



# THE CHALLENGER

Challenging the community, families, and individuals to make a difference

A PUBLICATION OF THE DARLINGTON COUNTY DISABILITIES & SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD

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## SUMMER 2013

**Mission: To enhance the lives, develop the abilities, and promote the independence of people with disabilities.**



## ANNUAL PICNIC FUN IN THE SUN

sponsored by the Family Advisory Council



The Annual Picnic at Bridging the Gap Enterprises on May 17, 2013 was fun and the weather was HOT! Our consumers and staff enjoyed a picnic of delicious hamburgers grilled by our very own Wilton Griffith, chips, watermelon and drinks. Prizes were awarded for playing games, faces were painted (along with some arm “tattoos”), but the most welcome relief from the unseasonably hot weather was the “Water Games” station with water balloons & water guns. Thanks to our in-house D.J. Maurice Coleman (DSP-Bowen) everyone had fun dancing and playing musical chairs to great music! Thanks to all helpers, and tents loaned by Duke Energy & Hartsville Downtown Development Association.

## Events Calendar

June 27	ProParents IEP Workshop
July 15	Family Advisory Committee Meeting
August	Staff Support Yard Sale

## “The only disability in life is a bad attitude.”

Scott Hamilton, Olympic Gold Medalist Figure Skater, Two—Time Cancer Survivor  
As a child, Scott spent 6 years in the hospital and was not expected to live past childhood due to a mysterious illness that stunted his growth. His positive attitude is the inspiration for this month’s issue.

Our website has a new look!  
Check us out on [www.dcdsnb.org](http://www.dcdsnb.org) and see this issue of The Challenger in COLOR!

## A Message from the Executive Director, Ruth Thomas, MA



This is the first issue of The Challenger in nearly a year, and we have a lot of catching up to do!

*August 2012:* We had a very successful fundraiser for the DCDSNB Foundation, the “Beach Blast” held at the Center Theater featuring Clay Brown and the Legends and Larissa Holliday.

*September 2012:* Our Compliance Review from Alliant was performed and we received a very favorable review of 96% Compliance.

*October 2012:* Our residential consumers enjoyed their annual trip to the State Fair in Columbia, and a special Halloween Celebration/Dance at Bridging the Gap.

*November 2012:* The annual Thanksgiving Dinner at BTG was catered by Boanes Café in Darlington, sponsored by the FAC.

*December 2012:* The annual Christmas Party was held at BTG was held Dec. 17th,; Our Angel Trees project provided a very Merry Christmas to many of our consumers in need thanks to the generosity of our community members.

*January 2013:* New Board of Directors Officers were presented: Hattie Hughes, Chairperson; Rev. Alvin Rogers, Vice-Chairperson; Margaret Lanier, Secretary; Elve Williams, Assistant Secretary. Other members are Rev. Troy Shaw, and Mary Alice King.

*February 2013:* A Valentines Day Dance Party was held at BTG on Feb. 10– the consumers had their photos taken and enjoyed their dance and sweetheart cake very much.

*March 2013:* Employee Annual Training was held for all staff March 7-8 at First Baptist Church. The Vonoka Kind Award was given to Jennis Johnson, Bridging the Gap ; The Sue Woodham Award was given to Verniell Hannibal; Employee of the Year was awarded to Crystal Mangum, Early Intervention; The Lou Scott Award was given to Tammie Sullivan, Director of Finance; Service Awards included: 20 years of service: Mary Durant; 15 Years of Service: Desiree Brown; 10 Years of Service: Diane Mickens; 5 Years of Service: Glynn Willis, Jeannie McQueen, Eveylyn Hawkins, Rochelle Moses. I’m so proud of my staff!



20 Years: Mary Durant, BTG



15 Years: Desiree Brown, BTG



10 Years: Diane Mickens, BTG



5 Years: Jeannie McQueen, Glynn Willis, Eveylyn Hawkins, Board of Directors Chair Hattie Hughes, Rochelle Williams, and Executive Director Ruth Thomas



Board of Directors Chair Hattie Hughes; Employee of the Year, Crystal Mangum, EI; Sue Woodham Award, Verniell Hannibal, Reagan House Mgr. ; Vonoka Kind Award, Jennis Johnson, BTG; Lou Scott Award, Tammy Sullivan, Director of Finance,; Executive Director Ruth Thomas

Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy summer!

*Ruth Thomas*

**Tammie Sullivan—Finance Director**

I grew up in the Florence/Darlington area. I graduated from Darlington Academy. I earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting from Francis Marion University. I have over 17 years of experience in the Accounting field. Most of which has been in non-profit fund accounting. I had the pleasure of working for the Florence Family YMCA as the Chief Financial Officer for eight years prior to coming to the Darlington County Disabilities and Special Needs Board. I live in Florence, SC with my husband Todd.

