



The CHALLENGER

Challenging the community, families and individuals to make a difference
 A Publication of the **Darlington County Disabilities and Special Needs Board**
 The Lou Scott Center

Fall 2007

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

HAPPY 40th ANNIVERSARY (1967 - 2007)!

The DCD Foundation, along with the EAC sponsored a community-wide Carnival/Yard Sale on September 8th in celebration of our 40th anniversary.



Thank you, Hartsville, Darlington, and surrounding areas for making this event a success!



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Calendar of Events

Oct. 26	FAC Hayride
Oct. 30	DCDSN Board Mtg
Nov. 20	Consumer Thanksgiving Dinner
Nov. 27	DCDSN Board Mtg
Dec. 11	Consumer Christmas Dinner
Dec. 21	Employee Christmas Party
Dec. 24	Offices Closed
	No December Board Meeting

A Message from the Director by Ruth Thomas, Executive Director

SAFETY: As individuals and collectively, we spend many hours planning— events and vacations. But do we take the time to plan safety? Like me, many of you have a job that expects us to be present and perform our duties. Our kids are expected to be up and off to school daily. All of the above we would like to think is normal everyday life.

Unfortunately, the bad news is there are personal injuries that just won't go away. They cause us pain, lost work time, money and missed events with family and friends. But the good news is we have a few practices that we can all use. We can call them safe work methods, or perhaps, just good safety measures. Let me just name a few:

- 1) Slips and Falls – In order to avoid slips and falls, keep a safe walk path and wear the proper footwear.
- 2) Lifting and Lowering – As you lift and lower, keep your back straight and use your legs.
- 3) Strains – Avoid lifting excessive weights. Get help!
- 4) Falling and Fixed Objects – Place objects securely on shelves.
- 5) Overhead – Keep your eyes ahead of your walk path. Look up!

Don't hurt yourself; don't be in pain; don't miss events and vacations because of unsafe work habits. Practice these safe work habits, along with others, on and off the job. Practice safety during the upcoming holiday celebrations so that they're safe and enjoyable!



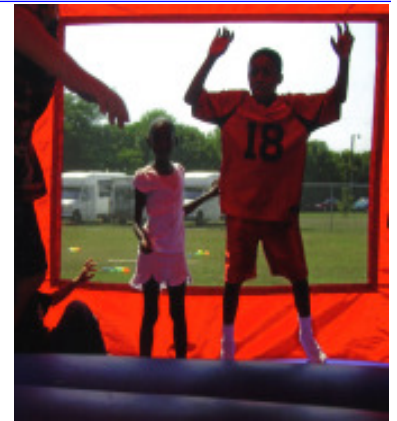
Foundation News

by Elizabeth Ham, Community Resource Coordinator

The Summer Carnival held on September 8th was a great success. Vendors such as Nightingales Nursing and Attendants, Conway Medical, Palmetto Solutions, Angelic Health Care, Comfort Keepers, and Hartsville Chamber of Commerce participated in the event. Special thanks to the staff at the Darlington County Disabilities and Special Needs Board who participated in the carnival as Food Vendors.

Thank you to the planning committee of the Employee Advisory Council for your contribution to the carnival. Special thanks to Mr. Clay Brown who provided entertainment for our listening pleasure. It was enjoyed by everyone.

Lastly, a special thank you to the staff and House Managers who brought the consumers. Your support was greatly appreciated. Thank you all for your continued support. I could not do it without you.



EAC News by Byron Wilson, EAC President

The Employee Advisory Committee (EAC) is an organization that was formed to provide a direct link between the employees and the administration at DCDSNB. The organization's plan is to provide morale boosting activities and events for agency employees throughout the year. On Saturday, September 8, we had our first fundraiser event, the Gigantic Yard Sale. The event was held at the Scott Center from 7 am to 12 pm. Many people from the community attended and purchased items from our vendors. Items ranged from a kitchen sink, furniture, children's toys, and clothing. The EAC would like to thank the community for their support, vendors for participating and selling their items, and the staff for all your hard work with planning this event. All money raised from this event went to support activities for our employees.

