

TRANSITIONS

Black Hills Workshop & Training Center

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

Ranale Wiseman wins regional Villines Award



Ranale Wiseman, the BH Services contract supervisor at the Ellsworth Air Force Base switchboard, has been selected to receive the Evelyne Villines Award for the Northwest Region. The award is presented by NISH to recognize an individual with a disability who has advanced from working on an AbilityOne Contract into private or government sector employment or into a management position.

Ranale, along with other award winners, will be honored at the NISH National Conference which will be held in Orlando, Florida in May.

BH Services oversees federal contracts for Black Hills Workshop and Training Center. NISH is the organization that assists nonprofit agencies like Black Hills Workshop to participate in the AbilityOne program, which provides federal customers with products and services, while providing employment for thousands of people with disabilities. Evelyne Villines is a nationally respected spokesperson for people with disabilities.

Ranale began working on the BH Services contract at Ellsworth Air Force Base on May 1, 2000 when BH Services took over switchboard operations from the air force. Switchboard Manager Beth Dubay says that, at that time, documents were not yet computerized. Ranale took the initiative to put all the documents onto the computer and to update them when it became necessary. Beth says that Ranale soon became the go-to-person in the office. "She knew where to find the needed information requested by our subscribers, and usually knew the phone number without looking it up." When the office finally became computerized, Ranale assisted in training her coworkers to bring everyone up to speed.

When the position of contract supervisor opened up, Ranale was interviewed along with several other potential candidates from outside the agency. "Because of her work ethic, switchboard skills, and leadership abilities, she was the obvious selection," says Beth. At that point Ranale went from being a person served by BH Services and Black Hills Workshop holding a management position with the agency, a job she continues to excel at. Congratulations Ranale!

Ten move into new homes

Ten people moved into new homes on Allen Avenue in January. Jake's Place and Helena's Home are located just north of the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center. The Workshop broke ground on the accessible five-bedroom homes on August 5 after we were unsuccessful in locating accessible housing in the community.

In what architect Sheryl Coley calls a "strange twist of fate," her biological mother Sara Igoe was one of the women who moved into Helena's House. Sheryl, from Upper Deck Architects is one of the architects who designed both houses. She was adopted by another family, but has been in contact with Sara for several years and had helped Sara move to this area from the east coast. She says Sara was living in an assisted living facility, but that it wasn't quite the right fit. Sara had been on a Black Hills Workshop waiting list for two years. "This is really going to be a positive for her," says Sheryl. "I never even imagined she might move into these houses when I started working on them with you. It still amazes me to think about it how it all turned out!" For her part, Sara says she's very proud of her daughter.

Among many other donors, Suzy and Rich Gabrielson and Suzy's parents Chuck and Barbara Lien made a \$50,000 gift toward building the homes. Suzy and Rich's son Jake, for whom one of the homes is named, has received services since 2005. Other funds for the project came from an undesignated gift made by Helena Moore (now deceased) whose daughter Imogene (also deceased) received services from the Workshop. The remaining funds for the two homes came from other donations and from a Neighborhood Stabilization Grant. Furnishings were paid for with funds raised during this year's Gala and Golf Classic.



Sara Igoe takes a break from getting moved into her new home in Helena's house.

Three Selected for Employee Hall of Fame

Congratulations to Laura Gibson, Connie Hansen, and Darrell Slone who have been inducted into the Black Hills Workshop's Employee Hall of Fame. The three were nominated by their supervisors, 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 RSC along with those of last year's winners.

The Hall of Fame was put in place to identify and honor our organization's top employees. Laura, Connie, and Darrell were selected for this honor based on their commitment to our mission, vision, and values and their adherence to our standards.



Laura started as an associate instructor at Edwards D in 1986. Since then, she has held a variety of positions, including community living instructor and service coordinator and is currently a lead

service coordinator in the Community Support Services Department. She was instrumental in developing and carrying out the earliest grants and programs designed to help people with more significant disabilities move into their own apartments in the community. Folks who could have never imagined moving out of group homes have lived more meaningful lives in the community because of Laura's patience and perseverance.

As the folks she worked with began to age, Laura researched geriatric issues, especially as they relate to people with disabilities and her knowledge in this area is a valuable resource to her co-workers. She took American Sign Language classes to more effectively communicate with the deaf people she worked with. She has literally hundreds of hours of in-service training, including CPR & first aid, ethics, mental health, problematic behavior, medication recertification, funding and community resources, psychiatric drugs, history of disability services, and others.

Connie Hansen came to the Workshop over 21 years ago as a



computer operator. Her accounting skills became quickly apparent within her first few months of employment and she was promoted to the bookkeeping department and shortly

thereafter, to head bookkeeper. As the agency and business office grew she was promoted to accounting manager, where she excels today.

