

Representative Hart Helps Bring Technology to BCRC

by Kay Podbielski



In August, BCRC staff and clients were treated to a visit from United States Representative Melissa Hart. Congresswoman Hart's office facilitated the acquisition of 10 desktop and three laptop computers through 3 Rivers Connect, a nonprofit organization that acquires used computers from the federal government and refurbishes them for use by schools and organizations. The clients demonstrated some of the programs that were being used on the "new" computers. Staff will also be using the computers for professional development which includes web based training.

Representative Hart spoke to the clients emphasizing that they deserved every opportunity to learn about and to use technology. The clients asked many questions.

Other special guests included George Heinitsch, Chief Technology Officer of 3 Rivers Connect, Jeff Iseman of Congresswoman Hart's office, Jennifer Young, Field Representative for US Representative Melissa Hart, and New Brighton dignitaries Mayor Paul Spickerman, Borough Manager Larry Morley, Chief of Police Dale Nicholson, and Councilman and Mrs. Richard Haddox.



Clients and Staff Shine at 40th Anniversary

by Frank Shialabba



"I can't believe that BCRC offers so many valuable programs to the community!" "I never knew that BCRC did so much in so many areas!" "Your staff is extremely professional, knowledgeable and articulate." "The buildings are beautiful and so well kept." "Everyone seems so enthusiastic about their work!" These are just some of the comments from the nearly 300 people who attended BCRC's 40th Anniversary celebration on October 16th and 17th. The enthusiasm of BCRC's clients, staff, Board of Directors and guests was a fitting way to exemplify BCRC's anniversary slogan... "**FORTY YEARS OF PROGRESS AND A PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE.**"

Visitors witnessed first hand the progress BCRC has made during its 40 years of service to people with disabilities. In addition to tours of the work areas, departmental displays featured a pictorial history of BCRC, a video, virtual tour, demonstrations of web-based training, visual presentation boards and computer demonstrations. Departments represented were the School-To-Work Transitions Program, Project Success (Welfare-To-Work), Aurora Rehabilitation, Supported Employment Program, BCRC "Work Safe" Program, Vocational Evaluation, Records Management Technology Center, Subcontract Services and fall wreaths and bouquets. Guests were particularly fascinated with Gifts Delivered Featuring Candy Bouquet's new line of holiday wreaths and BCRC's new industrial shredding machine.

BCRC was honored that Mary Lintz, wife of Lintz Workshop founder William Lintz, attended with her family. Former BCRC Executive Directors, Charles Peters and Samuel Lippincott were also in attendance. Paulette Miller, current Director, was also pleased that former clients, staff members, parents, friends, members of the Board of Directors and agency, school and business representatives also attended the two day event. She praised BCRC's current staff, clients, and Board of Directors, who played an integral part in the success of the event. BCRC clients served food, greeted visitors, and handed out gift items, in addition to showing their prowess at BCRC's subcontract jobs. Ms. Miller stated, "BCRC has come a long way in 40 years, thanks to the efforts of our dedicated employees. The abilities and energy of our clients and staff were on display for everyone to see at our 40th Anniversary. Sometimes I am amazed myself to see the wide array of programs that are offered by BCRC. We will continue to dedicate ourselves to providing new and exciting vocational and life experiences that enhance the quality of life of the people we serve."

Employees of the Month Speak Out

by Cheryl Beightly,
Karen Buccelli, Lavinia Craft,
Mark Kerns, Mike Little,
Corey Milliner



Lisa Donaldson has been named Employee of the Month for August. A smiling excited Lisa received the news stating, "It feels really good to be given this honor." Lisa always gives her best effort. She tries to do her work correctly, follows directions well, and is friendly toward her co-workers. Two of her favorite jobs are janitorial work and quality control. Lisa lists friends, the Christmas party, annual picnics and dances as things that she especially enjoys. Her outside interests are bingo and her family. Lisa hopes to continue making progress in her work for many years to come.



