

TRANSITIONS

Black Hills Workshop & Training Center

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

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

This effort to educate the American public about issues related to disability and employment began in 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October *National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week*. In 1962, the word “physically” was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to *National Disability Employment Awareness Month*. At Black Hills Workshop, we have good reason to celebrate. While we are always looking for employment opportunities, many of the people we serve are working hard at jobs they enjoy. Below are just a few success stories. To learn how your business could also benefit from hiring people we support, call an employment specialist at 605-343-4550

After nine years in the motel industry, Sara Renay wanted to do something else. Employment specialist, Tina Kempf, says Sara is very methodical and thorough. However, her income was limited by her speed. Tina approached the Department of Rehabilitative Services with the hope of finding a position where Sara’s strengths could shine. They agreed to fund the search. And Sara was hired by Walgreens as a stocker 16 hours per week. Walgreens also hired another employee, Zach Skeen, as a cashier.



Ruben Leonard has been employed at Knology for several months. He refurbishes remotes by cleaning them and replacing batteries. He removes jumper cables from modems, scans modems, and supports staff in many other processes. Employment Specialist Tina Kempf says the other staff are happy Ruben is there. “He is loved by everyone. He boosts morale.”

Gala tickets on sale

Jorgia Steenberg, Heather Therkildsen, Mike Turner, and Nancy Weiss will all be honored with Outstanding Achievement Awards at our annual Recognition Gala on Saturday, November 5 at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center. The Gala is our chance to recognize those who have made outstanding progress at Black Hills Workshop as well as organizations and individuals who help to make their success possible. For ticket information, contact Brian Munsell at 605-718-6207 or visit bhws.com.

Thanks to Black Hills Corporation for sponsoring this year’s “Black and Light Gala.”



Help save postage and printing costs! Receive this newsletter by e-mail! Contact svetsch@bhws.com. Your e-mail address will not be given to any other organization.

Candu Week

Black Hills Workshop's first Candu Week was held August 13-26. A variety of businesses contributed, some financially and others by hosting "Candu" man on their properties. Candu is the running man that is part of the Black Hills Workshop logo. RPM & Associates made and donated the six-foot, metal sculpture of Candu, which made the rounds throughout the week. Thanks to RPM & Associates, First Interstate Bank, Boston's Gourmet Pizza, Arby's (Mt. Rushmore Road), Zaynerz Parkway Restaurant, Strider Sports, Dunn Brothers Coffee, and the Central States Fair.



Alex Drewitz and Rob Mudge of RPM & Associates pose with Candu. Black Hills Workshop Special Events Coordinator Brian Munsell took a wooden replica of Candu to Art Alley in downtown Rapid City where artists were able to paint on it. And Candu also made an appearance at Rapid City Summer Nights on Thursday, August 18.

Senator visits AbilityOne staff

Nebraska Senator Mike Johanns toured the Alert Dining Facility at Offutt Air Force Base August 1. Roger Lempke, who handles military issues for him, was also along. They visited with the AbilityOne employees that were working and said they were very impressed with what they do and how they support the mission at Offutt Air Force Base.



Irvin Roland, Terry Wilson, Marty Krause, Ruanmoon Aston, Major Barbeyto, Technical Sergeant Baurer, Staff Sergeant Clawson, Staff Sergeant Dominic, Jason Gerken, Ted Hemmingson, Sonja Fry, and Senator Mike Johanns.

Thank a DSP!

I have the great pleasure of hearing success stories every day—wonderful things happening in the lives of people we serve, accomplishments once thought impossible, and dreams coming true. All of this is possible because of our amazing direct support staff.

September 11-17 was ***National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week***. At Black Hills Workshop we took the time to honor our employees for their strong commitment to supporting individuals with disabilities and promoting community-inclusion for all.

Family members of those we serve know how important direct support employees are to those they love. But the public is often unaware of the vital role they play in the lives of so many Americans with a variety of disabilities, assisting them in large and small ways that mean the difference between isolation, even institutionalization, and community participation. It matters a great deal to the people they support, but it also matters to the rest of us who benefit when all citizens share their talents in meaningful ways in the community.

National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week is celebrated annually across the country to honor the tens of thousands of workers who enable our most fragile citizens and their families to live healthy community-oriented lives. It's a time to show our gratitude for what direct support professionals unselfishly do for so many. At Black Hills Workshop, they bring our mission to life: Creating a community where everyone can participate to achieve a life of full potential. We are grateful for their contribution!

***Sincerely,
Brad Saathoff
Chief Executive Officer***

Suzie Cappa artists show work throughout area



Barb Heagy shows work at Shaviq

Artist Barb Heagy (above) was the feature artist at Shaviq in downtown Rapid City on August 5. Barb is a regular at the Black Hills Workshop's Suzie Cappa Center and works in our manufacturing production department.

Barb expresses her world through designs she creates with pen, ink, and paint. Instructor Maryann Blanchard says that at first glance, Barb's work appears to be abstract designs, but when the viewer looks more closely, they start to see hidden images. Maryann says that Barb represents her memories, thoughts and visions through her intricate art. She is a dedicated artist, spending several hours a day, five days a week in the art center.