She has developed professional relationships with many outside agencies, from our independent auditors to HUD personnel; and she has developed relationships within our agency as a devoted advocate for people's rights in the area of finances, trust accounts and paychecks. New or changed regulations and systems come her way on a frequent basis and she tackles them with determination.



Darrell Slone retired from the air force on September 16, 1994, and was hired four days later as a residential float. Later he worked as a service coordinator/community living instructor before

moving to Community Support Services as a service coordinator.

He is currently a resource and support assistant, providing leadership on a variety of issues including the College of Direct Support and the ICAP process. He is a certified Heart Saver CPR/First Aid instructor, a member of the Application Evaluation Team, a liaison to OPC services in Omaha, a member of the Best Practices Committee, one of the primary instructors for human rights curriculum, a coordinator/coach/leader with PCT (Person Centered Thinking) process, and a co-leader for HIPAA training. He has provided mentorship for many service coordinators and direct support professionals over the years. He also provides support where needed for Special Olympics. And he is a volunteer and board member for Our Camp, a camp for adults with developmental disabilities.

Wallner's work chosen for ICI Biennial

James Wallner who now lives in Redfield, South Dakota, is one of eight local artists whose work appears along with art from around the country, in the ICI People's Biennial exhibit at the Dahl Arts Center through March 27. James was an artist in the Suzie Cappa Center when he created and submitted the eight pieces which were chosen for inclusion in the exhibit.

The People's Biennial exhibit is the result of a collaborative partnership between project curators Harrell Fletcher professor of Art and Social Practice, Portland State University and Jens Hoffmann, Director, Wattis Institute for Contemporary Art at California College of Art, as well as five art centers across the United States. It is the culmination of a year of travel and research into the creative communities of Portland, Oregon; Rapid City, South Dakota; Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Scottsdale Arizona; and Haverford, Pennsylvania. The People's Biennial curators participated in a series of public events and open calls where they met and talked with hundreds of artists.

During the curators visit to the Rapid City area in April 2010, they chose the work of Caleb Belden, Mary Bordeaux, Nicole Harvieux, Jake Herman, Bob Newland, Bernie Peterson, Bruce Price and James Wallner to include in the exhibition which will be seen in five art institutions around the country.



Artist James Wallner poses during the opening of the People's Biennial at the Dahl Arts Center with Brad Winter, director of the Suzie Cappa Art Center.

Capra painting image for Governor's Awards



A painting done by Anthony Capra has been selected as the signature image for the 2011 Governor's Awards in the Arts. Pat Boyd, the executive director of South

Dakotans for the Arts, saw Anthony's picture, titled Rodeo Star, in the office of Image Up, a graphic design studio. She loved it and sought the permission to use a digital image of it to produce printed materials for the banquet, including invitations, programs, a feature in South Dakotans for the Arts/South Dakota Art Council magazine Arts Alive, and an advertisement in South Dakota Magazine. They would also include the image with a media release announcing the Governor's Awards.

South Dakotans for the Arts is a statewide non-profit membership organization advancing the arts through service, education and advocacy. They partner with the South Dakota Arts Council to host the Governor's Awards in the Arts, which honor Distinction



in Creative Achievement, Outstanding Support of Arts Education, Outstanding Support of the Arts by an Individual, and Outstanding Support of the Arts by a Business or Organization, and sometimes a Special Award in the Arts. The painting will be on exhibit during the Awards Banquet which will be held in Pierre on

February 16, and Anthony and his family are invited as special guests.

According to artist Jan Sohl, whom Anthony has studied with since 2004, Anthony is the rodeo star coming out of chute #1 riding the bronc. The other people are family members and neighbors of the family on their Montana ranch.

Thanks to Shorty and Margaret Rasmussen

Black Hills Workshop Foundation proudly recognizes longtime supporters Wilfred (Shorty) and Margaret as members of the Ep Howe Family of Friends. Each member of this distinguished group has included the BHW Foundation in their estate plan. There is no better time than the New Year to review your estate plan or to make a plan. Consider it a New Year's gift for those you love.

By creating a will or making sure it is up to date, you are letting them know your wishes clearly and you will be able to help those who are important to you. Like Shorty and Margaret you can make a difference for many years to come! If you would like information on our legacy society, the Ep Howe Family of Friends, please contact JoAnne Schriver, Development Director at 605-718-6204.



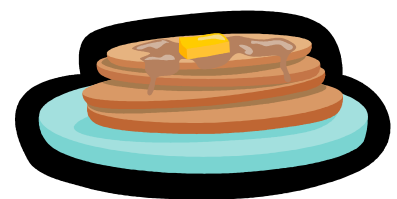
Trustees for the Rasmussen Trust, Lyndell Petersen and Beverly Lindblom. Center is Shawn Stratton, an artist in the Suzie Cappa Center. BHW received \$17,500 from the Rasmussen Memorial Trust in January.

