



Boswell Regional Center Bulletin

April 2016

A Publication for Employees, Family and Friends of BRC

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Autism Awareness Day

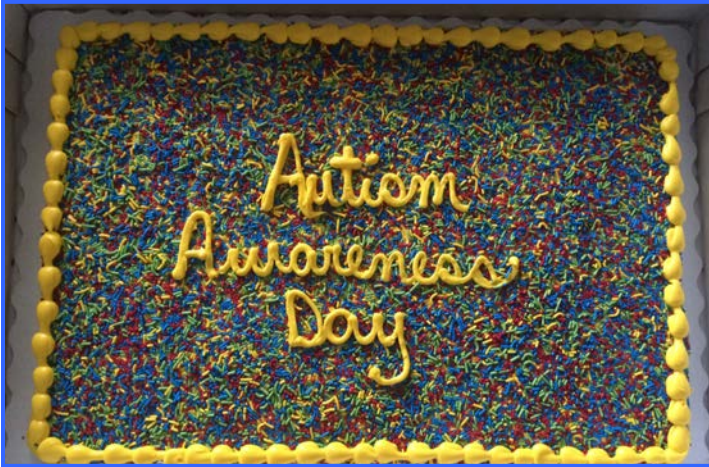
The month of April is celebrated annually as National Autism Month. On Friday, April 29th Morton Group Home had Autism Awareness Day. The celebration began that morning at 10:00 a.m. with the City of Magee Mayor, Jimmy Clyde, signing a proclamation in honor of the ones served. Many events followed. The face painting contest, the art projects and the petting zoo were the biggest hits! A surprise visit from BRC's pet therapy Labradoodle, Donna Vella, put a smile on everyone's face. Lunch was served, and the Autism cake literally put the icing on it! Autism Services provides an environment for support and success in a community setting. The day ended with popcorn and snow cones.

The publication of the BRC Bulletin is made possible by contributions from our dedicated and talented employees. The articles and pictures were written, taken and formatted by BRC employees. Their contributions are greatly appreciated! We sincerely hope that you enjoy this edition of the Boswell Regional Center Bulletin, April 2016 Issue.



Autism Awareness Day

continued



Message From Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health

Ms. Diana Mikula



The 2016 Legislative Session came to a close on Thursday, April 21 when the Mississippi House of Representatives adjourned sine die, one day after the Senate also adjourned sine die. Though there is the possibility of a special session before the end of the year, the Mississippi Legislature is not scheduled to convene again until January 2017.

Unfortunately, some of the priorities we had hoped for did not materialize in this session. We strongly advocated for a pay raise for our direct care employees. Many of you advocated for that as well, and I am grateful for the support so many people showed in contacting their legislators and even visiting the Capitol to see their legislators in person. We had hoped to see that funding reflected in our appropriations bill, but that wasn't the case.

As many of you know by now, our appropriations bill, Senate Bill 2888, appropriated a smaller amount of funding than we received last year. We received a cut of 4.39 percent, which amounts to \$8.3 million. DMH has been no stranger to budget cuts over the past several years. We are operating with significantly less funding and fewer employees than we were in 2008. However, we are simply unable to absorb a budget cut of that amount at this point in time without decreasing our level of services. Our Program Directors are examining ways to absorb this budget cut in a manner that will affect the fewest number of people in the smallest possible ways.

We have difficult decisions to make coming up in the very near future. We are still examining the full impact this budget cut will have, along with the impact of Senate Bill 2362, which swept funding from state agencies' budgets. We hope to have more information for you as soon as we possibly can, but one thing we can say without a doubt is our priority will be to ensure the health and safety of the people we serve.

As budget bills were filed and going through the legislative process, there were many people who spoke publicly about the need for adequate mental health funding. These were everyday citizens like yourself, but other elected officials, legislators, and advocates. I have to thank NAMI Mississippi for writing an open letter to Legislature urging them to continue level funding DMH and noting the success we have had our community expansion efforts. Several state agencies took cuts significantly larger than our 4.39 percent reduction, so we must also remember the Legislature placed value on our services and agency despite looking at the projected shortfall in revenue.