Employee Anniversaries

18 Years of Service

Joyce Bayne

12 Years of Service

Vonoka Kind

11 Years of Service

Cardelia Brewer

9 Years of Service

Catherine Johnson

8 Years of Service

Crystal Blakney
Marie Goodson
Shirley Myers
Sue Woodham

6 Years of Service

Mary Lowery
Verniell Hannibal

5 Years of Service

Ida Coe

4 Years of Service

Deborah Newsome
Jennifer Andrews
Karen Gainey

3 Years of Service

Deborah Bacote

2 Years of Service

Crystal Crowley
Felicia Maple
Joni Pendergrass
Ruth Thomas
Shanda Wingate

1 Year of Service

Dawanda Brown
Gloria Campbell
Gloria McPhail
Sheila Bell

Employees of the Month



June

Lora Harrell

Service Coordinator



July

Crystal Crowley

Early Interventionist

Welcome New Employees!

Ninetta Benjamin
DSP

Jameka Moses
Service Coordinator

Tamara Brown
CTH II Coordinator

Profile of Service

by Tammy Johnson
Service Coordinator Supervisor

Sheena Latrice Purnell is 24 years old. She resides outside of Dillon, South Carolina in the Hamer community. Sheena has a daughter Rukiah five years old and a son Kemaree, age four. A few years ago, Sheena discovered she had arteriovenous malformation on her spinal column. This left Sheena paralyzed from the chest down. Sheena's spinal cord injury has dramatically impact her life, but her condition has not prevented Sheena from achieving her life long goals. Presently, Sheena attends CCPI College of Technology in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Sheena will be the recipient of an associate degree in business in November 2007. She plans to continue her education by working towards a bachelor's degree in business. Ms. Purnell wants to open her own rehabilitation center, focusing on physical therapy and counseling others with similar disabilities.



Sheena Purnell

ICF News

by Carolyn Sifford
QMRP/ICF/MR Unit Director

For the first time in DCDSNB history, there are Lead Direct Support Staff in place at the Reagan ICF/MR House and the Bowen ICF/MR House. Nathene Rowell was chosen as the Lead DSP at Reagan and Winnie Arnold was chosen as the Lead DSP at Bowen. The Lead DSP position is very important. Having a Lead DSP allows our House Managers to have some quality "time off" and at the same time, their work duties are taken care of by competent staff members. Congratulations, ladies!

For the past several months, the ICF/MR consumers have gone on many outings and socials. They participated in a Beach Party, a trip to Busy B Greenhouse, a trip to Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, a July 4th picnic, and a Pre-Labor Day Picnic. Hats off to the ones who help to make these social outings a reality.

Health Corner

by Shannon R. Bennett, R.N.
Health Care Coordinator

The South Carolina DDSN has recently been focusing on Dysphagia and GERD. This focus was brought on related to recent data that revealed that as many as 70% of our consumers suffer with one or more swallowing problems and/or reflux. This is a widespread problem in the developmentally delayed population.

Dysphagia is a disorder of the swallowing process. This disorder can lead to a greater problem known as Aspiration. Food enters the airway rather than the stomach when aspiration occurs. This condition results in multiple upper respiratory infections as well as Pneumonia and can be life threatening.

GERD is an abbreviation for Gastro-Esophageal Reflux Disorder. This is a back flow of the stomach contents into the esophagus. This condition causes severe damage to the lining of the esophagus over time.

Please be mindful of signs that may indicate one of these problems such as: coughing during meals, weight loss, frequent belching, unusual behaviors at meals, loud swallowing, vomiting during or after a meal, and spitting. If you suspect the one of our consumers may have a swallowing problem, contact a nurse and we will do an assessment and follow up as necessary.

