

A Message from the Director

It's Just Amazing!! The summer heat is here; 90-95 degrees! Spring seems so far away. The nice cool mornings and the cooler evenings --gone--gone--gone!

As I travel to and from work, the fields looked bare and now have large crops. It's just amazing how time passes and how things change and grow.

Here at Darlington County Disabilities and Special Needs Board, the 06/07 fiscal year is coming to an end; and as I take time to look back on what has transpired, I reflect on the challenges and accomplishments, the heartbreaks and the healing. What a Year!

Now I have to refocus on the upcoming year, with an even stronger emphasis on our consumers and the services that we provide for them. Our consumers are the foundation of our organization. In the past two years, I have truly learned the value of people to an organization's success. You cannot be successful entirely through your own efforts. All of us, if we are going to accomplish anything worthwhile, will do it largely through the help and cooperation of the people who work with us. It is absolutely necessary to have a capable and competent team.

As executive director, I will maintain a strong focus on initiatives that involve our consumers and staff within the key areas of involvement, training, communication, safety and taking charge. It's just amazing what we can do to make a difference, to create positive change and be changed.



Ruth Thomas, Executive Director

Lake Darpo was great and thoroughly enjoyed by all on Friday, May 18th. The weather was perfect and the beautiful tranquil setting of Lake Darpo was enjoyed by all consumers, friends, staff and family members present. Hamburgers were cooked on the grill and served with all the trimmings. There was wheelchair racing, dancing, volleyball, basketball, waterballoon toss, tattoos, bouncing and water toys for the kids, a magic show by Dave Neilson and a dunking booth. (Thanks Donna).

(See pictures below).



Dave and Denny Neilson
Thanks for the show Dave, It was great - as always!



Raymond Graham had a great time jumping!



Employees of the Month

March

Verniell Hannibal
Reagan House Manager



April

Dianne Mickens
DSP Bright Beginnings



*Employee Anniversaries - April...May...June
.Mary Durant....15 years*

Congratulations!

Family Advisory Council News

Family Advisory Council members gather once a year to help with the annual gasoline raffle that funds the parties they sponsor during the year. All families are encouraged to join the FAC. They meet quarterly. For more information, please call Sue Eaddy at 332-7252 Ext. 101. Gasoline was donated by the Markette. Winner and raffle results to be announced in the Fall Challenger.



Calendar of Events

- July 16.....DCD Foundation Mtg.
- July 19.....Business After Hours sponsored by the DCD Foundation
- July 31.....DCDSN Board Mtg.
- August 11.....After Hours Movie
- Sept. 8 Gigantic Yard Sale at Scott Center
- Sept. 10.....FAC Meeting at BTG

Employee Advisory Committee for 2007

- Crystal Blakney - CTH
- Gloria Campbell - SC
- Yvonne Rouse - ICF/MR
- Byron Wilson - Day Program
- Sue Woodham - Child Program
- Carmen Brown - ICF/MR
- Dawanda Brown - Nursing
- Anna McBride - Day Program
- Bebe Chapman - EI

**Staff Cookout was great
Thanks EAC!**



QUALITY CORNER

by Wilton Griffith

Having others look at what we do and how we do it helps assure we are doing things in ways that are legally and ethically correct and that what we do reflects accepted practice. One group of dedicated volunteers who provide oversight is our Human Rights Committee. Composed of 7 members, this group reviews a number of issues to assure those who use our services are not deprived of human, civil, and legal rights without due process. This committee performs one particularly important component of rights protection. The committee reviews and approves (or denies) service plans which may restrict personal freedoms or which propose use of restrictive or intrusive procedures. The committee also reviews plans which involve use of medications that affect behavior or have serious side effects. The committee assures informed consent is obtained for proposed service plans, for participation in research, and reviews grievances those who use our services may have regarding their services. The Human Rights Committee is a vital component of our quality assurance. The members are not paid, nor do they work for our organization. They are concerned citizens, family members of service users, and representatives from those we do serve, who give generously of their time, knowledge, and compassion to help protect the rights of those served. The oversight the Human Rights Committee provides safeguards rights and helps to assure our services are provided in ways that support the dignity and respect we all are entitled to as human beings.



