

BCRC “Sunshine Room” Spreads Hope Across the Ocean

by Gloria Beighey

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BCRC’s Candy Bouquet production room at the 1517 Administration Center has been dubbed the “Sunshine Room” because of its bright yellow walls and the sunny disposition of its workers. Workers from the “Sunshine Room” recently received their own “ray of sunshine” in the form of a very special visitor. PFC David Silbaugh spent several hours with the group to thank them for the letters of support they have sent to Iraq. All BCRC clients have been given the chance to participate in signing postcards and letters to soldiers like Silbaugh, while staff has been collecting money and needed items to send to them.

PFC Silbaugh is the son of Supported Employment Coordinator Sheila Silbaugh. He is very touched by the interest and support he and the other soldiers receive from BCRC. Silbaugh was treated like a “rock star” by the Candy Bouquet workers, and worker Sherry Lombardo thanked Silbaugh for “winning the war for me.”

Thanks also came in the form of a handmade key chain that was presented to Silbaugh by Donna Runyan.

All of the Candy Bouquet workers had the opportunity to have their picture taken with David. The pictures are proudly displayed on a poster in the Candy Bouquet room for all to see. The pictures are a reminder of a special visit and a very special soldier who took the time to say thanks. All of us at BCRC want to express our support and gratitude to the soldiers and their families for the sacrifices they make every day in defense of our country.

by Lavinia Craft, Brian DeBlaso,
Dwaine Haskins, Mary Jane
Hudak, Mike Little, James
McCartney

Donna Runyan is “Over the Top” excited about being February 2006 BCRC’s Employee of the Month. Donna has worked for BCRC for the past 10 years and has been a valuable part of the Gifts Delivered featuring Candy Bouquet team for the past four years. She keeps her sunny disposition and positive work attitude because she loves doing her job in Candy-Land and making roses. Her job coach, Susan Hill, says, “Donna is always in a good mood and makes meticulously beautiful roses.” Her future plans are to continue working in Gifts Delivered and, of course, to make more roses.



March Employee of the Month, Andomo Horton, is a longtime employee of BCRC. Andomo has been with BCRC since 1991 and attributes his splendid work attitude to liking what he does and learning new things. He is very happy about winning this award, ▶

PFC David Silbaugh thanks Candy Bouquet workers for their support.

Pictured top row left to right: Candy Bouquet workers Donna Runyan, Stacey Quick, Cheryl Beightley, and Susan Hill. Bottom row left to right: PFC Silbaugh, Jim Chambers, and Sherry Lombardo.

and is proud of himself because he knows it came his way due to his dedication to doing a good job and his willingness to try new jobs. In the future, Andomo would like to try even more new enclaves. In “Dom’s” way of thinking, excellent attendance, a good work attitude and willingness to try new things are all things that have earned him this award.



John Vukich, April’s Employee of the Month, is a genuine BCRC ambassador. According to Sue Leiper, Records Management Contract Facilitator, “John is very willing to try new projects, go to any and all outside work-sites, and take responsibility for the project he is working on.” John concentrates hard on each task, resulting in a job well done, no matter what he is doing. He feels good about winning the employee of the month award and is sure he won because of his willingness to try different jobs and go different places for BCRC. John has worked for BCRC for the past seven years and wants to continue to improve his work skills now and in the future.

Good work habits seem to be the common thread that runs among these three workers. Positive work attitudes keep them focused on doing a good job at all times. This good advice is for all to follow. ■



Rob Gets Bells and Whistles

by Frank Shialabba

Robert Robinson struggled with physical difficulties his entire life. Partial paralysis in his hand made routine tasks difficult. He longed to live a “normal” existence, and wanted his life to have all the “bells and whistles” that most people have.

Robert was referred to BCRC in 1999 by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. He faced an uphill battle because he had never held a job and his father had just passed away. Robert was determined to find employment that would enable him to support himself. Because of his interest in computers and computer games, he set his sights on office work.

Robert’s determination led to his employment at a distribution center for mail order prescriptions in Hopewell Township in January, 2000. He was employed as a data entry specialist, compiling data for the prescriptions. He assumed this responsibility with his usual gusto, sending out prescriptions throughout the United States.

That same determination helped him to overcome obstacles like transportation problems and illness. When he lost his ride to work, he worked out alternate transportation. When he became ill, he worked as long as he could and returned to work as soon as possible.

Supported Employment Program Specialist Sheila Silbaugh states that Robert made a “determined and deliberate effort to better himself.” That effort paid off and he will get the “bells and whistles” that he desired.

Robert gets the “bells” on June 2, 2007 when he marries his fiancé. The “whistles” have come in the form of praise and well wishes from all those who know this exceptional individual.

Robert called Ms. Silbaugh recently and announced his wedding plans with the words, “I bet you never thought I’d...” Because of his physical disabilities, many people doubted that Rob would get married or have a satisfying life. Doubters take note. Bells will be ringing for Rob to celebrate a wedding and a life well lived.

Robert Robson is pictured here with his fiancé Lou-Ann Duesenberry.

