



THE CHALLENGER

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

Fall 2008

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

Fall is in the Air! And Jones House is Open!



Jones House is our newest CTH II home for four men. Jones House located at 1330 Whipoorwill Road in Hartsville. We currently have three residents, Kendrick Martin, Byron Johnson, and Benji Risinger. We will place one more resident, Jacob Armstrong, within the next week. Jones House staff include Priscilla Soney, Teresa Johnson, and Carolyn George, Direct Support Professionals. The Ribbon Cutting and Open House Ceremony was held at 6:00 pm on Monday, July 28th. Rick Jones, for whom the house was dedicated, was honored at the event. Rick Jones is an attorney and a partner at Stanton & Jones law firm in Hartsville. Mr. Jones has been an integral part of DCDSNB since 1997. He served eight years on our Board of Directors and is currently the chairperson of our Darlington County Disabilities Foundation. Funding for Jones House was granted by South Carolina's Department of Disabilities and Special Needs and by the South Carolina Housing Trust Fund.



Shown Left to Right: James Bullis; Ruth Thomas, DCDSNB Executive Director; Rick Jones, honoree & partner at Stanton & Jones law firm; Anna Jones, Rick's daughter; Chip Auman, DCDSNB Board of Directors Vice-Chair; Reverend Troy Shaw, DCDSNB Board of Directors Chairperson; Chris Thomas, DCDSNB Human Rights Committee member; and Linda Jordan, Hartsville Chamber of Commerce Board member & SPC Vice President of Member Services.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- October 18 FAC After Hours Movie
- October 20 FAC Meeting
- October 27 Foundation Meeting
- October 28 Board of Directors Meeting
- November 20 Consumer Thanksgiving Luncheon
- November 21 Human Rights Committee Meeting
- November 25 Board of Directors Meeting
- November 27-28 Offices Closed
- December 25 - Jan 1 Offices Closed

INSIDE

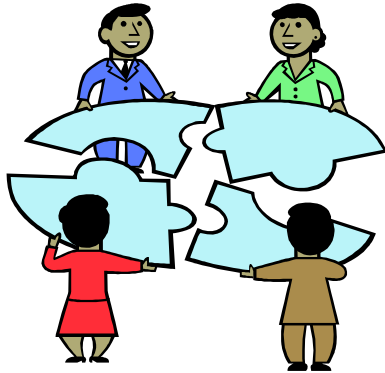
- A Message from the Director 2
- Employee News 2
- Employee Anniversaries 2
- ICF News 3
- FAC Corner 3
- Special Thanks 4
- Profile of Service 4
- Adult Program News 4
- Donations & Finance News 5
- DCDSNB Wish List 5
- Abbreviations/Acronyms 5

A Message from the Director

by Ruth Thomas, Executive Director

Teamwork, it's a Win-Win Situation!

Whether it's two people, a department, or an organization, teams are the means by which great things get done. This is just one of the things I brought away from a workshop entitled "The Exploring Teamwork Workshop". Teamwork can be challenging to achieve; however, coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success. (Henry Ford).



Teamwork is defined as "a unified group of determined individuals who are willing to work together, share information, and combine their energy and expertise to achieve extraordinary results; a group in which team members understand their roles and are prepared to give the group their best performance."

I am asking all of you at the DCDSNB to become a team player. We are here to provide the best possible service to the individuals that we serve and in order to do that, we must work together.

This organization nor you can be successful entirely through our own efforts. All of us, if we are to accomplish anything worthwhile, will do it largely through the help and cooperation of the people who work with us.

Remember, teamwork, dedication, and integrity are the primary reasons for the organization's endurance, success, growth and job security.

