



# Boswell Regional Center Bulletin

## Fall Issue

### There's never a dull moment around Boswell

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The seasons are changing and the transition from summer into winter has officially begun. The fall season is an especially exciting time of year for everyone at BRC. Our individuals and staff are busily planning for the upcoming holiday season.

This time of year brings with it an array of activities such as; the Mississippi State Fair, fall festivals, fall ball, visiting the pumpkin patch, Thanksgiving and Christmas. So many of our individuals look forward to visiting the State Fair with all of it's sights, sounds, smells and attractions, it offers

everyone something to enjoy.

A recent visit to the pumpkin patch was a big hit with our individuals. They were given the opportunity to go on a hay ride, tour a field of beautiful sunflowers, visit the petting farm, and of course walk through the pumpkin patch. Each individual went home with their very own bright orange pumpkin. It was a good time enjoyed by all. Everyone is certainly looking forward to their next adventure.





Raymond Johnson

## DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Greetings, and welcome to the fall issue of the Bulletin. Fall is definitely in the air. The days are getting cooler and soon the leaves will begin to turn vivid colors. The live electric green of summer is beginning to shrivel, molt and fall into shades of orange, yellow and brown. Fall brings lots of changes, and, as it progresses, it will be time to put away summer clothes and bring out the warm sweaters and jackets. As the days become cooler, please remember to wear weather appropriate clothing and ensure that our individuals are suitably attired for the changing seasons.

In this edition you will enjoy reading about past and future events that have taken place in and around BRC. This is certainly a very exciting time of year for our individuals. The past few months have disappeared amidst a swirl of activities, projects, places, and events in which Boswell Regional Center has participated, such as our moves into the new buildings, paint it purple campaign, arts fair, the friends and family association meeting, and much, much more. Additionally there are a number of events planned in the upcoming months, such as the State Fair, fall ball, and day of diversity just to name a few. Please join me in supporting our individuals as they prepare and plan for these exciting upcoming events.

Much talk has been circulating about changes to the Public Employees Retirement System.

As someone who hopes to retire someday, I have been watching the news and reading the articles about the proposed changes to the system. PERS affects all of us, those already retired, hoping to retire soon, and employees who still have a few years to go before retirement. Therefore, I encourage each and every one of you to educate yourselves about the proposed legislative changes to the system. It is important for state employees to come together in an effort to protect our investment of the funds which have been contributed and the promises made regarding our retirement. Remember to stay in touch with your legislators and let them know how each of you feel about the proposals. Standing together, all those who have contributed to the system are a force to be reckoned with and I encourage you to voice your opinions regarding this very important issue.

The upcoming months will bring the holiday season. I always look forward to the closeness of family and friends that this season brings with it. I greatly enjoy the wonderful food, decorations, and events that will take place in the upcoming months. During these times, it is always important to remember those who do not live close to family or do not have family members to share the season with. So please, pay special attention to those at BRC or in your community who are alone this Holiday Season. And remember to take the time to thank God for all of the blessings that He has bestowed upon each and every one of us. I certainly hope that you enjoy this edition of the Bulletin and Season's Greetings.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.

## 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 intellectual disabilities and the individuals served at BRC.

## Raymond Johnson, Director

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 Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities 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.

## Boswell Regional Center

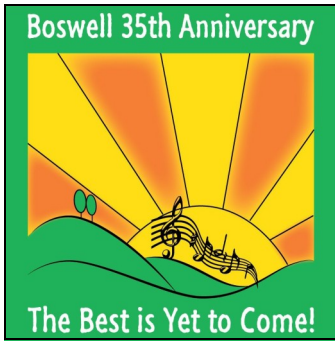
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**Arts Fair 2011**
  
**The Best is Yet to Come....**

Each year BRC individuals look forward to our annual Arts Fair. This year's theme was linked to the celebration of the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Boswell Regional Center; The best is yet to come! I am sure that everyone who attended the performance will agree that the individuals put on a spectacular show. Upon entering the auditorium, one could not help but be taken aback by the bright green t-shirts which were worn by individuals and staff alike. The mood was that of cheerful anticipation for the performers and spectators as they all waited patiently for the show to begin.



