

## Student Sees Opportunity to Help BCRC Clients

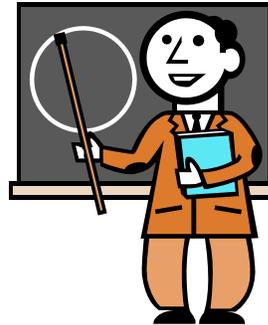
Dan Hredzak, a senior at Hopewell High School, put his inhibitions aside and raised \$900 for the BCRC client Christmas fund recently.

Dan, who works at BCRC three days a week in the School to Work program, completed the project as a senior graduation requirement. All seniors in Pennsylvania are required to complete a senior project consisting of a research paper, a project, a portfolio, and a presentation. Dan decided to do his project with the BCRC clients in mind – he would raise money for the BCRC Client Christmas Fund. He says the idea came to him as far back as his junior year. The actual fund-raising began in November, 2007, and by mid-January, he had raised the \$900 that he presented to BCRC.



Even though his project was very successful, there were a number of challenges Dan faced while working on it. One of the challenges was asking for donations from people he had never met before. Another challenge was going into a smoky bowling alley to talk to people. The hardest part of all

for Dan was the writing of the research paper, but with a little help from family and teachers, he completed it. With the collecting of the money, the completion of the portfolio, and the writing of the research paper out of the way, there was one more requirement to meet – the presentation. Dan had to make a presentation to a panel of teachers at his school. Even though it was a very scary task, Dan completed the presentation successfully. He had graduated from Hopewell High School on June 6. We are very proud of Dan and would like to thank him for his work on behalf of the BCRC clients. ■



## Spotlight On: Marty Shafer

*by Jennifer Gengarella*

One of BCRC's more recent services is our successful Aurora Psychiatric Rehabilitation program. As the Psychiatric Rehab Specialist, Marty Shafer has been with the program since its inception. Marty is excited about the growth of Aurora, especially the new peer support program and the expanded offices. Marty states one of his favorite things about his job is that, "I love helping people to realize that they have a lot to offer the world". Although he has worked in the mental health field since 1991, he revealed that this is the first job he has truly loved. He enjoys watching people succeed at goals they have chosen by learning and growing.

Marty is quick to give credit to the staff he works with whose "great qualities help comprise a great team". He is enthusiastic about the future of Aurora and has visions for the future, including people of all cultural backgrounds utilizing their services. He has a long time dream of creating a wellness area for Aurora consumers to utilize fitness equipment as an aid in their recovery.

As Marty is an avid sports fan, he enjoyed the Penguins past season. He is also realizing one of his dreams by teaching himself to play the acoustic guitar. Marty himself is an instrumental part in the success of the Aurora Psychiatric Rehabilitation program. ■

**Summer 2008  
Edition  
Volume XVI  
Issue 1**

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

*by Linda Glaab, Mary Jane Hudak, Pam Kelly Richard Luketic and Debbie Zubroski*

A new year has started and January's employee of the month was Mary Bender. Mary has been at BCRC a long time. Mary loves working in Candy Bouquet and she feels that her hard work and direction following ability are her strongest assets. Mary is so happy to receive Employee of the Month. Mary believes the award is from hard work in Candy Bouquet and that is why she was selected to win. Her future desires are to keep working in Candy Bouquet. She just loves Job Coach, Susan Hill, because she is a very nice lady to work with.



Tyler Patterson is the February Employee of the Month. Tyler has been at BCRC for two years. He believes the way to keep a good work attitude is to always show up for work. Tyler is very happy that he was chosen. He feels coming to work, doing a good job, and having a good work attitude helped him be selected. Tyler's plans for the future include going back to school so he can get a job.



The March Employee of the Month, Pam Kelley, has been

with BCRC for over 10 years. She feels a good personality and being friendly help her keep a good work attitude. Being selected as Employee of the Month caught Pam completely off guard because she wasn't expecting it. Pam feels her willingness to work wherever and whenever she is needed, i.e. being willing to go to Goodwill at a moment's notice, was vital in winning the award. Pam's plans for the future involve living and riding the bus independently. She wants to obtain a job that lets her be more independent.