CTH II News by Tamara Brown, CTH II Coordinator

My name is Tamara Brown and I am the new CTH II Coordinator. I am a graduate of Francis Marion University and I have 12 years of experience in the health and human services field.

I am truly excited to work with consumers, families, and staff to fulfill our mission statement at DCDSNB daily. I look forward to learning and growing in this agency.



Quality Corner

by Wilton Griffith, Residential Administrator

You may notice a small change in our newsletter this quarter. Our mission statement is now included on the newsletter. This small addition is one that will be showing up all around the agency on correspondence, on meeting agendas, in minutes, and in training. This is one result of a recent Quality Enhancement planning group meeting. Those participating had the opportunity to discuss with DDSN representatives our focus and plan for the future to assure that we are indeed helping people in ways that are meaningful to the service user. The group reviewed what we are doing and how we are supporting people to achieve results that are important to all involved. Numerous agency-wide improvements were planned, but a major focus of our improvement efforts is to constantly refer to our agency mission and to question if what we are doing truly serves our mission. To many, such a small issue may seem obvious, but often in the rush of day-to-day events, we lose our focus on why we do what we do. We exist to enhance the lives, develop the abilities, and to promote the independence of those using our services. To paraphrase an old saying, if the shoe doesn't fit, don't wear it!

Children's Programs Update

by Sue Woodham
Bright Beginnings Administrator

The Bright Beginnings Child Development Center held a Graduation ceremony on August 10th to celebrate the graduation of seven children who were moving on to other programs within the community. The parents really enjoyed the opportunity to see what their children had learned.

We are looking forward to participating with St. Luke Preschool again this year in the Patchwork Players plays. The first play was Peter Rabbit on September 19th. We prepared the children for the play by reading the story and participating in some hands-on activities. We are also looking forward to going to the Pumpkin Patch sponsored by Wesley Church and participating in the Special Treats for Special Kids at the Holiday Inn in Florence sponsored by WBTW.



John Snyder

From left to right on front row: Krateshia Brown, Micael Austin, Anthony Hickman, & Aja Coleman
On back row: Micaden Austin and Kendell Williamson

The Early Intervention department is proud to announce that EI, Crystal Crowley has been selected as the DCDSNB Employee of the Month. **Congratulations, Crystal!**

The Early Intervention Department is presently providing services to 77 families in the Darlington County area.

Self Advocacy News

by Jarmiller Moses
Self Advocacy Advisor

Our Self Advocacy group, "My Voice, My Choice, Too!" had a Safety Training Forum at our August meeting. Our speaker was Kim Cannon. Ms. Cannon is the Program Coordinator for the Self-Determination Project with the Center for Disability Resources at the USC School of Medicine. The focus of the forum was on common sense things you can do to stay safe at home and while traveling. Ten consumers from our group will be attending the annual Pathways to Independence Conference in Myrtle Beach on October 19-20.

My Voice, My Choice, Too! has continued to learn and grow this year. Thanks to everyone for your love and support for our group. If you would like to join our group or have any questions or concerns, please call Ms. Jarmiller Moses at 843-332-7252 ext. 115.



Day Program Update

by Violet Johnson, Day Programs Supervisor

The Bridging the Gap Workshop is planning a Fall/Halloween Classroom Decorating Contest. Several people from different businesses in our community have been asked to judge. The judges will be rating creativity, enthusiasm, client participation, and how colorful the classroom looks. The judging will take place on October 29th. The Consumers are very excited and have already started decorating their classrooms. The Consumers have also chosen the prizes that they want to receive. The winners will receive one of the following prizes: a pizza party, ice cream cones for the class, or a cake for the class. There are six classrooms and all will be judged.

