



Boswell Regional Center Bulletin

August 2016

A Publication for Employees, Family and Friends of BRC

Pool Party

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The Community Pool Party held on Wednesday, August 31st was a success! Activities that took place were football toss, bowling, basketball, and sponge toss where the individuals had a chance to soak Community IDD Director, Ronald Britt. Prior to outside festivities, Community Services office employees served the individuals and staff sausage dogs, chips, cookies, and drinks. Greg Barnes kept spirits high with lively music. What's best served at a pool party on a hot day? Snow cones and ice cream! A special thanks to the lifeguards and all who helped serve, decorate, cook, coordinate, and clean up.



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, August 2016 Issue.

Pool Party Pictures



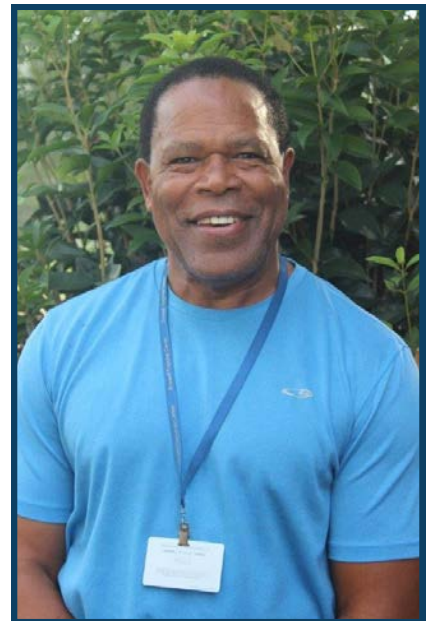
Spotlight on Rosalynn Forrest



Rosalynn Forrest, Division Director, is our Spotlight for the month of August. She is a graduate of Southwest Mississippi Junior College where she obtained her Associates of Arts Degree, Jackson State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree, Mississippi State University with a Masters in Public Policy and Administration, and she is a 2008 graduate of the Certified Public Management (CPM). Rosalynn has worked for the Department of Mental Health since 2002, but has been employed in other state agencies such as the Mississippi Department of Human Services and the Mississippi Department of Public Health. Rosalynn was born and raised in Chicago, IL, and moved to Mississippi in 1982. She is married to her high school sweetheart, and they have four children; Adriana, Thomas, Cecily and Douglas. She smiles and states, "I can't leave out my first grandbaby, Sammie." She enjoys horseback riding, four wheeling, fishing and most of all she enjoys yard work. Rosalynn also volunteers with Delta Gem Youth, McComb Youth Council, and Sunshine, Inc.

Meet The Supervisor *Sonny Everette*

Title: Program Service Supervisor
Length of Employment: 28 years of State Service
Hire Date: September 1988
Hometown: Brandon, MS
Wife: Joycelyn Jones Everette
Hobbies: Working in the yard, visiting historical places
Church: Sand Hill Church, Brandon, MS.
Favorite Food: All types of seafood
Favorite Restaurant: Jason's Deli
Favorite Vacation Spot: Big Sur California
A place you would like to visit: Alaska
Favorite music: Contemporary Rock
Favorite song: Memories, by Elvis



When asked what he likes about Boswell Regional Center:

Alvin "Sonny" Everette states, "It has been an honor and a pleasure for 28 years to work at Boswell Regional Center. It's by far the most fulfilling job I've ever had. I truly believe working at BRC was a calling from the Lord. On a daily basis I have a chance to make a positive difference in an individual's life. This job isn't for everyone, but I am grateful to God for the opportunity to be of service to others. The one thing that God has inspired in me during my time at BRC is to always serve others with love and, above all, humility. Thank you, Boswell family, for 28 great years! I love you all."

Special Olympics

By: Calvert Sims, Jr.

Special Olympics Mississippi gave North MS Regional Center and Boswell Regional Center an invitation to participate in the Special Olympics North America Softball Tournament held in Roanoke, Virginia. This was a wonderful experience for our athletes, Unified Partners and coaches to participate with various softball teams from all over the world. This year we had a team to travel as far as Canada to participate in this grand event. Our team (The Mississippi Warriors) finished with the Silver medal in our division losing the Gold medal game 7-3 to the Nebraska Sharks. We had a marvelous time with great competition, sportsmanship, and fellowship displayed by all the teams that participated. The following individuals and staff participated in this event: Sam Banks, Plaze Thomas, Warren Cochran, James Randolph, Curtis Skiffer, Jeremy Clark, Lisa Westbrook (Team Manager), Trinessa Walker (Assistant Coach) and Calvert Sims, Jr. (Assistant Coach). I would like to thank Mrs. Diana Mikula and Mr. Steven Allen for allowing us to participate in this event. I would also like to thank everyone at Boswell Regional Center for their support of The Pearl River Region Chapter (Area 2) of Mississippi Special Olympics.



