

The CHALLENGER

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

Winter 2006

Darlington County Disabilities Foundation Board Gets off to a Great Start for 2007

The Foundation Board will focus on the following Provisions:

- ◆ *Group recreational opportunities*
- ◆ *Assistive technology for approved programs for people with severe physical limitations*
- ◆ *Educational equipment for Bright Beginnings*
- ◆ *Assist Family Advisory Council with "After Hours" and other agency events.*

Foundation Board Funds Handicapped Accessible Shower at BTG

Foundation members Debbie Fink, Ronnie Holley and Gregory Alexander were taken on a tour of Bridging the Gap Enterprises (the day program) by Ms. Ruth Thomas, ED. While there, the group saw a need and filled it. A badly needed shower will be installed soon and paid for by the Foundation Board.



Foundation Members shown above, Front row L-R: Ronnie Holley, Chip Auman, Bud Register, Debbie Fink, Hattie Hughes. Back row: Lamar Caldwell, Rick Jones, Gregory Alexander and Jim Stock. Missing from picture is Lou Scott.



At left, Lou Scott is shown representing the Foundation at the Greater Hartsville Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet at the Hartsville Country Club. She was accompanied by Ruth Thomas, ED.

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*A Christmas Party was enjoyed
 by DCDSNB consumers, families and staff
 thanks to the DCD Foundation*

See pictures pg. 4

***Happy Anniversary
 DCDSNB
 1967 - 2007
 40 Years***



A Message from the Director

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL As I prepared to write this, I reflected on the year of 2006. I thought of the challenges and crises we endured as a country, a state and organization. It was frightening, but we weathered the storms. I collected my thoughts and resolved that Shaping Tomorrow and Today is where I would concentrate. Additional challenges will face us in 2007; however, we will meet these challenges with a positive attitude and thorough training. A member of my staff shared a passage with me that I thought was so appropriate: "The good news is that God wants you to pass the tests of life, so he never allows the tests you face to be greater than the grace he gives you to handle them. The Bible says, "God keeps his promise, and he will not allow you to be tested beyond your power to remain firm; at the time you are put to the test, he will give you the strength to endure it, and so provide you with a way out." (I Corinthians 10:13).

With the fate of a generation at stake, we are uniquely positioned to make a difference. Here at the Darlington County Disabilities and Special Needs Board, we are planning new courses of action to enhance the lives of the consumers we serve. We are doing things more efficiently, with more compassion and becoming more oriented. Our scopes and depths enable us to reach the impossibilities. Meaningful service to our organization starts with focused leadership. It also begins with commitment and committed people. This kind of service is not optional. It is essential to the organization, something all of us should prioritize. I ask you to listen to our consumers, to hear their concerns as well as their hopes for their future, because they are our future. Let's help them, all of them, reach their fullest potential safe, sound and prepared to reach their full potential as productive citizens.

Ruth Thomas, Executive Director



Congratulations 2006 Winners!

Employee of the Year and Lou Scott Award Winners Announced

Pictured at left: Jacquay Archer (L) was named Employee of the Year and Crystal Blakney (R) was named recipient of the Lou Scott Award for 2006.

Ruth Thomas made the presentations at the Employee Christmas Party at Lakeview Country Club.

Profile of Service Krateshia Brown has been served by Bright Beginnings (BB) Early Intervention (EI) Services through the DCDSNB as a result of her diagnosis of hydrocephalus, which was acquired due to her having meningitis seven days after birth. She had a shunt implanted when she was four months old.

