

Aurora Client Wins Recovery Award

by Ashley Greenawalt

On Friday, April 17, 2009, Aurora Psych Rehab staff and consumers traveled to West Moreland Community College in Greensburg PA where Aurora’s own Tracy Cook was surprised and happy to win the Recovery Award.

Tracy began programming at Aurora on October 2, 2007 with a goal of managing her illness so she could work again. When Tracy started the program, she admitted that she had difficulty taking her medications on a regular basis. Tracy had been unable to work, take care of her children, or clean her house. She also struggled with family relationships, and had poor self esteem and excessive amounts of anxiety.



Marty Shafer, of Aurora, admiring Tracy's award.

Tracy made significant progress and in the fall of 2008, applied for The Certified Peer Specialist training. She was denied because she did not have a high school diploma. Instead of relapsing or abandoning her goals, however, Tracy entered a GED program through Adult Literacy. Later, she applied at the Mental Health Association in Beaver County to work at the Warm-Line.

Tracy has constantly shown this “never give up” attitude and she has shown leadership by participating in her recovery on a consistent basis. In a satisfaction survey Tracy reported that (with the help of Aurora), “I started GED classes, have friends and peers, lost weight by eating right and exercising, have good personal hygiene, get along better with members of my family, manage my anxiety much better and have a ton of self esteem.”

Tracy has truly blossomed and built a strong support system. Her happiness at winning the Recovery Award was shared by Aurora staff and consumers, who hugged her as she walked on stage. Tracy expressed her thanks to the Aurora Program, while Aurora’s staff and consumers applauded her with pride. ■

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**EMPLOYEES
OF THE
MONTH SPEAK OUT**

*by Karen Buccelli,
Kevin Bonnar, Randy Fox
and Mary Jane Hudak*

As 2009 got off to a wintry start, there was excitement at BCRC as Christina Divil was chosen the January Employee of the Month.

Christina is a nine year employee of BCRC. She feels that she keeps a good work attitude by doing her job and working with her friends. Christina is happy that she received this award, and she couldn’t wait to tell her mother about it. She believes her good work, and ability to stay focused, helped her win the award.

The February Employee of the Month is Gary Schlotter. Gary has been working at BCRC for 19 years. He believes he keeps his good work attitude by coming to work every day. Gary likes that he won, and he believes he did so because he works fast, is a good worker and has good attendance. Gary’s plans to continue working at BCRC with his job coach Linda.

Our final winner is March Employee of the Month, Julie Lane. Julie has worked at BCRC since 2003, which she says, “feels like a long time.” Julie keeps a good work attitude by trying to be on time for work every day. Julie is very surprised to win the award. She believes her hard work, ▶

**BCRC Staff Person,
Community Employer Recognized**

A BCRC staff person and community employer were honored May 14 at the annual dinner of the Mental Health Association in Beaver County.

Marty Shafer, Psychiatric Rehabilitation Specialist at Aurora Rehabilitation Services, received the “Super Supporter” award from the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI). Marty was chosen by this consumer group for his unabiding faith and belief that persons with mental illness truly can recover. Marty is well known by consumers for his gentle compassion and sense of humor. Marty has been a mentor and guide for many individuals as they learn how to get well and stay well. He has helped people believe in their capacity to recover and achieve a satisfying life. Marty is one of the main reasons that Aurora Services is a bright light in the lives of many individuals with mental illness. The Monaca Best Buy was named Employer of the Year by the Mental Health Association. Best Buy has been a highly supportive employer, who has worked with BCRC to hire individuals with mental illness. They were acknowledged for providing opportunities for individuals to benefit from employment on their road to recovery (see “Best Guy Teams with Best Buy” in this newsletter). ■

doing what she's asked, and keeping a smile on her face helped her receive the award. Julie loves working on the cleaning crew and hopes to someday have a job outside of BCRC with a cleaning company.

As you can see even though the weather was cold during this quarter the spirits and work ethic remained high. ■

Director's Contributions Recognized



BCRC Executive Director Paulette Miller was honored on April 30 by the Beaver Valley Business & Professional Women's Club as a nominee for Beaver County Woman of the Year. Paulette was honored in the Community Service category along with several other Beaver County women. A number of BCRC staff attended a dinner at the Fez where Ms. Miller was honored.

BCRC's Executive Director was honored for her vision to expand vocational services for needy individuals from all walks of life. Since she became Executive Director in 1990, BCRC has seen a dynamic expansion in facilities and services. Today, BCRC serves more than 500 people with disabilities. BCRC has added services for persons who are deaf, community job placement and job coaching, school to work transition services, psychiatric rehabilitation and a payment agent program. Paulette has earned a great deal of respect for herself and the Beaver County Rehabilitation Center during her years as director. Due to the trust and reputation that BCRC has earned in the community, BCRC has been named to develop an adult Autism program, a juvenile justice program and a new employment program for persons with mental illness.

Paulette believes that service to people is defined in many ways, but mostly in the way that we can lift others to reach and sustain their personal goals. As BCRC looks to the future, it does so knowing that a caring and dynamic director leads the way. ■

Safety Lights



Wash Those Hands!

by Cindy Kirkpatrick

The importance of hand washing was brought to the forefront with the recent H1N1 flu outbreak. Influenza is thought to spread mainly person to person through coughing or sneezing by the infected person. People may become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose. Your first line of defense is to wash your hands often throughout the day with soap and water or use an alcohol based waterless hand cleaner. Always cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands. If symptoms of the flu such as coughing, fever, and lethargy develop, contact your doctor. ■



Consumers WIN with Employment Transformation

BCRC's new WIN (Working with Individuals with Needs) program is embarking on a new era of service at its new location at the Aurora Building in Beaver, PA. WIN will be responsible for implementing the Mental Health Employment Transformation for Beaver County Behavioral Health.

