

Gifts Delivered Featuring Candy Bouquet

By Pat Healey

Gifts Delivered Featuring Candy Bouquet, BCRC's newest business venture, opened this past August to very receptive BCRC workers and Beaver County Customers. In our short time in business, hundreds of Candy Bouquets have been sold while new bouquets are being manufactured and sold daily. These delectable creations are literally "flying off the shelves" as fast as they are being made.

Temporarily located in the Administration Center at 1517 Sixth Avenue, New Brighton, Candyland, (as the base of operations is affectionately referred to) is supervised daily by Job Coach, Elizabeth Green. Bright colored candies along with cellophane and foil squares create a cheerful, exciting work atmosphere. Stacy Quick, one of BCRC's workers who helps out on a regular basis states, "I like working in Candy Bouquet. It's bright and sparkly. The bouquets we make are so pretty."

Job coaches throughout both production centers are busily learning and training BCRC clients to cut floral tape, tip attach cellophane and foil making, candy kiss roses and taught. At the present time, analyzed and time studied in BCRC clients on a more tasks are being identified and products are being Gifts Delivered.

A small sales area has BCRC's Administration Center for customers, workers and staff to view and purchase Candy Bouquet Arrangements. Arrangements are also being sold in both Rochester and Chippewa Giant Eagles and the Geriatric Center Gift Shop. Public response has been extremely positive, to say the least, and BCRC is grateful to customers for their enthusiasm and support.

Future plans include a stand alone retail store where Candy Bouquets can be proudly offered for sale along with other gift items manufactured by workers in the production centers. A large network of Candy Bouquet businesses throughout the country share new ideas and techniques on a consistent basis over the Internet. Just wait and see what exciting things are coming next!



stems, wrap candies and squares to stems. Soon bow bulk candy packaging will be 24 different job tasks are being order to offer contract work to consistent basis. Different daily and additional projects researched to manufacture for

been established within

Sung Hee Yu Looks Forward to Bright Future

by Kathleen Ayers

Sung Hee looks down the long aisles of dairy products at the Chippewa Giant Eagle, and sees a bright future. He loves his job in the Giant Eagle Dairy Department, and hopes to work hard to advance in the company. Sung Hee found his position at Giant Eagle through the BCRC Supported Employment Department. He strives to become a good employee and hopes to learn every aspect of the company. According to people who know and work with Sung Hee, "He has a bright future." They describe him as, "determined, tenacious, diligent, conscientious, dedicated and intelligent."

BCRC Program Specialist Sheila Silbaugh describes Sung Hee as, "an amazing man. There aren't enough words to describe how far he has progressed." Sung Hee worked previously as an interviewer for the Consumer Satisfaction Team of the Mental Health Association in Beaver County. On July 14, 2000, Sung Hee found his present job at Giant Eagle as a way of earning additional money. When forced to choose between the two positions because of scheduling conflicts, Sung Hee decided to accept a full time position with Giant Eagle. He states, "I really like my job at Giant Eagle. I get 35 or more hours per week and I'm always learning something new."

BCRC Makes Safety Improvements

As many of you have noticed, there has been a great deal of construction surrounding the Production Center at BCRC. Gregori Construction Co. out of Sarver, PA has been busy with renovations that will improve both the appearance and safety of the building. This project was awarded to BCRC as a Community Development Block Grant through the Beaver County Community Development Program administered by Robert Dyson. The first phase of our three-phase remodeling plan is the new courtyard. The purpose of this courtyard is to provide a safe area for breaks, smoking, etc. The courtyard has a beautiful, black wrought iron fence, trees, a circular wall designed for sitting, and will have benches throughout. It greatly adds to the aesthetics of the building. In addition, bollards have been added across the front of the courtyard for added safety and improved traffic flow. While parking has been somewhat limited during construction, the end result will be well worth the temporary inconvenience. Phases Two and Three of this remodeling project will include interior remodeling, and additional traffic flow and safety improvements.



Sung Hee Yu (con't)

Darren Jarvis, Lead Dairy Stock person at Giant Eagle agrees. He has worked with Sung Hee since he began his employment. He comments, "Sung Hee has learned so much and has come so far since he started work. He now pulls the outdated dairy stock and he informs us when we need to reorder a certain product." The importance of Sung Hee's responsibility is obvious when you realize that there are hundreds of dairy products that need to be rotated on a daily basis because of expiration dates. These products must be rotated on the shelves and in the coolers. Giant Eagle co-manager Rick Starcher reports that working in the dairy department requires a meticulous, detail-oriented worker. There are many perishable products that must be checked daily. According to Mr. Starcher, "Sung Hee is a dedicated employee. He is always on time, and he is a conscientious, steady worker who is a real value to the department."

Sung Hee dreams of a bright future and he works hard to make that dream a reality. As we look down the aisles of the dairy department of the Chippewa Giant Eagle, we will be reminded of the diligence and tenacious attitude of the man who so carefully stocks them.

