

# TRANSITIONS

*Black Hills Workshop & Training Center*

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

## Giving and receiving: Holidays at BHW

The generosity of the Rapid City community is especially evident during the holiday season when many businesses and individuals make an extra effort to brighten the holiday season for those we serve. We were able to purchase Christmas gifts for 73 people thanks to generous donations from Civitan of Rapid City, several individuals, and many staff members. KLMP radio collected gifts for another 38 people. The Shriners also made their annual Christmas visit. We appreciate all who gave so generously. Meanwhile, the people we serve also found ways to brighten the holidays for others.

- Luke Utecht saved his money to buy his family and friends Christmas gifts. While he was shopping with service coordinator Suzette Coy, he saw an Angel Tree. After learning more about it, he picked a tag off the tree for a one-year-old child. Suzette says Luke was very excited to help a little boy have a better Christmas. "Luke learned that this is a way to give back to his community," said Suzette.

- Staff and residents of Wisconsin Apartments made cupcakes for those served by WAVI, and 15 people from LaCrosse apartments gathered on November 22 to make care packages and sign Christmas cards for Ellsworth troops who are stationed overseas. The group had pooled their money to purchase the items included in the boxes. They also enjoyed an ornament exchange and refreshments.

- Throughout the year, participants in the Elderly Area deliver meals for the Meals Program. On December 15, they also delivered seven homemade lap quilts they had made with help from Carla Julius, an instructor in Sensory.

- On December 22, seven crocheted lap quilts were presented to residents of the Golden Living Center who visited the Workshop. Much of the yarn

for the quilts was donated and the quilts were created by participants in STEPS Classes. Carla Julius said even those who were unable to crochet enjoyed the sensory experience of the feel and color of the yarn. After the quilt presentation, the Golden Living residents stayed to paint in the Suzie Cappa Center.



*Instructor Carla Julius poses with Ben, one of the recipients of a hand-made blanket made by individuals at Black Hills Workshop.*

## Homes from the Heart

Black Hills Workshop's waiting list is 44 and growing. One of the main contributing factors to the growing list is the lack of residential options for people with disabilities. We receive emergency requests for places to live monthly. Many people with severe disabilities live with aging parents who are no longer capable of providing daily care. To help ease the shortage, the Black Hills Workshop Foundation has initiated a campaign to build or purchase five safe, accessible, and affordable homes. Four or five individuals will share each home. They will be supported by our staff as they grow in skill and independence. Your financial support would make a huge difference in the lives of adults with disabilities. Use the enclosed envelope to make your donation, or if you are aware of homes that might fit our purposes, contact Dennis Popp at 718-7466.

## BH Services to be honored by American Legion

BH Services has been selected to receive the 2009 South Dakota American Legion Employer of the Disabled Award by the South Dakota American Legion Employment Committee. BH Services' mission is to provide employment opportunities for people with disabilities served by Black Hills Workshop. Currently they employ 100 people with disabilities at Ellsworth Air Force Base and in Rapid City. American Legion Post 315 of Box Elder submitted the BH Services nomination. BH Services will be recognized during the 91st Annual Convention of the American Legion Department of South Dakota in Huron in June.

# Anniversary highlights



*Thanks to all who participated to make our anniversary year a terrific success*

## Friends best part of job



(Jolene Hopperdietzel is a pre-vocational associate instructor float. She wrote the following employee testimonial.)

*I start my day at Minnesota Group Home helping get individuals served ready for work. Then I head to BHWT where I help wherever I'm needed. We are currently very busy with the BSI, SymCom, and CB Nickels contracts. I'm usually cutting string, tying knots, checking boxes, or helping in the kitchen or rest-rooms. I have been employed at Black Hills Workshop for 18 years. I really enjoy the people served and have really learned to adapt to different situations. I have to come out of my comfort zone and that is good for me. The best part of my job is experiencing new, old and lasting friendships that I will hold dear forever.*

Black Hills Workshop is a great place to work! Our employees receive excellent benefits, opportunities to learn new skills, and the knowledge that they make a difference. If you're interested in employment, call our job line at 343-4581 or see our web site at [www.bhws.com](http://www.bhws.com).

## Apa recipient of education funds

Congratulations Alecia Apa, the first employee to receive a \$1000 check in Black Hills Workshop's new education assistance program. Alecia is studying for her masters of psychology through the University of Phoenix. Education assistance is one of the many benefits enjoyed by employees of Black Hills Workshop.

## Repertory Dance Theatre visits Suzie Cappa Center



*When the Repertory Dance Theatre from Salt Lake City performed in Rapid City in January, the Suzie Cappa Center was one of several outreach locations they visited. On January 15, dancers provided some simple movement instructions and did a demonstration at the center. In back row are Dean Baker, Cindy Rooney, Darlene Brookbank, Brad Winter, Kathy Reed, and Donna Martinek. Front row Shad Bebout, Katie McOwen, and Marilyn Hazlett.*

## March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Everyone wants and deserves the opportunity to participate meaningfully in all aspects of their community, and communities benefit when all citizens contribute. At Black Hills Workshop, we believe it is in the public interest if everyone is able to make decisions for themselves, exercise their full rights and responsibilities, and use their talents in support of the common good. Our vision is that all people are good neighbors, valued friends, productive workers, respected leaders, and caring volunteers. We work toward making this vision a reality every day.