Employee Advisory Committee News

by Dawanda Brown, EAC Chairperson

The EAC held its Annual Employee Picnic on July 2nd. The Picnic included a Bake Off Competition for employees. There were several entries and we had three winners. The Grand prize was won by Carrie Chenard for her "Death by Chocolate," Second Prize by Mary Lowery for her "Million Dollar Pie" and Third Prize by Deborah Bacote for her "Heart's Delight Pie." The prizes were awarded based on blind judging (the names of participants were not on their dessert) by Jerry Cheatham, a Board of Directors member; Janice Fields, a Family Advisory Council member and Ms. Thomas, our Executive Director. The second and third prize winners were awarded \$ 20 each and the grand prize winner was awarded \$ 50.

The EAC is currently planning the annual Employee Christmas Party. The party is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Friday, December 12 at the Lakeview Baptist Church Family Life Center in Hartsville. More details will be available soon!

*Employee Anniversaries***31 Years of Service**

Carolyn Wilson

19 Years of Service

Joyce Bayne

13 Years of Service

Vonoka Kind

10 Years of Service

Jennis Johnson

9 Years of Service

Crystal Blakney

Sue Woodham

Shirley Myers

7 Years of Service

Verniell Hannibal

Mary Lowery

6 Years of Service

Ida Coe

5 Years of Service

Karen Gainey

Deb Newsome

4 Years of Service

Deborah Bacote

3 Years of Service

Shanda Wingate

Ruth Thomas

Crystal C. Mangum

Joni Pendergrass

2 Years of Service

Sheila Bell

Dawanda Brown

Gloria McPhail

1 Year of Service

Jameka Moses

**Welcome New Employees!**

Tanya Palumbo, Director of Day Supports
Thaddeus Williamson, Direct Support Professional
Minetta Benjamin, Direct Support Professional
Teresa Johnson, Direct Support Professional
Kelvin Graham, Direct Support Professional

Donald Brown, Direct Support Professional
Monica Roary, Direct Support Professional
Lottie Lewis, Direct Support Professional
Tiffany Austin, Direct Support Professional
Alta Jenkins, Direct Support Professional
Shawn Vann, Direct Support Professional
Nacacha Stephens, Service Coordinator
Cynthia Byrd, Service Coordinator



ICF News

by Carolyn Sifford,
QMRP/ICF/MR Unit Director

For the past few months, the ICF consumers have gone on many outings and had several socials. They participated in a trip to McLeod Farms and they enjoyed attending a Memorial Day parade. As always, the residents enjoyed a Memorial Day picnic, July 4th picnic and a Labor Day picnic. Hats off to the ones who help to make these socials and outings a reality.

On September 21, 2008, the First Baptist Church Youth Group of Hartsville and their Youth pastor, Jessica Sullivan, came to the Scott Center to entertain the residents of our ICF homes with a puppet and music show. The residents from Bowen and Reagan thoroughly enjoyed the show and everyone had a blast! A special thanks to the Youth Group!



Thanks to Jacob Godwin (pictured left) who designed and planted a garden at Reagan House for the residents' enjoyment as part of his Eagle Scout project. Jacob chose to plant the garden at Reagan House in memory of the late Mrs. Jeanette Rambo, grandmother of Jacob and life long supporter of DCDSNB, and in honor of Joyce "Joy" Rambo, Jacob's aunt, who is a resident. The garden attracts many butterflies and looks beautiful. Great job, Jacob!

FAC Corner

by *Carrie Chenard, Challenger Editor / Executive Administrative Assistant*

The Family Advisory Council Gas Raffle went well. The FAC netted approximately \$ 1,400 from the ticket sales. Thanks to all those who participated by selling or buying tickets. The drawing was held on Tuesday, August 26 at the monthly Board of Directors meeting. The winner was Marty Parnell of Hartsville. Congratulations, Marty!



Shown above, Lex West of West Oil Co. (left) presents Marty Parnell (right) with \$200 in certificates from The Markette Stores as Lora Harrell, DCDSNB Service Coordinator, (center) looks on. Special thanks to Lex West, West Oil Co. and The Markette for the donation.

