

## BCRC Honored at Scouting for Food Luncheon

BCRC was recognized at this year's annual Scouting for Food luncheon on Thursday, June 28 at the United Way offices in Center Township. BCRC and BCRC Project Director Frank Shialabba both received Leadership Awards and a Certificate of Recognition from State Senator Elder Vogel.

BCRC was recognized for collecting over 3300 units of food, including nonperishable items that can be used by needy persons in Beaver County. Thanks to the generosity of BCRC's clients and staff, BCRC has been one of the top participants in the local Scouting

for Food Campaign for more than 25 years.

Mr. Shialabba was recognized for coordinating BCRC's campaign for the last 25 years. He was thanked for his service by Bruce Simmeth, United Way Executive Director.

The Certificate of Recognition from Senator Vogel stated, "Because of your noble efforts and desire to make a difference in your community, the drive was a huge success. I... proudly extend my sincerest congratulations and best wishes as the recipient of the 2012 'Scouting for Food' Award." ■

Fall 2012 Edition  
Volume XVI  
Issue 3

## Budget Cuts Cause Changes

BCRC has been impacted greatly by state budget cuts. According to Executive Director, Paulette Miller, "BCRC will have to make adjustments to maintain services. While our rates for service used to be based on our cost of delivering the service, the rates are now based on our geographic area. The new rates do not cover the cost of all services as they are currently operated. We have tried to do our best to deliver a variety of vocational services, including the more costly community-based mobile work sites (transitional). However, we must now change the way these services are delivered in order to cover their cost."

In addition to changing the method of operating some services, BCRC will also be offering some new services (group habilitation) to people who attend the production centers. According to Ms. Miller, "This is a positive that has come out of some very difficult circumstances. We appreciate the cooperation of everyone... clients, families, support coordinators and staff in making this difficult transition." ■

## BCRC Staff Receive Certifications

by Pat Healey

BCRC staff recently received a number of certifications that expand our knowledge base.

BCRC Director of Human Resources, Carolyn McNicol earned certification as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR). The certification, awarded by the Human Resource Certification Institute, signifies that an individual possesses knowledge and experience in human resource management necessary to pass a rigorous three hour examination. The SPHR is the senior-most human resources certification and only a select few pass the exam. Testing focuses on mastery in: Business Management; Workforce Planning; Human Resource Development; Compensation and Benefits; Employment Law/Labor Relations; and Risk Management. Preparation included a twelve-week course.

Two Aurora staff members have been re-certified through the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol. This initial certificate and recertification requires a great deal of time in training and testing.

WIN staff has completed a number of programs and certifications.

- Two staff completed Transitioning into Adulthood with Autism course.
- All staff completed the required Bureau of Autism training.
- Four staff received certifications in Supported Competitive Employment for Individuals with Mental Illness and the National Certificate of Achievement in Employment Services.
- Four staff completed certification for supported employment.
- Two staff completed a course focusing on customized employment. Staff learned to teach individuals to work with employers and identify unmet needs that could become a new job position. ■

## Laura Completes Training and Certification

BCRC's Laura Medarac recently completed the Offender Workforce Development Specialist training provided by the Department of ▶

Corrections and the National Institute of Corrections. The completion of this training enabled Laura to be certified as a Global Career Development Facilitator.

Laura's certification is highly-regarded and is only given to a select few. Through this certification, Laura will bring much needed training to the offender and ex-offender populations served by BCRC's Community Services. Laura will aid offenders and ex-offenders with career planning, job placement, job retention, and career advancement.