The Employment Transformation views every mental health consumer as being worthy of employment in the community. Employment is not based on assessment of readiness, but on a person's desire to work.

Therefore, the job search starts as soon as a person enters the program, and follow-along supports are available as long as the consumer wants assistance. These support services are one-to-one, at discreet locations, and away from the job site.

Employment is integrated with recovery plans, and services are provided by staff trained in both recovery and employment.

For more information call Sheila Silbaugh, Director of Employment Services, at 724-775-2298. ■



“Best New Guy” and Best Buy Make Great Team

by Abigail Gouldsbary

Ryan Martin just wanted a chance to be successful. Thanks to his positive energy and the support of Best Buy management, Ryan was given this chance. He began his employment with Best Buy in August of 2008. After only 9 months of employment, Ryan was rewarded by being named “Best New Employee.”

From the moment he entered the Best Buy warehouse, Ryan was a part of a team. Eager to learn and try every available job, he began training with his supervisor, Jay. Ryan quickly mastered sorting packages delivered to the store, and he eventually



learned to unload the truck safely and correctly. After becoming more familiar with his job and surroundings, Ryan went to the store floor to stock products. He also successfully learned to use computers to make and print address labels. He is always eager to fill computer orders known as “dot coms.”

While Ryan’s supervisors took time to teach Ryan, they also learned to appreciate

his positive attitude. Ryan eagerly called BCRC staff following a Saturday training to explain that he was honored in front of his co-workers and peers as “Best New Employee.”



When you speak to Ryan about his job, it is very easy to see how much his job and co-workers mean to him. With each new task, Ryan had a patient co-worker, who happily answered his questions. Ryan is always included in work conversations and is trusted to learn new jobs and responsibilities. When asked about Ryan’s work performance, Jay states that Ryan teaches his peers how to live life to the fullest. Watching Ryan teaches one the importance of life, work, and relationships. As much as Best Buy has taught Ryan, they have also learned from him. For this we salute Ryan Martin and Best Buy management and employees. Ryan’s motivation and Best Buy’s care for their employees, teach us the meaning of commitment between both management and employee. ■



SE Moves, Now Known as WIN

by Nancy Perkins

BCRC’s Supported Employment Program officially opened for business as WIN, (Working with Individuals with Needs), on April 14 at 363 Third Street, Beaver. WIN is located on the second floor in the same building with Aurora Psychiatric Services.

The move to Beaver from BCRC’s Administration Building in New Brighton was complicated but necessary. BCRC’s WIN program has added the Habilitation Program, Mental Health Employment Transformation Program and the MR Employment Pilot to an ever increasing array of services.

Sheila Silbaugh, director of the WIN program, says “We couldn’t have done it [the move] without everyone’s help.” Everyone included BCRC’s maintenance and IT departments and the WIN staff.

Ms Silbaugh, Director of Employment Services and the person in charge of WIN, feels that Beaver offers good access to the bus line and numerous opportunities for habilitation activities. She and her staff are also pleased with their beautiful surroundings and the additional space for services. They would like to invite everyone to stop by for a tour. ■

Spotlight on: Sandy Rizzo

by Jennifer Gengarella



On June 12th, BCRC will bid a sad farewell to one of our cherished co-workers. Sandy Rizzo will be retiring from the clerical department after almost 26 years of service. Commencing her employment in August 1983, Sandy has witnessed the evolution of BCRC from one building housing 23 staff and 100 clients, to five buildings with 90 staff, 500 clients, and several new programs. She has enjoyed the “caring and dedicated staff and wonderful group of clients.”

Sandy has served on the committees planning the Christmas parties and summer picnics, and has fond memories of both. “Where else but a BCRC Christmas party would you be able to dance to a DJ at 8:30 in the morning?” She also enjoyed the early morning softball games at the picnics as well as the pep rallies for the Steelers, Penguins, and Pirates.

Sandy will continue her active lifestyle in retirement, with plans including relaxing at her camp in Clarion County, fishing and canoeing with her family, and participating in activities with her church. She also lists sewing, knitting, reading, gardening, and cheering on her children and grandchildren in softball, baseball, football, and soccer games.

Sandy would like to wish BCRC continued growth and success in offering individuals in Beaver County the chance to work in an environment where they can work to achieve their goal of employment. Sandy would like to say to all of BCRC, “Thanks for the memories.”

Thank you for the memories, for all your hard work and dedication to BCRC. You will be missed. ■

Shop Talk

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Cindy Kirkpatrick is combining her love of animals and her love of cooking in a weekly fundraiser for the Humane Society. Each week she prepares food for all to purchase for a donation. So far all of the food has been delicious and the animal fund is growing. Bring on the taco bar!



BCRC is expanding its recycling efforts to the Aurora Building. Abigail Gouldsbarry is our recycling coordinator for the Beaver site. BCRC employees are tenacious paper recyclers and we're sure that Abby will be successful in bringing the enthusiasm for the recycling program to Aurora.



Christmas comes but once a year except at BCRC. The clients are busy fluffing velvet bows while they prepare the wreath orders for the coming season. The wreaths can already be seen hanging from the sides of the shelves at the production center providing a festive touch and a reminder to enjoy the warm temperatures.



Executive Director, Paulette Miller, extends her congratulations to all at BCRC for once again scoring a 100% on the state licensing inspections of the programs at all three of the production centers.