Employee of the Month

by Mary Jane Lattimore,
Kathy Siget, Bob Beaver
and Jill McAlister

John Vukich was the employee of the month for August. John has been working at BCRC for two years. He admits that he

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Marianne LaSalle Maintains Hope, Anticipation

by Frank Shialabba



Marianne LaSalle first knocked on the door of the Beaver County Rehabilitation Center thirty years ago. She was an eager young woman, recently graduated from Duquesne University with a degree in psychology. She was anxious to put theory into practice, and she felt that BCRC was the perfect place to do just that. Her persistence won her a job as BCRC's first vocational evaluator.

Ms. LaSalle soon was appointed Director of Evaluation, and she pioneered the use of the JEVS evaluation system at BCRC. She developed a strong working relationship with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, which continues to this day. Ms. LaSalle served as Director of Evaluation from 1971 to 1978 while continuing graduate studies.

In 1978 Ms. LaSalle was named Program Director. As Program Director, she has written and successfully executed grants for new programs and building improvements. She currently supervises the staff of the Supported Employment Department, and works closely with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation to develop contracts, which result in competitive jobs for persons with disabilities. She maintains the enthusiasm that so characterized the young student of thirty years ago. She states, "It is exciting to see people fit the pieces together that will result in a successful future. It is important to get to know each person's strengths and aspirations so that we can help them work toward their goals."

BCRC's Program Director praises her current staff and talks fondly of "the lasting relationships that she has formed with clients and staff over the years." Employment Specialist Wendy Summa states, "Marianne is always available when we need her. Her door is always open." Employment Specialist Colette Johnston praises Ms. LaSalle as a "caring and supportive boss. She is busy with many projects, yet she makes us feel that our needs and concerns are of the utmost importance."

Ms. LaSalle has obviously had a positive impact on those who work with her. Program Specialist Sheila Silbaugh describes her as the "kind of boss that makes you find the best in yourself and the best in your clients." Employment Specialist Ivy Russo feels that "Marianne's encouragement and respect have had a positive impact on a big portion of my life -- my work."

Executive Director Paulette Miller praises her as "instrumental in guiding BCRC's progress and enhancing our program options." She cites Program Director LaSalle as playing "a major part in BCRC's growth."

Ms. LaSalle received the ARC Appreciation Award in 1988, but her fondest memories are of the people that she has worked with over the years. She speaks with excitement about the many new ventures designed to create more work opportunities for BCRC's clients. Thirty years after she first knocked on the door of the old BCRC workshop in Beaver Falls, PA, Marianne LaSalle maintains much of the hope and anticipation of the young student who looked forward to such a bright future.



BCRC Extends Thanks, Commitment to Safety

by Paulette Miller



The tragedy on September 11th has affected all our lives. While bringing great sorrow to Americans it has also brought unity to our country. Those of us at the Beaver County Rehabilitation Center share a sense of family that has only been made closer by this senseless tragedy. We join together in thanking the brave individuals who have acted so heroically during this crisis. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the New Brighton police and fire departments, who have come to our assistance in countless ways over the years. They have provided consultation, training, safety inspections, fire drills, and many other services designed to make BCRC a safer place to work. In addition to working with the police and fire departments, the BCRC Safety Committee regularly reviews and implements improvements in agency safety. In the near future BCRC will feature Safety Lights, a newsletter designed to highlight our commitment to safety. The security of BCRC's clients and staff is an agency priority and we are committed to making it a daily reality.



Spirit of Volunteerism Lives at BCRC

by Frank Shialabba

In addition to bringing people together, recent tragedies have focused attention on the volunteer efforts of many who have aided the victims of terrorism. These efforts have also been highlighted by the celebration of the International Year of the Volunteer in 2001. BCRC presented each board member with a small gift of appreciation at the September 20th board meeting in recognition of their volunteer efforts. The BCRC Board of Directors is composed of 19 dedicated individuals, who volunteer their time for the good of BCRC.

Judge J. Q. Salmon was one of BCRC's original volunteers. He has had the longest period of service on the BCRC board in the history of the agency. Judge Salmon was on the Organizing Board that designed a program that would serve people with a variety of disabilities "under one roof." He describes his tradition of service as "part of your duty as a citizen." He remains enthusiastic about the mission of the agency, and believes that BCRC "helps people get jobs in the community and develop a sense of pride in the importance of working." He describes the current board of directors as "the best I've ever been on."

Board member Mary Welch is one of the newest BCRC Board members, and she brings a wealth of volunteer experience with human service organizations. She is a past president of the Mental Health Association in Beaver County, Vice Chairperson of the Passavant Memorial Homes Board, current member of the United Way Board of Directors and Vice President of the Allocations Committee, President of the Woman's Center, and Treasurer of the Drug and Alcohol Services Board of Directors. It was Mary's experience as a member of the United Way Allocations Committee that brought her to BCRC. She says, "I saw the work that was being done at BCRC, and I thought it was a wonderful organization that helped individuals develop a more normal lifestyle."

