

# THE EXCHANGE

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

November/December 2010

## Tech student turns assignment into service

*By Michael Kaiser, Volunteer Coordinator*

This past fall, students in a psychology class at the South Dakota School of Mines were given the option of either writing a research paper or volunteering for twenty-five hours with a Black Hills organization. While some of the students may have seen both options as just one more assignment to complete for the semester, Kelcy Wanek saw it as an opportunity to help people in Rapid City. She said she was familiar with the Black Hills Workshop and “knew this was a place where I could use my patience and compassion to make a difference in the lives of others.”

Kelcy will tell you that she is caring, patient, and loves to help, but when she decided to become involved with BHW, she wasn't expecting to be so deeply affected by the people she was serving. For the last two months, she has been serving in Sensory Development and the Suzie Cappa Art Center, assisting with art projects, helping people eat lunch, and spending time getting to know them. Through her time at BHW, Kelcy says she has learned the power of a hug, the importance of saying thank you, the value of enjoying “the simple things every day,” and other lessons that could benefit all of us.

Kelcy was only required to volunteer during the fall semester, but after spending time at the Workshop, she says “there are people I have come to cherish and will dearly miss them when I am gone.” She does not know what her schedule looks like for the spring “but will definitely consider continuing to serve at the Workshop” thanks to the extraordinary people she has met and who have left a lasting impression on her in such a short time.

If you are interested in serving at the Black Hills Workshop, you can contact Michael Kaiser at (605) 343-

4581 ext. 231, or e-mail him at [mkaiser@bhws.com](mailto:mkaiser@bhws.com). You can view all of BHW's service opportunities at [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org). Search “Rapid City, SD” and “Black Hills Workshop” or go through the link under the Volunteer section of [www.bhws.com](http://www.bhws.com).



*Kelli Blossmo with volunteer Kelcy Wanek.*



## Black Hills Workshop 2011 Holiday Calendar

<b>New Years</b>	<b>Friday, December 31, 2010</b>
<b>President's Day</b>	<b>Monday, February 21</b>
<b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>Monday, May 30</b>
<b>Independence Day</b>	<b>Monday, July 4</b>
<b>Labor Day</b>	<b>Monday, September 5</b>
<b>Thanksgiving</b>	<b>November 24 &amp; 25</b>
<b>Christmas</b>	<b>December 23 &amp; 26</b>

*BH Services calendar on back page.*



## BH Services 2011 Holiday Calendar

*(for those employed on Federal contracts)*

New Years Day	December 31, 2010
Martin Luther King Day	Monday, January 17
Washington's Birthday	Monday, February 21
Memorial Day	Monday, May 30
Independence Day	Monday, July 4
Labor Day	Monday, Sept. 5
Columbus Day	Monday, October 10
Veteran's Day	Friday, November 11
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 24
Christmas	Monday, December 26

## Upcoming events

**January 10: Basketball** begins in the BHW gym every Monday through March. Two sessions, 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 4:30-5:30 p.m. Possible scrimmage on Sundays. Contact John Tanner at 545-5337 for information.

**February 25: Regional Basketball Tournament,** Black Hills Workshop gymnasium. 9 a.m.

**February 26: Polar Plunge**-Memorial Park, 2 p.m.

**March 11-12: State Basketball Tournament,** Yankton

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