



# BOSWELL REGIONAL CENTER'S **BULLETIN**

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## **Dampier is BRC's Employee of the Year**

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# DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Raymond Johnson



First of all, I'd like to say a special thank you to our staff for their hard work in making preparations for Hurricane Gustav in September. We

had approximately 56 individuals and staff evacuate to our facility from South Mississippi Regional Center. Not only did we have to make accommodations for these additional people, we had to be prepared for our staff and individuals in case the hurricane affected our area also. Thank you, staff, for once again going the extra mile for Boswell.

We thoroughly enjoyed our individual's and staff's Campus Performances in preparation for Arts Fair. This year's theme was "That's Entertainment!" and a more appropriate title could not have been chosen. It was probably the best Campus Performance that I've seen at Boswell.

I was honored to present the Employee of the Year Award in July

to Tracy Dampier. Tracy is a Direct Care Worker on Unit 1 and does an excellent job. He is truly concerned about the individuals we serve. He always rises to the occasion when needed and is very deserving of this award.

We have received drawings of the new buildings to be built to house individuals and take the place of Jaquith. Staff members were given the opportunity to study these and make suggestions. We are excited about this project and feel this will enhance living arrangements for our on-campus individuals, as well as be an improvement for our staff.

Some of the area we are interested in using for these new structures include the building we call Lakefront. Currently, this depends on a decision by Department of Archives and History whether or not to demolish this building.

At Boswell, we continue to look for ways to improve our individuals' quality of life which we try to do on a daily basis.



## BRC BULLETIN

The Boswell Bulletin is a publication of Boswell Regional Center. The Bulletin is published free of charge to inform the public and interested family members and individuals about Boswell Regional Center activities, policies and progress.

This publication also serves to provide information to those interested in mental retardation and the clients served at BRC.

**Raymond Johnson, Director**  
**Kathy Lee, Editor**

It is the policy of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health and each facility to recruit, employ, and promote qualified employees and applicants without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin, or disability. The Department of Mental Health/Bureau of Mental Retardation complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. It is the sole purpose of this act to provide a clear mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Boswell Regional Center provides Mississippians with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities, a comprehensive array of service options promoting independence and an optimal quality of life. Through an active partnership of client, family, staff and community, these service options are designed to enhance each client's quality of life through teaching skills which aid in reaching personal potential.

## ON THE COVER

Tracy Dampier was named as Boswell's Employee of the Year at this year's banquet. He is pictured here with BRC Director Raymond Johnson.

For a complete story and for pictures from this year's banquet, see Pages 3 and 4.



# Dampier named as Employee of the Year

Boswell Regional Center Director Raymond Johnson announced Tracy Dampier had been selected as the 2007 Employee of the Year at the annual banquet held on the main campus.

Dampier, a resident of New Hebron, has been employed with Boswell for over seven years.

“Tracy is a model employee,” Johnson said. “He always keeps foremost in his mind what is best for the individuals we serve.”

As Employee of the Year, Dampier received a plaque, a \$100 savings bond from Boswell’s Friends & Family Association, a sign designating a special parking place of his choice, the opportunity to participate in the annual meeting of Mental Health/American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Conference held each fall, and a trip to the Arts Fair for the Handicapped.

Johnson read from Dampier’s Employee of the Year nomination form at the annual event. “He is a loyal and dedicated worker. No matter what task he is given, he gives it his all. He demonstrates excellent leadership qualities, always goes out of his way to help other staff, and is a great team player.”

When Dampier is not working, he can often be seen mowing the lawns of older citizens in his community. He attends North Side Baptist Church in New Hebron. Dampier was recognized as Employee of the Year for 1st Shift and also named Overall Residential Living Employee of the Year. Other employees recognized were Chasidity Hampton of D’Lo, Overall



*Pictured are, front, Bobbie Crawford of Magee, Employee of the Year for Community ICF/MR and Chasidity Hampton, Employee of the Year for Community MR/DD. Pictured back, Tracy Dampier, Employee of the Year for Residential Living and Employee of the Year for Boswell Regional Center.*

Employee of the Year for Community MR/DD Services and Bobbie Crawford of Magee, Overall Employee of the Year for Community ICF/MR Services. Also recognized in the area of Residential Living Services were: Lonia Gray of Prentiss, Employee of the Year for 2nd Shift and Arthur Milton of Magee, Employee of the Year for 3rd Shift.

“The Employee of the Year program is an annual event aimed at recognizing our dedicated employees and those who go above and beyond on a daily basis in taking care of the individuals,” Johnson said

Boswell’s Employee of the Year is selected annually from the top three employees in the area of direct care.



# 2008 Employees of the Year



## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Pictured is Gloria Johnson, left, Assistant Director, Community Services; Bobbie Crawford, Employee of the Year for Community ICF/MR and Chasidity Hampton, Employee of the Year for Community DD.



## Friends & Family donates \$100 Savings Bond to Employee of Year

Employee of Year Tracy Dampier is pictured above with Friends & Family Association President Rev. Ike Durr . Each year Friends & Family donates a \$100 Savings Bond to BRC's Employee of the Year. The Friends & Family Association meets twice a year. Fundraisers are held throughout the year to help the Association achieve its goal of promoting and supporting individuals and fostering the development of programs on their behalf. The Association also recognizes and rewards the efforts of employees. A BRC Friends & Family Association membership is \$5 for a lifetime membership. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Kathy Lee at 601-867-5000.



