

**Marianne LaSalle Wins
State Award**

by Nancy Perkins

Marianne LaSalle, Program Director at BCRC, was recently honored for her work with the Aurora Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program. She was named the "Super Supporter" by the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) and "Mental Health Professional of the Year" from the state of Pennsylvania. Marianne shares these honors with Paulette Miller, BCRC Executive Director who believes in the recovery movement, and with Cindy Henry, Marty Shafer, and Alyson Brantley who work with consumers at Aurora. Marianne's warmth and obvious dedication to the psych rehab program is reflected in the welcoming atmosphere at Aurora.



**Marianne LaSalle,
Mental Health Profes-
sional of the Year.**

Marianne started her work at BCRC in 1971 following her graduation from Duquesne University with a bachelor's degree in psychology. Her first position was director of evaluation where she was able to help formalize and standardize the procedures for evaluating clients. The scope of her current position as program director has changed through the years to include many different responsibilities.

Besides working at BCRC, Marianne is secretary of the Beaver County Behavioral Health board and a member of the Eastern Star. One of Marianne's favorite activities is spending time with her family, especially her mother who is 91 years old. Her husband Jim is recently retired from the Ambridge School District; her daughter Julia has graduated from Carnegie Mellon and earned her masters at Duquesne University; her daughter Diane is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and is earning her certifications in mobility and teaching those with visual impairments.

We are very proud of Marianne and wish her many more years of success at BCRC. ■

**BCRC Board Member
Honored**

by Frank Shialabba

Board of Directors' member Robert S. Kadilak was recognized recently by the MDRT Foundation with the Quality of Life Award for his work on behalf of BCRC. The MDRT Foundation awarded BCRC a \$2,500 grant to provide automated external defibrillators in agency program buildings.

Mr. Kadilak has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Beaver County Rehabilitation Center for approximately five years. He provides valuable service and consultation as a member of the agency finance committee. As a member of the finance committee he was instrumental in moving the agency pension fund to a company that will secure the stability and

growth of the fund for many years to come. He also assisted the agency's expansion efforts, providing valuable expertise in the purchase of new program buildings and the remodeling of existing ones.

The MDRT Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the Million Dollar Round Table, The Premier Association of Financial Professionals. The Foundation was created in 1959 to provide professionals in the insurance industry with a way to give back to their communities. ■



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**EMPLOYEES
OF THE
MONTH SPEAK OUT**

*by Karen Buccelli, Hedy Pflug,
Robert Pollock and Cheryl States*

Donald Midon was proud to be chosen October's Employee of the Month. He has worked with BCRC for many years. Donald feels being kind to his coworkers and bosses helps him keep a good work attitude. Donald believes he was selected to win the award by being a good employee. He wants to continue working at BCRC in the future.

BCRC's November Employee of the Month was Debbie Corbin. Debbie has worked at BCRC for 31 years. Job Coach, Mary Jane Hudak, states, "Debbie seems happy to win the award. Debbie is a wonderful worker. She really enjoys working on fluffing wreaths and wall trees."

Our December Employee of the Month was Mary Bender. Mary has worked at BCRC for 27 years. Mary believes she was selected because she is good at making Candy Bouquets. She keeps a good work attitude by not saying anything bad. Mary would like to continue to work in Candy Bouquet. ■

**BCRC Replaces Out-
dated Computers with
Grant Funds**

BCRC recently upgraded its computer technology with funds received through a grant from a local foundation. BCRC replaced more than 60 outdated ▶

computers with grant funds. The new computers will enable BCRC to maintain a stable and compatible network with which to conduct both internal and external business. While maintaining technology is a necessary cost of business in today's technological world, BCRC Program Director, Marianne LaSalle has been successful in securing ongoing financial support through grant funding. ■

**SPOTLIGHT ON:
BOB NICOL,
Maintenance Man,
Extraordinaire**

by Jennifer Gengarella

BCRC handyman elite, Bob Nicol, is a jack of many trades. Working part time for BCRC since 2003, Bob handles maintenance issues of all shapes and sizes. He does "whatever needs done".

Bob came to BCRC after retiring from Cutler Hammer with 36 years of service. He enjoys working with the clients more than anything. Bob commented that even though he doesn't get to work directly with clients, he enjoys talking with them as he is working.