Threads! Annual Suzie Cappa Show at the Dahl starts November 15

The Suzie Cappa Center will have its annual show at the Dahl Arts Center from November 15 through the end of January. There will be an artist's reception November 18 from 4-6 p.m. The show, titled *Threads* will feature fabric art. Use the entrance on Seventh Street.

Artists shine at the fair

Congratulations to the following artists who participated at the 2011 Central States Fair: **Connie Smith, Corky Leach, Tom Emley, Taylor Zesiger, DJ Davis, Sara Mellegard, and David Tanner** all brought home blue ribbons for ceramic art. **Molly Holsworth** won two blue ribbons and one red and **Marlene Bryant and Charlotte McLean** both received red ribbons also for ceramics. **Jill Holien** received a blue ribbon for an abstract. **Mike Studer** won a blue ribbon for a chair he decorated. **Connie Whitley** won a red ribbon for her acrylic and **Carisa Headid** won two third place ribbons for her photography.

Artists show work at the Spearfish Art Center

Artists from the Suzie Cappa Center will show 15-20 pieces of art at the Spearfish Art Center for two weeks beginning September 23.

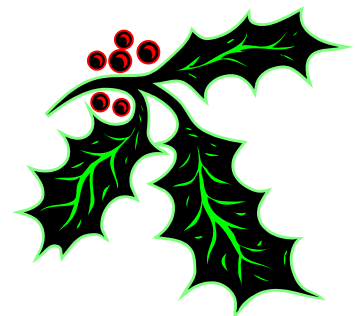
Stop, Look, Listen



Cindy Gresch talks with Black Hills Workshop Chief Executive Officer Brad Saathoff. Cindy had just finished performing in *Stop, Look, Listen*, the latest production of Outright Dance Theatre. Katie McOwen, Heather Morris, and Shad Bebout also performed with other community members in the show which was presented on August 20. Outright Dance Theatre is a mixed ability dance company created by Andrea Schaefer.

Brighten the holidays

Christmas can be a lonely time for those without family. Each year, Black Hills Workshop uses donated funds to purchase gifts for 70-80 of the people we serve who do not have involved family. If you would like to contribute to the Christmas fund, send your donations to JoAnne Schriver, Black Hills Workshop, PO Box 2104, Rapid City, SD 57709. Let us know you'd like the gift to be used for Christmas gifts. You will be helping to brighten the holidays for many people.



BLACK HILLS WORKSHOP AND TRAINING CENTER, INC.
P.O. Box 2104
Rapid City, South Dakota 57709
(605) 343-4550

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Statue dedicated

The words, "For the Love of Jake" are engraved at the base of a beautiful statue of the Archangel Gabriel donated by Rich and Suzie Gabrielson. The statue was placed between Jake's Place and Helena's Home and was dedicated on September 6. The Gabrielson's (pictured at right) purchased the statue to honor their son Jake (also pictured), and to celebrate the success of the two recently completed homes. Major "naming" donors were Chuck and Barbara Lien, Rich and Suzie Gabrielson, and Helena Moore (now deceased). A Neighborhood Stabilization Grant was also secured for this project. Furnishings were funded from proceeds of the 2010 Golf Classic Tournament and Recognition Gala.



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.

Thank you contributors!

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New medical needs fund honors Doree Alexander



A new fund, Doree's Medical Needs Fund, will honor Doree Alexander who died on July 8. Doree's nursing career spanned 45 years, 23 of them at Black Hills Workshop. Doree made a huge difference in the lives and health of people we serve. She would be happy to know medical needs not covered by funding sources will be covered by gifts made in her memory. To contribute, contact JoAnne Schriver 605-718-6204.

Give and Take United Way Day of Caring



Cyndi Barton was one of seven people from the Ellsworth 28th Communication Squadron who painted bedrooms in several of our homes.



Waylon Larvie was one of seven members of the Black Hills Workshop team that washed windows, cleaned cabinets and handled other housekeeping chores for an elderly Rapid City Resident.

Nearly 60 volunteers assisted Black Hills Workshop at several different locations on the annual United Way Day of Caring, September 1. They painted, moved rock, and helped prepare the Wilkins Building in downtown Rapid City for renovation. The building will be home to our art center soon. Meanwhile a team of volunteers made up of our employees and people served also spent the afternoon volunteering, washing windows and doing other cleaning at an elderly Rapid City resident's home.

This was the thirteenth year that the United Way kicked off its annual campaign fund drive with the Day of Caring. This year, seventy-eight teams totaling 968 volunteers spent the afternoon working on 100 different projects in and around Rapid City.

Tom Miller honored



Tom Miller receives his Outstanding Citizen with a Disability Award from Governor Dennis Daugaard on July 26. The award is presented in recognition of outstanding achievements in living with a disability and promoting independent living and employment opportunities for others with disabilities.

**Black Hills Workshop
Haunted House
October 28 & 29
7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.**

Admission is a donation of one can of food which will be donated to the food bank.

Volunteers needed! Call 343-4550 ext. 356.

