



# THE CHALLENGER

Challenging the community, families, and individuals to make a difference

A PUBLICATION OF THE DARLINGTON COUNTY DISABILITIES & SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD

SUMMER 2010

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Message from the Director	2
Employee News	2
Profile of Service	3
SC HSP DSP of the Year	3
FAC Corner	3
Health Corner	4
Board of Directors News	4
Donations	5
DCDSNB Wish List	5
Abbreviations Acronyms	5

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



## Founder & Legend

Sadly, our beloved founder, Ms. Lou Scott passed away on April 22. She was 87. Mary Louise Raley Scott was born on January 12, 1923 in the Angelus Community of Chesterfield County to William M. and Mary Francis Byrd Raley. She graduated from Angelus High School and attended North Greenville Junior College and Winthrop University.

Ms. Scott dedicated her life to serving others. In 1943, she became a school teacher in Blaney, SC, and later worked as a Civil Service employee at Fort Jackson where she met her husband, Ivan B. “Scotty” Scott—a military pilot from New York. In 1945, she went to work as a news analyst at the Pentagon’s Bureau of Public Relations in Washington, D.C. Ms. Scott served at the Pentagon under President Franklin D. Roosevelt and President Harry Truman until the end of World War II. When Scotty returned from the war, they married and after Scotty finished college in 1949, they moved to Hartsville.

DCDSNB was initially named the Hartsville Area Developmental Center and had its beginning in 1967 when Ms. Scott was asked to become director of a kindergarten class for the mentally retarded. The initial location was at West Hartsville Church with two children enrolled in the program and an annual budget of \$ 2,700 sponsored by the Hartsville Civitan Club. This program eventually became known as Bright Beginnings Child Care. The application for incorporation was made under the organization name of the Hartsville Area Council for the Mentally Retarded, Inc., with six prominent business people in the Hartsville area on the Board of Directors. Ms. Scott served as the Executive Director until she retired. In 1984, Ms. Scott began soliciting funding to build the facility on Damascus Church Road. She raised \$ 385,000. The facility was named the Scott Center in 1985 and the building was completed in 1986. In 1987, Bowen House and Reagan House opened. Ms. Scott was essential in the organization of Hartsville Special Housing which administered the homes. After her retirement in 1994, Ms. Scott served on the DCDSNB Board of Directors for many years and continued to serve on the Darlington County Disabilities Foundation until her death.

Ms. Scott amassed numerous awards and honors throughout her career. They included Hartsville’s First Lady of the Year, Job Creator Award, Lou Scott Day by the City of Hartsville, and resolutions honoring her from DDSN, the Darlington County Legislative Delegation and the SC General Assembly. On her retirement from the Scott Center in 1994, Gov. Carroll Campbell awarded her the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina’s highest honor.

Ms. Scott’s family asked friends to donate to the DCDSNB Lou Scott Memorial Fund in lieu of flowers. To date, the Fund has received \$ 1,640. Ms. Scott truly left a great legacy in terms of her family and many friends as well as a grateful community for her lifelong dedication and service to people with disabilities.



## Events Calendar

Aug 31	Board of Directors Meeting
Oct 8	SST BBQ Fundraiser
Oct 11	Family Advisory Council Meeting
Oct 18	Foundation Meeting
Nov 12	FAC Thanksgiving Dinner
Dec 10	FAC Christmas Party

### *A Message from the Director*

Our SC DDSN District II Director Rufus Britt graciously agreed to contribute to this issue of the Challenger.

“I sincerely appreciate the positive manner in which your Board of Directors, your administration, and your Direct Support Staff responded to the unprecedented budget reductions sustained during the past fiscal years. We know you all are doing more with less and recognize your commitment to improving the lives of children and adults with disabilities and special needs in Darlington County. Let’s hope our economy recovers to a point we can expand our current scope of services and extend services to those awaiting services.”

Thanks to Mr. Britt for his kind words and encouragement. Responding to the budget reductions have been very difficult and frustrating for staff and families. I appreciate the support from Mr. Britt, Assistant District II Director John Hitchman, and our DCDSNB families.



**Ruth Thomas**  
Executive Director

**Would you like to see *The Challenger* in color? Check out our website anytime to see past Challengers or find current information at [www.dcdsnb.org](http://www.dcdsnb.org) !**



**Welcome New Employees!**

- Christy Clark
- Whitney Johnson
- Vicky Lyles
- Winnie Farmer
- Elaine Carroll
- Kristi Graham
- Shardae Benjamin
- Tywan Goodson

### *Staff Support Team News*

Carrie Chenard, 2010 Staff Support Team Chair

The SST has continued to recognize staff on their designated Professional Recognition day. The Team chose April 7 as Human Resources Appreciation Day and celebrated National Administrative Professional’s Day on April 21. Our nurses were recognized on May 6 for National Nurses Day and Finance staff on May 10 for National Accounting Day. June 4 was DSP Appreciation Day. You can recognize staff anytime by submitting an Employee of the Month nomination!

