

TRANSITIONS

Black Hills Workshop & Training Center

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

BHW/BH Services win Advocacy Award

Black Hills Workshop and BH Services have won the 2011 AbilityOne/NISH Performance Excellence in Grassroots Advocacy Award. The award will be presented at the AbilityOne/NISH National Training and Achievement Conference May 21-23 in Indiana. It is given to recognize the effective, creative approach a non-profit agency uses to engage and educate public policymakers on a local, state, and federal level about the AbilityOne Program. NISH is a national nonprofit agency whose mission is to create employment opportunities for people with significant disabilities by securing federal contracts through the AbilityOne Program for its network of community-based, nonprofit agencies.

Black Hills Workshop and BH Services are committed to creating and maintaining active and ongoing relationships with our congressional delegation, as well as our state and local political leaders. This is the most effective way to educate them about our services and the importance of employment opportunities for people with disabilities under the AbilityOne program. Because we have contracts at Ellsworth Air Force Base near Rapid City and at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha, Nebraska, representatives of our agency meet with both our South Dakota and Nebraska delegations at least three times a year in Washington, DC. We also meet regularly with their local representatives in both communities and have hosted congressional leaders on tours of our contracts.

BH Services and Black Hills Workshop also host annual town hall meetings for state senators and representatives in order to educate them about our mission and the contributions made in our community by people with disabilities. We currently lead a coalition

made up of the twenty members of the South Dakota Association of Community Based Services to work on Medicaid-related issues.

Educating the public and policymakers about the AbilityOne program and the abilities of those we serve is an ongoing challenge. We are very proud to be recognized for our efforts.

Intensive Treatment program hosts open house



Dan Ward, Norman Lowe (front) Leon Williams and John Gale hosted a holiday party and open house in their new home on December 16. The four moved into the Workshop's newest home at 820 East Boulevard on November 7. Leon, John, and Norman came to us from Redfield Developmental Center. Dan was most recently living with family. Dan and Norm are working on our new dog biscuit project, and Leon and John are working on our Dakota Panel contract. The Intensive Treatment Program supports those with complex behavioral issues.

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Three selected for employee Hall of Fame

Congratulations **Diane Flahaven-Neu, Jacki Schoenrock, and Lori Valandra**, who have been inducted into the Black Hills Workshop's Employee Hall of Fame. The three were nominated by their supervisors, then selected by past Hall of Fame winners. They each received \$1000 and a commemorative coin. The Hall of Fame was put in place to identify and honor our organization's top employees. They are selected based on their commitment to our mission, vision, and values, and their adherence to our standards.

Diane Flahaven-Neu started at Black Hills Workshop in 1994 as a case manager. She later moved to residential/community living supervisor before becoming finance manager in July 2006.

She provides daily service as a resource and support assistant to service coordinators in the areas of finance, social security, community programs, Medicaid,



Medicare, Prescription D plans, funding, policies, procedures, and general business operations. She works directly with the Division of Developmental Disabilities and maintains a positive relationship with each state employee she deals with. In the several positions she has held, Diane has participated in every area of the Workshop from direct support to management. She has been very active on a variety of committees including the National Association of Qualified Developmental Disability Professionals, Behavior Intervention Committee, Hall of Fame Committee, Employee Enrichment Team, Admissions, Corporate Cup, and Relay for Life Committee. She is a member of Residential Options, ICAP Service Coordination, Critical Incident Reporting and she participates in ARSD, Accreditation, Hiring, Wage and Hour, Quality Assurance Training, Long Range Planning, and Health and Safety committee.

When **Jacki Schoenrock** came to Black Hills Workshop in 1984, our agency was experiencing a time of growth. We were just beginning to accept individuals with complex behavioral issues, and Jacki's common sense, compassion, and teaching ability were great assets. The success of the people she supported was an

indicator of her ability to meet challenges and provide leadership to colleagues.

Later Jacki was promoted to case manager, then lead case manager and supervisor. When the Community Support Services department was created,



Jacki worked with her colleagues to create the department. She continues to provide direct service coordination to several individuals, and directly supervises 11 service coordinators, nine associate instructors, and 220 people supported.

Jacki is also very active in agency committees, including admissions, residential options, Council on Quality and Leadership Team, and Person Centered Thinking Coach, leader for the SMART System and reporter for Critical Incident Reporting. Her position as Community Support Services Supervisor also naturally gives her many opportunities to represent the agency with numerous community resources such as Behavior Management Systems, the Rapid City Police department, state and federal court systems, local hospitals and nursing homes, funeral homes, various landlords and rental agencies, benefits programs, pharmacies, home health and hospice, social service agencies, counselors, therapists, state funding agencies and more. Her nominator, Colleen Ronning, says Jacki is knowledgeable and resourceful. "The staff who Jacki supervises can count on her to give them expert advice and ideas of how to maximize community resources to assure independence for the people they support.

