



The Competitive Edge

BCRC, Inc., 131 Pleasant Drive, 2nd Floor, Aliquippa, PA 15001-3515

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Brodie List Aids Third World Entrepreneurs

by Mary Jo Sanders

Beaver High School Senior, Brodie List collected 2,700 pairs of shoes as part of a senior project in conjunction with BCRC. The project supported efforts of the Adoption Connection to aid entrepreneurs in third world countries.

BCRC agreed to be a collection site for the donated shoes. Through community participation and the power of social media including email and Facebook, Brodie was able to have a hugely successful campaign. Brodie worked hard gathering the shoes, packaging them and loading them onto a truck.

The Adoption Connection gave the shoes to an agency called Funds 2 Org. The shoes were weighed and 40 cents per pound went directly to help support the agency. The shoes were then sent to third world countries where they are used to help people start businesses by selling the donated shoes.

The Adoption Connection, a faith-based non-profit adoption and foster care agency located in Beaver, helps children find beautiful and loving homes. They offer a variety of services to benefit the community and ensure that no child feels unwanted or unsupported.

BCRC was happy to assist in a small way, and we congratulate Brodie on both his hard work and dedication. This project was truly in the spirit of BCRC's mission to help people



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become independent through working to benefit their communities. This is a goal that we value and strive to help our clients reach. ■

New Website and New Logo Provide Access, Direction to BCRC

by Jessica Rusak

BCRC has a new website and logo. The layout of the new website clearly shows who BCRC is, while illustrating the services we provide. A clean design highlights the four distinct services: Employment, Recovery, Community, and Youth. Site-wide navigation allows for direct access to find the best possible services and programs. A fully responsive feature makes the site user friendly across a range of browsers and portable devices. Website content is consistently monitored and updated to foster improved communication with our clients and the community.

In addition to the website, BCRC is excited to present a new logo. The updated logo is simple, yet the symbolism in this modern logo speaks to the heart of what we do and suggests the mission and vision of our company. The development of branding not only increases the value of a company but also provides employees with direction and motivation. It is our hope for this logo to provide a voice and give potential clients something to relate to, as well as inspire our employees. BCRC believes a fulfilling life is one in which you are engaged in the community, where you feel valued, and are a part of something. ■



With Every Challenge, There is Opportunity by Laurel Baker

Early in the morning hours of October 18th, Aurora Services newly-installed alarm system sounded. The authorities responded and were met with the sound of water throughout the building. A small part on an upstairs toilet had separated, causing water to freely run from the top floor all the way down, destroying significant portions of all three floors. The damage was immense, and services had to be cancelled.

At that point, the outlook could have been bleak. Suspending services indefinitely would have been detrimental for many of the participants as the structure, skills, and socialization of the program had become a cornerstone for their particular paths to recovery. Fortunately, an amazing thing happened: the village stepped in. Through the support of the entire agency of BCRC, options were brainstormed, and resources were quickly made available. The staff realized that this could be an opportunity to mirror the principles of mental health recovery. Obstacles arise unexpectedly in life, we can throw in the towel, or we can adapt and improvise.

With some hard work and the assistance of many, Aurora was able to open back up within three days, with safety measures in place to ensure the participants would be welcomed into an environment that continues to promote growth and wellness. Space is temporarily a bit tight, but by setting a tone of resilience and determination, everyone is making it a success. Work stations are being shared, and the participants have good-naturedly adjusted as needed. Morale remains good, and the Aurora community celebrated shared gratitude by enjoying an annual Thanksgiving feast, despite everything. The reminders of the importance of resilience, teamwork, and remaining solution-focused are lessons to us all as we move forward and "reconstruct" into 2019! ■



Fun and Learning Highlight Annual Safety Day *by Ian Thomas*

On September 28, BCRC continued its longstanding tradition of Safety Day. The annual training is designed to meet requirements mandated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).



Center Township fire truck

Safety Day training included programming on proper fire safety and issues relating to bloodborne pathogens. Jack Skrlac, of Aerial Fire Equipment, presented the fire safety training and gave interested clients the opportunity to use a fire extinguisher on a controlled fire.

Center Township Fire Chief Bill Brucker and Police Officer John Leitschaft were present to offer clients tours of a fire engine and a Mine Resistance

Ambush Protection (MRAP) vehicle. Mike Welhorsky, a representative of Henderson Brothers Insurance, was also on hand to deliver training on bloodborne pathogens.