Right on cue, the auditorium curtains opened and the crowd was mesmerized by the delightful sounds of the Boswell Show Choir. Many hours of practice truly paid off as the choir sang their first song "Home Run". Although that was only the beginning of some very entertaining skits, songs, and dances that were enjoyed by all.

We were entertained by the likes of Elvis, Tim McGraw, Apollo Creed and Fat Albert, just to name a few. It is always enjoyable to hear the individuals laughing and clapping to their favorite skits and songs. And it is certain that everyone involved enjoys hearing the thundering applause from the crowd as they finished their performances. This was a job very well done!

Many thanks go to BRC individuals and staff who make all of this look easy, however, we all realize that getting everyone on the same page is not always an easy task. So take some time to thank everyone who worked behind the scenes to make this event a success. Arts Fair is truly a blessing for all who participate and watched these talented individuals. We can't wait to see what next year brings.



## It takes hands to build a house, but only hearts can build a home

Many hands worked on the new buildings which now house individuals from Units 2 and 3. The work was difficult and time consuming. Very hot days and weather delayed the process, however, the hands that built these homes continued working until the buildings were completed.

Now that the construction has been completed, it is time to fill the homes with "hearts". Those "hearts" are the individuals who will be occupying these new homes. BRC found it important and very fitting that we invite Dr. Buddy Keys, Pastor of First Baptist Church in Magee Mississippi to bless these new homes.

Dr. Buddy Keys holds a special place in his heart for our individuals as many who occupy these new homes are also members of the church. So, it was on August 29, 2011 that Dr. Keys, assisted by BRC Chaplain, Brother Rudy Jackson, so graciously blessed these new dwellings. We want to thank Dr. Keys for taking his time to perform this very special blessing for some very deserving individuals.



Pictured at left is Brother Buddy Keys, Pastor First Baptist Church Magee, and Brother Rudy Jackson, BRC Chaplain.



Pictured at left is Steven Allen, Assistant Facility Director, Brother Rudy Jackson, BRC Chaplain, Gloria Johnson, Assistant Facility Director, Brother Buddy Keys, Pastor First Baptist Church and Raymond Johnson, BRC Facility Director.



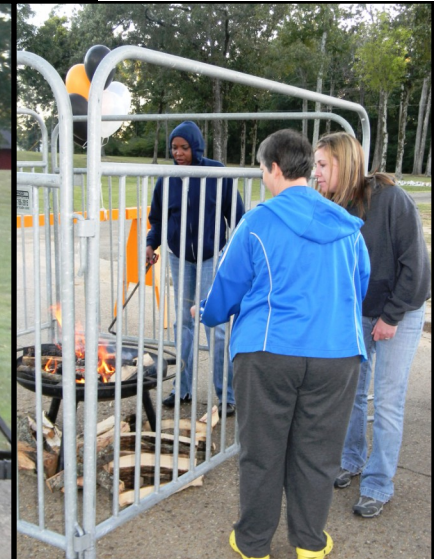
BRC staff appreciated the opportunity to be a part of this momentous occasion.

## Good times at Boswell Regional Center

The Annual Fall Ball event was held at Boswell Regional Center on Friday, October 21. The weather was cool when the BEST (Boswell Employee Softball Tournament) began, but it later warmed up as the individuals enjoyed a cook out for lunch. By mid afternoon, the individuals and the atmosphere was at a peak. The Magee middle school band and cheerleaders along with our BRC cheerleaders lead us in a pep rally. Then it was finally time for the Autumn Classic football game between campus and community. Community took the title this year, but campus is already talking a victory for next year!



**"It is great to see individuals and staff enjoy a day of fun, food, and games. Looking forward to next year events"**  
**Gloria Johnson,**  
**Assistant Facility**  
**Director**



Each year several departments at Boswell Regional Center work together to organize and carry out the annual Fall Festival. Fall Festival is carried out in a street dance manner on Boswell Blvd. in front of the Rainy Day Room. This year's activities included a hay ride, bon fire, shooting contest, pumpkin throw, sponge soaker, face and hair painting, sack toss, mask painting, Autumn art, picture booth, music, and snacks in the Rainy Day Room.

