

**Summer 2007
Edition
Volume XV
Issue 2**

LandAmerica is Great Place to Work

by Pat Healey

For the past two years LandAmerica OneStop has been voted one of the 50 best places to work in Pennsylvania. It's easy to see why. LandAmerica has shown nothing but support and respect for BCRC staff and clients who travel to their beautiful offices at the Cherrington Business complex in Moon Township. That support was displayed recently when a 12 foot wide "Thank you BCRC" sign was placed over BCRC's work area.

The sign was hung by the employees and management of LandAmerica to thank BCRC for our help with the company's records management operation, "just because you do such a nice job." This gesture was one of many things LandAm has done to let our clients know how valuable they are to their operation.



The management of LandAm (Ted Woloszyk) has invited BCRC clients and staff to help with the company's own scanning process. BCRC takes an

average of 8 clients daily to prepare documents for scanning, copy and scan documents and work in the mailroom. School to work students offer much needed help several times a week and are often transported by their school districts.

This onsite project allows BCRC clients to develop valuable work experience. Each day's work is completed with dignity and pride. ■

Spotlight On: Jim Smith

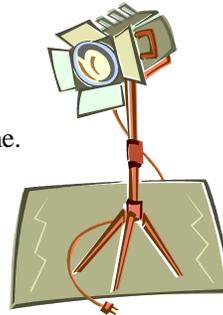
by Jennifer Gengarella

If you see a Honda 1100 motorcycle in the parking lot at the 601 Production Center, chances are Jim Smith is on the job. Jim has worked for BCRC for 15 years as a part-time prevocational job coach. He also has worked at HAP Enterprises, Inc. for 24 years as an advisor in a group home.

Jim's responsibilities include working with a BCRC client to deliver completed contract work to many local companies. Jim also supervises Group 3 in the 601 Production Center, and provides 1:1 instruction for two individuals. Soon, Jim will deliver completed Christmas wreaths to Sylvania Hills Cemetery. Jim enjoys making deliveries with his assistant, and he states, "I am always asked about my helper when he is not with me."

Jim enjoys working with the clients on contract work very much. When asked what changes he would like to see at BCRC, Jim commented the he would like to see the clients work on contract work one hundred percent of the time. He also believes laughter is the best medicine. "I like to make the clients laugh. They forget difficult times when they are laughing." One of Jim's many pleasures is rooting for whichever team the Pittsburgh Steelers happen to be playing against. The clients enjoy giving Jim a hard time about this. He has even had confetti dumped on him once for daring to wear a Buffalo Bills shirt during Steeler season.

Jim feels that the acquisition of new buildings has been one of the most positive events during his tenure at BCRC. Jim commented that the new buildings have meant growth and new opportunities for the clients of BCRC. Prevocational Job Coach, Jim Smith has been an integral part of that growth during the last 15 years. ■



Employees of the Month Speak Out

by Karen Buccelli, Jason Kaponin, Mike Little, James McCartney, Tyler Patterson and Robert Pollock

Darrick Cockfield was voted Employee of the Month for April. He has been a loyal employee of BCRC for 25 years. Darrick was a "star" basketball and softball player when BCRC participated in Special Olympics in the late 80's and early 90's.

Darrick maintains a good work attitude by "keeping to myself and doing my job." One of Darrick's favorite jobs is helping Frank Sniezek with BCRC's weekly recycling. Darrick feels good about being Employee of the Month and about being declared a "good worker." He feels he has grown by working at various jobs and job sites. Darrick has always enjoyed helping people, and he hopes to get a "helping" job in the future.



Michael Funovits, our May Employee of the Month, started working at BCRC in 1999. He likes to "work hard and keep busy." He is happy to receive this award because "people think I'm a good worker." Mike believes he became May's winner by "always trying hard." Mike's determination and ▶

desire to learn have enabled him to work at three different community enclaves. He hopes to “keep working and doing fine” in the future.