In addition to these important trainings, clients participated in a range of fun activities, such as an ice cream social and a photo booth, and got the chance to win prizes including lunch with Executive Director Paulette Miller, a McDonald's lunch with a friend, a ride on the fire engine, and various gift cards. UPMC Work Partners provided clients with gift bags containing items such as safety-themed Rubik's cubes.

This year's Safety Day programming, which was coordinated by the safety committee and implemented by BCRC staff, conveyed critical information and gave staff and clients a chance to come together in a way that differed from the typical daily routine. It was a success that BCRC hopes to repeat in the future. "If we can replicate the success of this year's safety day again next year, I will be thrilled," said Laura Medarac, safety committee chairperson. ■



MRAP vehicle



Paulette Miller lunches with winner Aaron Harris

Dogs and Cats and Guinea Pigs, Oh My!

by Sabine Kane

Many BCRC clients from the Production Center and WIN Services love the cats and dogs and the "exotic" creatures that they see when they volunteer at the Beaver County Humane Society. Ten to eleven clients participated in the Humane Society's 1-hour orientation process, required for volunteers.

According to BCRC Job Coach Suzy Hardman, groups of three clients go to the Humane Society with a job coach at least one day per week, when the Humane Society is closed to visitors. Most of the volunteer duties center on cleaning the front lobby and collecting garbage from the offices and the kitchen. Volunteers also sort newspapers, remove ads and color paper, and open the pages so the paper can be used to line the kennels. A volunteer visit usually lasts about an hour, and the volunteer commitment is about three hours per month.

Production Center clients love to see the animals walk by and watch the volunteer dog walkers; they also enjoy looking into the cat room as well as checking out new arrivals in the "exotic" animal room, such as rabbits, birds, and guinea pigs. Clients also enjoy talking to Humane Society staff and asking lots of questions about the animals.

In addition, WIN clients, with their one to one staff, have been able to take the dogs out for leisurely strolls; visits that are enjoyed by clients and their furry friends alike.

As usual, BCRC clients enjoy giving of themselves to the needy (in this case their furry and feathered friends) in their community. ■



(L-R) Bob Nicol (Safety Santa), Nicole Ober (Water Elf), Rick Roberts (Flame Elf), John Baumgardner (Mr. Grinch), Adam Loverich (Stop Light Elf) and Virginia Chaklos (Electric Elf, not pictured)

Safety Santa and his elves delivered Christmas joy and safety tips to the clients and staff at the WIN and CenterPlace locations. But to the surprise of everyone, Mr. Grinch tried to steal their Christmas joy away. A snowball battle erupted, Mr. Grinch was defeated, and once again the spirit of Christmas was saved. ■

Spotlight On: **John Baumgardner**

by Kelly Newhouse

John Baumgardner is BCRC's jack of all trades, and he's master of them all. John joined BCRC's maintenance staff six months ago, and he is a valuable addition to our staff. He is in high demand at BCRC's three locations.

John enjoys the variety in his job as he works on multiple jobs of varying degrees of difficulty. This includes simple tasks like changing light bulbs to major issues like water leaks and everything in between. As water usually means major trouble, his unofficial moto is "water trumps all tasks." John states that he is ready to do whatever is needed to keep our buildings functioning, up to code, and safe.



John also keeps our vehicles in good working order, keeping us all safe as we travel throughout the community.

John instantly fit in with BCRC's clients and staff.

He states that he

especially enjoys the everyday interaction and the special and unique relationships he is building with each of our clients.

John previously worked at a local equipment rental store. He comes with great experience in mechanics and is a certified technician for outdoor power equipment.

In his free time, John enjoys riding his motorcycle, bowling with his son, Andy, and restoring classic muscle cars. John is very active in his church. He continues to do his good work through co-facilitating a Divorce Care class, helping people deal with divorce and separation issues. He has also served on several mission trips to Haiti and is planning a trip to Kenya. ■

BCRC's "Mary Poppins" Spreads Her Magic in Beaver

by Frank Shialabba

Mary Poppins is known for the special magic that she brought to the lives of the children in her care. A local flower shop has dubbed BCRC's Mary Richardson, its own "Mary Poppins" for the magic that she brings to her job every day.