CTH II News

Congratulations to Sam Ingram who passed the test for his driving permit.

A big "Thank You" to the Agency for the much needed new furniture and storage units for the residential houses.

The CTH II residents had a wonderful time at the Spring Fling at Prestwood Country Club sponsored by the Darlington County Mental Health Association.

The new CTH house is coming along nicely. Thanks SCDDSN.

Bright Beginnings and Early Intervention Updates

The children at Bright Beginnings completed the Preschool Book-It Reading Program sponsored by Pizza Hut at the end of April. We also started a garden out back that was donated by "The Other Side" Landscaping Company. The garden was divided in half with marigolds, geraniums and vinca on the garden side and squash, tomatoes, watermelon, cucumber, bell pepper and cantaloupe on the vegetable side. The children will be learning about how plants grow and how to take care of them. We are looking forward to tasting some of our vegetables in the near future!

The Early Interventionists are busy attending trainings to keep them abreast of changes in order to better serve families of children with disabilities. They will attend a training in July to learn how to write Child Outcomes. This is a part of the new IFSP and is federally mandated as a way to measure the success of the Babynet services being provided in South Carolina.



Day Program Update



Earnest Wilson is working for Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center. He has been working as a Nutrition Services Aide since October 2006. Earnest's supervisor, Lynn Leviner, states that she is so pleased with the job he is doing she hopes to hire another consumer from our agency in the future.

Congratulations Earnest!!

Foundation Holds Managed-Care Conference

The Medicare and Medicaid Managed Care Options conference held on June 14 was a great success. Mr. Steve Krout of Instill Health Insurance Company (BCBS) and Amy Ansell/Gladys Nesmith from Unison Plan of SC were the presenters for this conference.

Special thanks to the following sponsors:

Gold Sponsors: Angelic Health Care Inc. and Nightingales Nursing and Attendants.

Bronze Sponsors: Crossway Medical, Comfort Keepers & Palmetto RX Solutions
A donation was also given by Medical Arts Pharmacy. Special thanks to all the staff that contributed to making this conference a wonderful success.

Elizabeth Ham, Resource Development Coordinator



Welcome New Employees

Jacqueline Cue, DSP
Ania' Shalla McDuffie
Evelyn Harkless, DSP
Carolyn George, DSP
Tina Esaw, Bus Driver
Candice Jackson, Bus Driver Asst.
Leigh Ann Tedder, EI
Tracey Jenins, DSP
Angela Waters, DSP
Jennie McQueen, DSP
Chiquita Huggins
Yvonne Bruce



**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.**

*Memorial Gifts were received In Memory of Jeanette M. Rambo
from the following:*

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

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Other donations were received from:

*Jennifer Andrews
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Abbreviation/Acronyms

DCDSNB - Darlington County Disabilities and Special Needs Board
DCDF - Darlington County Disabilities Foundation
ICF/MR - Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded.
CTH - Community Training Home
SC - Service Coordinator/Coordination
EI - Early Interventionists
DSP - Direct Support Staff



Byerly Foundation Awards \$1,000 Grant to Bright Beginnings Child Development

The children at Bright Beginnings are really enjoying playtime now thanks to the donation from Byerly Foundation that made possible the purchase of pedaled ride on toys, a water and sand play table and a music program. These toys will be used by the special needs children to, not only provide enjoyment, but also to enhance their physical, emotional, cognitive, language, social and musical growth.

Pictured L-R: Tykira, Aja and Micaden are showing off their new rides.

Darlington County Disabilities
and Special Needs Board
201 N. Damascus Church Road
Hartsville, SC 29550

Nonprofit Organization
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United Way

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Executive Director

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