When we first received Krateshia's case, she was severely delayed in several areas of development. As time went on, she started to slowly make progress. As a result of attending BB and receiving EI services Krateshia's development shows marked improvement. Her language has also progressed rapidly. She now loves to sing songs, recite nursery rhymes, and dance. When the children are singing songs at BB, you will hear her above all of the other children. Especially when she sings the "I Love You" song with Barney; she loves Barney!. Krateshia's overall disposition is one of a caring, loving child who sees the good and beauty in the simple things in life. If you are having a bad day, all you have to do is see her smile and you forget whatever it was that had you upset. If you were to visit BB, she would be the first child to greet you with a smile on her face. She never meets a stranger and once she meets someone and hears their name, she will never forget. From then, she will greet you by your name. She will always have a smile for you no matter how she may feel that day. She interacts with the children and the staff at Bright Beginnings very well. She cares about the other children and staff. She follows directions well, and never gives a second thought when she is asked to complete a task. Krateshia proves that EI Services do indeed make a difference...not only for the child but the staff as well.



Employees Anniversaries - Oct...Nov...Dec.

Gloria McPhail...Bebe Chapman...Tammy Johnson...5 years

Congratulations and Thank You !

Priscilla Soney - 10 years



Family Advisory Council

Thanksgiving Dinner

Consumers, family members and staff enjoyed music by the Sonoco Men's Choir before the Thanksgiving meal at the

Country Barn Restaurant on Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

Thank you...

Family Advisory Council members and all who purchased raffle tickets or made a donation to the FAC. You made this day possible!



Desiree Brown, staff, waits patiently to be served.

QUALITY CORNER *by Wilton Griffith*

South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs sponsors a unique skills training program for direct support employees. Called "Positive Behavior Supports," the training program defines the expected behaviors of employees. Employees are then taught skills in a manner that verifies the employee can demonstrate the skills. Supervisors then observe and provide feedback to the employee to coach the employee to achieve a high level of consistent, positive supportive interactions with those using our services. The training prepares employees to teach skills and to implement behavior support plans. We have launched training in February and will continue the training until all direct support personnel and supervisors have the skills to implement the training and behavior change programs the teams have agreed upon. Although a significant investment of time and resources is required, this curriculum should improve the quality of lives for those our agency is serving. Look for signs of improvement over the coming year and give us your feedback so we can continue to improve our service to others.

ICF/MR News

Welcome Yvonne Rouse, new House Manager at Bowen. Yvonne is working closely with Carolyn Sifford, QMRP, and Verniell Hannibal, Reagan House Manager. All staff are working diligently getting ready for DHEC!

December was a busy and exciting month! A Special Thank you to all who made the following holiday outings and socials possible:

- ◆ Progress Energy Christmas Party
- ◆ The Hartsville Christmas Parade
- ◆ The Christmas lights at Swan Lake in Sumter
- ◆ Residential Christmas Party at the Scott Center
- ◆ Kelleytown Baptist Church sponsored Christmas Party
- ◆ Christmas Dinner on Christmas day.

The ICF/MR Team hopes that 2007 will be a wonderful year filled with many opportunities of service for the special people we serve.

CTH II News

Welcome Priscilla Soney, new House Manager at Washington and Lovely Williams, new FT staff at King House.

Along with all the other holiday festivities, residents and staff from the CTH Houses enjoyed a 3-day mini trip to Myrtle Beach in December. The trip included shopping and two shows.

A Valentine's Party is planned for February 13, complete with the crowning of a King and Queen!

Calendar of Events

- Feb. 13 CTH Valentine's Party
- Feb. 15 "After Hours" Valentine's Party
- Feb. 27 DCDSN Board Meeting
- March Disabilities Awareness Month
- March 7 Disabilities Advocacy Day at The State House
- March 13, 14 Annual Staff Training Day Program Closed
- April 16 DCD Foundation Meeting
- May 18 Lake Darpo Picnic

Employee Advisory Committee for 2007

- Crystal Blakney - CTH
- Gloria Campbell - Service Coordination
- 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

After Hours Events

The FAC has planned the following events for 2007

- Valentine's Party with Elvis February
 - Beach Party June
 - Movie August
 - Hayride October
- Date, time and location to be announced in flyer prior to event

Kudos to Diane Person

Jamie Perkinson, concerned citizen called in to commend Diane for being an "exceptional driver" in transporting the DCDSNB consumers.

Thank you Diane for a job well done.

Life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it.

We are in charge of our attitude.