Our plan to sponsor an employee health fair in May was postponed due to scheduling conflicts. More information will be announced as details become available. We have scheduled our 2nd Annual BBQ fundraiser for Friday, September 10. Fundraisers help increase our bank account so we can do more for our staff. Please contact any SST member with any ideas you may have!

### *Employees of the Month (EOM)*

Carrie Chenard, 2010 Staff Support Team Chair

Day Program Supervisor Violet



Johnson was nominated as EOM for March by Finance Manager Catherine Robinson.

Washington House Manager



Crystal Blakney was nominated as EOM for April by Lead LPN Dawanda Brown.

Day Program Director Wilton Griffith



was nominated as EOM for May by Executive Director Ruth Thomas.

### *August - October Employee Birthdays*

**August**

- 2 - Kimberly Johnson
- 3 - Annette Parker
- 3 - Alexa Hefley
- 11 - Jarmiller Moses
- 14 - Anita Manago
- 15 - Ida Coe
- 16 - Joni Pendergrass
- 17 - Virginia Ray
- 18 - Evelyn Harkless
- 18 - Jennie McQueen
- 19 - Bridget McClendon
- 28 - Margaret Jeffery

**September**

- 4 - Julie Johnson
- 10 - Mary Durant
- 12 - Melinda Carraway
- 12 - Cynthia Graham
- 19 - Deedrick Woods
- 20 - Rose Brown
- 21 - Shirley Myers
- 22 - Shirley Blakeney
- 28 - Shanda Wingate
- 29 - Carrie Chenard
- 30 - Rochelle Moses

**October**

- 8 - Gwen Sansbury
- 14 - Deb Newsome
- 16 - Jameka Moses
- 17 - Whitney Johnson
- 23 - Priscilla Soney
- 28 - Jacquay Archer
- 29 - Carolstine Mickel
- 30 - Byron Wilson

## Profile of Service

Edell Gamble, HASCI Service Coordinator



Jaquan is a 20 year old young man with a T7-T8 spinal cord injury and Traumatic Brain Injury resulting from a motor vehicle accident in July 2008.

In May, Jaquan's bathroom was modified to become handicapped accessible. He is very satisfied with how it has helped him. He states that he is now able to roll his wheelchair in the bathroom and take a shower. That is something that Jaquan has not been able to do at home since his injury in 2008. He states he is grateful to the HASCI Service Coordinator, the Darlington County DSN Board, and DDSN office for all they have done in assisting him through this process.

## SC HSP DSP of the Year: Verniell Hannibal

Verniell Hannibal of Hartsville was honored in Columbia on June 1 by the South Carolina Human Service Providers Association (SCHSPA) as South Carolina's Direct Support Professional of the Year from nominees across the state (photo bottom left). Verniell is employed with Darlington County Disabilities & Special Needs Board as a House Manager for Reagan House, an Intermediate Care Facility home for medically challenging and intellectually disabled adults. She works directly with eight female residents who live at Reagan House. According to DCDSNB Executive Director Ruth Thomas, who submitted the nomination, "Verniell is patient, compassionate, and kind with all the consumers that we serve. She has spent the last nine years enhancing the lives, developing the abilities, and promoting the independence of people with disabilities. She has demonstrated patience and generosity that is so rarely seen in the world today. On a daily basis, Verniell never fails to bring a smile to at least one person's face, no matter what adversities the day has brought her. She is very gentle and always concerned about the comfort and dignity of our consumers. Verniell communicates well and often with the families of our consumers and keeps them abreast of any changes or needs in their loved one's lives. Verniell is a role model for any DSP and she is a true leader who leads by example."

Verniell was recognized as the SCHSP DSP of the Year at the monthly Commission Meeting in June (photo bottom right).

Verniell received honors from DCDSNB for her dedicated service earlier this year during Darlington County DSN Board's Annual Employee Awards Luncheon. She received the inaugural Vonoka Kind Award. The award was named for a longtime beloved employee of DCDSNB who passed away last year.