Bob is active within the community as well. He and his wife are members of the Local Task Force on the right to education for Beaver County which is comprised of parents and professionals working together to ensure equality in education. He is also an associate member of the Vanport Fire Department, where his son, Travis, is a junior fireman. Bob and Travis enjoy working together at fundraisers for the department. Bob also enjoys hunting, camping, yard sales, and just hanging out with Travis.

Whatever job needs done, big or small, Bob is the man to do it. Most importantly, he does it with a smile on his face and a kind word for everyone. ■

"Inside It Was So Delightful"

by Pat Healey

It's 9:00 on a cold December morning. It's snowing outside, but inside it's warm, bright and happy at the Monaca Turners. There's lots of good music and people dancing. That must mean it's BCRC's annual Christmas party.

Magician Kevin Hurley returned again this year to dazzle everyone with his sleight of hand and card tricks.

Years of service awards were given to 34 clients, while others received special awards.

The Samuel M. Lippincott Award went to Leona Williams. Leona has demonstrated the ability to overcome physical barriers toward employment with a positive work outlook and motivation to learn new jobs.

James Smith overcame many personal obstacles to win this year's Betty J. Meador Award. He is a wonderful worker and is very helpful at one of the community enclaves.

Our hats go off to Niaja Griffin for receiving the Competitive Employment Award. Armed with hard work and a positive attitude Niaja has been employed by Bluewater Cleaning Company at the Brightwood Apartments for the past nine months.

Kathryn Hanton was chosen as the 2007 William Lewis Merit Award winner due to her good attendance and positive work habits.

Our "thanks" go out to the staff of the Monaca Turners, the BCRC Christmas party committee and the John A. Antoline Memorial Foundation for another memorable party. ■



BCRC client dance to music of DJ Michael Barkovich.

Going Forth to Excel

by Frank Shialabba

Cora Irving states enthusiastically, "I have momentum now!" Cora has passed through the tunnel, and she is headed uphill. The tunnel represents a life of abuse, and the hill is the many problems that followed in its wake.



After finishing ninth grade, Cora ran away from home to escape a situation that can only be described as "intolerable." She was caught in a downward spiral that led her to do things that she now regrets. She says, "I've been through a lot. I have made many mistakes, but I have also learned a lot along the way. It got to a point where I felt God was telling me that He wanted me to live a different kind of life. From that point on, I was determined to make changes."

Cora began to embrace a spiritual life, and for the first time she had positive goals for the future. One of her major goals was to find employment in order to provide for her two children. Cora entered the Beaver County Rehabilitation Program's Project Success Program and received help through

County Community Development Program of the PA Department of Community and Economic Development.

Cora received job readiness instruction, while working and preparing for her GED. She improved her work skills at BCRC's Records Management Technology Center. BCRC also provided Cora with an on-line GED preparation program that she worked on during her spare time. BCRC made the program available to Cora during her lunch hours. She worked diligently and triumphantly as she met her first challenge and received her GED.

Cora's positive direction continued when she was employed as a clerical assistant at BCRC's Records Management Technology Center in December of 2006. Cora is currently charged with overseeing a major document preparation contract. She inspects the contract, instructs others and prepares the work for shipment.

Cora credits God, BCRC and the County Community Development Program through PA Department of Community and Economic Development with giving her the opportunity to better her life. She states, "BCRC took a chance on me and that's why I'm where I'm at today. I feel like I have accomplished a lot. I now have the momentum to go forth and excel." ■

Web Site Tops 11,000 Hits

Since the launching of BCRC's new web site on April 13, 2007, it has received more than 11,500 "hits". Other agencies, consultants, county officials, business representatives, etc. have praised the visual effects, bountiful information and easy use of the site. In addition to extensive program information about BCRC, users can shop at the on-line Gifts Delivered store, get daily weather reports and directions to BCRC and get the latest BCRC news. BCRC newsletters from 2001 through 2007 are available on the site. To shop, be informed or just get "in the know" about BCRC, visit us at www.bcrc.net. ■

Check Out www.bcrc.net...Get Free Gift

You can get a free gift from BCRC by checking out our web site at www.bcrc.net. Just stop at the front desk at the Administration Center at 1517 Sixth Ave New Brighton, tell us how you liked our site, and you will receive a free gift on the spot.