Laura completed 180 hours of competency-based instruction in 12 core areas including: career theory, diversity, assessment, instruction and group facilitation, ethics, barriers, transition and interventions, retention, job seeking and employability, career information and technology, facilitation skills, and designing and implementing training and workforce development services.■



## Safety Lights

by Cindy Kirkpatrick

October is fire safety and prevention month. Make sure your home and family are protected from a fire. Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home and test it monthly. To prevent electrical fires don't overload circuits or extension cords. When using portable heating units, make sure they are at least 3 feet away from anything that can catch fire. Create and practice an escape route in case of a fire. Be prepared. U.S. fire departments respond to nearly 2 million fires each year, with ¾ of them occurring in homes.■

## Spotlight On: Kelly Newhouse

by Jennifer Gengarella



For the past five and a half years, Kelly Newhouse has been moving throughout BCRC fulfilling various positions with her wonderful work ethic and great personality. Starting out part time as a job developer and program assistant for the supported engagement program, she has also fulfilled roles as a case manager for supported engagement and supported work, vocational evaluator, and most recently as a program specialist. Kelly's flexibility as well as her sunny personality has enriched the programs she has touched at BCRC. Along the way she has noted many changes including moving into the new CenterPlace building, and the addition of new programs such as the Re-entry program and upcoming transitional programs.

Kelly relishes the fun moments working at BCRC as well. She fondly remembers acting out a movie script written by a client for the Disney movie *Toy Story*. She so enjoyed being a movie star for the day! Kelly is also the resident seamstress for BCRC. Her credits include making the bean bags for the safety carnival as well as the Safety Santa and elves suits.

On a personal note, Kelly resides in New Brighton with her husband Lee and sons Clay and Tyler. She enjoys crafting and spending time with her family. We at BCRC are often the recipients of her beautiful and creative projects. That is just one more hat for her to wear at BCRC!■

## Michael is Devoted to Job and Family

by Frank Shialabba

Michael Ritchie is a happy, honest and giving person. According to WIN Employment Specialist, Kris Scanlon, Michael is the "cream of the crop. He not only achieves success, but he is outstanding in his giving to others."

Michael is a wonderful and warm hearted person, who has begun to share his fun loving nature with other people. According to Employment Specialist Jayne Sainer, who worked with Michael in BCRC's School to Work Program, "Michael has grown greatly in his self-confidence and his natural outgoing nature has begun to shine through."

Michael continued to progress after graduating from school when he entered BCRC's WIN Services. Michael proudly states, "I got a job at Thrifty Car Sales/Rental Sales/

Limousine Service. I am a car detailer. I wash and clean the cars and drive them in and out of the garage."

Michael is a licensed driver, and the favorite part of his job is "getting to drive the cars. Someday I hope to be a regular driver." Michael also enjoys, "just being there and getting to work with others." According to Employment Specialist, Scanlon, "Michael is a very honest person, and he follows the rules explicitly. He is a wonderful worker." He is also extremely articulate in expressing his love of family and his favorite high school football team.

Sheila Silbaugh, WIN Director of Employment Services, also praises Michael's devotion to his family. She comments on "the trust that Michael's parent place in him. He acts as caregiver for his young nieces and nephew, and he also drives them to football and cheerleading practice. He is always willing to give of his time to help someone else."■

## Joe Lintz Touched Many Lives

by Frank Shialabba

*Joseph Lintz, one of BCRC's first clients in 1962, passed away on June 12, 2012.*

Joe was very much a part of BCRC, and he was a vital person in the history and legacy of the agency. His father, the late William A. Lintz, Sr. organized a movement in the 1950's, which resulted in the founding of both the ARC of Beaver County and the Lintz Sheltered Workshop.

Joe carried on his father's legacy as a dependable and talented worker, who was given revered status in his home town of Beaver and as a member of BCRC's courthouse document preparation crew. Joe was known for being "very particular about his work," and "always giving his best." According to BCRC staff, he "always showed up for work and he enjoyed making a contribution to any job."

Joe contributed much to us all over the years. He was a devoted son and sibling, who was respected by his community and his coworkers at BCRC. All of us at BCRC wish to send our condolences to his loving family and his many friends.

