

THE EXCHANGE

*Published for parents, family members, and guardians
of individuals served by Black Hills Workshop*

March/April 2009

Taking on Leadership Roles

At Black Hills Workshop, we envision a community where all people are good neighbors, valued friends, productive workers, caring volunteers, and respected leaders. The people we support are increasingly taking on all of these roles, including the leadership role.



Keven Moulton will graduate from Partners in Policy Making April 18 in Sioux Falls. Partners in Policy Making is a six-month training program which teaches participants about disability-related issues and leadership skills so that they can advocate for themselves and others. “I

didn’t take it for myself. It was basically to help others become better advocates,” says Keven, who is also a member of South Dakota Advocates for Change and People First. Keven works doing shredding and filing for Black Hills Workshop.



Cindy Roan Eagle is serving a three-year term as a board member on the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities. Cindy says she was appointed by Governor Rounds to represent the Black Hills Workshop. “What I do is not

only for me, it’s for you guys (staff and people served).” After each meeting, Cindy says she shares information with Workshop leaders. The board meets every three months in various parts of the state. At the last meeting in Pierre, Cindy was able to see the legislature in session.



Tom Miller has been appointed to a three-year term on the Black Hills Workshop Operating Board. Tom is a cashier, team leader, and part-time supervisor who has worked on our BH Services contract at Ellsworth Air Force Base since 1990. He is also beginning his fifth term

on the board of directors of NISH, a national nonprofit group which provides technical support to community support providers who have federal contracts. He says his new role has some things in common with the NISH position. “My main concern (on both boards) is individuals with disabilities.”

April: Autism Awareness Month Autism Society plans open house

The Autism Society of the Black Hills now has an office at 521 7th Street in downtown Rapid City. You are invited to their open house from 3-7 April 21. Come see the artwork they have on display done by artists from the Suzie Cappa Art Center.

Facts about Autism

Did you know?

- 1 in 150 children is diagnosed with autism.
- 1 in 94 boys is on the autism spectrum.
- 67 children are diagnosed per day.
- A new case is diagnosed almost every 20 minutes.
- More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with AIDS, diabetes and cancer combined.
- Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the U.S.
- Autism costs the nation over \$35 billion per year, a figure expected to significantly increase in the next decade.
- Autism receives less than 5% of the research funding of many less prevalent childhood diseases.
- Boys are four times more likely than girls to have autism.
- There is no medical detection or cure for autism.

For more information, contact www.autismspeaks.org.

Brain Injury Conference May 7-8

The 4th Annual Black Hills Brain Injury Conference will be held May 7-8, 2009 at the Ramkota Hotel. Along with other speakers, neuropsychologist Dr. Thomas Bergquist from Mayo Clinic and Dr. James Malec, who is internationally known for his research in the brain injury field, will present. More conference details are available at the Community Transitions web site, www.brainrehab.org.

The Exchange is published bimonthly by the Black Hills Workshop for parents, family members, and guardians of the individuals we serve. Comments and questions are encouraged and may be addressed to Dorothy Rosby, Editor, Black Hills Workshop, Box 2104, Rapid City, SD 57709; call (605) 718-6205; or email drosby@bhws.com. We also appreciate your keeping us up to date on your address changes, corrections, or duplicate mailings.

Making a difference every day



There are many things in life I enjoy, but one thing I particularly enjoy is helping people with disabilities. It gives me a strong feeling of joy and excitement when I help people obtain their dreams and desires. Through working at the Black Hills Workshop, I have had many opportunities to make a difference in people's lives, which in turn makes

a difference in my own life. I enjoy working at the Black Hills Workshop because it gives me the opportunity to do new and exciting things, but most of all, because it gives me the chance to make a difference in people's lives.

This employee testimonial was written by Mike Chastain who works in a Black Hills Workshop housing facility. The Workshop is a great place to work! Our employees have an excellent benefit package, opportunities to learn new skills, and the knowledge that they make a difference in the lives of many people. If you or someone you know is interested in employment, call our job line at 343-4581 or see www.bhws.com.

Mark your calendar

April 18-Rummage Sale, BHW Gym

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April 19-Suzie's Royal Tea. For information, contact JoAnne Schriver at 431-1634

April 24: Regional Track & Field Meet, Black Hills State University Spearfish. For information, contact Bill Clucas at 718-6288.

May 7-8: Fourth Annual Black Hills Brain Injury Conference. For more information, see www.brainrehab.org.

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