June’s Employee of the Month Tammy Jo Zirot has been employed at BCRC for 23 years. Tammy is an excellent worker who keeps a good work attitude by “trying hard.” She is very “happy and proud” to be an award winner. She feels that she was selected because she works hard and “I come to work and do my job.” Tammy wants to work with animals some day. ■

Shop Talk

by Kay Podbielski

☀ BCRC clients are going to take cleaning to a new art form. We will be holding a broom decorating contest in which each group in the production center will decorate a broom, dustpan, and lobby brush used to clean each of the work areas. Creativity and resourcefulness will be a must. The brooms, etc. will be on display for 2 weeks before the final judging. Good luck to all of the contestants.

☀ It’s already begun to look a lot like Christmas at BCRC. The Christmas season began in June this year as the clients are hustling to fill large orders for cemetery wreaths in time for the holidays. The elves are busy assembling, fluffing and packaging the wreaths in order to meet the production deadlines. ▶

BCRC Has 'Perfect Picnic'

Great weather and a truly enjoyable day prompted BCRC’s executive director to state that BCRC had “the perfect picnic” this year. For the first time in many years the picnic was held in June and we were rewarded with a comfortable day with the temperature in the 70’s. The clients participated in the traditional softball games, bingo and danced to tunes provided by a DJ. Softball games featured Hall’s Bells vs. the Cruizers, and the TriPods vs. the Little Phillies. The day’s events were sponsored by Monaca Recreation with donations from ESB Bank, Wal-Mart and McDonald’s. ■



She's Gloria(ous) Worker from BCRC's Early Years

by Frank Shialabba

Many people have passed through the doors of the Beaver County Rehabilitation Center since the 1970's and 1980's. Staff members Marianne LaSalle and Frank Shialabba were reminded recently of one of BCRC's standout workers from that era. Gloria Brandyburg of Mt. Washington, Beaver Falls, was one of BCRC's top production workers in the agency's early years. Gloria, who happens to be deaf, was known for her speed, neatness and meticulous attention to detail.



Gloria cleans women's clothing department at Macy's.

Whenever a job had to be done quickly, BCRC called on Gloria. Whenever a job had to be done accurately, BCRC called on Gloria. Whenever BCRC needed work of the finest quality, Gloria was always there. It was only natural that when BCRC attempted to place workers in competitive employment in the early 1990's, that Gloria's name was at the top of the list. In 1992, BCRC placed Gloria at Kaufman's Department store in Rochester, PA.

After fifteen years of successful employment, BCRC's Supported Employment Department was called in recently to help Gloria adjust to some changes at the Kaufman's/Macy's store at the Beaver Valley Mall. Macy's has installed a computerized system that Gloria must now use to clock in and out, and check her pay. According to BCRC Program Specialist, Sheila Silbaugh, "Gloria is doing great. Her employer states that she never makes errors and her equipment is always in perfect working order."

Gloria is a gentle soul, who has been one of Macy's top employees. She is one of the senior employees at Macy's, and she has survived many changes during her tenure there. Gloria has continued her tradition of excellent work and attention to detail.

Gloria has gone from a wonderful record at BCRC to a successful career in the community. She is a pleasant reminder of BCRC's past; and part of our "promise for the future." ■

She's a 'Real Trooper'

"A real trooper" is how BCRC Program Specialist, Mike Little, describes Linda Crawford. A "real trooper" for 30 years, Linda retired from the Beaver County Rehabilitation Center on May 30.

At her retirement party Linda thanked her family and friends at BCRC, especially her job coach, Lavinia Craft and Program Specialist Mike Little.

Linda began working at BCRC on December 12, 1977. According to Little, "Over the years Linda was one of BCRC's most consistent workers. She was very steady and dependable. We could always count on Linda to be at work and do a good job." Little also praised Linda for "growing personally and in her work. Linda became more talkative and outgoing. She was willing to express her opinion, and very happy to attend outside work sites."