Board member William Steele is also attracted by the efforts of BCRC to help people find a place in the community. He

feels BCRC's annual placement record of "thirty-five to forty people is pretty spectacular." To Mr. Steele the true satisfaction is achieved, "when you see people who get to the point where they are working in the community." Mr. Steele joined the BCRC board of Directors in 1991, after spending fourteen months building a hospital that was used as a training base for medical personnel in Zaire, Africa. Recently, he completed work on a hospital that provides orthopedic services to citizens of Kenya. Although these volunteer experiences have been very rewarding, nothing means more to board member Steele than his association with BCRC. He states emphatically "I think I get more satisfaction out of the growth of BCRC than anything I have ever done."

Board President Maureen 'Merna' Donnelly also feels that "the growth and determination of BCRC" is something she has enjoyed seeing over the years. She points enthusiastically to the "determination and pride that the staff take in developing new programs that will impact the lives of the clients at the center." She takes pride in "the longevity of many of the staff, the eagerness that staff show in providing service to the clients, and the contributions that the staff have made to the lives of the people served by BCRC." Ms. Donnelly has her own history of contributions to her community. She continues her affiliation with Big Brothers/Big Sisters as former big sister, past board president and current board member while also serving as Vice President of the McGuire Woodlands Home.

Although only a few of BCRC's Board members are highlighted here, each and every one brings a unique blend of experience and volunteer spirit to the agency. BCRC Executive Director, Paulette Miller recognizes the expertise and contributions of the BCRC Board of Directors. She states, "I value greatly their impact and guidance as we work together with the BCRC staff to provide a brighter future for everyone served by the Beaver County Rehabilitation Center."

Employee (con't)

couldn't believe that he won because, "There are so many good workers at BCRC," but says that he was "ecstatic" that he had received the honor. He looks forward to working, and he states, "I just try to do my best every day." In the future, John plans to try to get a part-time job and an apartment of his own.

Frank Liberatore was named Employee of the Month for September. Frank says he won the award by "concentrating when working on contract," and by maintaining his temper. He feels the keys to keeping a good work attitude are by not getting upset when on the job, and by being nice to his co-workers. Frank says, "I am proud of myself" for winning the award, and says that it feels good to be recognized. Frank looks forward to retiring in 2010.

The Employee of the Month for October was Don Midon. Don has worked at BCRC for over fifteen years. Don believes that he keeps a good attitude about work by listening to his job coach, and following directions. He feels he was chosen to win because he "comes to work every day, listens to his job coach, and says 'yes' to contract." Don's Job Coach, Jill McAlister, states, "Don is a very respectful and hard working individual. He is always willing to try new things, and gets excited about doing a good job." Don said that it made him feel "good and proud" to win the title. Don hopes to continue working at BCRC in the future.

BCRC is committed to providing a safe and comfortable working environment for everyone we are privileged to serve.



Competitive Edge
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SHOP TALK

by Paula Cordes

- Four individuals from First Energy located in Shippingport, Pennsylvania recently participated in the United Way Day of Caring at BCRC. Kay Craig, Tacie Ciccone, Gloria Householder and Sandy Hannan helped clients roll beeswax candles on September 21st. It was a good experience for all involved.
- BCRC has welcomed a number of new employees over the last several months. Joining the Accounting Department is Business Manager Sandra Denton while Robert Nichol is working on-call Maintenance. Helping to get out contract work in the shop are new employees Nathan Barker, Donald Blackburn, Amy Blinn, Carl Boler, Aleena Buffington, Tom Craig, Justin Dean, Anthony Easton, Casey Filler, Anthony Gianfrancesco, Daniel Heuer, Megan Jenny, Christopher Kaponin, Elizabeth Kraft, Jonathan Krokoko, Diana Lindemann, Laura Lowen, Arthur Martello, Tim Mitchell, Jared Morris, Brad Narad, Gregory Parrish, Zeth Powell, Stefani Pushinski, Jessica Richards, Chris Riesmeyer, Cynthia Russell, Joe Sutton, Joshua Ward, Dorothy Yoho, Heather Young and Robert Zamora. Welcome to all!
- The Annual United Way Kickoff Breakfast was held at the Monaca Turners on September 13th. Pam DePace, Frank Shialabba, Marianne LaSalle and Paulette Miller attended. During it's internal campaign, BCRC received over \$2,700 in staff pledges and reminded everyone that our donor option number was 685.
- October 11, 2001 was a day set aside to honor our New Brighton Fire Department. Staff and clients joined together to welcome Lieutenant Jim Reisinger, Captain Eric Hartman, and Assistant Chief Joe Sabella and presented them with a HUGE, hand-made thank you card. Each individual attending had signed the card and included their feelings of appreciation and gratitude for the services provided to BCRC and the surrounding community. They are a group of dedicated, well-trained individuals who lay their lives on the line and we truly appreciate them. Thank you guys!
- This year's Client Christmas Party is scheduled on Friday, December 14th. DJ Chuck Webb will greet our guests at 8:00 a.m. at the Monaca Turners with his dynamic melodies while entertainment will include bingo, a dance contest and the Magic of Kevin Hurley. This is one event where everyone walks away with a smile on their face, a box of candy under the arm and a gift in their hand.