



# THE CHALLENGER

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

Summer 2008

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

## Summer's Here! Register House is Open!

DCDSNB held its Open House & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Register House on Thursday, May 29. Register House is a four bedroom home with modified doorways and bathrooms that was built by Carolina Construction of Cheraw. It is located on Lee Circle in Hartsville. Register House has four female residents. They are Annie Brown, Marilyn Gee, Becky McNeil, and Betty Walters. Joy Collins is the Register House residential manager and her staff includes Evelyn Harkless, Lanie McPhail, and Annette Parker.

Register House was named for Mrs. Anne Register, who was honored at the ceremony for her lifelong dedication to helping people with disabilities. Throughout her life, Mrs. Register has always been affiliated with disabilities organizations. She currently serves as a member of our Human Rights Committee and the DCDSNB Family Advisory Council. Mrs. Register also served on our Board of Directors for 9 years beginning in 1996. Her husband, Mr. Bud Register, currently serves on our Darlington County Disabilities Foundation. Together, they have three children, four grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. One of their sons, John Register, is served by DCDSNB.



Pictured Left to Right are Wilton Griffith, DCDSNB Residential Director; Bud Register, husband of Anne; Ruth Thomas, DCDSNB Executive Director; John Register, son of Anne & Bud; Anne Register, Register House's namesake; Denny Neilson, SC House Representative for Darlington County; and Jean Riley Lee, DCDSNB Board of Directors Secretary.

### Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 1 .....	Bright Beginnings Graduation
August 4 .....	Foundation Meeting
August 25 .....	Board of Directors Meeting
August 25 .....	Gas Raffle Drawing
August .....	FAC After Hours Movie (Date TBA)
September 30 .....	Board of Directors Meeting
October 28 .....	Board of Directors Meeting

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## *A Message from the Director*

by Ruth Thomas, Executive Director

In the past few months I've had several friends say to me: how do you do it and it looks so easy for you. I thank them and smile. With today's fast-paced society, time management and organizational skills are necessary to keep things moving smoothly. But, with most people having to multitask and juggle family life, work, finances, cooking and extra curricular activities, it's no surprise that keeping track of everything can be a tremendous challenge. I will share with you a list of things that might make your life easier. They worked for me.



1. Get yourself a Plan – Get Organized
  - a. List the things you plan to do during the day
  - b. Prioritize the most important things
  - c. Just Do Them!
  - d. Get a helping hand/assistant (child, friend, pay services, etc.)
  - e. Plan Ahead and Follow up
    - i. Cook Ahead
    - ii. Clean Ahead, if time is available do Friday's work on Tuesday.
    - iii. Set Goals
2. Laugh – Even in the face of chaotic situations. Stay positive. You're assuming an active role in organizing your life and that's something to celebrate.
3. Take time to relax: Do something for yourself. Read a book, go to the gym, exercise, rest, walk and make yourself a nicer person.
4. Get the children in your family involved (cleaning, cooking, running errands, yard work, etc.) Give them a crash course on how to do it. Offer them an incentive for helping out.
5. Make work and life fun.

Each day I add or take away from my list. Remember, everyone's journey is different. Having a Plan Can Make Your Life Easier!

## *Employee Advisory Committee News*

by Dawanda Brown, EAC Chairperson

The EAC had two new members to join: Carrie Chenard, Executive Assistant, and Angela Gee, QA Director. Dawanda Brown was promoted to Chair and Sue Woodham Co-Chair.

On June 6th the EAC provided lunch for all DSP staff which consisted of subs, chips, and cookies. DSP Staff also received a personal thank you card from the EAC.

The EAC is busy planning the annual Employee Picnic which is tentatively set for July 2nd and gearing up to plan the annual Employee Christmas Party. Also, employees may see some changes to the Employee of the Month program and a new program or two in the coming months. If you have any suggestions for the EAC, contact Carrie Chenard at the Scott Center to present your suggestion at the next meeting.

*Congrats, EOMs  
& Happy Anniversary,  
Employees!  
Thanks for all you do!*

## Welcome New Employees!

James Bullis, Jones House Manager  
Janice Dickson, DSP  
Reponisa Gattison, DSP  
Annette Parker, DSP  
Bonnie Sanders, DSP

## *Employees of the Month*



Crystal Blakney (right)  
April EOM

Congratulations to Crystal Blakney as April 2008 Employee of the Month! Crystal is the House Manager at Washington House. She was nominated by Wilton Griffith, our Residential Director, for her great attitude and always going the extra mile for the consumers.



Diane Person (right)  
May EOM

Congratulations to Diane Person, as May Employee of the Month! She is a part time Direct Support Professional at Trantham House and full time at the Saleeby Center. Her supervisor, Sheila Hicks, emphasized her positive and professional attitude, attendance, and flexibility to come in at the last minute to fill in for others.