**Kenneth McFarlin—House Manager Bowen**

I grew up in Chesterfield SC; I graduated from Chesterfield High School class of 2000. I worked for CHESCO Services In Chesterfield County for 12 years. I worked as a DSP-R for 3 years I was later promoted to House Manger for McBee and Peachtree CHT 2 for 9 years. I enjoy spending time with my family, fishing, reading, and puzzles of all kinds. I have been working with people with disabilities for many years. I believe that the special relationships that we will build together will last a lifetime.

**Teresa Redden, LPN—HealthCare Coordinator**

I am a Florence native. I graduated from West Florence High School and received my Practical Nursing Diploma from Florence Area Vocational School. I have been a License Practical Nurse for 31 years. Before coming to work here at DCDSNB, I worked at McLeod Regional Medical Center as the Admission Office Supervisor. My husband Bruce and I have 3 children and 5 grandchildren. I enjoy reading, working in my flower garden and spending time with my family. I chose to work at the DCDSNB to be an advocate and help promote good health to people with special needs and disabilities.

**Anne Brumley—Human Resources Director**

I am a lifelong resident of Chesterfield County and a graduate of King's College. I have worked in the human relations field for the past 24 years. My husband, Jerry, and I have two sons- Brent & Ty Brumley. Prior to joining DCDSNB, I was a small business owner and have worked as an HR Manager with Manufacturing and Distribution and Staffing organizations. I remain active in community projects, was a former Chesterfield County Council Representative, Work Force Investment Board Member, SHRM member and am the pianist at my church. Employees are the most important asset to any organization. I always aspire in taking a coherent and strategic approach in understanding the needs of each employee. Being perceptive to the needs of all employees is the foundational growth of any organization.

**Kimberly Jett—Early Interventionist**

I grew up in Darlington and graduated from St. John's High School in 1992. In 2004, I received my Associates Degree in Human Service from Florence Darlington Technical College, and graduated from Coker College with a Bachelor's Art Degree in Psychology with a minor in Sociology in May, 2010. Presently, I am attending Capella University pursuing my Master's Degree in Psychology, specializing in Child and Adolescent Development. Before working at DCDSNB, I was a Darlington County Early Childhood Teacher at Head Start for 9 years. Then, I was employed with Easter Seals of SC a year and a half as an Early Interventionist. I have been married to James Jett of Darlington for 19 years. We have two teenage daughters Whitlee (17) and Ashlee (14). My hobbies are shopping, singing and working with the youth. I have always wanted to work with the youth because they are the future. I want to make a better society by contributing and doing all I can to make a difference in someone's life.

**Wanda Cooke— Accounting Technician/Accounts Payable**

I was born in Andrews, SC where I lived until making my home in Florence in 1982. I graduated from Florence-Darlington Technical College in May, 2000 with an Associates Degree in Small Business Management and Marketing. Before I came to work at DCDSNB, I was employed as an Office Manager by Turbeville Contracting Inc. in Florence. I have been happily married to Gene Cooke for twenty-eight years. We have six children (five living, one deceased) and fourteen grandchildren. It inspires me being around the consumers and seeing their smiling faces and that's one reason I enjoy working for the Darlington County DSN Board.

**Wendy Coward—Accounting Technician**

I graduated from Lake City High School in 1979. Before I worked at DCDSNB, I was the Manager at Sixth Postal Credit Union. My husband Robert and I live in Florence and have two sons, Brandon and Brent. I enjoy walking and reading. It is a pleasure working at DCDSNB because our consumers have a way of making me feel loved and needed.

**Mary Bacote - House Manager Jones:**

I was born in Darlington and lived in various places in the US including New York, North Carolina, Dallas, TX, and Chicago, IL. I'm very close to my brother Alexander Bostic and his wife Gerri in PA. I enjoy reading spiritual literature, attending church and spiritual retreats, and spending time with my friends and family. I have a very special little poodle named Prince Tyco. I've had other rewarding jobs in my life, but my passion is to help others that have special needs. Everyone has a calling in life, and this is mine.