Randy Fox, Employee of the Month for September, has accomplished a lot since he first started at BCRC. Randy has done well at the Records Management Technology Center, Cutlery, the Courthouse, and BCRC's Production Center. Randy is known

Charles Ross Gives Everything He Has

by Kathleen Ayers

to be very conscientious about his work. He asks many questions and strives to follow the rules of each department. He takes pride in his work, makes an extra effort to dress neatly and is very precise. Randy is also very considerate of others. No wonder Randy is liked and respected by so many of his coworkers. His Program Specialist, Robert Pollock, describes Randy as a pleasant individual who has nearly perfect attendance. He says, "Randy has faced many obstacles, however, nothing stops him."



Mary Bender has been named October's Employee of the Month. Her friendliness and concern for others are evident to all who know her. She often stops to talk to her coworkers, and greets everyone with "How are you?" Mary has faced several new challenges at work. Recently, she helped make Christmas wreaths for BCRC's Gifts Delivered franchise. She also tried document preparation at BCRC's Records Management Technology Center. No matter what job she does, Mary can be counted on to work conscientiously. "Anything that requires special attention to detail she does well," boasts her Job Coach, Joan Bell. Mary keeps active at home as well as work. Some of her interests include crafts, gardening, shopping and walking.

Charles Ross worked as a laborer only five months ago. Today he has a full-time job with benefits, a desk, telephone and computer. Charles has accomplished a lot; however, he is always striving to do more. Charles, a former BCRC client, went through BCRC's Evaluation and Supported Work Departments, before getting a labor position at the Western PA Cyber Charter School in Midland, PA.

Charles' ultimate goal was to become a nurse's aide. He needed a job to save enough money for the Community College Nurse's Aide program. Gary Hewitt, BCRC Employment Specialist states, "This personal goal of Charles' became a reality in part because Charles had a vision, he defined his dreams and he translated them into a coherent plan; pretty heavy stuff for a young man 21 years old."

With the assistance of BCRC Program Specialist, Sheila Silbaugh, Charles first found a job with the Midland School District, followed by a position at the Midland Cyber School.

Silbaugh exclaims, "He is amazing! He will tell you exactly what he wants, and how he will accomplish it. Charles started at the Cyber School maintenance department, fixing the building, planting flowers and cleaning. He was recently promoted to a job digitally reproducing data to a Compact Disc."

Charles said, "I love my job; the people are so nice here and I really like learning to do new things, like burning CD's. I even have my own desk, my own telephone with an extension and my own computer."

But Charles' work is not done. He still plans on becoming a Certified Nurse's Aide. His plan has two parts. First, because Charles lives in Midland, where there is limited public transportation, he needs a driver's license to get to school. Every Tuesday at 4:00 PM, Charles studies the PA Driver's Manual at the Midland library with Ms. Silbaugh. Charles said of this experience, "Sheila has been wonderful to me. I am learning and I'll be able to take my written test soon, I hope."

Second, Charles realized that he would need to improve his reading skills to handle his college course work. He has registered with Adult Literacy of Beaver County and he faithfully meets his tutor every Wednesday.

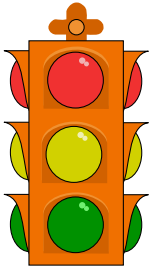
Charles Ross is a busy man. He is busy making a plan for his life, and he is busy giving everything he has to fulfilling that plan.



BCRC Receives Training Grant

BCRC is the recipient of a training grant with a value of almost \$12,000. The grant is from the **PA State System of Higher Education, Northern Tier Educational Initiative**. Twenty-six BCRC staff have volunteered to participate in the program. Participants log on to the web based curriculum through the Keystone University Network. The program can be accessed through business or home computers that have internet access. BCRC staff are eligible to participate in Desktop Computing Classes, Business and Professional Development courses and Regulatory and Compliance Courses. A few of the available courses are: Thinking Creatively, Time Management, Communication, Motivating Yourself to Perform, Overcoming Challenges, Positively Influencing Others, Increasing Your Assertiveness, Improving Your Memory and Balancing Your Personal and Professional Life. Executive Director Paulette Miller states, "This program is for the benefit of our staff. Along with our regular training, it gives them another chance to grow."

Safety Lights



The BCRC Safety Committee works diligently to educate all employees in matters of both personal and work place safety. During the 40th Anniversary Open House, visitors had an opportunity to learn about the various measures taken at the monthly safety meeting to ensure a safe working environment and to increase safety awareness in all employees. The safety exhibit, which was explained by Program Specialist, Mike Little, highlighted pedestrian/personal safety, proper lifting techniques, the use of MSDS sheets for product safety, and fire safety. It is hoped that our guests came away with a new understanding of the importance placed on the well being of all who work and visit BCRC.