Campus and Community ICF/MR individuals attended this years Fall Festival. It was a fun-filled night of laughter and joy. Individuals and staff of BRC enjoyed the Fall atmosphere and activities.

## BRC is on the move.....Open house for units two and three



**Assistant Director, Steven Allen, receives a card of thanks from the ladies of Unit 2.**



**William Gates, Unit 3 Director, is proud to show visiting parents and guardians their loved ones new surroundings.**

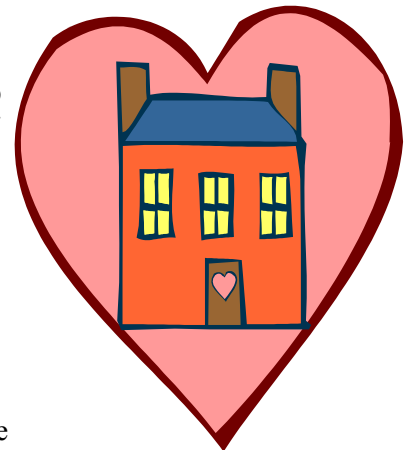


Does anyone remember the old ketchup commercial that shows a kid holding a bottle of ketchup upside down with a yearning look on his face, the accompanying music was “anticipation, anticipation, it’s making me wait...it’s keeping me wa-a-a-aiting”.

Well, if you don’t remember, then maybe I am showing my age, but we won’t discuss that! However, this song could have been on the minds and lips of many people who live and work at BRC. The anticipation, the wait, the great longing desire to have the new buildings finished so that our individuals would have safe, and up to date/code housing to live in. Well, after many months of construction, that day finally came for the individuals who are housed in Units 2 and 3.

I must admit, it was truly a wonderful experience to watch the individuals as they showed off their new bedrooms, bathrooms, and day rooms. Their rooms were bright and colorful, with new bed spreads and furniture to put their clothes in. It was all smiles and anxious anticipation on the faces of the individuals who reside in these new homes. Happy and proud of their new surroundings, our individuals gladly took staff and parents on tours of their new surroundings.

Now we are anxiously awaiting the completion of the other two buildings which will house individuals from Units 1 and 4. The proposed move in date for these individuals is November. We all hope that we will have everyone moved in and ready to enjoy the joyous holiday season.



**“It was very satisfying to see the work of several years come to life through the expressions on the faces of the individuals who reside in the new homes.” said Steven Allen, BRC Assistant Director.**



## Welcome Home to Goodwater Individuals!

March 26, 2009, this was a day many people in Magee will never forget. In the middle of the night a very destructive tornado hits our small community. A church was totally destroyed, homes were flattened, people were left with nowhere to go, their lives were now just a pile of mangled boards and debris. This storm changed the lives of many people in our community. But, thankfully, Magee did not have one death from this devastating storm. Most people rebuilt their homes, some moved to new areas, while others stayed with family and friends until they could decide where their lives would lead them now.

The devastating effects of this storm were also felt by our Boswell family. The tornado hit the west end of the Goodwater group home which housed ten men. Thanks to the quick actions of our caring staff, no one in that home was injured. Although, the home was a total loss. The ten men had to leave their shattered home behind in March 2009. Displaced for over two years while their home was rebuilt, these individuals were made comfortable in another area of Boswell. During the period of reconstruction, everyone anxiously awaited the day they would return to Goodwater.

That day came on July 28, 2011, when they joyfully moved into their newly built group home which is located on the same grounds as the original house. The day could not of come any sooner to these grateful men who were so happy to have their home back. They were all smiles and joy filled their hearts as they cut the ribbon and walked into their new home. The men are all settled into their rooms now and are enjoying their community living atmosphere. Welcome to your new home guys!



**We're Ba-a-a-ck....**



**ICF/MR Community Director Kerry Bynum is pleased that his men are back home.**



**An individual relaxing at home.**

# How does your Garden Grow?



That's a question that folks around Boswell Regional Center will soon be asking thanks to the donation of five "To Go Gardens" from the Simpson County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Delivered in late August, these "To Go Gardens" are being distributed to various Boswell locations and are literally transportable from one area to another. The structure sits on wheels and can be used in an outdoor setting as well as indoors. Three different containers of soil, with rocks underneath to retain moisture, are placed on a bench attached to the structure and can be used to grow flowers, plants or vegetables.