One success we had was in securing the funding to continue work replacing East Mississippi State Hospital's receiving unit. The current facility dates back to the original construction of the hospital, and the hospital's Joint Commission accreditation was in jeopardy if a new receiving unit is not in place by December 2019. The \$7.5 million appropriation granted by the Legislature this session will ensure a new receiving unit is in place by the Joint Commission's deadline.

DMH was also successful in securing the appropriation of \$16 million needed to maintain the public mental health system's community expansion efforts. This funding has been used for PACT teams, Mobile Crisis Response Teams, ID/DD Waiver services, and other essential community services. We are grateful the Legislature recognized the value these services have for Mississippians in need.

As we move forward in the year, we will do all we can to ensure our legislative leaders and elected officials are aware of the services DMH is providing and the needs our state still has. Please remember that in your own time and with your own resources, you can also contact your legislators and elected officials to share your thoughts with them. As we saw this year, the feedback they receive from us as constituents can and does make a difference.

Sincerely,
Diana Mikula

Change of Signs

It was a great day at Boswell Regional Center! On April 22nd at the Annual BRC Employee Recognition Banquet, two signs were revealed naming two streets on the BRC campus after DMH Board Members. One street is now labeled as Dr. Sampat Shivangi Lane, and the other is Dr. James Herzog Circle.



Top Picture: Dr. Udaya Shivang, Dr. Sampat Shivangi, Dr. James Herzog and Mrs. Angela Herzog.



Left picture: Dr. Sampat Shivangi; Steven Allen, Director of BRC; and Dr. Udaya Shivangi, wife of Dr. Sampat Shivangi, taking time out to pose by the beautiful street sign. Right picture: Mrs. Angela Herzog, Dr. James Herzog and Steven Allen, Director of BRC.

Entergy Presentation



Entergy presented a check in the amount of \$250 for Special Olympics Area 2. Present to accept the check was Cindy Womack, Assistant Director; Sandra Powlett, Customer Service Representative for Entergy; and Steven Allen; Director of BRC. Special Olympics is a national organization that provides children and adults with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to develop, improve fitness and motor skills, and gain self-confidence and a more positive self-image. Participating in Special Olympics gives the athletes a chance to showcase their talents.

The Special Olympics Torch Run is an annual event held to kick off the beginning of Summer Games for the ones served. This year the ceremony will be held on May 18th at 1:00p.m. downtown Magee at Boswell Industries, with the law enforcement and city officials lining up at the Magee City Park. Representatives from the Simpson County Sheriff's Department, Magee Police Department, Mendenhall Police Department, United States Marshal Services, Madison County Police Department, Biloxi Police Department, the Mississippi Highway Patrol, Magee Fire Department and Boswell Regional Center Campus Security will be present.

Spotlight on Cindy Quick



Ms. Cindy Quick
Director of Staff Development

The spotlight of the month is on Ms. Cindy Quick. She has worked at Boswell for 15 years. Before coming to Boswell, Cindy taught school at Prentiss Elementary for ten years. Cindy received her bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in Special Education. She is a Certified Public Manager and has attended the Stennis Institute. Cindy has worked as a QMRP (currently QIDP), Education Teacher, Director of Education, and Unit 2 Administrator while at Boswell. She is currently the Director of the Staff Development Department.

Cindy is married to Danny Quick. They reside in Prentiss, MS. Danny is the Headmaster of Prentiss Christian School. Cindy and Danny have a daughter Morgan Quick McRaney and a son Joseph Quick. Morgan is married to Levi McRaney, and they have one son, Kase Daniel McRaney. Joseph is a student at the University of Southern Mississippi majoring in Construction Engineering. Cindy's first grandchild was born on March 9,

2016, and he is the light of his granny's life. Cindy enjoys spending time with her grandbaby, taking care of her family, and traveling. Her favorite spot in the summer is the beach.



Special Olympics



The Special Olympics qualifying games were held at Green Park on April 9th.

Mission Statement

Boswell Regional Center offers Specialized program options to Mississippians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. These programs are designed to identify the necessary supports for successful community transition. With collaboration between the individual, family, and community, dreams can become reality.

Where Dreams Can Become Reality

Catfish Festival



Some of the people served by Boswell Regional Center recently went to the Catfish Festival in Belzoni.