Direct Support Professionals Week

September 12-16 is observed as Direct Support Professional week. The City of Magee Mayor, Jimmy Clyde, signed a proclamation on August 31, 2016 to recognize all Direct Support Professionals. Nina Magee, Employee of the Year for Boswell Regional Center, had the honor of being present for the signing along with Matt Nalker, Director of The ARC of Mississippi (far left) and Steven Allen, Director of Boswell Regional Center (back). Mayor Clyde states, "Thank you for all you do." Direct Support Professionals wear a lot of hats, and Boswell Regional Center appreciates every DSP for providing the best care those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Steven Allen
Director
Web: www.brc.state.ms.us



Tel: 601.867.5000
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Email: webmaster@boswell.state.ms.us

September 12-16 of this month is a time set aside to recognize direct care workers, client care support, personal assistants/attendants, in-home support workers and paraprofessionals, also known as direct support professionals (DSPs).

At Boswell Regional Center, the Direct Support Professionals are the heartbeat of our mission. I am grateful to each of you and want you to know how much you are appreciated. Every person we support is dependent on you throughout their day for assistance to help them gain their independence. I know your positive attitudes bring out the best in the people we support.

Again this year in the budget request for the upcoming legislative session, Boswell Regional Center and the other Mississippi Department of Mental Health programs included the proposed realignment for the entire Direct Care position series. This realignment would bring Mississippi salaries up to the Southeast average. Please take the time to contact your local legislators and let them know the need for an increase in salaries.

Matthew 25:40 reads, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Just know the impact you make on others' lives does not go unnoticed.

During the upcoming days, Boswell Friends and Family along with Employment Services are partnering together to provide refreshments in your honor. Please see the attached flyer for times and dates that you can choose to attend. This will be a time for you to also give ideas of how to make your job and BRC better. Also, Governor Phil Bryant and Mayor Jimmy Clyde have signed proclamations in honor of this profession.

Finally, on behalf of all of the people associated with Boswell Regional Center, thank you for what you do. Again, you are the heartbeat of the mission of this organization and I sincerely appreciate each and every one of you greatly!

Sincerely,

Steven Allen

Mailing: P.O. Box 128, Magee, MS 39111

Shipping: 1049 Simpson Hwy 149, Magee, MS 39111

In Honor of Our Caregivers

THANK YOU!



Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week

September 12th-16th

All Direct Support Professionals visit your locations at one of the times listed Below for hotdogs, drink, and chips. Just a small token of appreciation sponsored by BRC Friends and Family and Employment Services

Community Services Magee – Dream Extreme

Friday 9/9 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Wednesday 9/14 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Mississippi Adolescent Center (MAC)

Monday, 9/12 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Brookhaven, Hazlehurst, and Wesson – Dream Haven

Wednesday, 9/14 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Campus/Autism Group Homes – (Directors House) House #46

Friday 9/16 5:00 am – 7:00 am, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm, and 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

You are appreciated !

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, direct care workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers and paraprofessionals – referred to as direct support professionals (DSPs) – are the primary providers of publicly-funded long term services for millions of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, DSPs empower people with disabilities to fully participate in their communities; and

WHEREAS, DSPs provide a broad range of individualized support services, including:

- Assisting people with disabilities to prepare for the workforce through job training and job coaching;
- Assisting people with disabilities to live life in the mainstream of their communities alongside of their non-disabled peers;
- Assisting people with disabilities to navigate daily home life through meal preparation and personal care including administering medication, bathing, dressing and other aspects of daily living;
- Assisting people with physical disabilities with access to their environment;
- Providing transportation to school, work, religious and recreational activities; and
- Helping with general daily affairs, such as assisting in financial matters, medical appointments and personal interests; and

WHEREAS, DSPs provide essential support to help keep an individual with disabilities connected to their family, friends and community; and

WHEREAS, DSPs support individuals with disabilities in making choices that lead to meaningful, productive lives; and

WHEREAS, DSPs are the key lynchpin to supporting an individual with disabilities to live successfully in the community and to avoid more costly institutional care; and

WHEREAS, DSPs are often the ones critical to the successful transition from medical events to post-acute care and long term supports and services; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the majority of DSPs are employed in home and community-based settings, and this trend is projected to increase over the next decade:

NOW THEREFORE, I, Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby designate the week of September 12-16, 2016, as

Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week

in the State of Mississippi and recognize the dedication and vital role of DSPs in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities of all ages and commend DSPs as integral to long-term supports and services for people with disabilities:



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 10th day of August in the year of our Lord, two thousand and sixteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-first.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phil Bryant".

PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR

BRC Helps Flood Victims

Boswell Regional Center's administration and staff came together to assist the flood victims in Louisiana and Southwest Mississippi. Collins Fire Department stopped by Boswell to pick up the load on Friday, August 26. Chief John Pope thanked everyone for the generous donation, and stressed how grateful those communities will be to receive all of the supplies. Chief Pope made the delivery on Saturday morning which was the second delivery since the flood. The outpouring of generosity shows how everyone can come together as one and give from their heart.



Pictured: Steven Allen, Director of Boswell Regional Center; Chief John Pope; and Cindy Womack, Assistant Director of Boswell Regional Center.

Scholarship Recipient

Congratulations to Ms. Johnnie Sue McKinnis, the 2016 Direct Care Scholarship recipient for the 17th Annual Alzheimer's Conference. Ms. McKinnis attended the conference in Natchez, MS, on August 16th - August 19th. Ms. McKinnis began her employment in 2013 at Boswell Regional Center. She is very passionate and caring. Ms. McKinnis is devoted to ensuring that everyone's needs are met, and she always provides a high standard of care to the individuals for whom she provides services. The men and women at State Farm love her and can not wait for her to return to work. She goes above and beyond to help anyone, even if it interrupts what she is doing. If she is ever in a bad mood, she never lets it be shown. She always has a smile on her face and strives to ensure that the people she provides services to have a great day, every day. She is always making plans to take the men and women on different outings and she loves doing it. She has a positive attitude and makes everyone feel good about themselves. She is a great listener and a great friend to all. She doesn't mind helping in anyway, even if it is not her worksite or the people for whom she is responsible. Working with Ms. Sue is a blessing. She is a dedicated, loving, caring, passionate and devoted staff.



Team Spirit Day!



Health Challenge Results

There were 38 participants in the 12 week health challenge that ran from May 17-August 2. Total weight loss was 92.2 pounds. Yolanda came in first place with a 10.35% weight loss. Leigh came in second place with 7.42% weight loss. Bobbie came in third place with a 4.04% weight loss. Yolanda said she stopped eating bread, pasta, and drinking milk. Basically, anything white she stopped eating. She drank a gallon of water daily, no sodas and nothing to eat after 8 or 9:00pm.



Scott Mullen, BRC's on site Health Coach; Leigh Evans (2nd place); Yolanda Brown (1st place) Bobbie Durr (3rd place); and Jennifer Chennault, BRC's Wellness Committee Chair.

BRC and the Magee Trojans

On August 26th, the Magee Trojans played their first home game at Trojan Field against Salem. Boswell Regional Center's staff and individuals manned the concession stand for the night. The Trojans came out with a "W" over Salem 45-19. Boswell Regional Center is honored to be a part of the community involvement. Pictured: Ebony Mikell, Theda Gibbons, Madelyn Gray, ('lil helper, Connor Pittman), Kerri East, Juanita Duckworth, Kassie Ibarra, Janie Floyd, Kathy Pittman, M.McGill, Vinnie Banks, W.Keyes, M.Copeland, Angela Tanner and Stephen May. Good job BIG RED!



Open Our Eyes

By: Claire Bevell, Director of Boswell Expressive Arts

Often, we underestimate what folks can learn, understand, and appreciate, don't we? We are surprised when people "get it." All it takes sometimes is a little creativity, maybe some friendly competition, and wow! Eyes are opened.

On September 1, ten artists chosen from Boswell's Expressive Arts program attended the Serendipity Art Exhibit at Mississippi State Hospital. These ten artists along with six Boswell staff enjoyed lunch at Jose's, and then an afternoon of looking at art while going on an Art Scavenger Hunt that was designed for the trip. Five teams of two artists plus one staff each took up the challenge of finding 42 different objects, subjects and colors in the artworks on exhibit. The Serendipity art staff even got caught up in the fun and competition, helping us find a few of the more obscure subjects.