Chuck Swindoll

Bright Beginnings and Early Intervention Updates

The children at Bright Beginnings had a very busy Fall Season. They enjoyed:

- ◆ The Pumpkin Patch sponsored by Wesley Methodist Church
- ◆ Trick-or-Treat for Special Kids at the Holiday Inn in Florence
- ◆ Christmas Party at Bright Beginnings featuring gifts provided by the Second Tuesday Circle from St. Luke United Methodist church.
- ◆ Agency Christmas Party at the Armory



*We're looking forward to:
Another Patchwork Players
play in February!*

The Bright Beginnings and Early Intervention Staff would like to thank everyone who made donations at Christmas... whether you donated gifts for the children or furnished a Christmas meal for a family, **we thank you!**

Day Program Update

Need Contract Work Done? We do the Following In-House!

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| ◆ Assembling & Disassembling | ◆ Grouping |
| ◆ Bundling newsletters | ◆ Packaging |
| ◆ Can Crushing | ◆ Shredding |
| ◆ Collating | ◆ Sorting |
| ◆ Fold, stuff, seal, label and sort | ◆ Wrapping |

Welcome New Employees

- Bernice Howle
- Calandra Pressley
- Alice Catoe
- Margaret Jeffery
- Clarissa Joe
- Eutashia King
- Tysheika Sims

Employee Christmas Party

The Employee Christmas Party was held at Lakeview Country Club thanks to Board Member, Jerry Cheatham. Staff enjoyed a nice meal and door prizes, followed by dancing. Thanks EAC for a very nice party. The decorations were beautiful. Ms. Thomas was presented with a gift of a beautiful Christmas topiary from staff.



Wilton & Yvonne Griffith



Edith Frazier &
Donna Laurie



David & Marie Goodson
& Felicia Maples



Line dancing anyone?

Consumer Christmas Party



Soul-Train line in motion



Ms. Thomas joins Beverly and
Ronald Robinson for a picture



Joni Pendergrass is all smiles showing off
two sets of twins

Girls: Sha'Kiya & Zi'Kiya Boone...
Boys: Micael & Micaden Austen



Staff make great servers

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

*Honorarium Gift was received from
Mrs. Merle Baxley
In Honor of
Mrs. Lou Scott*

*Memorial Gift was received from
James L. and Lucy S. Caldwell
In Memory of
C. Frank Hays, Jr.*

Other Donations Were Received From:

Charles and Joan Coker	Pamela Brumley
Sarah Timmons	Eleanor Monroe
Emily J. Northcutt	Maggie Boan
Anderson Brass Company	Carolyn T. Cumalander
Ben & Jennifer Bethea	Terry Josey
James H. Cox	Earl Glover
Janet Townsend	Harriett Hill
W. Reaves McCall	Earnest Lloyd
Bob & Kellie Braddock	

Thank You Civitans for your support over the last forty years!

DCD Foundation Chairman-Elect Greg Alexander received a check from Civitan Chairman Wade Hicks in the amount of \$1750. Proceeds were from the Civitan Annual Golf Tournament. The Civitan Club helped establish the Scott Center in 1967 and have remained devoted supporters since that time.



Civitan Club donated \$300 for a special needs car seat

Thank You All Contributors!



Thank you Progress Energy and the North Hartsville Elementary School students. Thank you for the gifts and the love you showed by remembering your neighbors at the Scott Center. The party was great!



Jarmiller Moses is surrounded by Angel Tree Gifts

*Angel Tree
2006
was a great success!*

*Thank you Sponsors:
Heritage Community Bank
Hardees
and*

*Taki's of Darlington
And to all who
purchased gifts*

*Also
Thank you to
Michelle Johnson and
students at Florence
Christian School*



Sally Timmons really liked her Gamecock throw!

Below:
Shari Hall is shown admiring her new ring.



Above: L-R Teresa Hodges & Renee Gainey of Progress Energy.

At Right: Debbie Lynch & Carmen Murphy of Heritage Community Bank



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

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