Happy 80th Birthday!

By: Kathy Dampeer-Pittman

On April 27, 2016, Ms. Connie Sue celebrated her 80th birthday just a tad early. On Saturday, April 30th she turned the big 80! What a blessing! The room was filled with balloons as she sat in her chair all smiles! The table was loaded with chips and dips as the aroma of grilled hamburgers filled the room. On a table nearby sat a beautiful cake all decorated in pink and white flowers. Excitement was in the air as Connie stated, "Take my picture and put it in the Boswell newsletter." Events like this are not possible without dedicated staff who come together to make this happen. Enjoy your day Ms. Connie Sue! We love you.



Karate Kid

By: Janet Runnels



Jessica Phelps from Pine Grove is taking Karate at The Muscle Hut in Magee. She takes classes on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7:45-8:30. Mr. Steven Ford is her instructor. Keisha and LouAnn take Jessica on Monday evenings, and Danielle takes her on Wednesday evenings. Jessica was tested on Monday, March 21st for her Yellow belt. Jessica gave me the order of the belts: White (beginner), Yellow, Yellow Advance, Orange, Orange Advance, Green, Green Advance, Red, Red Advance, Blue, Blue Advance, Brown, Brown Advance, Black (highest). In order to move to the next level, you have to earn 4 stripes on your current level.

Jessica started taking Karate back in September 2015. She heard about the classes through Kerry Bynum and Bro. Rudy Jackson. Jessica stated, "I love going to Karate. It's great for me, and keeps me out of trouble." She learns new moves each week. Jessica has made several friends in her karate class. One of her friends is her instructor's daughter. Jessica is in the adults' class, but The Muscle Hut offers Karate classes for all ages. Jessica says that the class is \$100 per month, and her mom helps her pay for the classes.

Speaking of Jessica's mom, I asked her what her mother thought of her taking Karate. Jessica says that her mom approves and is proud of her. When Jessica goes home, she shows her mom all the new moves she has learned. Ms. Piskovitz (Jessica's mom) told Jessica that she could continue with Karate as long as she doesn't practice on anyone. Ha! Jessica says she uses the Karate classes for discipline and exercise. It is helping her stretch and build muscles. Jessica said that before classes start, they do some warm up exercises such as jumping jacks, push ups, etc.

Sometimes Jessica's house mates go with her to karate. She said she doesn't mind them sitting in the class as long as they are quiet and respectful. She says sometimes they get to talking too loud, and it distracts her. Most of the time, they sit out in the work out area. Jessica also stated that she gets nervous when

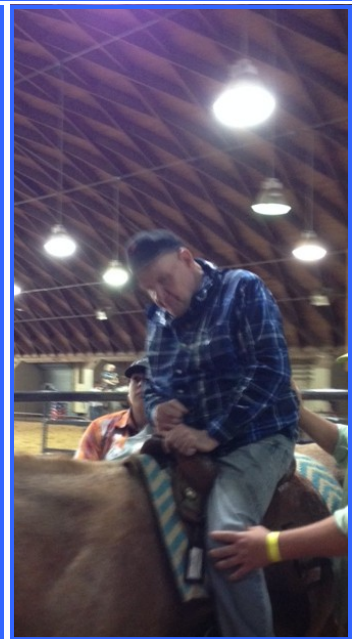
her house mates watch her. The staff watching her does not make her as nervous.

Jessica's goals are to earn her Black belt and participate in tournaments. She looks forward to going to her Karate classes. When asked what motivates her, she said having good behavior.

Jessica stated that she is very proud of herself for what she has learned and accomplished in her karate classes. She wants her mom, house mates, staff, Ken, Kerry, and Steven Allen to be proud of her too. She is proud of having earned her Yellow Belt.



Dream Haven Visits Horses for the Handicapped



Yard of the Month



The Wesson Geriatric Group Home was selected as Yard of the month for April by the Wesson Garden Club.