Competition is always a huge motivator for our Expressive Arts classes. Of course, there were prizes: sketch books, acrylic paints, brushes, adult coloring books, colored pencils, note pads, pens, and chewing gum! Hopefully, these prizes will inspire more art from these participants.

Viewing art on September 1 became purposeful, interesting, and fun. Observation skills were sharpened, ideas were gained, and art was inspired. All of us were thinking, "Maybe we can paint this too!"

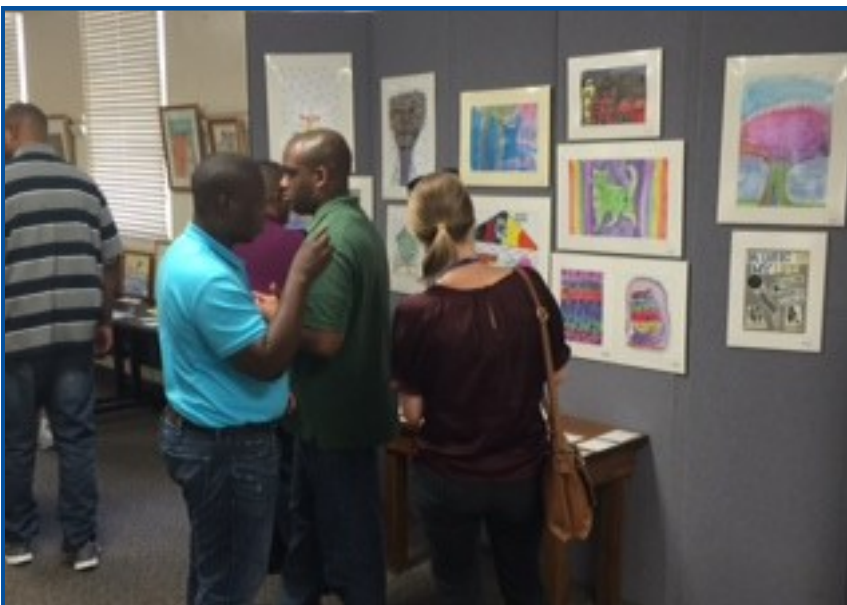
G. Adams proudly took his own list, read the items to search, found the items, and independently wrote down the titles of the paintings in which these items were found.

C. Parker was particularly enthusiastic and quite able to participate in the hunt with Natalie Duckworth assisting. Natalie prepared ahead of time for the exhibit by predicting and learning words she would need to know in sign language. She and Mr. Parker joyfully found every single item on the list.

K. Loggins, an unusually talented artist in his own right, took pictures of some of his favorite paintings and studied those of which he thought he might enjoy making his own version.

Staff were caught smiling while enjoying this active participation. Instead of walking through the art a couple of times and seeing everything but the art, we studied the art. I know my eyes were opened: to joy, hope, and more ideas for teaching.

(Boswell artists attending Serendipity were T. Reed, K. Loggins, C. Durr, C. Parker, B. Landrum, B. Tucker, M.A. Forest, J. Eichelberger, and E. M. Thomas.)

