

# THE EXCHANGE

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

*May/June 2009*

## **Putting people first!**

Last summer, the philosophy of Person Centered Thinking (PCT) was introduced by the Division of Developmental Disabilities. Since then, we have participated in training and have used new tools to make the concept of Person Centered Thinking part of everyday life. Essentially, PCT takes People First Thinking, a value Black Hills Workshop employees have long held, and gives us standardized tools to help ensure it becomes reality.

Our agency has developed three PCT goals:

1. For people supported: People live meaningful and self-directed lives based on personal choice. See “Heroes and Hardrockers” elsewhere on this page for an example of a project that grew out of this goal.

2. For employees: Good communication systems will be provided so that all employees stay informed. For example, Chief Executive Officer Brad Saathoff has started keeping staff informed through a CEO blog and “town hall” information meetings.

3. For the agency as a whole: All departments in the organization work in collaboration with every stakeholder to support employees, people served, and community members to reach their full potential. For example, a virtual tour of facilities is being developed for staff and people applying for employment.

Our PCT team has created an action plan based on these goals and PCT coaches act as mentors to teach all employees the tools and to help people reach their goals. If you’re interested in participating in a two-day training about PCT, contact Colleen Ronning at 718-6203.

## **Heroes and Hardrockers**

People with disabilities often don’t have as many opportunities as the rest of us for socialization and learning in the community without assistance from paid staff. And opportunities with paid staff can be limited with budget issues. But thanks to a new partnership with the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Hardrockers Circle K group, there may be more such opportunities in the future. BHW nurse Barb Volker and Vice President of Support Services Colleen Ronning have worked with the group to create Heroes and Hardrockers which will connect the people we support with students in the hope that meaningful connections, relationships, and natural supports will develop.

With financial resources limited, this type of partnership is going to be especially important to ensure that the people we support have opportunities to experience things in our community that they never could have relying on paid staff. This is not to diminish the amount of work our staff do to assist people in community activities; this is a way to build onto those supports in ways that money can not buy.

The goal will be to have numerous opportunities for small groups and one-on-one educational and recreational opportunities, such as attending concerts and sporting events, shopping, participating in civic clubs, exploring the Black Hills, and attending community education classes.

A get-acquainted mixer has already been held and the program will get under way this fall when all the students come back to school.

*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](mailto:drosby@bhws.com). We also appreciate your keeping us up to date on your address changes, corrections, or duplicate mailings.

## Living Together is an Art

Artists from the Black Hills Workshop's Suzie Cappa Center for Art Expression and Enjoyment will display their work at the Dahl Arts Center **August 12-September 21**.

This year's show is about community and how people supported by Black Hills Workshop are a part of the Rapid City community. The title of the show, "Living Together is an Art," is a quotation from William Pickens. The centerpiece of the show is six murals which feature downtown businesses which were created by Suzie Cappa artists for the 2008 Chamber of Commerce annual meeting. For this show, the artists have taken photographs of people served by BHW visiting these businesses.

We hope you can join us for an artists reception on **Friday, August 14 from 5-7 p.m.** Enter the Dahl through the main doors on Seventh Street.

## Mark your calendar

•**Softball practice** begins July 20 and will be held Mondays at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

•**State Softball Tournament**, September 19-20 in Huron. For information, contact Bill Clucas at 718-6288.

•**Charitable Trust Workshop**, September 10. Contact Colleen Ronning, 718-6203.

## Gala Winners selected

Congratulations **Anthony Capra, Brian Essex, Luke Utecht, and Keven Moulton** who have been selected to receive our Founders Awards for Outstanding Achievement at our Recognition Gala November 7. The Gala is our chance to recognize those who have made outstanding progress in our programs as well as those who have supported us. Be watching for details.

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