**SC HSP DSP of the Year  
Verniell Hannibal  
and DCDSNB Executive  
Director Ruth Thomas**



**DDSN Director Dr. Buscemi,  
SC HSP DSP of the Year  
Verniell Hannibal,  
and former Commission  
Chair Kelly Floyd**

## FAC Corner

The Family Advisory Council held its Annual Raffle drawing on July 2 at the Hartsville Family Fireworks Festival at Emmanuel Baptist Church. The raffle prize was a \$ 200 Wal-Mart Gift Card donated by Mr. & Mrs. Ray Loyd. Hartsville Mayor Mel Pennington drew the winning ticket which was held by Ms. Bea Siner of Darlington. The raffle produced \$ 706.19 after expenses. The highest ticket sellers were Ms. Miranda Loyd who sold 100 tickets and Ms. Beverly Robinson who sold 98 tickets. The FAC's current bank balance is \$ 1,260. As always, FAC funds are used to sponsor events for DCDSNB consumers throughout the year. Unfortunately, this amount is not enough to cover even the two annual holiday parties. The FAC will be asking area businesses for donations of food or money to help make the Thanksgiving and Christmas parties happen.

The FAC promotes understanding between families and the board by providing a forum for the exchange of information, ideas and concerns, as well as a chance to meet and fellowship with other family members. The public is invited to attend all meetings.

## Health Corner

Source: [www.webmd.com](http://www.webmd.com)

Yes!



Lift with  
your knees,  
**NOT** your  
back!

NO!



Rev. Alvin Rogers



Margaret Lanier

**The Truth About Back Pain** It might be a sharp stab. It might be a dull ache. Sooner or later, eight out of 10 of us will have back pain. Back pain is common and so are back pain myths. See if you can tell the myths from the facts. **Myth: Always sit up straight to prevent back pain.** Slouching is bad for your back, but sitting up too straight & too still for too long can be a strain on the back. If you sit a lot, try this a few times a day: Lean back in your chair with your feet on the floor and a slight curve in your back. Even better: Try standing for part of the day, while on the phone or while reading work materials. **Myth: Lifting heavy objects hurts your back.** It's not necessarily how much you lift, it's how you lift. Of course you shouldn't lift anything that might be too heavy for you. When you lift, squat close to the object with your back straight and head up. Stand, using your legs to lift the load. Do not twist or bend your body while lifting. It can really hurt your back to twist while bending and lifting with your feet on the floor—as you might do when reaching down from a chair to lift a dropped pencil. **Myth: Stay in bed until back pain goes away.** Resting can help an acute injury or strain that causes back pain but it's a myth that you should stay in bed. A day or two in bed can make your back pain worse. **Myth: Back pain is always caused by an injury.** Disc degeneration, injuries, diseases, infections, and even inherited conditions can cause back pain. **Fact: Overweight people suffer more back pain.** Staying fit helps prevent back pain. Back pain is most common among people who are out of shape, especially weekend warriors who engage in vigorous activity after sitting around all week. Obesity stresses the back but anyone can get back pain. In fact, people who are too thin may suffer bone loss resulting in fractured or crushed vertebrae. **Myth: Exercise is bad for your back pain.** A big myth. Regular exercise prevents back pain. And for people suffering an acute injury resulting in lower back pain, doctors may recommend an exercise program that begins with gentle exercises and gradually increases in intensity. Once the acute pain subsides, an exercise regimen may help prevent future recurrence of back pain. **Fact: Chiropractic adjustments can help back pain.** Respected guidelines for treatment of lower back pain recommend that patients and doctors consider spinal manipulation—either by a chiropractor or a massage therapist—for patients with back pain. **Fact: Acupuncture can help back pain.** According to respected guidelines, patients and their doctors should consider acupuncture among treatments for back pain patients who do not get relief from standard self care. Yoga, progressive relaxation, and cognitive-behavioral therapy are also suggested for consideration. **Myth: A super-firm mattress is best for your back.** A Spanish study of people with longstanding, non-specific back pain showed that those who slept on a medium-firm mattress -- rated 5.6 on a 10-point hard-to-soft scale -- had less back pain and disability than those who slept on a firm mattress (2.3 on the scale) mattress. However, depending on their sleep habits and the cause of their back pain, different people may need different mattresses. **Always seek the advice of your physician or other qualified health provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition.**

### Meet our new Board Members

DCDSNB has gained two new Board members this year. Reverend Alvin Rogers, Jr. is the pastor of the First Pentecostal Holiness Church in Hartsville. Rev. Rogers is married to Gwenn S. Rogers, also of the Hartsville area. Mrs. Margaret Lanier is retired from Blue Cross Blue Shield of SC and formerly served on the DCDSNB Human Rights Committee. Mrs. Lanier is married to Lee Lanier and they have a son, David, with special needs.