Rushmore Lions Pancake Benefit

**February 27, 2011
7:30 a.m.- 2 p.m.**

**Black Hills Workshop
3603 Range Road
Tickets are \$6**

All proceeds benefit Black Hills Workshop and this year will be used to build a park area behind the main facility on Range Road

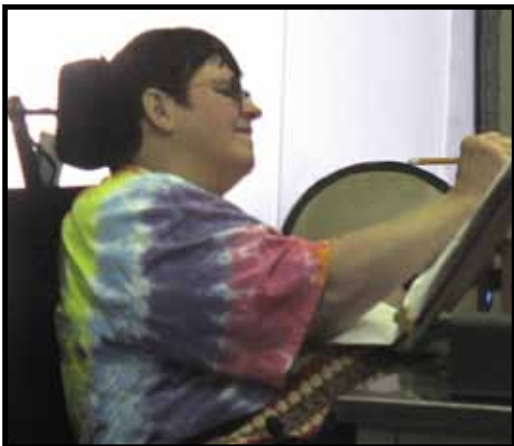


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Connie Whitley to be honored



Congratulations Connie Whitley who has been selected by the Royal Tea Committee to be Artist of the Year 2011 for the Suzie Cappa Art Center. Connie will be honored at an open house at 3:30 on February 24 and again at Suzie's Royal Tea on May 1, 2011. A painting created by Connie was chosen for this year's Black Hills Workshop Christmas card. Blank note cards with the picture have also been added to our note card collection. If you'd like to purchase any of our growing collection of note cards, contact

Sheila Muehlberg, 718-6208. Proceeds benefit the art center.

Connie has attended the Suzie Cappa Art Center since 2004. She has a passion for painting and has shown her work at the Dahl Art Center, the Central States Fair, and many other venues. She has participated in theatrical performances and is a member of Outright Dance Theatre, a local mixed-ability dance company. She has also performed in bell choir and piano recitals. Congratulations Connie on your honor!

Address changes?

Send your address changes to:

Sheila Muehlberg
Black Hills Workshop
P.O. Box 2104
Rapid City, SD 57709. Or e-mail your changes to smuehlberg@bhws.com or call 605-718-6208.

You can also e-mail your corrections to smuehlberg@bhws.com.

If you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail, contact drosby@bhws.com.

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.

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AmeriCorps members assist at BHW

Twelve AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) members served at Black Hills Workshop from November 19-January 27 supporting people in recreational and learning activities.

Joe Burmeister who heads up the Workshop's Health, Fitness & Sport Center, coordinated the group's visit. He says the majority of their days were spent in the main Workshop facility on Range Road, providing support as people work toward their goals and participate in activities. He says the extra hands meant "more one-on-one time and more enriching experiences" for the people with disabilities served by Black Hills Workshop. Joe says the NCCC members assisted the People First group with a concession stand at the Festival of Lights Parade on November 27. They assisted people served who volunteered for a Habitat for Humanity build. And they assisted people in the sensory area to make and deliver candy-filled Christmas stockings to children at Black Hills Children's Home. They taught bus riding skills and other classes. They assisted with bowling, the Christmas dance, and other recreational activities. And they painted the gym interior and did some other maintenance tasks.

This is the second time NCCC members have assisted Black Hills Workshop. A group was here last spring performing similar functions. Black Hills Workshop and the people we support have benefitted greatly from their energy,

enthusiasm, and hard work.

AmeriCorps NCCC is a full-time, team-based residential program for men and women ages 18-24. NCCC members are organized into teams of 10-12 members and serve in communities in the areas of disaster preparation, response, and recovery; environmental conservation; public safety; urban and rural development; and education. According to team members Matt Baker and Taylor Deely, this particular group has worked on several other projects together already, most recently in the removal of invasive species on prairies along the Minnesota/South Dakota border for the

Nature Conservancy. They have also done disaster relief in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Waterloo, Iowa and they worked with a YMCA summer camp in Michigan. This will be the last assignment for the group before they conclude their service.

NCCC and other AmeriCorps programs are administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Each year, the Corporation engages four million Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service through its Senior Corps, AmeriCorps and Learn and Service American programs. For more information, visit <http://www.nationalservice.gov>.



People in the sensory area made Christmas stockings, stuffed them with candy then delivered them to the Black Hills Children's Home. Pictured are Heather Moncher (AmeriCorps), Mike Atkins, Kelly Blossmo, Chantil Wilkerson, Cammi Kellogg and Taylor Deely (AmeriCorps).



Andrew McMullin and Matt Morin are two of six people supported by Black Hills Workshop who assisted with a Habitat for Humanity build on December 14. Along with support staff, they were joined by eight AmeriCorps volunteers.

**6th Annual
Black Hills
Brain Injury
Conference
May 5 & 6
Ramkota
Rapid City, SD
Keynote address by
Lee Woodruff**

**See brainrehab.org for
information**