The next FAC After Hours event co-sponsored by the Byerly Foundation will be a movie at 10:00 am on Saturday, October 18. The movie will be "Beverly Hills Chihuahua" and consumers' tickets will be provided. Family and guests will pay \$ 5.00 at the ticket office. The \$ 5.00 will cover a movie ticket, popcorn, and drink. Thanks to the Hartsville Cinema for opening early and giving us such a good deal!

The next FAC meeting will be held on Monday, October 27 at 7:00 pm at the Scott Center located at 201 North Damascus Church Road in Hartsville. The annual Hayride and Thanksgiving Dinner will be discussed.

Special Thanks by Carrie Chenard, Challenger Editor / Executive Administrative Assistant

The Knights of Columbus Council 8123 donated funds to purchase Writing with Symbols, a software program that will help assist our individuals to communicate with staff & family, reduce inappropriate behaviors, teach them how to follow written / picture directions, and to write social stories. Autism educators and parents of Autistic children rave about how useful social stories are to people with Autism.



Pictured left to right, Scott Chenard, member of the Knights of Columbus Council 8123, presents Sue Woodham, DCDSNB Children's Program Director, and Ruth Thomas, DCDSNB Executive Director, with a check for the software.

The Darlington County Disabilities Foundation donated a storage building to Reagan House. The residents needed more storage space and the Foundation filled the need!



Pictured left to right, Ruth Thomas, DCDSNB Executive Director; Verniell Hannibal, Reagan House Manager; Ronnie Holley, Foundation Member; and Lamar Caldwell, Foundation Member.

Adult Program News

by Tanya O. Palumbo, M.Ed., Director,
Adult Day Supports

Bridging The Gap welcomes aboard a new employee, Shawn Vann. Shawn will be working with our developmental class and we're excited to have him aboard!

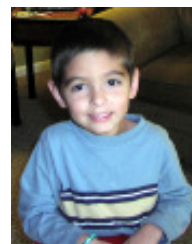
Fall is in the air. Our consumers are looking forward to our Halloween Extravaganza on the 31st at Bridging The Gap. They have been working hard on decorating their work areas for a contest! We'll have several local businesses to judge their work and there'll be prizes for the winners! We'll have a haunted house, and there'll be 'tricks and treats' for everyone. We look forward to having Bright Beginnings join us!

Gloria McPhail has assumed the duties of Production Specialist. She will continue in her role as Job Coach. She looks forward to more referrals for Supported Employment and is excited about working with our consumers to complete their bi-annual time studies.

We thank you for your continued support!

Profile of Service

by Tammy Johnson, Service Coordinator Supervisor



Anthony "AJ" Dwayne Lewis

Anthony "AJ" Dwayne Lewis has been diagnosed with Autism. He is extremely bright for his age. AJ attends Lake View Christian School. He has really benefited from DCDSNB programs consisting of Respite, Autism Family Supports, and Summer Supports.

Respite care has given the Lewis family a break from primary caregiver's responsibilities. The family selects a Respite Care Provider affiliated with a family arranged respite program. A Respite Care Provider is typically someone the family trusts to care for their loved one. During the summer of 2008, AJ went to Hartsville Family YMCA for swimming lessons. He wanted to learn how to swim and participate in outdoor recreational activities. AJ went to group lessons and a trained instructor tailored lessons for his ability level. AJ's goal is to be comfortable in the water. His basic swimming needs and skills will be constantly developed until he learns how to become an independent swimmer. He has made progress this summer by learning to float on top of the water by peddling with his hands and feet. Elaine and Tony Lewis are glad AJ enjoyed his swimming lessons. Furthermore, AJ has experienced a variety of music with the opportunity to attend Kindermusik classes in July and August. Music classes are educational as well as fun. AJ loves music and this has allowed him to be in a social setting interacting with other children.

AJ and his parents appreciate the support and services from the Darlington County DSN Board. They are thankful to have a good Service Coordinator and people who truly share a deep concern and interest for AJ. AJ's quality of life has been enriched since he began receiving services from DCDSNB.