The concept of a "To Go Garden" is spreading throughout the state and has been introduced in a number of schools and nursing homes. The Simpson County Soil and Water Conservation District was able to provide these gardens through a matching grant they received from the Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts. "We are appreciative of this donation from the Simpson County Soil and Water Conservation District," said Raymond Johnson, BRC Director.

The mission of the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission is to effectively guide, promote and demonstrate the conservation, development, protection and proper utilization of the soil, water and related resources of the state.




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**"We feel that a number of our individuals will benefit from planting, watering and being able to watch things grow. There's a sense of satisfaction in taking part in this type of activity."** said Raymond Johnson, BRC Facility Director

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Pictured are, from left: Edith Wallace, District Officer; Bill Blair, BRC; Nell Hughes and Tom McAlpin, Simpson County Commissioners. Pictured back row are: Don Wallace and Malcolm Lowe, District Conservationist. Pictured at right: Steven Allen, BRC; Gladys, a recipient of Boswell Regional Center services; Raymond Johnson, BRC Director; Jeff Wilson, Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commissioner; and Jason Martin, BRC. Pictured back row is Orlando Rankin, BRC.



## Visitors welcomed at Boswell Regional Center



**Pictured left are: Shannon Sones-Welch, Genise Womack-Magee, Whit Ross, Vickie Powell, Shani Walker, and Instructor, Richard Rankin**

### SCFA Students visit the campus.

It was certainly our pleasure to welcome visitors from The Simpson County Development Leadership Institute. The Leadership Institute is a joint project of the Simpson County Development Foundation and Copiah Lincoln Community College, utilizing the resources of Co-Lin Work Force and the facilities of the Co-Lin Simpson County Center. As part of the Institute, each participant will select a project directly related to community or workplace, including planning, implementation, and results evaluation, to be carried out during the course of the Institute.

The class visited Boswell on September 15, 2011. During their time here, they toured the facility which included visits to the Learning Center, Goodwater ICF/MR Group Home, and The Work Activity Center. The Leadership group is instructed by Richard Rankin.

### Psychology Students enjoyed their day at Boswell

Each year BRC conducts a tour of the facility for Psychology students from William Carey University. Dr. Paul Cotton, former director of Boswell Regional Center, is their instructor and he enjoys accompanying his students while they visit BRC.

The students enjoyed a breakfast of muffins and juice at the Rainy Day room. Next, they received a warm welcome from Raymond Johnson, BRC Director. Following was a full day of activities, tours and lunch.

David Tedford, Vocational Services Director showed off the Work Activity Center, which is always a hit with visitors. The students then toured the new buildings and the recently completed Goodwater group home. Upon completion of the facility tours, the students returned to the Rainy Day room to pair up with individuals for some entertaining fun and games.



**Adriane Warren, Lillian Easterling, Hope Swindle, Yaila Foltzmann, Jessica Flynt, Cami McLaurin, John McBay, Bridget Ryals, Alexis Roberson and Dr. Paul Cotten**

## Boswell Regional Center “Paints it Purple”

Alzheimer's disease causes brain changes that gradually get worse. It causes people to progressively lose their intellectual and social skills. The loss of these skills are severe enough to interfere with a person's day to day life. It is certainly a devastating disease.

In an effort to educate the public regarding this disease, Kathy Van Cleave, Director of DMH's Division of Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementia asked BRC to assist her in honoring those who have been stricken with the disease and their family members who care for them.

The campaign was named, “Paint it Purple” and so we did, quite beautifully I might add. The buildings were adorned with huge purple bows and employees were given purple ribbons to wear. The front gate was absolutely breathtaking. A large balloon arch loomed over the entrance to BRC, purple bows were placed on every column, and some of the individuals in expressive arts painted a gorgeous piece of art which was placed at the front gate. The day of recognition and honor to those with Alzheimer's was an overwhelming success. Thanks to all who participated in this worthy cause.



Door prizes were given away including an afghan blanket that was crocheted by Sondra Arthur . The Education Department presented the blanket to Kathy Van Cleave.



