

TRANSITIONS

Black Hills Workshop & Training Center

P.O. Box 2104, Rapid City, SD 57709

Three selected for Hall of Fame Transitioning from School to Work

Michelle Aman, Lissa Marotz, and Richard Harrington were the first employees to be inducted into Black Hills Workshop's new employee Hall of Fame during a celebration on December 17. The three were nominated by their supervisors for the honor, and then selected by a group of their peers. They each received \$1000, a Hall of Fame certificate and a commemorative coin. Their pictures and a plaque in their honor will be displayed in the lobby at our main administration building.

Michelle is celebrating her 30th year with Black Hills Workshop. When she started as a community living instructor in 1979, Black Hills Workshop served only 83 people. She has seen and been instrumental in numerous positive changes which have resulted directly in people with disabilities becoming more independent and playing increasingly larger roles in the community. She currently serves as the Resource and Support Supervisor where she is responsible for all aspects of staff training as well as supporting people with disabilities who are learning to advocate for themselves.

Lissa is a service coordinator in housing who started with Black Hills Workshop in 1993. She is not only a steadfast advocate for people with disabilities; she has also stepped forward as a leader on a variety of committees and initiatives.

In the six years that **Richard** has been employed by Black Hills Workshop, he has been promoted into increasingly demanding positions because of his ability to develop and maintain relationships. He has served as an associate instructor, designated charge person, community living instructor, and currently a service coordinator.

Our Hall of Fame was put in place to identify and honor our organization's top employees. Michelle, Lissa, and Richard were selected for this honor based on their commitment to our mission, vision, and values and their adherence to our standards of performance.

For the past three years, Black Hills Workshop and Training Center has partnered with the Rapid City School District to enhance the school-to-work transition for their students. Ten students at Western Dakota Tech who are in the last years of special education are now participating in a six-unit curriculum that addresses vocational interest and employment skills.

Black Hills Workshop employees Lesli Pond and Frank Bower meet with the students and conduct interest inventories with each one. The inventories are followed up with classes that encourage the students to build self-advocacy skills, decide what types of careers they're interested in, learn to take small steps to pursue a goal, and ask for support when they need it. The goal for the students is to think about what they want to do after high school and build the skills to be successful.

Lesli says, "The progress of the students is exciting to see. They are becoming more and more aware of what they want after their school years." Special Ed teachers Lily Pendelton and Margie Morrison weave the information from the transition class into their other classes. "It is a win-win situation for all," says Lesli.

The Black Hills Workshop school-to-work transition program is funded with funds from the Gordon and Dorothy Solberg estate. We are grateful that they chose to support Black Hills Workshop.



Richard Harrington, Lissa Marotz, and Michelle Aman were the first employees named to the Black Hills Workshop's new Hall of Fame on December 17.

Bebout Artist of the Year



Shad Bebout has been named Black Hills Workshop Artist of the Year 2010! He will be honored at the annual Suzie's Royal Tea which will be held Sunday, April 25 in the newly expanded Art Center from 2-4 p.m. For ticket information, contact JoAnne Schriver, 718-6204.

Dear Friend of Black Hills Workshop,

In 2009, a record number of our staff celebrated milestone anniversaries with Black Hills Workshop. Two employees celebrated 35 years with us, two celebrated 30 years; seven have been with us 25 years; four for 20 years; eight for 15 years; nine for 10 years; and 24 employees have been with us for 5 years.

Hiring and training new staff is an expensive endeavor for any company, so these long-term employees represent a great cost savings to our agency at a time when budgets are tight. But even more importantly, they represent stability and consistency for the people we support. They have had time to develop long relationships with the people they support and are therefore knowledgeable about their likes and dislikes, joys and challenges. The people we support and their families can count on their experience and their dedication to people with disabilities.

I, along with our management team and our Boards of Directors, am grateful and honored that these fine employees have chosen to continue their careers with us.

*Sincerely,
Brad Saathoff
Chief Executive Officer*

Workshop benefits from WaTiki Fund Raiser

Black Hills Workshop and Training Center was chosen, along with five other community organizations, to be a recipient of this year's WaTiki Gives Back Foundation Fund Raiser. The organizations will share 100% of the January 9 proceeds from WaTiki's 30,000 square foot water park, 255 hotel rooms, concessions, water park passes, and more. Along with Black Hills Workshop, the other four recipients who will benefit from the event are the Arete Morsching Scholarship Fund, the Scott Grimsrud Scholarship at St. Thomas More, Catholic Social Services, Diabetes Inc., and Youth and Family Services.

The WaTiki Gives Back Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to reciprocating the generosity shown them by Black Hills area communities. Members of the Bradsky and Patton families established the foundation in honor of the late Kevin Morsching, a dear friend whose choice to be an organ transplant donor reflected his generosity. His legacy of giving inspired the WaTiki Gives Back Foundation.

We at Black Hills Workshop are grateful to the WaTiki management and ownership for your generosity!

Mary Wipf returns to Suzie Cappa Center



Visual artist Mary Wipf visited the Suzie Cappa Center for Art Expression and Enjoyment November 30-December 4 as part of the South Dakota Arts Council's Artists in the Schools & Communities program. She worked with nine artists to create large acrylic paintings which are now displayed in the newly expanded art center. The program was sponsored with support provided by the South Dakota Arts Council with funds from the State of South Dakota, through the Department of Tourism and State Development, and the National Endowment for the Arts. The above collage features work by, left to right, **Mike Leithauser, Jeff McClade working with Brenda Lynde, Nancy Weiss, and Russell Steinback.**

Popular foster parent dies



Madeline and Robert Claseman from a 1974 newspaper article.