All of our BCRC award winners have different life goals. This shows the freedom they have to choose what works best for them. Congratulations to all three. ■



## Safety Lights

### The Hairy Facts about Bee Stings

by Cindy Kirkpatrick

Summer is here and along with the sunshine comes a variety of bees. Here are some bee facts to help you be ready: Bees leave behind a stinger attached to a venom sac. The most recent research now says to pull out the stinger instead of gently scraping it out with a blunt-edged object. Wash the area carefully with soap and water and apply an ice pack for a few minutes. Finally apply a paste of baking soda and water. If a bee does land on you, stay very still and blow gently on the bee. When outside wear a hat. Furry animals steal honey from the bees; therefore, bees are in a heightened state of readiness when they are close to hair or fur. ■

## Design Dynamics is Employer of the Year

by Sheila Silbaugh

Design Dynamics was named the 2008 Employer of the Year at this year's Mental Health Association in Beaver County banquet.

Design Dynamics is a long established small business in Beaver County, which manufactures an array of screen printing signage that ranges from small banners to the scenic road signs that decorate our travel.

Six years ago, it became apparent to BCRC that the owners of this business were willing to provide support and mentoring to allow for growth and development of persons with mental illness. The owners celebrated with their employees as they learned and developed new skills. They provided encouragement that enabled people to maintain their employment.

The leadership in this small business foresaw an opportunity for individuals who were employed with them to develop a valuable trade. They established a working environment that provided opportunities for learning, growth, and personal development.

Through the years, on many occasions, the owners have provided support and assistance when employee problems became barriers to continued employment. While encouraging their employees, they also maintained the importance of providing an honest day's work for an honest day's pay. These lessons have helped many to develop craftsmanship, self esteem, positive work ethic and a greater sense of pride.

Six years have passed and Design Dynamics has once again taken a young high school graduate under their wing and allowed a door of opportunity to be opened. Once again they have begun the process of care and mentoring. The owners of Design Dynamics, John and Linda Provist, truly deserve to be the Mental Health Association Employer of the Year. ■



### **“Buy It Now” At Gifts Delivered On-Line**

Visit Gift Delivered's on-line store at [www.bcrc.net](http://www.bcrc.net) where you will find a variety of gifts available for purchase. Make your purchase immediately by clicking on the “Buy it now” button. Choose from a variety of items including the Classic Rose Bouquet, Music Box Bouquet, Sunshine Bouquet, Candy “joy towers”, a variety of silk arrangements and more. You may also visit our gift shop at 1517 Sixth Ave, New Brighton or call 724-847-4513 to order. ■



## BCRC Shares Vision for Comprehensive Care

By Frank Shialabba

BCRC Executive Director Paulette Miller participated in a signing ceremony on June 11 for the Beaver County Co-occurring Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders Performance Improvement Initiative.

The Beaver County Rehabilitation Center shares the goal of the Office of Mental Health Substance Abuse Services to create a “universal co-occurring system of care for children and adults that is welcoming, accessible, continuous, comprehensive, and integrated.” Beaver County Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Program has adopted the Comprehensive, Continuous, Integrated System of Care (CCISC) model and will adapt it for systems change in Beaver County and for modeling and supporting change at the state level. This will include adults and children, and people with developmental disabilities and cognitive impairments. ■

## Darlene Is “Mover and Shaker”

by Sheila Silbaugh

Darlene Pignanelli is a “mover and a shaker.” She’s a mover because she is constantly “moving up” in the competitive world of work. She is a “shaker” because she decided to “shake up” her life when she became involved with BCRC in 1998.

After Darlene completed a vocational evaluation, BCRC supported her efforts to obtain an entry level position with Giant Eagle in Rochester. Darlene began working as a bagger on 9/11/98 and has remained with Giant Eagle ever since.

Darlene received initial support from BCRC staff, who reported that she was a hard worker and always kind to the customers. After working for a short time as a bagger, the hot food manager noted her food prep training received at Vo-tech and offered her the opportunity to join his department. She began making sandwiches on Monday through Fridays from 6:30-3:30. After gaining some confidence, she asked if she could learn to prepare the salad bar and was provided with the necessary training.

