



THE CHALLENGER

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

Spring 2008

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

Spring into Action!

2008 Employee Annual Training



DCDSNB held its annual employee training on March 13th and 14th at the Scott Center. The annual training consists of training required by DDSN guidelines for our agency and other topics deemed relevant and necessary. Our theme was “Teamworking + Networking = Smartworking” “Together We Succeed”. The topics included Medication Administration & Side Effects; Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation; Vehicle Record keeping;



Fire Safety; Personal Outcome Measures; Weight Management; Bloodborne Pathogens; and Behavior Support Techniques. Mayor Protempore Coleman Cannon of Darlington and Mayor Michael Holt of Hartsville dropped by to issue a proclamation proclaiming Disability Awareness month for their respective cities. Firefighters from the Hartsville Fire Department visited to instruct us on the proper use of a fire extinguisher. Jackie Hoch, a consumer from the Florence DSN Board, gave a wonderful presentation on her passion,



being a self advocate. On Friday, we had our Service Awards Luncheon and it was great! Before lunch, Service Awards were presented to dedicated employees. (See page 3 for more on Service Awards.)

It's time for our FAC Annual Lake Darpo Picnic!

Our annual picnic will be on Friday, May 16, 2008 at Lake Darpo from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. As usual, we'll have food, games, and music. The games will include favorites such as Balloon Stomp, Wheelchair Race, a Water gun Battle, Basketball, Table Games, Frisbee, and a Dunking Booth with staff volunteers. The children can play on the Jump N Slide, play in the sprinkler and/or play with bubbles. Try your luck with a Hula Hoop or get a temporary tattoo. Hope to see you there!



Calendar of Upcoming Events

- May 6 Nurses Day
- May 11 Mother's Day
- May 16 Lake Darpo Picnic (Offices Closed)
- May 26 Memorial Day (Offices Closed)
- May 27 Board of Directors Meeting
- June 15 Father's Day
- July 14 FAC Quarterly Meeting

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A Message from the Director

by Ruth Thomas, Executive Director

It's official! On April 8th, DCDSNB experienced residential growth. We're very proud to announce that we closed on a new construction 4-bedroom CTH-II home for females and purchased a newly constructed 4-bedroom CTH-II home for males. Growth occurs only with financial commitment, proper planning and teamwork. It doesn't just happen! Thanks to Carolina Construction Company (Billy McBride) and SC DDSN.

The Closing documents on both new homes were signed on April 8, 2008.



Pictured above left to right: Chip Auman, DCDSNB Vice Chair; Ruth Thomas, Executive Director; Reverend Troy Shaw, DCDSNB Chair

Register House



Register House is a CTH-II home for females. Located on Lee Circle, it is named after former Board member, Anne Register.

Whippoorwill house



New house on Whippoorwill Road for CTH-II males. The name will be determined at the next DCDSNB Board of Directors meeting.

Look for the upcoming Ribbon Cutting, Name Dedication, and Open House Ceremonies!

Employees of the Month



Bridget McClendon (right)
January EOM

Congratulations to Bridget McClendon as January 2008 Employee of the Month! With a new accounting system to work with, W-2's, 1099 processing, and a change in the timing of payroll, Bridget has done whatever it takes to make sure our payroll was completed on time and all of the bills were paid.



Deborah Bacote (right)
February EOM

Congratulations to Deborah Bacote as February Employee of the Month! She works at Trantham House as a Direct Support Professional. She is a dedicated and highly-dependable worker who truly cares for our consumers.



Kathy McClendon (right)
March EOM

Congratulations to Kathy McClendon, as March Employee of the Month! She is a part-time Direct Support Professional staff at Trantham House. Not only does she have compassion for our consumers but Hospice patients as well; where she works full time. She has dedicated her life to a profession of helping others with special needs.

Employee Anniversaries

15 Years of Service

Carmen Brown
Julie Johnson

10 Years of Service

Amelia Capers

8 Years of Service

Linda Ann Atkinson
Bridget McClendon
Wilton Griffith

7 Years of Service

Jacquay Archer

6 Years of Service

Diane Person

4 Years of Service

Deedrick Woods

3 Years of Service

Brandy McCrae
Elizabeth Hollingsworth

2 Years of Service

Amanda Richardson

1 Year of Service

Melinda Simpson Wingate

Welcome New Employees!