Lori Valandra started at Black Hills Workshop in 1984. She moved up the ranks from associate instructor to community living instructor to service coordinator and then to lead service coordinator for the Community Support Services Department. Although her experience is primarily in residential, Lori has vast knowledge of Black Hills Workshop and the disabilities field in general. She has served



on many committees including SHARE, Best Practices, Homeless Coalition, Residential Options, Native American Cultural Event, and the Independent Service Coordinator Pilot Projects.

Lori supports 18 people on her case load. Several of these people have children, creating a need for extra supports. Others have significant medical issues or alcoholism or are aging. Her nominator, Jacki Schoenrock, says that Lori has dealt with some of the most difficult and unusual situations Jacki has seen at Black Hills Workshop. "I credit her with saving the life of one person served in particular whose associations and lifestyle in Rapid City were sure to lead to her untimely end." Jacki goes on to say that, "Whenever a call goes out that help is needed somewhere, Lori is quick to answer. She has helped with dozens of moves, Special Olympics, health fairs, bed bug removal projects, bowling, and vacation coverage."

Lobby gets new look



Brad Winter and Doug Meiron put up artwork in the lobby at the Black Hills Workshop administration building. The pieces were created by Suzie Cappa artists with the help of artist Mark Zimmerman, who visited the art center in December. Mark's program was sponsored in part by the Rasmussen Trust and 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.

Float wins judge's choice

The Black Hills Workshop float won the Geezy and Zonk Award at this year's Festival of Lights Parade November 26. The award is presented to the personal favorite floats of parade co-chairwomen in the non-profit and business categories. The

float, which had an Alice in Wonderland theme, was designed and built by employees and people supported by Black Hills Workshop.



Suzie Cappa T-shirts available

T-Shirts with art work created by Suzie Cappa artists are on sale at the art center for \$12.50 per shirt. Help support the Art Center and do a little advertising too! The Suzie Cappa Art Center is located at the Black Hills Workshop, 3603 Range Road.



Switchboard and BITC employees honored

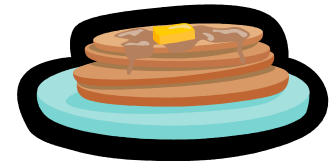
On December 16, the Communications Squadron held a heritage recognition ceremony to recognize contractors and civilians for their years of service. They were honored and received a coin from the 28 Communications Squadron for working for the squadron for 10-plus years.



Major Heath Frye, Commander of the 28 Communications Squadron; Roberta Murrow, 28 CS Plans and Programs Flight Chief, Beth DuBay and Ranale Wiseman (switchboard contract), Jay Looman and Joe Sabrowski, (Base Information & Transfer Center contract) and Bob Steffy, Rod Goins both civilian, non-BH Services.

2012 Events scheduled

51st Annual Rushmore Lions Pancake Benefit Sunday, February 26, 7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Black Hills Workshop, 3603 Range Road. Price is \$6.00; ages 8 and under eat for FREE! Get tickets at the door or from any Rushmore Lions Club Member. All proceeds will be used to build a park/picnic area for outdoor activities for people served by Black Hills Workshop.



Suzie's Royal Tea at the Suzie Cappa Art Center, Sunday, April 29, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., 3603 Range Road. Price is \$50 per person. Become a table hostess or reserve your tickets by contacting Brian Munsell, Special Event Coordinator, at 718-6207. All proceeds go to the Suzie Cappa Art Center to support their new downtown location, projects, and supplies.

Black Hills Workshop Golf Classic, Monday, July 16, Noon Shotgun until 8:00 p.m. at Arrowhead Country Club, 3675 Sheridan Lake Road. Team of four golfers \$500, or \$125 per golfer. Price includes 18 holes with cart, dinner, games and prizes. Secure your sponsorship and/or team with Brian Munsell, Special Event Coordinator, at bmunsell@bhws.com or call (605) 718-6207. Proceeds will support transportation needs for those served by Black Hills Workshop.

Recognition Gala, Saturday, November 3, 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. in the Rushmore Hall of the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, 445 Mount Rushmore Road. Four individuals with disabilities who have made outstanding progress in our programs will be honored at this lavish dinner. Tickets are \$70 per person or a table of eight for \$560. To reserve your sponsorship or table, contact Brian Munsell, at bmunsell@bhws.com or call him at (605) 718-6207. All proceeds to support medical needs for those served by Black Hills Workshop.