The Work Activity mobile crews and enclaves provide the opportunity for forty Consumers to contribute to their own well-being. We have seven staff members that work closely with the Consumers on these crews and enclaves to make sure that they have the proper training and knowledge of safety procedures so they can complete the tasks that they are assigned. We also have piece-rate contract work that comes in from time to time that offers the opportunity for Consumers that are not on one of the work crews to work and make some money. Thanks to all the Work Activity staff for your dedication to the Consumers and all your hard work.

FAC Corner

The FAC sponsored an After Hours movie on August 11th. Approximately 81 Consumers, family members and staff attended the showing of *Hairspray* starring John Travolta. Thank you Byerly Foundation for assisting with our After Hours event.



Darlington County Disabilities Foundation (DCDF) would like to thank all of our generous donors. The following Donations were received since the last printing of the Challenger.

*Hattie Hughes
Viola Shaw
Paddie Hughes
Leigh Tedder
Helen Barrett
Amy Melton
James Cox
United Way of Hartsville
United Way of Darlington
Byerly Foundation*

*A Memorial Gift was received In
Memory of Jeanette M. Rambo from
Virginia Coker*

**Donations are appreciated; envelopes are
included for your convenience.*

Seniors Program Update

by Violet Johnson, Day Programs Supervisor

The Consumers at the Seniors Program always start out their day with a cup of java and a morning walk. They are very active on and off campus. On Mondays, you may see them in downtown Hartsville, at Burger King, Wal-Mart, Hardee's, the Library, the Farmer's Market, Swan Lake, Hartsville Museum, and site seeing all over Darlington County. Should you walk by the Seniors building on Tuesday, you will hear the seniors creating their own music. The Consumers have a beautiful garden that they love looking at during the day. The seniors also enjoy making crafts, so if anyone has any simple craft ideas, please contact Edith Frazier. At the end of the day, the seniors relax in their rocking chairs while they listen to ocean waves and whale sounds on relaxation CDs.



A relaxing place for the Seniors

Abbreviation/Acronyms

DCDSNB - Darlington County Disabilities and Special Needs Board
DCDF - Darlington County Disabilities Foundation
ICF - Intermediate Care Facility
CTH - Community Training Home
SC - Service Coordinator
EAC - Employee Advisory Committee
EI - Early Interventionists
FAC - Family Advisory Council
DSP - Direct Support Professional

Job Development News

by Gloria McPhail, Job Coach

I am currently serving five consumers – three from the Hartsville area and two from the Darlington area. Will Drawdy is a school crossing guard at St. John Elementary in Darlington. Earnest Wilson works part time at Carolina Pines Hospital in the kitchen as a Nutrition Services Aid. Both of these consumers are celebrating their one year anniversary on the job. My other consumer from Hartsville is Barbara Benjamin and she is working at the Country Inn & Suites in Florence. She has been there for two months and loves her job. Mekos Brown is a new consumer and is doing well. Mekos has experience in a variety of jobs. Another consumer is Glynn Willis. He is a person that brings joy to everyone that he meets and he is an inspiration to me. Glynn has accomplished so much. I am actively seeking employment opportunities for both Mekos Brown and Glynn Willis. Glynn is currently employed at the Hartsville Cinema.

Bi-LO BOOSTERSPLUS

SIGN UP AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

by Julia Bilsky, Account Technician II

Darlington County DSN Board has enrolled in the Bi-Lo boostersplus Program. By enrolling and using your Bi-Lo Bonus card, you can contribute 1% of your grocery purchases to support DCDSNB! Bi-Lo sets aside 1% of purchases to support this program. You will not be spending any additional money. Our residential programs will be using their bonus cards in this fundraiser, and with your help, we can receive up to \$3,000 per year in additional funding. Please help us by obtaining an enrollment form from the Hartsville Bi-Lo Store or the Scott Center by October 31. We will begin eligibility for this program effective November 1st. Let your Holiday cooking warm your heart as well as your kitchen, knowing you are making a difference in the lives of our consumers!

Darlington County Disabilities
and Special Needs Board
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Hartsville, SC 29550

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United Way

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Executive Director

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