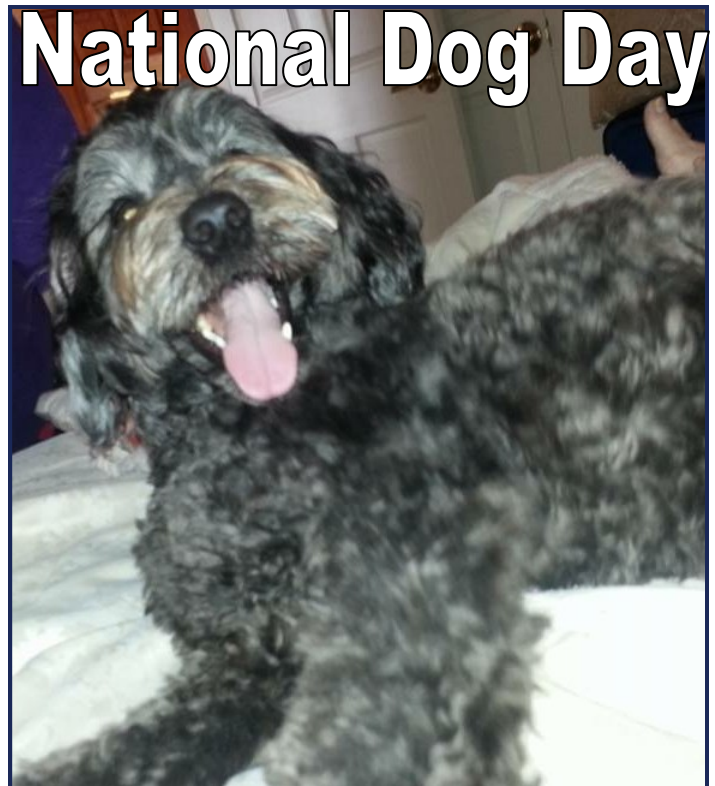


Josh Hines Winner

Everyday someone is looking for a job and Josh Hines has found a great one. Josh is in Boswell's Community Supports Division, and is the first Boswell individual who has been hired as a cashier at Wal-Mart. Josh started his employment with Wal-Mart as a cart pusher, and worked his way up to a cashier this summer. He works from 11 p.m.-7:00 a.m. and is doing well in this position. Next time you're at Wal-Mart, give Josh a wave or even let him be your cashier.



Lisa Bryant, Director of Autism Services, won a Subway gift card as a door prize for attending a BRC Wellness event.



August 26 was National Dog Day. Donna Vella celebrated with lots of attention and tummy rubs.

In Memory Of...



J. Jussely
DOB: 1/26/1955
DOD: 8/20/2016



Cassius Walker
DOB: 6/23/1971
DOD: 8/23/2016

Death is Nothing at All

Death is nothing at all. I have only slipped away to the next room. I am I and you are you. Whatever we were to each other, That, we still are. Call me by my old familiar name. Speak to me in the easy way which you always used. Put no difference into your tone. Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow. Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together. Play, smile, think of me. Pray for me. Let my name be ever the household word that it always was. Let it be spoken without effect. Without the trace of a shadow on it. Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same that it ever was. There is absolute unbroken continuity. Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight? I am but waiting for you. For an interval. Somewhere. Very near. Just around the corner. All is well.

Poem by: Henry Scott Holland

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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

BOSWELL
REGIONAL CENTER

David Sullivan Retires

While it's hard to see our 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 to do upon retirement. Whether it's spending time with family, enjoying the beach, 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. A reception was held on August 26th at the LeGrand Café honoring David Sullivan.

Sullivan states, "I have spent my entire adulthood here at BRC, and I have really enjoyed working here. I will continue employment elsewhere, but will always be a part of Boswell Regional Center." Pictured with Sullivan is Steven Allen, Director of Boswell Regional Center.



BRC Orientation Classes



August 1st Orientation Class: Front row L-R: Charles Buckley (Medical Services), Shanna Jackson (SUCCESS), Kayla Sims (CS-Simpson Cove), Alicia Jones (Community Services), Kimberly Keyes (Employment Services), Robin Perry (CS-Pine Grove). **Back row L-R:** Lacara Warren (Fairway), Erica Sorrell (CS-Pine Grove), Alisha Guynes (Oakbrook), Samantha French (SUCCESS), ReShana Hayes (SUCCESS), Deminikis Lindsey (SUCCESS), Idreck Baber (Fairway), Dominique Ward (SUCCESS).



August 16th Orientation: Back Row Left-Right: Bobbie Autman (Success), DaShaun Mikel (Security), Brad Jones (Ridgeview), LaShonda Graves (Security), Sarafina Spotsville (Ridgeview), and Susan Grizzle (Nutrition Services). **Front Row Left - Right:** Mary Baylous (PineGrove), Candice Warren (Nutrition Services), Carrie Jones (Fairway), Markesa Drummonds (Success), Tichochie Groves (Oakbrook), and Victoria Lawrence (Oakbrook).

BRC EOM's



During the August Directors' Meeting, Boswell Regional Center recognized Employees of the Month in the area of professional/support staff. Employees of the Month for July were Teresa Hinsz, Staff Development (center); Daryl McDonald, Fairway (Left); and Shaun Jones, Community Services (right). Congratulations to each of you !!!!

MAC June EOM



The employee of the month for July is Tammy Foster. Tammy works with Payroll in the Business Services Department. She has been an employee of MAC since December 1, 2007.

Masquerade™

Experience the Frenzy!

**\$5 Jewelry
and Accessories
SALE**

**Thursday
September 29th
7 am – 5 pm**

**Friday
September 30th
7 am – 3 pm**

***Boswell Regional Center
Training Center***

Proceeds benefit & Sponsored by
Boswell Regional Center Friends & Family Association

Cash, Credit/Debit Cards & Payroll Deduction



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!*