. In addition to work, Sherry has taken a special interest in learning sign language. She wants to be able to sign to coworkers who utilize the language. Her dedication has enabled her to become an effective communicator. ▶

BCRC Gets New Van

by Pam DePace

You may notice a shiny new vehicle in the parking lot here at BCRC. We recently became the proud owner of a 2004 Chevy Express from Crivelli Chevrolet. It is Pewter in color and holds 12 passengers. Our fleet of vans has been aging and the van used to transport clients to dances and enclaves was over 12 years old. We wanted a newer, safer vehicle to transport people to the various functions and requested funding through MHMR. We received the grant in late April, and purchased the van in early May.



Initially, the van will primarily be used for transport to dances, enclaves, and the wellness program at the YMCA. It was first used for a dance on May 5, and clients were very excited to be riding in the new vehicle.

Joan Bell, who was one of the first to drive the new van, said that "Clients were all smiles when I pulled up to pick them up. They loved looking at all the new gadgets and thought the van was very nice." The van is very easy to drive and everyone loves that "new car smell!"



Safety Lights

by Cindy Kirkpatrick

Safety Members Certified by the State

Every member of the BCRC Safety Committee was certified in three areas of expertise by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recently. The committee received state certification as part of BCRC's continuing program of safety excellence. The certification also qualified BCRC for a discount on Workman's Compensation Insurance. The training included hazards and

identification, workplace safety committees and accident investigation. Congratulations to all the hard working committee members. You continue to make BCRC a safe and caring place in which to work.

Safety First



Scouting for Food Hits Magic Number

BCRC clients and staff, once again, met their goal in the annual Scouting for Food Campaign. More than 1000 items were collected in the 2004 campaign. This represents 2,700 units of food for Beaver County's food banks and soup kitchens. Sixty clients and 27 staff contributed to this year's campaign. A pizza party will be held to celebrate a successful campaign and to remember the hundreds of needy persons in Beaver County, who will benefit from Scouting for Food.

Thirteen Graduate from School to Work Program

by Frank Shialabba

Thirteen students graduate from BCRC's very active and productive School to Work Program in 2004. The program has grown steadily with eleven western Pennsylvania school districts currently represented.

The program's growth reflects the experience of the staff and the efforts of staff to gear activities toward the specific interests of the students. Students are supported in their personal growth, while being encouraged to make their own life choices. Some of the graduates hope to find community jobs through BCRC's Supported Employment Program. Others are preparing for community employment through BCRC's Skills Training Program or entering BCRC's Work Activity Center.

BCRC Program Specialists, Maureen Hawk and Leah McDivitt and Job Coaches Heather Frazzini and Robin Bauer, worked diligently with this year's students. They provided a wide variety of work experiences designed to meet the needs and interests of the students. Students went to eleven different businesses for hands-on community work experiences. Students also explored the world of work through tours at businesses throughout the Beaver County area.



BCRC's wide array of enclaves and business ventures exposed students to the latest technology, as well as helping them to develop their creative side. Students learned computer technology at BCRC's Records Management Technology Center. They also participated in the highly creative activity of making bouquets for BCRC's Candy Bouquet franchise. Students packaged products, prepared documents, worked at a local manufacturer, and prepared merchandise for retail sale.

BCRC would like to thank all of the students and the 11 participating school districts for a very successful 2003 to 2004 school year. We would also like to express our sincere good wishes to our 13 graduating students.



Sherry lives at home with her brother. She is an avid Pittsburgh Pirate fan, who also likes the Steelers and Penguins. With all her wonderful attributes, Sherry has some fans of her own right here at BCRC.

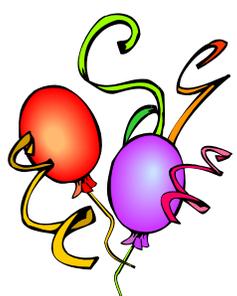


Elizabeth Christmann can always be counted on to greet her job coaches enthusiastically. Three days a week this happy, energetic young lady comes bustling through the doors of BCRC. She begins her day with a determination that has enabled her to become the Employee of the Month for April.

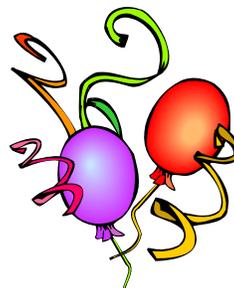
This same determination also helped Elizabeth to learn a difficult, multi-step job. Elizabeth and her job coaches worked slowly over many months to master each step. Now Elizabeth stands on her own and produces the entire job independently.

Elizabeth has attended BCRC since November, 1996. She started in the School-to-Work program and advanced to the Production Center. Elizabeth speaks fondly of activities with her family and enjoys the time she spends with a very special niece.

Congratulations to all our Employees of the Month. ■



*Congratulations
on your
Graduation*





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SHOP TALK

by Paula Cordes

BCRC welcomed several new staff during the last several months. On March 29th Charlie Neville became our new Systems Specialist overseeing our new Vertex System. April 5th was the starting date for Job Coach Susan Hill and joining the Records Management team on April 19th was Pat Cook. Welcome aboard.

“Youth Day of Caring” sponsored by Representative Mike Veon, was held at BCRC on April 29th. Twenty Monaca High School students and their teacher, Mr. Chris Haggart, helped out at BCRC by painting fences, washing windows, weeding flower beds and general cleanup around the buildings. The students were extremely helpful and well mannered. BCRC was fortunate to have such a great group of kids. You represented your school well. Congratulations and THANK YOU.



Opening Day of the baseball season brought “Baseball Day” to BCRC. Along with a baseball bloop video, clients were treated to word search puzzles and baseball figurine prizes. Many individuals wore their favorite team colors, caps and even jerseys. Way to support those BUCS!

Speaking of baseball games, make sure to mark August 6th on your calendar. That’s the day of our traditional client baseball game and picnic sponsored by the Monaca Recreation Board. In addition to the scrumptious food made and served by the Committee, you can dance away the afternoon with tunes from our favorite DJ. Rain or shine, we’ll be there. Please join us!



Have a safe and fun filled holiday!