Many Excited to See BCRC's New "Wreath Room"

by Frank Shialabba

BCRC has a new look. The conference room at 1517 Sixth Ave. has been christened the "Wreath Room." The room is adorned with fabulous holiday wreaths created by BCRC's clients. The Production Centers resemble Santa's workshop as clients are busily creating the beautiful new line of wreaths for the Christmas season. According to BCRC Director of Business Development Pat Healey, "The wreaths have been a big hit. We are very excited about the creative and business potential of this new enterprise." The wreaths were featured at the 40th Anniversary Open House along with BCRC's Candy Bouquets. According to Healey, "People were amazed at the quality and reasonable price of the wreaths." While a number of individuals purchased wreaths during the two-day event, others called or stopped in later to make their purchases.

According to Healey, BCRC clients are very much a part of the process of creating the wreaths. A new bow machine has enabled the clients to make "outstanding bows that make our wreaths very unique and exceptional." In addition to operating the bow machine, clients are involved in arranging, twining and gluing items to the wreaths.

The new line of wreaths has been a welcome addition to the ever expanding gift line of Gifts Delivered Featuring Candy Bouquet.

The wreaths come in a variety of styles, sizes and prices. Pine wreaths are available in 24" and 36" and range in price from \$12.75 to \$49.99. Grape vine wreaths come in 10" and 18" and range from \$13.99 to \$28.99. The majority of wreaths are in the lower price range.

Gifts Delivered Featuring Candy Bouquet intends to expand its line of wreaths in the coming months. New styles will be made available for a variety of occasions and holidays throughout the year. Join many others who are stopping at 1517 Sixth Ave., New Brighton to see BCRC's fabulous "Wreath Room." You may also purchase a wreath by phoning (724) 847-4513.

*Merry
Christmas*



Bosco Sales Go To Client Christmas Fund

BCRC clients will have a Merry Christmas thanks to Bocsov's "Friends Helping Friends" Promotion on October 7th. BCRC staff raised more than \$1700 by selling tickets for a twenty percent discount on many items in the store. Many of the staff purchased the tickets themselves as a way of saying thank you to the clients for the privilege of serving them. BCRC wishes to thank everyone who purchased tickets.



The Beat Goes On

BCRC will once again celebrate the season with a Christmas Party at the Monaca Turners. The party will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday, December 12 and will feature dancing to the music of DJ Chuck Webb. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m., and there will be an award ceremony immediately following lunch. Despite funding cuts, the party will be held this year due to the generosity of the **John A. Antoline Memorial Foundation**.





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BCRC staff and clients shared a special 40th Anniversary celebration on September 17th at the Production Center. Clients represented each of BCRC's 40 years, and a memory from each year was shared with all in attendance. Clients and staff enjoyed a picnic lunch following the ceremony. Clients were then timed on a variety of jobs as part of the Work Olympics. They received gifts and 40th Anniversary mementos for reaching their goals.

The BCRC Thursday Night Recreation Program has seen a significant rise in attendance. More than one hundred twenty people attended the recent Halloween Party. Many of the new attendees are students from New Horizon School.



Special thanks go to the members of the Center High School Service Club for their assistance at the 40th Anniversary celebration.

BCRC has two new booklets that will be very informative to persons interested in adult services. Just in time for the 40th Anniversary, BCRC has developed a new booklet that features pictures and descriptions of the exciting programs and services offered by BCRC. The booklet gives some insight into the agency's philosophy, as well as an eye-opening view of the wide array of programs developed by the agency. The School-To-Work Transition Program has also developed a new booklet that gives an in-depth explanation of available adult services and the means to access those services. The booklet should be very helpful to graduating students and their families as they look to the future.



Leah McDivitt joined the School-To-Work Program on October 30th as a part-time Program Specialist. Leah is a graduate of Clarion University, obtaining a BA in Social Sciences. She comes to us from UPMC where she was an Independent Supports Coordinator.

Have a Happy Holiday Season!