



# THE CHALLENGER

FALL/WINTER 2015

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

A Publication of the Darlington County Disabilities & Special Needs Board

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Darlington County Disabilities and Special Needs Board

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



To All Staff:

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all of your efforts throughout the 2015 year. The success of our agency is built on the efforts of our employees and in this past year, we have enjoyed many successes. Thank you for the dedication, loyalty and commitment that each one of you has demonstrated.

We've come through a year that was filled with both challenges and victories. How reassuring it has been to know that the consumers we serve and the agency can count on each of you regardless of what faces us. On behalf of The Darlington County Disabilities and Special Needs Board of Directors and Executive Staff, please allow me to extend my personal and genuine appreciation to each and every one you for your valuable contributions to this agency. Working with you this past year has been a pleasure and we're proud to have you all on the team.

We offer our best wishes and happiness to you and your families as we all look forward to a successful 2016.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Blocker  
Executive Director

**“We, the ones who are challenged, need to be heard. To be seen not as a disability, but as a person who has and will continue to bloom. To be seen not only as a handicap, but as a well intact human being.”**

*-Robert M. Hensel*

# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

The Human Rights Committee is authorized by law in South Carolina (Section 44-26-70), and additional guidance for operation of the Committee is outlined in DDSN's Directive 535-02-DD. The purpose of the Committee is to assure, and support the exercise of, the rights of those being served by providers in South Carolina. The Committee does this by meeting every other month (or more often if needed) and hears complaints from service participants, reviews allegations of abuse/neglect/exploitation, and reviews consents for interventions and research so the Board can assure full disclosure of the risks and benefits of proposed interventions or research and that changes are made when interventions are not working as planned. The Committee may also advise the Executive Director and The Board of Directors on rights issues as identified or needed.

The Darlington County DSN Board's Human Rights Committee is made up of as many as 7 members. Board employees are not members of the Committee, but rather serve as support for the Committee's operations. The Committee members are broadly representative of the people who live and work in our service area. Current members include a pharmacist, a relative of a service participant, a local educator, and a local business woman who also worked for years in services for persons with intellectual disabilities. There are also two service participants on the committee. The Committee membership changes, as terms (lasting 3 years) are staggered so experienced members serve even as new members are added when others leave the Committee. As an example, in the past year, one consumer representative left, moving out of the area. A new consumer member was appointed by the Executive Director. (Pictured on right) Ms. Carol Edwards left the Committee after her second (maximum allowed) 3 year term ended in July. (Pictured on right) Ms. Jean Lee, who had served as the Committee Chair for several years, ended her second 3 year term in October. The Committee still has one vacancy to fill at this time. If you are interested in serving on this committee, Contact Mrs. Ruth Blocker.



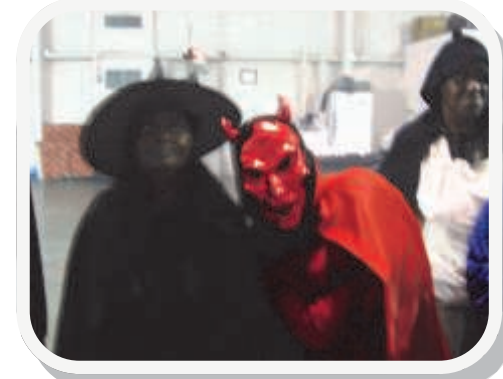
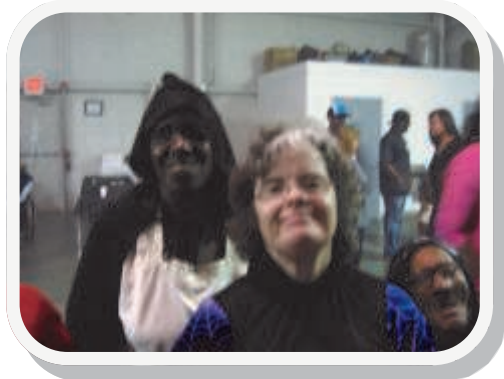
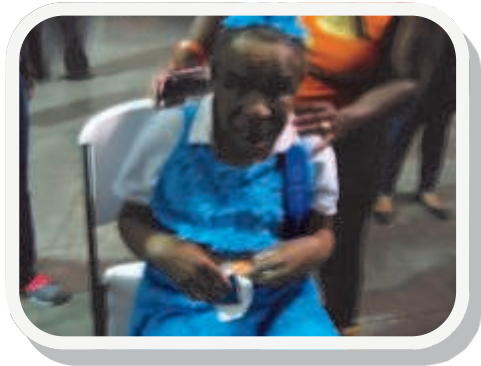
Mrs. Jean Lee with Mr. Wilton Griffith