BLACK HILLS WORKSHOP AND TRAINING CENTER, INC.
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BHW performers take part in Dakota Dreams

Performers from Black Hills Workshop and Training Center took part in *Dakota Dreams*, part of the grand opening for the new Main Street Square which took place on November 26.

Congratulations Cindy Roan Eagle, Wyman Red Star Flora, Dean Baker, Heather Morris (pictured at right), Elizabeth Warner, Shad Bebout, Rick Van Eyck and Brad Winter, who all appeared in the production that kicked off the lighting of the Main Street Square Christmas tree and the annual Parade of Lights on November 26.

The performance was funded by the Jennifer Avery Memorial Fund, Salon One and Wal-Mart. The production was directed and designed by Heather Pickering of Flutter Productions with choreography by Andrea Schaefer of Barefoot Dance Studio.



Address changes?

Please check your address label carefully. Send your address changes to:

Sheila Vetsch
Black Hills Workshop
P.O. Box 2104
Rapid City, SD 57709.

You can also e-mail your changes to svetsch@bhws.com or call 605-718-6208.

If you would prefer to receive your newsletter via e-mail, send your e-mail address to svetsch@bhws.com. Your address will not be shared with other organizations.

Transitions is published bimonthly by the Black Hills Workshop Foundation. The Black Hills Workshop Foundation is dedicated to supporting comprehensive, quality services for people with disabilities. The Foundation is committed to ensuring those services now and in the future. Comments and questions are encouraged and may be addressed to Dorothy Rosby, Editor, Box 2104, Rapid City, SD 57709, or call (605) 343-4550. You can also e-mail drosby@bhws.com. Visit us at our web site at bhws.com or bhwsfoundation.org.

Thanks to our generous donors!

Donations received November 1-December 31

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Leslie Joan Brookes

Olson, Robert & Barbara

Ed Kopp

Kopp, William & Julie

Tim Kopp

Kopp, William & Julie

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Ange, David & Diane

Voigt, Edwin & Vernice

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Baker, Edwin

Darrel Bishop

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Dale Bradfield

Neville, Dorothy

Suzie Cappa

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Noel Manley

Manley, Joanne

Imogene Moore

Olson, Alta Jean

Harold Orville

Orville, Laura

Emilie Oster

Quenzer, Ione

Phyllis Petersen

Petersen, Darold

Steven Peterson

Petersen, Arliss

... continued on next page.

Greeting at CSAC



Since August, 2011, Wayne Erickson, (above), has worked 28 hours per week at the front desk at the City/School Administration Center in downtown Rapid City. Wayne, who is blind, has memorized the location of the many offices inside the three-story government building in order to assist people who need help locating what they need. He uses JAWS speech software to access information about events scheduled in the building each day. Wayne says he likes being around the people in the busy lobby and enjoys his job. "I appreciate the opportunity.

Happy holidays

Denny's restaurant was one of several businesses that helped brighten the holidays for people served by Black Hills Workshop. Denny's customers responded to the call to purchase 12 gifts. Ketel Thorstenson provided three more gifts. Civitan, Rice Honda and Application Technology along with many individuals donated cash, which allowed staff to purchase gifts for 73 more people who might otherwise not have received any.



Continued from last page. . .

Patricia Ellen Short

Short, Frank & Mary

David Stordahl

Buck, Renee
Stordahl, Col. James
Bareis, Dr. Reuben & Marlowe J.
Ronning, Colleen

Virgil (Bud) Wiltfong

Wiltfong, Eva

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Rushmore German Club

Elderly joins with Daisy House



Participants in the BHW Elderly area got together weekly with people from the Daisy House prior to Christmas to practice and prepare for a Christmas program at Black Hills Workshop on December 14. On December 21, they went to the Daisy House to watch a program hosted for family members there. The two groups also had a Christmas party together. Pictured are Ed, Herm, and Jerry from the Daisy House with Donna Martinek from Elderly. Lea Haisch from Elderly says they plan to continue meeting weekly after the holiday season.

Employee honored

Congratulations Comfort Inn employee **Liz Warner** (below right), who received a gold star November 14. Liz had a perfect room when the housekeeping inspector came to check rooms. Liz is one of a four-person crew from Black Hills Workshop that cleans at the Comfort Inn.



Comfort Inn manager Diane Hubert and Liz Warner.