Mary had been looking for a job for over a year but never gave up hope. Her perseverance paid off when she found her calling at a Beaver flower shop.

While Mary's job can be tedious at times, she always maintains a strong work ethic. After she fills a bucket with water and plant food, she separates the flowers, dips them under the water for the prescribed period of time, and cuts the stems. This assures that the flowers stay fresh and receive the proper nourishment. WIN Program Specialist Krista Peace states, "Mary works pretty independently, and she rarely misses work. She's always saying how much she loves her job, and it shows in her job performance. She really enjoys her relationships with her coworkers." While ▶

she uses a cane, Mary does not let this hold her back from doing her job, even when asked to clean the cooler, sweep floors and clean up the work area.

Mary Richardson didn't appear out of nowhere and fly in with an umbrella, but she has brought a very real touch of magic to the lives of all who know her. ■

by Cindy Kirkpatrick

S H O P T A L K

During the week of September 9, 2018, BCRC celebrated Direct Support Professional's week by recognizing the dedication and hard work of the Direct Support Staff. In appreciation of the vital contribution they make to the agency, a box full of breakfast goodies and a Starbucks gift card was given. Without the direct support staff, BCRC could not function. A big THANK YOU for all that they do!

BCRC kicked off the 2019 United Way Campaign on October 8, 2018. Each year many charities receive funds through the United Way. The generosity of the staff surpassed last year's donations. As a thank you, all those who donated were treated to a delicious Chick-fil-A boxed lunch. Three staffers won the additional incentives, an Amazon gift card, Texas Roadhouse gift card and a spa basket.

On September 12th, volunteers from the United Way Day of Caring tackled a cleanup project at the New Brighton Production Center. Five volunteers from the Calgon Corporation in Robinson Township graciously donated their time and energy to BCRC. That day, they assisted other BCRC staff in cleaning out the building by boxing items to be sent to the new location in Center. As a small token of appreciation, everyone enjoyed a Subway lunch. Thank you Calgon. ■



Jolly Old Saint Nicholas stands guard while conveying holiday cheer to the visitors and clients entering the new East Entrance at CenterPlace.

Paulette Miller
Executive Director

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Embracing Our History

Chapter 1 *by Josh Ward*

In 1962, William Lintz began the first day program for adults with intellectual disabilities in Beaver County. It began as the William Lintz Workshop, was located in a small church in Beaver Falls, and was an enjoyable workplace. That same year, Chuck Peters became the first executive director. Prior to BCRC, Chuck volunteered at the Beaver ARC, then applied and hired as the executive director of the workshop.

The Lintz Workshop became the Beaver County Rehabilitation Center (BCRC) in 1970.

Sam Lippincott was given the position of BCRC's executive director in 1973 and held that position for 17 years. Mr. Lippincott was initially hired at BCRC as an assistant supervisor in 1962. Sam "did everything" for instance; he drove the truck, directed clients, and even helped to develop the clients into productive workers. Sam gave workshop tours to show off the clients' abilities and quality of work. He developed many work ideas, such as starting a used clothing and shoe store, and even made some decorations for a dance club. Production began under his leadership. Sam once said, "Enthusiasm is contagious."

Over the years, BCRC relocated to several

locations. In 1992, Mr. Lippincott led BCRC to purchase a building at 1517 Sixth Avenue, New Brighton. BCRC now had a "home of their own." Sam left a legacy behind him. His clients were now accepted within the community, respected, and employed. More to come... ■

Safety Lights: Walk Like a Penguin

Falls account for more than one million accidents in the United States annually. The chances of getting injured through a fall go up dramatically in the winter. Here are some tips for walking on ice and snow.

- ★ Take short shuffling steps with your toes pointed out. Walk as flatfooted as possible and put your arms out for balance. In other words, walk like a penguin. Do not put your hands in your pockets.
- ★ Wear boots or overshoes with grip soles such as rubber or neoprene composite. Test potentially slick areas by tapping your foot on them.
- ★ Use special care when exiting or entering your car or going up and down steps. Make sure to find something for support, i.e., railing or car door.
- ★ Do not carry heavy loads that might cause you to lose your balance. ■

**Employee
of the
Month**



Caleb Mazinski
October 2018



Megan Patterson
November 2018



Melissa Kuppinger
December 2018

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