# Early Intervention Corner



FREE WORKSHOP!  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

## Individualized Education Program (IEP) Workshop For Parents of Children with Special Needs

Sponsored by: Darlington County DDSN  
Parents Reaching Out to Parents of SC  
PRO-Parents of SC, Inc.,  
Tanya M. Inabinet, Regional Education  
Coordinator  
Thursday June 27, 2013 1:00pm-4:00pm

TOPICS:  
The Initial Evaluation  
What is Special Education?  
What is an IEP?  
What happens during the IEP meeting?  
SPACE IS LIMITED  
PLEASE CALL TO REGISTER  
Call 1-800-759-4776 or (803) 772-5688

Would you like  
to see  
*The Challenger*  
in color?  
Check out our  
website anytime  
to see past  
Challengers or  
find current  
information at  
[www.dcdsnb.org](http://www.dcdsnb.org)

## Family Advisory Council: here we grow again, FAC!

The FAC was created to promote understanding between families and DCDSNB by providing a forum for the exchange of information, ideas and concerns, as well as a chance to meet and fellowship with other families. Meetings are held quarterly the 3rd Monday of January, April, July and October. Historically, the FAC has provided support through a wide range of fundraising activities to fund and plan special parties and events during the year for those we serve, their family members and staff. The group has dwindled and it's time to start again with fresh ideas!



- 1.) Some folks asked if the old meeting time of 6pm could be changed to 10am— which do YOU prefer?
- 2.) Another suggestion has been to have two groups, one for parents and caregivers of kids infant—20 years of age, and a separate group for those with adults 21 and up. Would YOU like that? Send your thoughts to: [rthomas@dcdsnb.org](mailto:rthomas@dcdsnb.org), 332-7252.



The Staff Support Team is planning a Garage Sale for later this summer— if you have items you would like to donate, please contact this year's SST President, Jacquay Archer for more information! Date TBA

### ***Our Condolences:***

May 2013: Wilton Griffith on the death of his father-in-law; family of Dewey Miller, HASCI consumer;  
June 2013: Jennis Johnson on the death of her father, Henry Lee Johnson; Doian Johnson on the loss of her grandmother, Gladys Ratliff; Johnny Sanders, Consumer; Chris Mims,

# The Darlington County Disabilities Foundation appreciates all of our generous donors.

The following Donations were received after the last printing of the Challenger.

### Donations for Medical Charts:

Andra Risinger, Patsy Auman, Ruth Thomas, Elizabeth Register, Palmetto RX, Supportive Consultation Services, Amy Mixon, Cindy Evans, Wilton Griffith, Franklin Mills, Kimberly Alton, Sandra Jordan, Pamela Amerson

### Other:

John H. Davis-30 Kiwanis BBQ Tickets  
Southern Office Supply: 43 Binders  
Merle D. Baxley- Honor of Hattie Hughes  
Rufus Britt  
Sonoco Foundation: Renovations  
Debbie Fink  
Roberta Jones

William Bowen- Donation for the future Federlück Carl Bowen House  
Jennifer Fink in Honor of Debbie Fink  
Elizabeth Register : F A C

### Seniors Garden:

Lowes of Hartsville; Sears of Hartsville, Gardner's Feed & Seed, Janice Miles, Judy Jacobs, Martha Moye Peel, Wesley UMC Maxine Garland Circle, Jean Shirley Watkins, Judy Davis, Melinda Smith Byrd, Cheryl Smith, Raleigh Smith

### Seniors Program Porch Addition:

Charles & Frances Hupfer  
Merle D. Baxley

## Seniors Program Garden News

**Wish List:**  
**BIG DREAM:** Addition to the Seniors Program (a screened in porch to brighten up their space and allow the seniors who don't like bright sun to enjoy their garden while their friends garden.) ~herbs~ flowering plants~ veggies~ bird feeders & seed~ garden planning & design ~ tools~ & volunteers! We'd love your help!



### ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS:

DCDSNB - Darlington County Disabilities & Special Needs Board  
DCDF - Darlington County Disabilities Foundation  
DDSN - (SC) Department of Disabilities and Special Needs  
ICF - Intermediate Care Facility CTH - Community Training Home

FAC - Family Advisory Council  
EI - Early Interventionist SC - Service Coordinator  
SST - Staff Support Team  
DSP - Direct Support Professional  
BTG - Bridging the Gap Enterprises

Darlington County Disabilities & Special Needs Board  
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Hartsville SC 29550

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## Darlington County Disabilities & Special Needs Board

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Hartsville, SC 29550

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**Ruth Thomas, M.A.**  
Executive Director

### **Board Members:**

Hattie E. Hughes, Chair  
Rev. Alvin Rogers, Vice-Chair  
Margaret Lanier, Secretary  
Elve Williams, Asst. Secretary  
Mary Alice Timberlake King  
Rev. Troy Shaw

### **Foundation Members:**

Gregory Alexander, Chair  
Dr. Joe H. McCullough, VP  
F.W. (Chip) Auman, III, Treasurer  
Debbie Fink  
Hattie E. Hughes  
Jennifer Perkins  
Rev. Troy Shaw  
Jana E. Pye



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