Leroy Perkins, Pauley House Manager
Joy Collins, Register House Manager
Lanie McPhail, DSP
Angela Gee, QA Director
Carrie Chenard, Admin Assistant III



*Congrats,
EOMs & Happy
Anniversary,
Employees!*

*Thanks for all
you do!*

2008 Service Award Recipients

Our 2008 Service Award recipients were awarded with plaques and gifts for five, ten, fifteen, or thirty years of service. Photos were taken of the recipient and their supervisor(s); Ruth Thomas, Executive Director; and Reverend Troy Shaw, Chair of the Board of Directors. (Not pictured: Amelia Capers & Ann Lighty) Congratulations on your anniversary and thanks for your dedicated service!



Ruth Thomas, Jennis Johnson, Troy Shaw, Violet Johnson



Ruth Thomas, Troy Shaw, Jarmiller Moses, Wilton Griffith

Five Years

Jarmiller Moses - Residential
Desiree Brown - BTG
Ida Coe - Bowen

Ten Years

Amelia Capers - Yarborough
Dianne Mickens - BB
Margie Muldrow - Bowen

Fifteen Years

Mary Durant - BTG
Ann Lighty - BTG
Jennis Johnson - BTG
Carmen Brown - Reagan



Chip Auman, Vice Chair, DCDSNB Board of Directors; Carolyn Wilson, Thirty Years of Service; Rev. Troy Shaw, Chair, DCDSNB Board of Directors



Ruth Thomas, Desiree Brown, Troy Shaw, Donna Laurie



Ruth Thomas, Dianne Mickens, Troy Shaw, Sue Woodham

Thirty Years

Carolyn Wilson - BB



Ruth Thomas, Ida Coe, Troy Shaw, Carolyn Sifford



Ruth Thomas, Mary Durant, Troy Shaw, Donna Laurie



Ruth Thomas, Margie Muldrow, Troy Shaw, Carolyn Sifford



Ruth Thomas, Carmen Brown, Verniell Hannibal, Troy Shaw, Carolyn Sifford

FAC Corner

by Carrie Chenard, Executive Assistant

The Family Advisory Council held its annual Valentine Social on Friday, February 15th. We had a great turnout for the event -- many consumers and parents attended. Mr. Larry Flowers entertained as Elvis and Mr. Billy Wilson was the DJ for the event. Special thanks to Ms. Fields for her famous Red Velvet cake and Ms. Patti Weaver for her help with the event.



At the last FAC meeting on April 7th, the FAC began planning our annual Lake Darpo Picnic. It is scheduled for Friday, May 16th from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. Hope to see you there!

Our next FAC meeting will be on Monday, July 14 at 6 pm at BTG. This will be a potluck event. Please contact Carrie at 332-7252 ext. 101 for more details.



Attending April's FAC Meeting were: (back row) Mrs. Bea Siner, Cardelia Brewer, Dawanda Brown (LPN), Ms. Josephine Wright, April Wright, Ms. Beverly Johnson, Ruth Thomas, Scott Chenard, Deb Newsome, & Ms. Janice Fields. Front row: Mrs. Anne Register, Mr. Bud Register, John Register, & Ms. Miranda Loyd.

ICF News

by Carolyn Sifford, QMRP/ICF/MR Unit Director

Welcome to our new Reagan ICF resident, Charmagne "Charm" Pryor and our new Bowen ICF resident, Geffory Bellamy! Charm has adjusted well to her new surroundings. Previously, Charm was a client with the Charleston County Disabilities & Special Needs Board. Geffory is still adjusting to his new home but he seems to be doing better every day. Previously, Geffory was a client at the Pee Dee Center in Florence.

In other news, the QMRP, house managers, and consumers are eagerly awaiting DHEC to visit and complete their yearly surveys. We are confident that we will have a great survey because of our hard work and determination!

Our consumers have enjoyed many outings and social events in the last quarter. The consumers love to be on the go, so "hats off" to the people who help make these social outings possible.

Children's Programs Update

by Sue Woodham, Bright Beginnings Administrator

The Bright Beginnings Child Development Center began participating in the Beginners Book It Program on March 3, 2008, which is sponsored by Pizza Hut. This program is designed to encourage reading every day to your child. The BB Staff will be reading to our children at least 60 minutes per week. We also sent home letters and information encouraging our parents to participate with us at home. At the end of March and April, each child will receive a certificate that will allow them to receive a personal pan pizza from the Pizza Hut.

We celebrated Easter at BB by dyeing Easter Eggs and letting each child decorate their own cookie with icing, jelly beans, and sprinkles.