Thank you Joe, for your sense of commitment; you have touched all our lives in a very positive way!■



## Employees of the Month

### Production Centers



Donovan Jones - April



Manual Alonso - May



Richard Morrow - June

### School to Work



Donald Hric - April

## Brad Is" Perfect"

by Frank Shialabba

Brad Narad is an exceptional person, who has experienced outstanding success in recent months. On June 12, Brad was named runner-up for the Nettie Mann Employment Award presented at the annual banquet of Pennsylvania Industries for the Blind and Handicapped in Harrisburg. As if this wasn't enough, Brad also bowled his first "perfect" 300 game recently at a local bowling alley.

According to BCRC Director of Contract Acquisition, Joanna Greco, "Brad received a plaque and cash award from PIBH. He received the congratulations and admiration of his family and friends for bowling his first "300" game."

Brad was accompanied to the banquet in Harrisburg by his parents and Ms. Greco. According to Ms. Greco, "We especially enjoyed the presentation by featured speaker Jim Abbott. Abbott is a former major league player, who enjoyed a successful career as a pitcher although he only had the use of one hand."

Brad has also enjoyed a successful career and personal life as evidenced by his recent award and "perfect" game.

BCRC's newsletter, the "Competitive Edge" featured Brad in a recent article for his outstanding work at the Department of Motor Vehicles in Rochester, PA.■

## Entering the World of Social Networking: A New Endeavor for BCRC

by Amanda Dodd

BCRC is entering the world of social networking to promote employment for youth with disabilities. With funds awarded by the CMS Medicaid Infrastructure Grant BCRC is creating a facebook page that will target job-seeking youth, their families, and the local business community

Individuals with disabilities often feel they do not possess the capacity to work competitively, and many families are hesitant to encourage employment for fear of losing disability benefits. Meanwhile, the business community is often disillusioned by fear that such workers are less competent or dependable.

These misconceptions and concerns will be addressed through film clips that involve numerous BCRC clients, their families, local businesses, and benefit counselors. These videos will be uploaded to the facebook page and be utilized as a source of discussion. The page will also include vocational resources as well as career exploration guides.

The site will launch September, 2012. With facebook receiving the attention of nearly 900 million users, we hope that many will see the great benefit in employment for youth with disabilities.■

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**Website: [www.bcrc.net](http://www.bcrc.net)****Shop Talk***by Kay Podbielski***Ms. Greco is PIBH Director**

As of June 2012, Joanna Greco, BCRC Director of Contract Acquisition, is newly elected as a director of the board of Pennsylvania Industries for the Blind and Handicapped. As a PIBH director, Ms. Greco will help to shape the future of employment for people with disabilities in Pennsylvania.

Ms. Greco states, "As a director, I hope to bring perspective to the state by voicing the challenges that BCRC and other programs face in the areas of funding, obtaining state contracts and increased competition for persons with disabilities."

Ms. Greco will attend bimonthly meetings in Harrisburg and serve on numerous committees including Operations, Legislative & Policy, Nominating & Membership & Planning.

Ms. Greco also hopes to "help the common good, knowing that the ultimate goal is success for all production centers across the state of Pennsylvania." ■

**Picnic is Success**

Although the Buccos are having a great season, the Pirate Parrot still found time to attend this year's annual BCRC picnic. The bird was on hand to cheer on our softball players and entertain the loyal



fans. Along with the softball game, we enjoyed our traditional picnic activities of playing Bingo and dancing to the music provided by the DJ. The highlight of the picnic, as always, was the food which was donated and prepared by members of the Monaca Recreation Board, long time faithful supporters of the clients at BCRC. ■

Individuals at BCRC perform a variety of services for the community. Outsourcing services include mailing, assembly, drilling, shredding, digital imaging, microfilming, weighing, inspecting, packing, refurbishing, sorting, gauging, deburring, tapping and heat sealing. For more information on BCRC's business services call 724-847-1306. For production services ask for Joanna Greco; for mailing and shredding ask for Frank Sniezek; and for embroidering, digital imaging and microfilming, contact Pat Healey. ■

*BCRC is an equal opportunity employer and provider. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). In addition, BCRC is funded in part by BCBH, OVR, DCED, USDA & United Way.*