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

Patsy Auman
Diane Brown
Susie Gainey
Allison Evans
John H. Davis
Toni Dudley

Kathy Evans
Ruth Thomas
Dr. Vera Davis
Robert Dupree
Edith Walker
Pam Brumley

John A. Reagan
Pam Amerson
Rena Washington
Viola & Troy Shaw
Melissa McLaughlin
Dave & Denny Nielson
Scott & Carrie Chenard

Donations may be addressed to:
Darlington County Disabilities Foundation
201 N Damascus Church Rd
Hartsville, SC 29550

Stanton & Jones
Carolina Construction
Norton Funeral Home
The Byerly Foundation
The Sonoco Foundation
United Way of Darlington
United Way of Hartsville
Hartsville Kiwanis Club
Lucas, Auman, Warr, & White
Hartsville Chamber of Commerce
The Knights of Columbus Council 8123
Central Carolina Community Foundation

Bi-Lo Boostersplus

It is once again time for the Bi-Lo Boostersplus program! Please take the barcode below to your local Bi-Lo along with your Bi-Lo Bonus card to enroll. This onetime scan will allow Bi-Lo to donate 1 % of your purchases to DCDSNB through May 31, 2009! It's free for you and helps us raise much needed funds. Please pass your barcode on to friends and family so they can help us, too.

DARLINGTON CTY DISABILITIES & SPECIAL NEED



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Abbreviation/Acronyms

DCDSNB - Darlington County Disabilities & Special Needs Board
DCDF - Darlington County Disabilities Foundation
ICF - Intermediate Care Facility
CTH - Community Training Home
BTG - Bridging the Gap Enterprises
SC - Service Coordinator
EAC - Employee Advisory Committee
BB - Bright Beginnings
EI - Early Interventionists
FAC - Family Advisory Council
DSP - Direct Support Professional

DCDSNB Wish List

Our Wish List is a new program that we are starting for 2008. Some donors prefer to give items rather than or in addition to monetary donations. The items listed below detail the item and where it is needed. If you have any questions, please contact Carrie Chenard at 332-7252 ext. 101.

DCDSNB Office: *New digital camera* to record the faces of our consumers and events across the state. The camera needs to have at least 8 MP and a 2.5 LCD screen. *Color copy paper* for flyers.

Senior Program: Simple *Puzzles* (less than 50 pieces); simple *Games* such as games labeled for 5 years old or less; *Gardening tools* for our seniors to use in their garden. *Magazines* - used are fine - for the Seniors to create craft projects.

Children's Program: Bright Beginnings - *Plants (vegetable or flowers)* for the children to plant in their garden. *Craft Supplies* such as Crayons, markers, paint, Play-Doh, glue refills, glitter, foam stickers, bubble refills, and construction paper. A *TV* for rainy or cold days. *Books* for the Reading Corner. *Georgia Pacific Mark-R Board Project Panels* - BB needs 6 panels to apply to the walls. The panels are available at Lowe's for \$ 9.56 each - Item # 61082. Please consider donating one or more today!

Early Intervention - *Play-Doh* in multiple colors in individual cans (five ounces or less) for educational play - consider the Play-Doh Classic Colors four pack or the Favorite Colors four pack; *Texture books* and *Puzzles* for children aged 0-4 years to help them learn about textures and spatial orientation skills.

Residential Office: *Nice Digital Camera* to share among the residential homes. A *locking storage cabinet* for organizing and storing training supplies and equipment. A *flat panel TV* for training purposes.

Darlington County Disabilities & Special Needs Board
201 N Damascus Church Rd
Hartsville SC 29550

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United Way

Darlington County Disabilities and Special Needs Board

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Hartsville, SC 29550

Telephone: 843-332-7252 • Fax: 843-332-3168 • Website: www.dcdsnb.org

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Executive Director

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