A former foster parent to 17 of the people served by Black Hills Workshop died November 4 in Illinois. Madeline Claseman and her husband Robert, who is also deceased, played a large part in the history of Black Hills Workshop, providing a foster home to some of the people we served in the 1970s. They were honored at one point as South Dakota Foster Parents of the Year.

A 1974 newspaper article says the Clasemans took in their first boarders in 1967 out of financial necessity. Their own son had disabilities and required expensive hospitalization in Texas. After his death a year later, they continued to provide a home for 17 teens and adults served by the Workshop.

The Clasemans lost their home and most of their belongings in the 1972 flood, but managed to save the lives of the ten people with disabilities they had with them at the time. After rebuilding, they returned to the foster parent business.

Ordean Stevenson who lived with the Clasemans in the 70s, remembers them taking him and the others to movies and to the 1975 Legion World Series which was held in Rapid City. He has happy memories of holiday and birthday parties and of Madeline's roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, and turkey and dressing. "She was a wonderful person. She was nice and calm," says Ordean.

Gloria Kehn, who also lived with the Clasemans, says "She was very nice. She treated me like her granddaughter. I had good times with her."

March: Welcoming diversity

In March Black Hills Workshop and similar organizations will celebrate Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. The goal of the month is to raise awareness of the many abilities people have, regardless of disability. We encourage people to bring diversity to the community by welcoming people with disabilities into local neighborhoods, workplaces, houses of worship, and schools. And we encourage people to learn more about the people in our community who have developmental disabilities.

Currently Black Hills Workshop supports more than 600 people with a variety of disabilities in their quest to be a greater part of our community. Rapid City is a welcoming place and we continue to find more and better ways to assist the people we support to be a part of it.

Housing and employment are some of the main ways people can be integrated, but there are many other innovative ways to achieve this goal. Heroes & Hardrockers matches people we support with students from the School of Mines and Technology to create new friendships. The new pARTners program is matching up people interested in the arts with people in the community who have the same interests. We are looking at a similar program for those interested in attending worship services.

People we support have been involved in countless activities in the community including the Vickie Powers Park building project, Relay for Life, and United Way Day of Caring, and we have worked to bring the community to us as well, through our annual Haunted House, open houses, and other events. All of these things bring us ever closer to our mission: Creating a community where everyone participates to achieve a life of full potential.

BHW plans two new homes

Many of the people served by Black Hills Workshop both long for and are capable of living more independently if accessible housing were available to them. We hope to meet some of this need with two new accessible five-bedroom houses which will be home to people needing more accessible spaces, including those who use the larger motorized wheelchairs.

We hope to break ground this spring for the homes, which will be built on a half-acre lot directly north of the Civic Center on Allen Street. Designs are being drawn up by Upper Deck Architects. The homes will be paid for with a Neighborhood Stabilization grant along with matching funds raised in our recent capital campaign.

Snow-Buddy left out



Black Hills Workshop participated in the Festival of Lights parade on November 28. The float created by staff and people supported was titled SNOW-Buddy Left Out: Creating Community.

BLACK HILLS WORKSHOP AND TRAINING CENTER, INC.
P.O. Box 2104
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(605) 343-4550

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Black Hills Workshop Pancake Breakfast

**Sunday, February 28
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Black Hills Workshop
3603 Range Road**

**Sponsored and hosted by
the Rushmore Lions Club**

**Admission is \$6.00
Children 8 and under eat free**



Check your label!

Send your address changes or corrections
to:

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P.O. Box 2104
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Or e-mail your changes to smuehlberg@bhws.com
or call 605-718-6208.

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BHW benefits from Rasmussen Trust

The Black Hills Workshop has received \$18,916 from the Rasmussen Memorial Trust Fund for use in our Suzie Cappa Art Center as well as other areas at Black Hills Workshop. Each year since 1975, we have benefitted from Rasmussen funds, which are designated for equipment and supplies for educational, recreational, and craft projects.

After retiring from the agriculture industry in 1975, Wilfred and Margaret Rasmussen moved to Rapid City and became very active in the support of several human service agencies including Black Hills Workshop. The Workshop was one of several agencies remembered in Mr. Rasmussen's will. He was honored posthumously in 1995 with our Spirit of Giving Award.



Black Hills Workshop Chief Executive Officer Brad Saathoff, artist Jennifer Avery, Trustee Keith Hamm, and Director of the Suzie Cappa Center Brad Winter.

EMAR implemented

Over the past year, the Workshop has implemented a new computerized system for administering medicines to the people we support in group homes. One of the benefits of the new EMAR (Electronic Medical Administration Record) is the ease and promptness with which medicine changes can be made. Immediately following a doctor's appointment, nursing staff can update the EMAR remotely for people living in any group home. The change is immediate on the laptop computers used in our group homes.

EMAR also reminds staff of who needs meds during each shift, and what those medicines are. The staff take the laptops, purchased by the our Foundation, with them as they dispense medicines, ensuring accuracy and allowing them to check off that the medicines have been taken. The EMAR also records dietary concerns and nursing procedures.

The EMAR system is used in nursing homes, and we customized it to fit our structure. We began implementing it in February and added several group homes each month. Eventually, the system will be used for other facilities and for those living in the community.