Brandy McRae (right)  
June EOM

Congratulations to Brandy McRae, as June Employee of the Month! She is a full time Direct Support Professional at King House. Her supervisor, Jacquay Archer, praises Brandy for always willing to help on her days off and always completing her tasks with pride.

## *Employee Anniversaries*

**20 Years of Service**

Violet Johnson

**17 Years of Service**

James Jackson

**15 Years of Service**

Mary Brown

**13 Years of Service**

Gwendolyn Sansbury

**9 Years of Service**

Marie Goodson

Winnie Arnold

Shirley Blakeney

Diana Thomas

**5 Years of Service**

Lora Harrell

**4 Years of Service**

Anita Manago

**2 Years of Service**

Kathy McClendon

Denise Forte

Shannon Bennett

**18 Years of Service**

Peggy Bristow

**16 Years of Service**

Mary Durant

**14 Years of Service**

Felicia Bracey

**12 Years of Service**

Sheila Hicks

**8 Years of Service**

Nathene Rowell

Michelle Ratliff

Rose Brown

**1 Year of Service**

Angela Waters

Jennie McQueen

Tracie Jenkins

Jacqueline Cue

Tina Esaw

Evelyn Harkless

Candace Jackson

Ania' Shalla McDuffie

Leigh Tedder

Carolyn George

## *ICF News*

by Carolyn Sifford, QMRP/ICF/MR Unit Director

Congratulations to my House Managers and Direct Support Staff at Bowen & Reagan ICF/MR Houses on a job well done! We passed our DHEC surveys with very few citations. The DHEC surveyors came to Reagan House on April 23 and to Bowen House on April 24. It was very stressful to have both houses going through the recertification process at the same time, but we succeeded! My supervisor informed me that he received a call from the regional director who stated that our board had one of the best surveys, perhaps even the best, in the state.

Recently, I attended a QMRP training in Lee County. The presenter informed me that DCDSNB has been used as an example of hard work and determination in getting the job done. He also stated that our ICF/MR program has been singled out as one of the top programs in the state. This is such an honor and obviously resulted from a great deal of hard work and a competent Residential Administration Team. Congratulations - team work pays off!

## *FAC Corner*

by Carrie Chenard, Executive Assistant

The Family Advisory Council held its annual Picnic on Friday, May 16. As usual, it was scheduled to take place at Lake Darpo, but due to the threat of severe weather and the related safety concerns, the decision was made to host the picnic at Bridging the Gap.

In spite of the change of plans, everyone had a great time. Alexander McDonald, a DSP at Bowen House, provided DJ services and Wilton Griffith, our Residential Director, & Woody Moses, our Maintenance Technician, grilled the burgers for us. The EI and Bright Beginnings staff coordinated activities for the children. Ms. Thomas, our Executive Director,

gave out door prizes at the end of the day. Other staff pitched in where needed and made sure that the consumers had a good time. The Amazing Neilson the Great appeared and performed a great magic show. John Register, one of our consumers, assisted Mr. Dave Neilson. One of our South Carolina House Representatives, Mrs. Denny Neilson, accompanied Mr. Neilson to enjoy the picnic with us.

Our next event will be our annual After Hours Movie in August. The FAC will meet on Monday, July 14 to plan the event.

The Family Advisory Council would like to announce its annual Gasoline Raffle Tickets are for sale! Tickets are \$ 1.00 each and the prize is \$ 200.00 in certificates from The Markette. The Markette has 10 stores within 25 miles of Hartsville. This is the only fund-raiser that we do, and we are able to fund many wonderful events during the year, i.e., The Lake Darpo Annual Picnic, Thanksgiving Dinner and the Christmas Party. We are asking each family to sell or purchase ten (10) tickets. Of course, many of you will sell more, but if each family will sell or purchase at least ten tickets, we will have the funds needed to sponsor these events. Also, if you morally oppose the raffle, please consider making a donation. The winning ticket will be drawn on August 25, at 5:30 pm at the Scott Center during the Board of Directors Meeting. **Please return all ticket stubs and money as well as unsold tickets by August 22.** Your Service Coordinator will call to follow up on your progress. You may return them with your son/daughter to Shanda Wingate at the Day Program, or deliver to the Scott Center or mail to the following address:

Attn: Carrie Chenard

DCDSNB

201 N Damascus Church Rd

Hartsville, SC 29550



## Children's Programs Update

by Sue Woodham, Child Program Director

The Bright Beginnings Children celebrated the arrival of summer by beginning Fun Friday which will continue through the summer months. Fun Fridays will allow the children to play outside in water and sand.