BCRC Gets Face-lift

by Kay Podbielski



Existing façade of the Administration Center located at 1517 6th Avenue, New Brighton, PA.

Thanks to the help of a special grant, the Administration Center at BCRC will be getting a face-lift this summer. No, we’re not using Botox, but a special material will be applied to the front and side of the building to create an attractive, youthful, façade. New awnings will be added to provide an added touch and a newly designed marquis will mark the entrance to the spruced up facility. We can’t wait to unveil our new look.

Three Honored by ARC of Beaver County



For the first time the ARC of Beaver County recognized an employer and employee from the same company at their annual Awards Banquet on June 1st at the Seven Oaks Country Club. Former BCRC employee **Richard Shaulis** received the **Frank Dematties Award** while his employer, **Schlotter's Restaurant**, was recipient of the **Employer of the Year Award**. BCRC Job Coach **Susan Hill** was also honored with the **Appreciation Award**.

Richard Shaulis was honored for his outstanding service to the community. He is a regular volunteer for Tiger Pause, an after school program for students of Big Beaver Falls High School. He also has participated yearly in the Arc summer camping program, lending assistance to anyone in need. Richard cares for his mother's needs as well, acting as her primary caretaker. In addition to his many activities, Richard works at Schlotter's Restaurant. He receives high praise from his employer, who plans to include him in his newly established catering business.

Richard's employer, **Schlotter's Restaurant**, was honored for an excellent record of employing people with disabilities. Recently, they carved out a position for an individual who was in need of work. When safety became a concern, Tom Schlotter, the owner, offered to transport the individual home in his own vehicle. In addition, Mr. Schlotter provides "a place to feel important, establish friendships and know that one's work is valued."

Susan Hill is the Job Coach for BCRC's Gifts Delivered Candy Bouquet work group. She was acknowledged for the positive atmosphere she brings to the work place. The workers in her group, known as "the Sunshine Room" are always ready to provide help, support and encouragement to one another. Ms. Hill stands as a positive role model, who always looks for the best in people.



Abayes Receives State Recovery Award

Paul Abayes, a participant in BCRC's Aurora Rehabilitation Program, received the coveted **Value Behavioral Health of PA Leadership in Recovery Award** recently. This award has been given for the past six years to "consumers who exhibit **courage, creativity and leadership** in their community as part of their recovery." According to Suzanne Ralph of Value Behavioral Health, "Awardees serve as role models for peers who are also working on recovery."

Paul has truly been a role model and leader in helping others with the recovery process. He serves as leader of a wellness group at Aurora Rehabilitation, and he leads both wellness and peer support groups at the Phoenix Center. Paul has also volunteered at The Medical Center and Friendship Ridge for the past two years, helping patients get to appointments and activities. He was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the Mental Health Association in Beaver County.

Paul is typical of the individuals who have been recognized by this award. According to Ms. Ralph, "for some the recognition was just the boost they needed to continue striving for a better quality of life, for others it gave new meaning to recovery and their potential for even greater success."

Paul hopes to use this award as a springboard to continue his recovery process and achieve a full and independent life. ■

Safety Lights

Caring For Bee Stings



by Cindy Kirkpatrick

Summer is here and along with the sunshine comes a variety of insects. If you have been stung by a bee, wasp, hornet, or yellow jacket, follow these instructions:



Bees leave behind a stinger attached to a venom sac. Do not try to pull it out as this may release more venom; instead gently scrape it out with a blunt-edged object, such as a credit card or dull knife.



Wash the area carefully with soap and water. This should be continued several times a day until the skin is healed.



Apply a cold or ice pack, wrapped in cloth for a few minutes.



Apply a paste of baking soda and water and leave it on for 15 to 20 minutes.



If needed, discuss pain relievers with your doctor.

SHOP TALK

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BCRC has added a number of new employees to our ranks. They include *Job Coaches Lisa McClure-Steals (3/29), Nancy Perkins, (4/18), Diane Van Aman (4/10), Jennifer Middleman (5/16), Amanda Tkacik (5/16) Abigail Pittman (6/5) and Cindy Hudak, Employment Specialist (2/20), Sean Sen, IT Technician (2/28), Paul Abayes (3/6), and Alyson Brantley, Psychiatric Rehab Worker (3/6).*



We also have a student intern with us. Andy Reda, son of Job Coach James Reda, is interning with our IT Department.

A number of high school students from Riverside High School, spent a “Youth Day of Service” in April at BCRC, sprucing up the buildings and grounds. BCRC would like to thank their principal and sponsor for giving them the time off from school in order to work here. They did a great job and represented their school well. Congratulations and thank you.

Please mark August 25th on your calendar because that’s the day BCRC will hold its annual client picnic at the John A. Antoline Park. We would like to thank the Monaca Recreation department for once again sponsoring this year’s event. In addition to some scrumptious food, there will be a DJ for dancing and the annual softball game.



The Scouting for Food luncheon was held on Thursday, July 20th in the United Way Conference Room. Frank Shialabba and eight clients, who contributed food, were randomly chosen to attend. In addition, BCRC thanked all staff and clients by hosting a pizza party to celebrate reaching their contribution goal.