South Carolina has over 250 statewide boards and commissions. These boards and commissions provide important advisory, regulatory, and policy-making services as part of South Carolina's government. Service on boards and commissions allows citizens the opportunity to improve the quality of life and positively impact the future of South Carolina. The Secretary of State has the duty of publicizing vacancies, expired terms, and those terms expiring within one year. Contact Pat Hamby in the office of the Secretary of State at 803-734-2512. If you are interested in serving, please send a letter of interest and resume to the following address: Office of Governor Mark Sanford, Boards and Commissions, Post Office Box 12267, Columbia, SC 29211

*The Darlington County Disabilities Foundation  
appreciates all of our generous donors.*

*The following Donations were received after the last printing of the Challenger.*

The Scott Family  
Dr. Kathy Baxley  
Ms. Ruth Thomas

Mr. & Mrs. Claude Siner  
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Loyd  
Mr. John Davis

Agrium ServPro-Florence  
Norton Funeral Home  
Hartsville Kiwanis Club  
United Way of Hartsville  
United Way of Darlington  
The Pilot Club of Darlington  
Hartsville Chamber of Commerce  
Darlington Chamber of Commerce

A Memorial Gift was received  
In Memory of Mrs. Lou Scott from:

Ms. Donna Askins Ms. Nancy Davey Ms. Helen Flowers  
Ms. Sarah Timmons Ms. Imogene Fowler W. Reaves McCall

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Holley Mr. & Mrs. Dent King  
Mr. & Mrs. David Johnson Mr. & Mrs. George Atkins  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Fulton Mr. & Mrs. John Nichols  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Carson Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Ong  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Raley Mr. & Mrs. Paul Richter

Mr. & Mrs. William Dease  
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Johnson

CHESCO Services  
Syrian Lebanon American Society  
NOAA Center for Coastal Environmental Health

A Memorial Gift was received  
In Memory of Lynda Siner from:

Mr. Don Blackman Ms. Donna Dunlap  
Ms. Doris O'Neal Joyce & Bruce Strome  
Ms. Wanda Parnell Ms. Geneva Barber  
Ms. Jeanette Odom Ms. Joyce Thompson  
Ms. Sherille Wilks Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Scurry

Mr. & Mrs. Leon Hood  
Nucor Steel South Carolina  
Darlington County Shredding Co.

A Memorial Gift was received  
In Memory of Dr. Luke "Buddy" Baxley  
from Ms. Frances Britt

**Abbreviation / Acronyms**

DCDSNB - Darlington County Disabilities & Special Needs Board  
DCDF - Darlington County Disabilities Foundation  
DDSN - (SC) Department of Disabilities and Special Needs  
ICF - Intermediate Care Facility  
CTH - Community Training Home  
BTG - Bridging the Gap Enterprises  
SC - Service Coordinator EI - Early Interventionist  
FAC - Family Advisory Council  
DSP - Direct Support Professional  
SST - Staff Support Team

**DCDSNB Wish List**

Our Wish List is a program that we started in 2008. Some donors prefer to donate 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.

**Service Coordination:** Pull ups and Diapers in all sizes for male and female children and adults, Underpads, baby wipes, Super Absorbent briefs, medical gloves, Ensure, KY Jelly, Catheter trays.

**DCDSNB Office:** *General office supplies* such as letter size white copy paper, color copy paper, Avery 5160 inkjet / laser printer mailing labels (or equivalent), etc.; *A locking storage cabinet* for organizing and storing training supplies and equipment. *A flat panel TV* (27 inch or larger) for training purposes.

**Bridging the Gap:** *Automatic handicapped accessible doors* for easy entry and access for consumers in wheelchairs - the current system will not last much longer. *A Security System* for the safety of consumers and staff

**Senior Program:** Simple *Puzzles* (less than 50 pieces) and simple *Games* suitable for all ages; *Gardening tools* for our seniors to use in their garden. *Magazines* (used are welcome!) for the Seniors to create craft projects.

**Children's Program:** 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:** *A camera* to share among the homes to document residential events.

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

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Hartsville, SC  
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**UNITED WAY**

## **Darlington County Disabilities & Special Needs Board**

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Hartsville, SC 29550

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

### **Board Members:**

Rev. Troy Shaw, Chair  
Jerry A. Cheatham, Vice-Chair  
Amanda A. King, Secretary  
Hattie E. Hughes  
Dr. Jeffery Eric Long  
Margaret Lanier  
Dr. Alvin Rogers

### **Foundation Members:**

Rick Jones, Chair  
Gregory Alexander, Treasurer  
A. T. (Bud) Register, Secretary  
Lamar Caldwell  
Debbie Fink  
Ronald E. Holley  
F. W. (Chip) Auman. III  
Hattie E. Hughes  
Rev. Troy Shaw  
Margaret Lanier



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