BCRC Gets Abitibi Bonus...Derrick Accepts

by Kay Podbielski



Derrick Cockfield graciously represented BCRC in receiving a \$200 bonus check presented by the Abitibi recycling company. Abitibi set a goal which was exceeded through the efforts of all of us at BCRC. The agency recycled 91,660 lbs. of paper in 2007. In addition to paper, we recycled 11,124 lbs. of cardboard and 606 lbs. of cans, increasing our yearly recycling total by 15%. Everyone at BCRC is committed to recycling and we're proud to be "green". ■

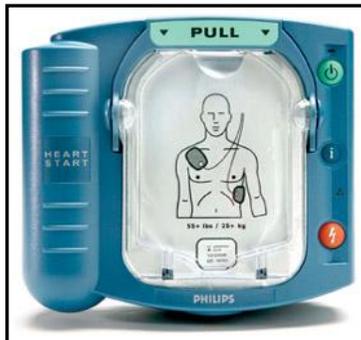
Derrick Cockfield accepts bonus from Recycling Representative Linda Stanley of Abitibi Co.

Safety Committee Secures Second AED Grant

In addition to a grant from MDRT, BCRC also received a grant of \$7,500 from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development for the purchase of automated external defibrillators. A New Brighton Cub Scout pack also raised \$400 toward the cost of the defibrillators. These life-saving machines will be purchased for all five program buildings in the event of a cardiac emergency.

The AED's have been a project of BCRC's Safety Committee in their ongoing effort to ensure a healthy and safe work place.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration states that about 10,000 sudden cardiac arrests occur every year while people are at work. Waiting for the arrival of emergency medical system personnel results in only a 5-7% survival rate. Studies have shown that immediate defibrillation have shown up to a 60% survival rate one year after cardiac arrest. ■



Safety Lights

Hey Everyone, Wash Your Hands!

by Cindy Kirkpatrick

Did you know that the first line of defense against illness is as simple as washing your hands? Just think of all the things you touch throughout the day – from the telephone to the toilet. Whatever you did today, you came in contact with germs and also passed germs to others. It's so easy for germs on your hands to end up in your mouth, especially when eating finger foods like cookies, sandwiches, and potato chips. So don't forget to wash your hands, especially before eating and always after using the restroom. Use warm water, any kind of soap, and scrub, even under those nails. Keep washing until you've finished singing "Happy Birthday." Do your part to keep others and yourself healthy. Lather up and start singing! ■

Aurora Moves Offices

At the end of February, 2008 Aurora Psychiatric Rehabilitation will move their offices from the second floor to the garden level, while remaining at 363 Third St Beaver, PA. This change will accommodate an ever expanding program that now features a peer support program, a consulting psychiatrist and a psychiatrist for persons who are deaf.

Aurora's newly remodeled space will provide additional group rooms and offices as programs and staff grows to meet the needs of individuals who are seeking recovery based services.

The expansion reflects the success of this program which has seen many persons achieve their personal life goals in areas such as education, employment, wellness and independent living. ■

Shop Talk

by Kay Podbielski

The School to Work transition program has grown to 80 students and is currently staffed by three program specialists and three job coaches. In addition to preparing the students for work after graduation, the program staff is involved in educating parents and community members on services available during transition and into adulthood.



The clients made nearly 2,000 wreaths, 400 trees and swags, and hundreds of grave cones and crypt arrangements. All were sold through Gifts Delivered featuring Candy Bouquet.



BCRC begins the new year with a number of new employees. Hired in October are Jolynn Frey, Program Specialist for the School to Work Program, Job Coach Amber Dumont and Aurora Secretary/Receptionist Betsy Kohlmann. November's new hires are Business Manager Michael Gaguzis, Project Success Job Development Kris Faulkner, and Nicole Lapiska, Clerical Support Person. Hired in 2008 are Carolyn McNicol, Human Resources and Teresa McMillin, Accounting Clerk.



BCRC hosted the first meetings of the Mental Health Employment Transformation Advisory Council in February. The meetings are part of an ongoing effort to combine employment and recovery based services for persons with mental illness. These evidence based practices have been highly successful in helping persons with mental illness achieve their life goals.

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