Pastor's Corner



**Bro. Rudy Jackson,
BRC Chaplain**

Doctors from Coral Gables, Fla., compared the efficiency of the heart's pumping action in 18 men with coronary artery disease to nine healthy controls. Each of the study participants underwent one physical stress test (riding an exercise bicycle) and three mental stress tests (doing math problems in their heads, recalling a recent incident that had made them very angry, and giving a short speech to defend themselves against a hypothetical charge of shoplifting). Using sophisticated X-ray techniques, the doctors took pictures of the subjects' hearts in action during these tests. For all the subjects, anger reduced the amount of blood that the heart pumped to body tissues more than the other tests, but this was especially true for those who had heart disease. Why anger is so much more potent than fear or mental stress is anybody's guess. Your anger may not last very long but neither does a tornado.

James 1:19-20: Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.



BRC Orientation Class



Front row L-R: Stephanie Jenkins (Brookhaven Autism), Jasmine Smith (CS-Choctaw), Tyisha Jackson (CS- Cedarwood), Trevorios Holmes (Wesson), Amber Westmoreland (Oakbrook). Back row L-R: Cortney Vanderschaaf (Oakbrook), Vernon Walker (Pinelake), Precious Patterson (Brookhaven Autism), Lynette Robinson (Wesson), Demi Rhodes (CS-Broadhead), Jeffery Williamson (Fairway).

Pittman Retires

By: Kathy Dampeer-Pittman

While it is hard to see co-workers retire from Boswell Regional Center, we are happy that they will be free to participate in all those things they have been planning on doing upon their retirement. Whether it is travel, spending time with family or other employment, we congratulate them on reaching this milestone and wish them well. Each retiree is honored with a certificate and a chance to say goodbye to their fellow employees at a retirement reception. Pittman stated, "I have really enjoyed working at BRC for all of these years. I will spend time now with my boys and their various sports; however, the ones we serve will forever remain in my heart."



Pictured above, front row: Connor Pittman (son), Janice Dampeer (Mother-in-Law), Hazel Pittman (Mother), Elandis Thompson (Nephew). Back row: Chandler Pittman (son), Kathy Dampeer-Pittman (wife), Virgil Walker (Father), DeWayne Pittman (retiree), and Karell Dampeer (Brother-in-law).

Pictured left : Steven Allen, Director of Boswell Regional Center, shakes hands with retiree DeWayne Pittman as he wishes him well.

Tracy Dampier Spirit Award

The Tracy Dampier Spirit Award is awarded to a well-deserving employee of Boswell Regional Center. This year's winner is Connie Powell. This award seeks to recognize Direct Support Staff who, by virtue of their daily efforts, go beyond the expectations of their position, promote a sense of dedication, humility, and heartfelt commitment to the individuals served by Boswell Regional Center. The award hopes to raise the awareness of individual contributions to BRC, show appreciation for those individuals who contribute to the realization of these goals, and recognize those who excel in making BRC a better place to work and care for the individuals who are served. All Direct Support Staff are eligible to receive this award.

Tracy Dampier began his career with Boswell Regional Center in 2000. He was a dedicated employee who showed outstanding dedication and love for the individuals he cared for. Tragically his life came to an all too short end in 2011 when he was killed in an automobile accident. This award is dedicated to him and the memory of the commitment he showed to BRC. Connie received a plaque; \$100 presented by Debbie Walker, Branch Manager at Peoples Bank; a free detail from Main Avenue Detail; a ZIP burger and fries and the two piece chicken dinner from Popeye's in Magee.



Pictured: Cindy Womack, Assistant Director of BRC; Debbie Walker, Branch Officer at Peoples Bank; Connie Powell, Tracy Dampier Spirit Award winner; and Steven Allen, Director of BRC.

Longevity Award

The late Shirley Hawthorne Harper departed this life on April 9th, just under a month before her anticipated retirement from Boswell Regional Center. She was a faithful employee for thirty three years. She began her career as a Direct Care Worker, and through hard work and dedication she became a Mental Health Active Treatment Technician. She loved the ones she served dearly, and they loved her just the same. Shirley's smile and laughter will be missed at BRC. Present to receive the Longevity Award in memory of his mother was her son, Julian Harper.



Pictured: Cindy Womack, Assistant Director; Rev. Ike Durr, President of the Friends and Family Association; Julian Harper, son of the late Shirley Hawthorne Harper; and Steven Allen, Director of BRC.