## Schmitt celebrates 15 years



*Brenda Schmitt was honored on November 18 for 15 years of service at the east side Family Thrift store. Brenda works as a custodian at the store.*

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

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## Black Hills Workshop float takes home prize from Parade of Lights

Congratulations Black Hills Workshop maintenance and mechanic departments on winning the nonprofit division for "Best Use of Lights" on our Festival of Lights float.

Black Hills Workshop was the Grand Marshal, of the parade, leading the 70-plus floats through downtown Rapid City on November 29. The float featured our 2008 Gala winners, **Eric Rude, Darlene Running Bear, Heather Kickery, and Brian Bertsch**. Maintenance staff and mechanics walked beside the float, which was the last official activity in a year-long celebration of Black Hills Workshop's fiftieth anniversary.

The People First group was also involved in the annual Festival of Lights, operating a concession stand. Part of their proceeds will be donated to a local charity.



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](mailto:drosby@bhws.com). Visit us at our web site at [bhws.com](http://bhws.com).

# Thank you to our generous contributors

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#### **Dan Robinson**

Robinson, Monica

#### **Mary Swanson**

Jones, Rebecca

### *In Memory*

#### **Marjorie Baehler**

Baehler family  
Charboneau, Mr. & Mrs. Don  
Czoschke, Shirley  
Turpin, Mildene

#### **Lloyd Bourne**

Wiltfong, Eva

#### **Suzie Cappa**

Lindquist-Scoville, Adam & Stephanie

#### **James Alan Christensen**

Ellis, Joseph  
Rosenkranz, Jean & Curt  
Volker, Rocky & Dianne

#### **Virginia Emley**

Von Seggem, Patricia

#### **Irene Fredericks**

Wiltfong, Eva

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Gasseling, John & Selina  
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Ham, Donna  
Hinkley, Diane  
Honerkamp, John & Marie  
Hustead, Ted & Karen  
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Livesey, R.A. & R.E.  
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Turpin, Mildene  
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 RCC Western Stores  
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 Seeley Clothing  
 Smith, Patti & David  
 Stamper-Black Hills Gold  
 Super-Lube  
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 Watiki Water Park  
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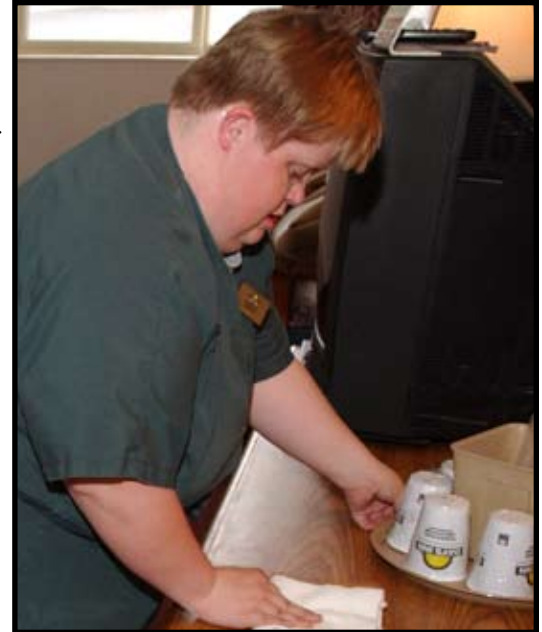
Please check your address label. If you have changes or corrections, send them to: **Sheila Muehlberg, Black Hills Workshop, P.O. Box 2104, Rapid City, SD 57709.** You can also e-mail your changes to [smuehlberg@bhws.com](mailto:smuehlberg@bhws.com) or call 605-718-6208.

## Donations at work

Sitka Group Home hosted an open house on December 11 to honor the donors who contributed to the purchase of the new overhead track system and the wireless paging system now in use there. Our thanks to the Rushmore Lions Club, Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Black Hills Association of Realtors, and Midcontinent Communications for making Sitka a better place to live.

## Peterson joins local group

After participating in the Buddy Walk last summer, Darcy Peterson told instructor Jimi Obretenov that she was interested in joining the Ups of Downs Family Support Group. Ups of Downs is the Black Hills Area support group for families with children and adults who have Down syndrome. They sponsor the annual Buddy Walk presented by Knology. On November 20, Jimi took Darcy to a group meeting. Jimi says that during the meeting, members were nominating people to serve on their board. After expressing interest, Darcy was nominated and elected. She is very excited to have this position. She says she's determined to get the message out that even if someone is born with Down syndrome, they can still live their life, work, have their own apartment, and be very independent.



*Darcy Peterson is employed in the local hospitality industry.*

### **Black Hills Workshop Pancake Breakfast**

**Sunday, February 22**

**8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Black Hills Workshop**

**3603 Range Road**

**Sponsored and hosted by the Rushmore Lions Club**

**Admission is \$6.00**

**Children 8 and under eat free**

### **Other upcoming events**

***Suzie's Royal Tea-April 19***

**2-4 p.m.**

**Location to be announced**

**Honoring Nancy Weiss, Artist of the Year**

***Black Hills Workshop Golf Classic***

**July 20**

**Meadowbrook Golf Course**

*For information, call JoAnne Schriver at (605) 718-6204.*