## RESIDENTIAL LIVING

Pictured at left is Steve Allen, Assistant Director, Resident Services; Arthur Milton, Employee of the Year, 3rd Shift; Lonia Gray, Employee of the Year, 2nd Shift and Tracy Dampeer, Employee of the Year, 1st Shift.

# Boswell Goes Tobacco Free

Boswell Regional Center went tobacco free October 1, 2008. The recommendation to have a smoke-free facility was made by the Tobacco Cessation Committee.

“Boswell Regional Center has joined a host of other healthcare facilities that want to offer a tobacco free environment for its employees as well as for the individuals we serve, BRC Director Raymond Johnson said.

“We did not force our employees to refrain from tobacco use, but we have found many of our employees have been contemplating for some time doing just that,” he added.

Through Boswell’s insurance provider, employees who wished to discontinue the use of tobacco were able to get medications without charge to help them quit over a three month period.

Letters were sent to employees June 1, 2008, to let them know Oct. 1 would be the date Boswell would go tobacco free.

Initially, 70 signed up for the program. Even though some of those did not carry through by getting prescriptions filled some cut down on tobacco use and some just cut down use or quit on their own.

To congratulate Boswell for



becoming a Tobacco Free facility, a one page ad appeared in the local paper.

“The transition has been a very smooth one,” Johnson said. “And we commend those employees who made the decision to discontinue tobacco use.”

## ‘Shatter the Silence’ of Suicide

Boswell Regional Center is joining other Mississippi Department of Mental Health facilities in supporting the Suicide Prevention Campaign, “Shatter the Silence: Suicide—The Secret You Shouldn’t Keep.”

The stigma of suicide or negative thoughts associated with suicide sometimes effects a person’s decision not to

seek help

Speakers are available for schools, clubs and other gatherings. Materials are also available. If you are interested, please contact Kathy Lee at 601-867-5000.

Some of the warning signs of suicide are:

- Talking about suicide
- Thinking about suicide
- Reading about suicide
- Writing about suicide
- Talking about feeling worthless or hopeless
- Losing interest in activities

- Using or increasing use of drugs or alcohol
- Any changes from typical behaviors such as having problems at school and/or not wanting to go out with friends

### What Not To Do

- Think it will go away
- Keep it a secret
- Argue with the person
- Think nothing can be done
- Think you can fix it all by yourself

### Where to Go For Help or Information:

- Go to the nearest emergency room
- Call 911
- Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK
- Visit [www.dmh.ms.gov](http://www.dmh.ms.gov)
- Visit [www.whatadifference.org](http://www.whatadifference.org)





# THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT!

## 2008 Arts Fair Highlights

Individuals enjoyed participating in the 2008 Arts Fair "That's Entertainment!" held in Hattiesburg at the Lake Terrace Convention Center in August.

Both staff and individuals were thoroughly entertained during the Campus Performance which was held prior to Arts Fair.

Jaquith Units 3 and 4 featured a retro act from the American Bandstand days with a special appearance by "the Jackson 5" and

"the Bee Gees".

Unit 1, Jaquith, performed a number from "The Wiz". Individuals were "Easin' on Down the Road" during this number.

Jaquith Unit 2 featured a medley of songs from "Grease 2" with a little help from the guys from Unit 3.

Community ICF/MR individuals performed numbers from "The Dream Girls" including "Step Into the Bad Side".

Individuals from Community MR/DD danced to the classic "On Broadway."

The Boswell Choir performed a number from "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," with "Any Dream Will Do."

It was an entertaining event for all involved.

## Receptions held for BRC retirees



Raymond Johnson, Director, is pictured with Mary McDonald as she receives a Certificate of Appreciation at her retirement reception.



Jimmy Rankin is pictured with a Certificate of Appreciation at his retirement party. Pictured at right is BRC Director Raymond Johnson.

# Student groups visit BRC



Second year Allied Health Students from Smith County Vocational-Technical Center visited Boswell. Here they are pictured at Morton Group Home with Magee ICFIMR Group Home Director Thomas Moore, far left. Pictured are: Kim Lancaster, Heather Mazingo, Emily Watts, Heather Walker, Kristy Walker, Mitchell Tadlock and Dylan Westbrook. Pictured third from left, standing, Michelle Austin, instructor.



Copiah-Lincoln Community College nursing students toured the campus while they were on campus for their clinicals in July. Pictured are: James Guinn, Florence; Ashley Lucas, Raleigh; Lisa Bynum, Mt. Olive; LaShonda Catchings, Hazlehurst; Scott Vanderford, Raleigh; Kay Maddox, Magee; Jennifer Gray, Pelahatchie; Mary Boles, Mendenhall; Taylor Henry, Puckett; Brenda Duran, Instructor- Magee; and Anthony Floyd, Magee.

## Scenes from Day of Diversity



Above, Karen and Bobby Womack, Unit 1 and Unit 4 Administrators, watch the Day of Diversity message from Ed LeGrand, Executive Director, DMH.

Artifacts from Mexico are pictured at left and at right, Cindy Womack, Director of Residential Living, and Gloria Johnson, BRC Assistant Director, view displays from different countries at the Day of Diversity held Oct. 14th.



## WE REMEMBER...

Boswell mourned the loss of former employee **GERALD GARRETT**. Gerald worked at the Wesson ICF/MR Group Home as a psychologist and then transferred to MS State Hospital.

The BRC flag flies at half-mast (at right) in remembrance.



## Boswell Regional Center



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