Now that Spring seems to have finally arrived, the children at Bright Beginnings will be looking forward to planting our flower and vegetable garden very soon! The BB Child Development Center has received a \$ 200 grant from the ABC Child Care Program that we are planning to use to help with our garden project.



Consumer Spotlight

by Julie Johnson, Service Coordinator

Quincy Smith, a long time recipient of DCSDNB services, recently received a lift for his van. This was a blessing for his family, because as recently as last year, Quincy's outings from the home were only for doctor visits. As he has severe developmental disabilities and is non-ambulatory, Quincy had outgrown the family vehicle. He needed a van with a modified lift for his wheelchair.

The need for the van was met when his home church, New Covenant Assembly in Christ Jesus, took on a labor of love for this young man and held several fundraisers to assist his mother, Ms. Patricia Smith, with the cost. The van was purchased and then modified with the lift, through the MR/RD Waiver program. Ms. Smith has been able to transport Quincy to church services and community events. She is very grateful to New Covenant and DCSDNB for giving Quincy the freedom and convenience to now travel at his leisure.



Self Advocacy News

by Jarmiller Moses, Self Advocacy Advisor

My Voice, My Choice, Too! self-advocacy group met at Bridging the Gap on February 28th. Wilton Griffith, Residential Director at DCSDNB, presented information about an important right that most take for granted: the right to vote. The group discussed making informed decisions about candidates based on the candidate's position on issues important to the individual voter. The group then held an election to decide who would represent the group in Columbia on Disabilities Advocacy Day on March 5th. Each person who wanted to be elected gave a brief speech about the issues he or she considered important and what he or she would do to represent the group. The group then used a show of hands style caucus to elect the representatives. Congratulations to Derek Singletary and April Wright who were elected as representatives!



Pictured Left to Right are Ms. Ruth Thomas (DCSDNB Executive Director), Representative Denny Nielson, April Wright (Self-Advocate), Derek Singletary (Self-Advocate), Jasmine Alford (pictured front), Ms. Amanda Alford (Mother of Jasmine), and Representative Robert Q. Williams.

Profile of Service

by Tammy Johnson
Service Coordinator Supervisor

Ms. Corria Odom is living proof that a person with a disability can function independently. She has mild MR and Cerebral Palsy. She has more physical challenges than mental. Ms. Odom is very intelligent. She enjoys being in the privacy of her own home, where she can make all of her own choices. Ms. Odom wishes to reside at home as long as her health will allow. She wants to avoid nursing home placement. It is not very easy for Ms. Odom. Her daily routine depends on personal care for self-help skills. She receives assistive technology. Ms. Odom has benefited from respite services at night. She uses a wheelchair for mobility. According to Ms. Odom, the services are highly effective in meeting her needs. Ms. Odom has a supportive network. Her faith relies on family, friends, and professionals who she trusts and loves dearly. She is especially thankful to have Mary Geraldine Brown as her Service Coordinator and thanks her for believing in her abilities when others wanted to keep her in nursing home placement. She is an amazing woman! She encourages other people with disabilities to achieve your goals in life despite the odds that are against you. Ms. Corria Odom says she will continue to fight her battle and live her life to the fullest.



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.

Virginia Coleman
Melissa McLaughlin
James H Cox IV
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Pigg
Carol Jean Abbott
Amy Melton
Denny Nielson
Vendora Toney

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dunlap
George Wilds
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Bullard
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Weaver
The Sonoco Foundation
The Byerly Foundation
United Way of Hartsville
United Way of Darlington

A Memorial Gift was received
In Memory of Missy Wallace from:

Dena & Jerry Gainey

Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Hurst

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

Special Thanks

A very special thanks to the Sonoco Foundation for their generous award of \$ 10,000 that will enable us to construct a shower room at Bridging the Gap for our consumers. The DCDSNB Foundation will also contribute to this worthy cause. In addition, the DCDSNB Foundation has funded our first Wish List item for Bowen House - a new commercial washer - and has agreed to fund a storage building for Reagan House. As a nonprofit agency, without generous organizations such as the Sonoco Foundation and private donors like those listed above, we would not be able to complete many new projects or purchase items that are so necessary to the well-being and happiness of our consumers.



Bowen House's new commercial washer funded by the DCDSNB Foundation

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. Models to consider: the Fujifilm 8.3 MP A805 Camera Bundle (\$ 99.77 at Wal-Mart) or the Kodak Easyshare M863 Red Bundle 8.2 MP (\$ 149.84 at Wal-Mart). *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* each for the living rooms in Register House and Whippoorwill house.

Darlington County Disabilities & Special Needs Board
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United Way

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