Among Linda's proudest accomplishments is her exemplary work performance at the Beaver County Courthouse. Linda also enjoyed the many parties, picnics and special events provided by BCRC.

As Linda embarks on a new stage of her life, we wish her the best and thank her for her many years of faithful service. ■



Linda Crawford retires May 30.



BCRC clients are participating in janitorial classes as they prepare to take on the cleaning of four large commercial buildings. ■



Safety Lights

OTC's are Serious

Medicines

by Cindy Kirkpatrick

From coughs and colds to fever, aches and pains, heartburn and other common ailments, we often use nonprescription or "over the counter" (OTC) medications to treat our symptoms. But even though OTCs are safe when taken as directed, they are also serious medicines. Just as you would follow your doctor's advice when taking prescription medicines, you need to know the facts about how to take OTC medicines with care.

In order to be safe you must take responsibility for learning about how to take each OTC medicine. Read the label every time you use a nonprescription medicine and pay special attention to the ingredients, and directions for use and warnings. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before combining an OTC with a prescription medicine or before taking more than one OTC remedy at the same time. And finally, keep a record of all the OTC medicines, prescription medicines, dietary supplements and herbal remedies you take. Share this record with your health care providers at each visit. Take an active role in your good health. ■



Competitive Edge
Editorial Staff

Gloria Beighey, Dawna Bott,
Jennifer Gengarella, Pat Healey,
Cindy Kirkpatrick, Kay Podbielski,
Frank Shialabba, Brenda Walsh
Sean Sen...photographer
Pat Tengeres...layout

BCRC Board of Directors

Jack Simon, President
Trudy Forsythe, 1st VP
Mary Welch, 2nd VP
John Francis, Secretary
Robert Kadilak, Treasurer

Ren Bartoe, Donald Bolland,
Frank Budisak, Arthur Cornell, Jr.,
Grant Farmer, Lynne Flower,
Marilyn Furno, Dale Laughner,
Julie Polletta, John Rackley,
Michael Rayz, Hon. J. Q. Salmon,
Richard Sheffield, William Steele,
Commora Woodfork

'My Favorite Job is Work'

by Brenda Walsh

While on a tour of the School to Work Transition Program (STW) at BCRC, a soon-to-be 16 year old student told the tour guide, "My favorite job is work!" That was music to a STW program specialist's ears. The hope is that all STW clients will love to work as a result of their experiences in this fast-growing, successful program. Over 70 students from three counties arrive by the busloads to attend BCRC's Work Training Program.

Check out the activities that are offered to the STW clients:

**O
P
P
O
R
T
U
N
I
T
I
E
S**

- Vocational assessments at a local restaurant, cafeteria, laundry facility, college, day care, retail site, physical plant, and recycling center.
- Enclave work at local office sites and a retail site.
- Classes on topics such as resume writing, interviewing skills, work appearance, fire safety, break time behavior, calling in when sick, doing one's share of the work, and completing job applications.
- Career exploration through the use of videos and online resources.
- Social skills training using an interactive computer curriculum.
- Group tours of community jobs at places such as the airport, a production facility, a restaurant, and a bowling alley.
- Group tours of post-secondary options such as a training institute and a career service.
- Contracted work and simulated work at the BCRC Work Center.
- Guest speakers representing jobs such as an elderly assisted living facility, secretarial work, and the fast food industry.
- Celebrations: Christmas party for all clients and a picnic for the STW clients. Graduation gifts for graduating seniors and a certificate of completion for all clients.

And just when one might think it is time for a rest, BCRC has teamed up with Job Training of Beaver County (JTBC) for a seven week summer work program for 24 of our students. These young people report to BCRC five days each week for their assignments to work on site or at one of our many community opportunities.

The School to Work Transition Program runs from August through June and the STW/JTBC program runs from June through August, so the fun never ends for the dedicated staff and clients in School to Work!■