These activities will address many developmental domains such as: fine & gross motor and social & communication skills. The children and staff deeply appreciate the continued support of the Sophia Nichols Circle of North Hartsville Baptist Church who provide birthday cupcakes for our children monthly. Miranda Loyd, a retired employee, recently donated a dozen new blankets for the children to use during naptime. Thanks, Ms. Loyd!



The Early Interventionists and some other staff members participated in a training workshop provided by the Pee Dee Autism Division. Introduction to Autism is a three day workshop designed to help professionals understand and be aware of the symptoms of Autism. Jennifer Waldrop and Andrea Walker, consultants with the Pee Dee Autism Division, provided the training at the Scott Center in June. The participants praised the workshop as extremely informative and interesting.

## Job Development News

by Gloria McPhail, Job Coach

Everything is going great with Job Development. Recently, Kelvin James was referred to me with an interest in cooking at McDonald's in Hartsville. I was able to arrange placement for him there and he is doing great! Please stop in and congratulate Kelvin on his success.

Recently, I attended a very informative Autism training in Columbia. I learned a lot about the importance of certain approaches with a consumer with Autism, teaching techniques, and how to design effective treatment strategies that work with consumers with or without Autism to help them to be successful in the workforce.



## Senior Program News

by Edith Frazier, Senior Program Supervisor

Our seniors are taking time to smell the flowers by planting their own flower beds in their recreation area. They have a variation of roses, geraniums, and gerbera daisies to gaze upon while relaxing outside. Special thanks are owed to Michael Hicks of Hicks Produce & Flowers, Boggy Gully, Lisa Vernon of Local Finance, Kathy Cash of Sunbelt, Diane Brown of Piggly Wiggly, Dr. Vera Davis of Nazareth Church, Susie Gainey at Terminex, Gerlene Farrington at Hair So Lovely, Kathy Evans, and staff who helped make our garden grow!

The seniors were very excited to receive the new puzzles, magazines and crafts from our Wish List (page 5)! They enjoyed painting the miniature birdhouses and Chinese fans. Thanks to everyone in the community and staff who contributed to our program. Look for your name in our Donations section on page 5.

Ms. Ann Floyd visited us in June and made a monetary donation to our program in memory of her daughter, Jayne Floyd. Our Senior Program building is named in honor of Ms. Floyd who served on our Board of Directors for 18 years.



Pictured from Left are Ms. Ruth Thomas, DCDSNB Executive Director, and Ms. Ann Floyd, the Senior Program building's namesake, in front of our garden.

## Profile of Service

by Tammy Johnson, Service Coordinator Supervisor

William "Sam" Ingram

Sam functions in the mild range of MR intellectually and adaptively. He is pleasant, thoughtful, and has a good work ethic. Sam received skill training and the essential tools to accomplish his goals in life. He attended the day program at Bridging the Gap Enterprises and resided in our Trantham CTH II home. He received Supported Employment also from Bridging the Gap Enterprises. Sam no longer needs the support from a Job Coach or Bridging the Gap Enterprises. Sam has worked various places in the community. Currently Sam works for Badcock and Moore Home Furnishing Center. He has worked for Badcock and Moore Home Furnishing Center for the last four years. The majority of the time, Sam rides his bicycle to and from work. Recently, Sam received his driver's license and purchased a new car. Sam really takes pride in his work as well as his family. He was recently married to Susan Peterson on May 24, 2008 and moved out of the CTH II facility into their own home. They are looking forward to spending the rest of their lives together as one happy family. Sam believes his dedication, strengths, and abilities were an investment into his future. His hard work has truly paid off. Sam Ingram is an example of our mission accomplished. Congratulations, Sam, on a job well done!



***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.***

Ann Floyd	Patsy Auman	United Way of Darlington
Patti Weaver	Diane Brown	United Way of Hartsville
Allison Evans	Susie Gainey	Hartsville Kiwanis Club
Rhonda Bull	Kathy Evans	Lucas, Auman, Warr, & White
Kim Olsovsky	Ruth Thomas	Hartsville Chamber of Commerce
Barbara Franklin	Dr. Vera Davis	Central Carolina Community Foundation
Henry L. James	Stanton & Jones	Sophia Nichols Circle of North Harstville Baptist Church
James H Cox IV	Bridget McClendon	A Memorial Gift was received
James Jackson	Gwendolyn Graham	In Memory of Oby G. Lyles from:
Mary Lowery	Elizabeth Ham Brown	Mr. & Mrs. Lamar Caldwell
Miranda Loyd	Dave & Denny Nielson	
Michael Hicks	Deb & Ricky Newsome	
Boggy Gully	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kilgo, Jr.	
Lisa Vernon	Carolina Construction	
Kathy Cash	The Byerly Foundation	
Stephanie Upshaw	The Sonoco Foundation	
Gerlene Farrington		

### ***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



### ***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](http://www.dcdsnb.org)

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

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