Eisenhower Durr Leadership Award

In 2015, Reverend Eisenhower Durr received the Eisenhower Durr Leadership Award in recognition of his outstanding ability, accomplishments, leadership and service to Boswell Regional Center. The past 12 years he has served as the President of Boswell Regional Center's Friends and Family Association. Beginning this year the Eisenhower Durr Leadership Award was presented to a Director at Boswell Regional Center. Each Director nominated a fellow Director whom he or she admires and respects. One who is loyal and dedicated to Boswell Regional Center. This year's winner is Ronald Britt!



Pictured: Cindy Womack; Assistant Director of BRC, Ronald Brett; Eisenhower Durr Leadership Award winner, Steven Allen; Director of BRC and Renee Britt; Director of Bureau of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

BRC Employees of the Year!

Lottie Keyes of Nutritional Services, and Nina Magee Fairway, were named as Boswell Regional Center's Employees of the Year for 2015 during the annual Employee of the Year Recognition Banquet held on Friday, April 22nd. Boswell Regional Center recognizes Employees of the Month in the areas of professional and support staff.

Boswell Regional Center Director, Steven Allen, made the announcement during the awards portion of the program. Allen said, "They were dedicated employees and very deserving of the honor." Keyes and Magee were presented with a plaque, a two piece dinner from Popeye's, a ZIP Burger and fries, a free detail from Main Avenue Detail and \$100 donated by the Friends and Family Association of BRC.

Congratulations to both of you for a job well done!



Pictured: Cindy Womack, Assistant Director of BRC; State Representative Noah Sanford, District 90; Dr. Sampat Shivangi, DMH Board Member; Nina Magee, BRC Employee of the Year; Lottie Keyes, BRC Employee of the Year; Dr. James Herzog, DMH Board Member; Renee Brett, Director of Bureau of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities; Steven Allen, Director of BRC.

Business Sponsor of the Year

On Friday, April 22nd during the Employee of the Year Recognition Banquet, Priority One Bank was named Business Sponsor of the Year. The staff and the individuals who are served greatly appreciate a community that is so welcoming. Priority One Bank sponsors cookouts for the individuals, a luau, provides refreshments and gifts for the individuals during the Christmas holidays, and even displays BRC Earthenware in the lobby of the office located on Hwy 49 in Magee. Thank you for caring and always being there!



Pictured above: Cindy Womack, Assistant Director of BRC; Cynthia Bynum, VP/Branch Manager at Priority One Bank; and Steven Allen, Director of BRC.

MAC Governor's Service Award



Mississippi Adolescent Center employee Tammy Bass received a Governor's service award in recognition of 10 years of state service. Tammy Bass was recognized for her dedication to MAC at the April Directors' meeting. Tammy is a C-shift Residential Living Staff. Congratulations!

MAC March EOM



MAC's EOM for March 2016 is Latasha Grady. Latasha is an LPN at the Mississippi Adolescent Center.

C. Osborne's Memorial

"What's Fun For if You Can't Have it?"

~ C. Osborne's favorite quote



Staff and close friends of C. Osborne released yellow balloons in her memory. Yellow was her favorite color!

In Memory Of

Boswell Regional Center mourned the loss of three great people during the month of April, including Mrs. Shirley Harper, who was a BRC employee for 33 years. She was also the winner of the Longevity Award which was presented to her son Julian Harper in her absence.



R. Jones
3/28/1970—4/08/2016



C. Osborne
09/14/1945—04/11/2016

Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. "For My yoke is easy, and My load is light."



Shirley Harper
01/19/1961—4/09/2016



Boswell Industries (Old Fred's Bldg)

End of Main Street Magee

Wednesday, May 18th

1:00 P.M.

(line up at the Magee City Park @ 12:30)



***Creating Your
Own Path:
Successful Transitions for
Persons with Autism***

A conference by the
Mississippi Statewide Autism Training Initiative.

Hosted at:

Broadmoor Baptist Church
1531 Highland Colony Parkway
Madison, MS 39110

****SAVE THE DATE****

September 8, 2016

8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If you require any auxiliary aids, services, or special requirements, please contact: Peggy Kelly at 601-867-5000 ext. 75241, pkelly@boswell.state.ms.us or Teresa Johnson at 601-867-5000 ext. 75018, tjohnson@boswell.state.ms.us. For more information, please visit our website at: <http://www.brc.ms.gov/Pages/autismtraining.aspx>.