Darlene survived a change in store managers due to her versatility and perseverance. When hours were cut in the hot foods department, Darlene returned to work in the front end of the store. Soon after her return, she was offered the chance to train the new hires as baggers. She remained in this position until Giant Eagle transitioned into self-scanning checkouts. Darlene was then trained to handle customer problems. She remained in this position until recently when Giant Eagle again offered her a chance to advance by training her to be a cashier.

Darlene is proud to say that she is a good mother and daughter and proud that she has been able to adapt to the many changes that have occurred at her place of business.

As Darlene has continued to grow vocationally, she has also become more independent in her personal life by working for her driver’s license. Ever willing to change and adapt, Darlene has proven to be a true “mover and shaker” who has grown personally and with her company. ■



## BCRC Offers Breast Cancer Awareness Training

Female clients of the Beaver County Rehabilitation Center participated in a “Breast Cancer Education & Awareness Program” presented by PA Connectors in May, 2008.

Topics of discussion at the training were early detection of breast cancer, and easing the fears of doctor exams and mammograms. Participants also had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss their concerns about breast cancer.

The breast cancer awareness training is made possible by a grant from the Pittsburgh Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation. It is intended for women with disabilities, special needs and their family and friends. ■

## We Teach “Life with Life”

by Frank Shialabba

BCRC, Inc.’s motto is “We Teach Work with Work.” However, we now also teach “Life with Life.”

If you know someone with a disability, who wants to broaden their horizons by learning to cook, go shopping on their own, or take public transportation, contact BCRC.

BCRC now offers a Home & Community Habilitation Program that give people with disabilities the opportunity to learn many activities that will enhance their independence. BCRC’s Habilitation Program provides one-to-one assistance that is designed to meet the individual’s interests and needs.

The program code for this service is W7060 and may be included as part of a person’s Individual Support Plan budget.

To learn more about this program call Sheila Silbaugh or Marianne LaSalle at 724-847-1306. ■

## Stakeholder’s Meeting Draws Large Crowd

Approximately sixty enthusiastic mental health consumers participated in an informational stakeholder’s discussion on June fourth at the Phoenix Center in Rochester. Norman Council of Northwestern Management Associates, Connecticut, addressed the crowd.

The meeting was sponsored by the BCRC Advisory Council and the Mental Health Association in Beaver County.



The Beaver County Rehabilitation Center plays a vital role in the Advisory

Council and in the transformation of employment services for the mentally ill in Beaver County.

A message of hope and promise was delivered by Mr. Council, and it was well received by those in attendance. Through an initiative of OMHSAS (Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services), BCRC has been chosen as the lead agency to provide employment services that are nonexclusionary and that stress personal choice.

Employment services will be delivered discretely, away from the employment site, and employment support will be available as long as requested by the individual. BCRC will be working with the Advisory Council in the coming months to develop this very worthwhile program for mental health consumers in Beaver County. ■

## Shop Talk

The annual BCRC picnic was held on Friday, June 13 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at John Antoline Park in Monaca. Once again the affair was sponsored by Monaca Recreation. The picnic featured a softball game complete with team hats and a public address announcer. For those who prefer to stay clean and cool, bingo was held in the shelter. Following the game, clients were treated to musical entertainment for our listening and dancing pleasure. Our friends from Monaca recreation manned the grills and served the delicious picnic food as has been their tradition for many years.



The following new staff have been hired: Job Coaches- Laura Medarac, Chelsea Benedict and Tricia Sarver; Clerical Support- Pam Crawford and Linda Johnson; Job Developer- Miranda Booth; Accounting Clerk- Tanissa Harriel-Carter; Supported Employment Program Specialist- Faith McAnlis; and Summer Maintenance- Matthew VanKirk and Jeremiah Pullinger.



BCRC is in the pink this spring as roses now adorn our marquee.

### Competitive Edge Editorial Staff

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

### BCRC Board of Directors

Jack Simon, President  
Trudy Forsythe, 1<sup>st</sup> VP  
John Francis, Secretary  
Robert Kadilak, Treasurer

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