

THE EXCHANGE

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

July/August 2010

Workshop undertakes new housing projects

Black Hills Workshop and other community support providers are playing a key role in the State Division of Developmental Disabilities' goal to increase the availability of community supports in South Dakota. There are currently 147 people living at the South Dakota Developmental Center (SDDC) at Redfield, many of whom would benefit greatly from increased integration into communities closer to their families. This would also put the state in compliance with the integration mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act which requires public agencies to provide services "in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of individuals with disabilities." The mandate was upheld by the Supreme Court in the Olmstead Decision in 1999. We are in the beginning stages of building three homes and leasing another, all of which will either house people currently living at Redfield, or create openings for them in our other housing options when people we currently serve move.

Black Gap

Two women from the South Dakota Developmental Center will join three others living in a leased home in the Black Gap area off Highway 79 on the way to Hermosa. Black Hills Workshop staff will support them as they learn the skills they need to be successful in their home. Finding accessible homes in our area has been a challenge. This home is accessible, and like six others we began leasing recently, it represents a move away from the large residential settings of the past to smaller, more family-like housing arrangements.

Helen's House/Jake's Place

On August 5, we broke ground for two five-bedroom, wheelchair accessible homes located on Allen Street north of the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center. We had sought existing homes for this project, but because wheelchair accessible homes are in short

supply in our area, a capital campaign was eventually launched to fund them. Suzy and Rich Gabrielson and Suzy's parents Chuck and Barbara Lien made a \$50,000 gift to the campaign. Suzy and Rich's son Jake, for whom one of the homes is named, has received services from Black Hills Workshop since 2005. Other funds for the project come from an undesignated gift made by the Helena Moore (now deceased), whose daughter received services from the Workshop. The remaining funds for the two homes came from a Neighborhood Stabilization Grant. The homes should be complete in November.

East Boulevard Home

Ground breaking is expected to take place on a home on East Boulevard in October. It is being built with the support of Black Hills Workshop Foundation Funds and will allow for the transfer of three individuals from SDDC and another from his parental home. At the request of the Division of Developmental Disabilities, the home will host Intensive Treatment Services, creating therapeutic supports and supervision for people with developmental disabilities who have also exhibited nonviolent problematic sexual behaviors.

With around the clock supervision, the program will ensure safety while enabling opportunity for the participants to contribute to the Rapid City community. From location to service provision, the program has been designed with the guidance of a national consultant and is being done with the support of local neighbors, health resources, and community groups.

Intensive Treatment Services are already being successfully provided by other agencies within the state, including ATCO Enterprises in Watertown and Volunteers of America (VOA) in Sioux Falls. However, there are no services available on the west side of the state. With a history of success in meeting the needs of people with diverse and varying disabilities, we see this as a natural extension of our services and are confident that we can do so successfully.

If you have questions about any of these housing options, contact Colleen Ronning at 605-718-6203.

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.

Gala Winners selected

Congratulations **Richard Booth, Matthew Blauvelt, Benjamin Roth, and David Tanner** who have been selected to receive Outstanding Achievement Awards at our annual Recognition Gala on Saturday, November 6, at the Civic Center.

The Gala is our chance to recognize those we serve who have made outstanding progress as well as organizations and individuals who help to make their success possible. **Andrea Schaefer**, Director of Barefoot Dance Studio and Outright Dance Theatre, will receive our Community Connection Award for creating opportunities for people from Black Hills Workshop to participate in mixed-ability dance. **Forest Recreation Management** and the **Forest Service** will receive our Volunteer Award for coordinating the annual *Experience the Outdoors Day* which many people from Black Hills Workshop participate in.

For more information about the Gala, contact JoAnne Schriver at extension 718-6204.

Suzie Cappa artists to show work at the Dahl Arts Center

Artists from the Black Hills Workshop's Suzie Cappa Center for Art Expression and Enjoyment will show their work at the Dahl Arts Center from September 1-October 4 with an Artist's Reception Friday, September 3, from 5-7.

The show, titled *Face Ahead*, will showcase 50-55 Styrofoam heads that have been sculpted into a variety of designs. Also on display will be the new book created by Julie Kowalski, a former volunteer at the Suzie Cappa Center. The book features black and white photos of fifty-one people served by Black Hills Workshop, some with artwork they created at the Suzie Cappa Center.

Face Ahead will be held in the Dahl's Education Center; enter through Kansas City Street doors.

Arc FINDS seeks input from families

The Arc FINDS (Family and Individual Needs for Disability Supports) on-line survey is now live and available to families, individuals, and self-advocates. We invite individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities, families and caregivers across the nation to participate and share their opinions on a variety of issues relating to disability. There is no cost to taking the survey, which can be found on the public website (<http://www.thearc.org>) or direct access at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TheArcFinds2010> .