Mrs. Carol Edwards with Mr. Wilton Griffith

## 2015 Halloween Fun at Bridging the Gap

Everyone enjoyed the Costume party, cupcakes and music



## HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR—ANNE BRUMLEY

The Staff Support Team and Mrs. Blocker presented a certificate to the following employees for Employee of the Month. Congratulations! *THANK YOU* for your dedication!



July Employee of the Month—Dawanda Brown, RN, Director of Nursing/QID - is an extremely dedicated employee. She is compassionate and caring for all of the consumers and responsive to their needs.



August Employee of the Month—Priscilla Soney, Direct Support Professional - is dedicated and exhibits all the great qualities needed. She is dependable, enthusiastic and has a positive attitude.



September Employee of the Month—Lanie McPhail, Direct Support Professional - is enthusiastic and willing to work in other programs whenever she is available. She truly demonstrates that she cares about all of the consumers that she serves.



October Employee of the Month—Demetress Adams-Ludd, Early Interventionist - is committed to her work, and is an awesome team player. She has an excellent, friendly, and professional relationship with the families that she serves.



November Employee of the Month—Gloria Benjamin, Direct Support Professional - has a fantastic teamwork disposition. She loves the consumers and helps to promote an inviting warm working environment.



December Employee of the Month—Wanda Cooke, Accounts Payable Tech. - always steps in to help co-workers when needed. She is very dependable and always has a positive attitude.

## Staff Support Team

### Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week

September 13-19 was proclaimed Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week by Governor Nikki Haley. With the help of DCDSNB staff and the Staff Support Team Direct Support Professional Employees were treated to a morning and afternoon drop in on Sept. 15th. On the 16th they were served Ice Cream and on the 17th they were served pizza. This is a wonderful and well deserved tribute to the many talented and dedicated DSP's who support individuals with disabilities and special needs. Direct Support Professionals are the key connection to the provision of essential services. Their caring and personal attention to the individuals we support is how quality services are provided to the individuals we serve. **THANK YOU DIRECT SUPPORT STAFF FOR YOUR SERVICE!!**

The Staff Support Team had several fund raiser's this year to help fund the Staff Christmas Celebrations. Staff were invited to attend 1 of 3 celebrations. A Breakfast, Afternoon lunch or an evening dinner.



# Early Intervention

Joni Pendergrass, Supervisor, Demetress, Tara and Wendy

Early Intervention - 2015 Treat for Kids at the SIMT building – Florence Darlington Tech. 10/21/2015



EI Ladies at Treat for Kids, Joni , Demetress, Tara and Wendy



ICF ladies with EI ladies at Treats for Kids



Left:

Thank you BTG Staff for your Christmas gift donations to the EI Department. These gifts will go to an EI family served by DCDSNB EI department.

## CASE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Teshawn Fulton, Case Manager Supervisor  
Bonnie, Sheneeka, Britney and Shaunkita,  
Case Managers



The Case Manager Department is very excited to introduce to the consumer and families one of our newest Case Manager's **Britney Brisbon (Pictured on left)**. She is a graduate of Coker College with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and has a work history in working with Department of Social Services. She will be working with consumer's with intellectual disabilities.

# SHAW CTH II HOME

The Darlington County Disabilities & Special Needs Board held an Open House in October for their 10th Residential Home in Darlington County. Shaw CTH II is named after Rev. Troy Shaw, the boards current longest serving board member. Rev. Shaw is the Chair of the Board. This home will house four individuals with disabilities and special needs.



Pictured above: Ruth Blocker, Executive Director, Viola Shaw, Spouse of Rev. Troy Shaw, Rev. Troy Shaw, Board Chair/Honoree



Frankie Atkinson, Ruth Blocker and Attorney Marty Driggers during the Closing on Shaw CTHII



Shaw CTH II Open House

## Nursing Department

Dawanda Brown, Director of Nursing/QID/DDP  
Teresa, LPN, Vanessa, Medical Transporter & Tylesha, Medical Transporter

## The Family Advisory Council

Thank you to the Family Advisory Council for sponsoring the Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners at Bridging the Gap. We enjoyed the choir, a visit from Santa and Mrs. Clause. Catering by Mr. B's Restaurant.