Center for Discovery, Integration & Transformation

Advanced Professional Social Work Continuing Education:

2016

Trauma Series: Matthew Vasquez, PhD

May 20

Trauma informed practice for social workers: An advanced overview of traumatic stress and innovative approaches to its treatment (3CEs)

June 11

The new science of neglect: An overview of brain development, affect regulation, and the implication for social work practice (3CEs)

July 16

Understanding trauma and traumatic stress for health care professionals (3CEs)

August 13

(Repeat)

Trauma informed practice for social workers: An advanced overview of traumatic stress and innovative approaches to its treatment (3CEs)

Child Maltreatment Series: Tamara Hurst, PhD, LCSW

September 16

Recognizing and reporting child maltreatment: An overview for helping professionals (3CEs)

October 14

Understanding forensic interviews of children for mental health, health care, and criminal justice professionals(3CEs)

November 18

Labor and sex trafficking: What is it and does it happen here? (3CEs)

Each class: \$60 Regular/\$45 Early Bird

Space is Limited/Pre-registration Required

Class Time: 9:00 am – 12:15 pm

For more information & to register visit our website www.usm.edu/social-work

Registration Opens on April 20, 2016



THE CLAIBORNE
PREMIER RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

All workshops are hosted by The Claiborne at Hattiesburg, 200 Whispering Pines Boulevard, Hattiesburg, MS 39402. Located off Veterans Memorial Drive between Timberton subdivision and the Family Y.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE
(Magee, Brookhaven, New Hebron
and Shivers)

Direct Support Professionals are needed
for all shifts and locations.

If you believe that helping people
matters, then we need you at BRC!

For more information contact:

Human Resources
601-867-5000 Ext. 75079

P. O. Box 128
Magee, MS 39111



Boswell Regional Center

Where dreams can become reality.

Mission Statement

Boswell Regional Center (BRC) offers specialized program options to Mississippians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD). These programs are designed to identify the necessary supports for successful community transition. With collaboration between the person, family, and community, dreams can become reality.

Programs

Boswell Regional Center programs offer an extensive range of program and service options to those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD). The primary goal of each existing program using a person centered approach is to allow each person to live more independently and to fulfill their lives through meaningful days.

Programs and services offered through BRC include:

Community Options:

- In Home Services
- Community Living
- Crisis Transition Homes
- Employment Opportunities
 - Day Options
 - Behavior Services
 - Autism Services



Campus Options:

On Campus Residential Services

On Site Day Programs

Membership Information

Indicate at right which type of membership you wish by circling the appropriate amount.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please make your check payable to:
Friends & Family Association
P.O. Box 128
Magee, MS 39111

Annual Membership Fees

Single/BRC Employee - Free

Single/Non-employee \$5

Bronze \$25

Silver \$50

Gold \$100

Platinum \$500

Fundraisers

Some examples of fundraisers that have been held are:

Scrub Sales

Jewelry Sales

Book Fairs

RADA Knives

T-shirt Sales

Special Hosted Events

Purpose

To promote and support the individuals of Boswell Regional Center

To foster the development of programs on their behalf

To recognize and reward the efforts of employees of Boswell Regional Center

To raise and receive funds for the accomplishment of the above purposes.

Boswell Regional Center's



Boswell Regional Center

Boswell Regional Center
Post Office Box 128
Magee, MS 39111
Telephone: 601-867-5000
www.brc.state.ms.us
A MS Department of Mental Health Facility



Boswell Regional Center's Friends & Family Association is a non profit all volunteer organization that works to ensure Boswell individuals are valued and loved.

All monies received from memberships are donated to the organization to purchase items for the individuals served by Boswell Regional Center.

Donations

Donations may be made in memory or honor of a loved one:

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

By: _____

Acknowledgement should be sent to the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

State: ___ Zip Code: _____

Phone: (___) _____

Email: _____

Boswell Regional Center

**Friends & Family Association
P.O. Box 128
Magee, MS 39111**

**Boswell
Regional
Center
Friends and
Family
Association**



*Where Dreams Can
Become Reality!*