### From the FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Darlington County DSN Board's Office of Finance consists of four (4) staff members. These members are responsible for handling all financial transactions for the agency as well as the Foundation, Family Advisory Council and the staff support team. The staff receives receipts, deposits and balances all revenue received by each group. Cash balances are monitored daily to ensure appropriate cash is on hand for daily operations. Payroll is processed bi-weekly for approximately 110 employees and 50 consumers as well as monthly for approximately 12 respite care providers. All purchasing requests are processed by the finance staff daily and all invoices are processed for payment once a week. Various reports are completed monthly, quarterly and annually to meet both state and federal requirements.

The finance department staff also acts as backup for the receptionist.

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

*Thank you to United Way of Hartsville for your support.  
Thank you to the Byerly Foundation for a \$10,000 Grant for renovation of  
bathrooms and a \$11,800 Grant for painting.  
Thank you to SCDOT for a Grant to help purchase a new Goshen Van.*

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

*United Way of Hartsville  
SCDOT  
Byerly Foundation  
All Angel Tree Donors—See Angel Tree  
Pilot Club of Hartsville, Ms. Billie Stoudemire  
Badcock Home Furniture of Hartsville  
Carolina Panthers of Charlotte  
Mr. Merle Baxley  
Ms. Debbie Fink  
Mental Health of SC  
Ms. Charlotte Hardin—Fredrick Carl Bowen House*



We were able to purchase two new vans to transport the consumers for two homes..

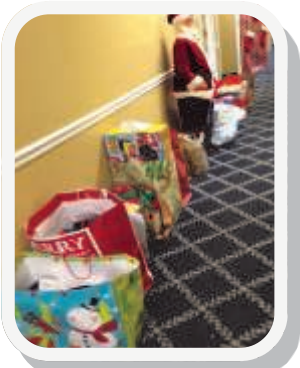
*We appreciate all donations and use them as we strive to provide services to over 500 individuals with Disabilities and or Special Needs in Darlington County.  
Thank you for enriching the lives of our consumers. We appreciate your generosity.*

## ANGEL TREE 2015

**Thank you for your support of the Angel Tree!!  
The following monetary Donations were received for the  
2015 Angel Tree Project. We are so grateful for your  
generous donations.**



**Judy & Jimmy Ratley, Brown Pennington Atkins Funeral Home, Norton Funeral Home, Liberty Chapel UMC, Anderson Plumbing & Industrial, Darlington Raceway Anne Easterling, Parrish Lambert, Earl Davis, Shari Martin, Karen Heger, Christy and Gene Moody, Deb Low, Edie Kelley, Glory Huckabee, Roberta Jones, Andrew Nelson and many gift donors**



Just a few of the many gifts  
Received for the Angel Tree

**Thank you to the following for Sponsoring an Angel Tree this year.**

**The Scott Center, Manheim of Darlington, Lakeview Baptist Church, Takis Restaurant, Bizzell's Food & Spirits, Faith Baptist Church & First Baptist Church of Hartsville**

*With your help we were able to provide over 87 gifts to individuals in Darlington County with Disabilities and Special Needs.*

## IN LOVING MEMORY

### *In Loving Memory of*

**Ms. Ruby Wright Johnson, Mother of Mary Durant who works at BTG, Mr. Lewis Roland Brumley, Brother in Law of Anne Brumley, Human Resource Director, Ms. Paula Hodges, Sister of Kenya Baker who works at Reagan House, Mr. Jack Carroll Campbell, Stepfather of Glynn Willis who works at Washington House, Ms. Missy Reagan, Residential Consumer that lived at Reagan House, Demetria Lachell Hough, Grandchild of Eddie Hough who works at BTG, Mr. Harry Jeffery, brother-in-law of Vanessa Cabbagestalk, Medical Transporter, and Mr. Kenneth Peterson, nephew of Ms. Winnie Arnold, House Manager at Bowen.**

### Abbreviation / 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  
SST - Staff Support Team  
DSP - Direct Support Professional  
BTG - Bridging the Gap Enterprises  
CM—Case Manager

*Darlington Disabilities & Special Needs Board  
201 N. Damascus Church Road  
Hartsville, SC 29550*

## **Darlington County Disabilities & Special Needs Board**

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Hartsville, SC 29550

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

### **Board Members:**

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

### **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



United Way