### An Alzheimer's Plea

The song of the birds, I cannot hear,  
 The flowers I cannot smell.  
 I cannot remember, the ones I loved,  
 And things that I knew so well.  
 I cannot see the wondrous sights,  
 My eyes no longer can see,  
 The setting sun, the stars at night,  
 The beauty of a tree,  
 I cannot cry, I have no tears,  
 And yet my heart is filled with fears.  
 I cannot speak as I did before,  
 My voice has faded away.  
 I'm in a world all of my own,  
 I cannot even pray.  
 I know no difference between day and  
 night,  
 Time means nothing to me,  
 I cannot tell the wrongs from right,  
 Oh God, What has happened to me,  
 I long to feel the tender touch,  
 Of someone to light the way,  
 Someone to lead me out of my world,  
 And turn the night into day.  
 I need a strong and gentle hand,  
 Someone who understands,  
 Someone who would guide me,  
 Out of these strange and distant lands.  
 -Fred A. Das

## Boswell appreciates our Employees; past, present, and the ones who will never be forgotten



After many years of dedicated service to Boswell Regional Center’s maintenance division, Kenneth Burch decided it was time to retire. Kenny could always be seen with a smile on his face and ready to tell anyone he saw a new joke. He rarely missed work and was ready to perform his job to the best of his abilities every day. He was always there to lend a helping hand. Even through a tragic work accident, Kenny could not wait to get back to his job at BRC.

Although he will be missed around campus, we wish Kenny a long and happy retirement.



Mrs. Renee Sullivan from Community Services has been selected for the Direct Care Worker Alzheimer's Scholarship Award given by the Division of Alzheimer's Disease and other Dementia.

She is a very dedicated employee, loyal and trustworthy. Mrs. Sullivan is an employee that would get the best of recommendations from any superior or individual. She demonstrates a very passionate and caring demeanor and takes the initiative to provide an array of opportunities for the elderly individuals she serves. Please congratulate Mrs. Renee Sullivan for receiving the Direct Care Worker Alzheimer's Scholarship Award.

## In Memory



Tracy Dampier Unit 3

Perhaps my time  
seemed all too brief  
Don't lengthen it  
now with undue  
grief.  
Lift up your hearts  
and peace to thee  
God wanted me  
now; He set me free.



Shirley Hooker Unit 2

## In and Around Boswell

Boswell Regional Center continues to promote healthy tips around campus. The importance of staff and individual's health is a definite focus in order to detect risk factors. August 1st-2nd, BRC offered a heart screening that consisted of several key components such as blood pressure checks, cholesterol checks, weight/body mass index (BMI), and blood glucose testing. Regular doctor visits are recommended to prevent possible cardiovascular disease. The wellness committee will continue to inform everyone regarding events held on campus as well as in the community.



What a beauty! This gorgeous horse is being ridden by K. Clabaugh. She has been riding horses for a large part of her life and she enjoys it immensely. She prepared and trained for a recent horning event which took place in the coliseum in Jackson Mississippi. It was not surprising to hear that she had placed second in the event. When she was asked about placing in the contest, Ms. Clabaugh said she was not disappointed about placing 2<sup>nd</sup>. Although she did say she would of liked to place 1<sup>st</sup>, she always remembers that she will have another chance next year.

Boswell drinks pink in support of the prevention of breast cancer. Women in the United States get breast cancer more than any other type of cancer except for skin cancer. It is second only to lung cancer as a cause of cancer death in women. Each year it is estimated that nearly 200,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and more than 40,000 will die from the disease. Approximately 1,700 men will also be diagnosed with breast cancer and 450 will die each year. The evaluation of men with breast masses is similar to that in women, including mammography. That is why it is very important for everyone to get regular check ups. The State of Mississippi Health Insurance plan does offer a wellness benefit which totally covers the costs of these preventive exams. The reality of this devastating disease is a great reason to use this benefit.



# Day of Diversity

The Day of Diversity is a day to celebrate and embrace who we are, despite our differences, no matter what race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, nationality, or disability. A day to reflect on and learn about different cultures and ideologies. A day to vow acceptance and tolerance. A day to consciously address these areas everywhere, including the workplace.

Each year, BRC plans for the day of diversity. This year was no exception. On October 13, 2011, the training center was decorated with items from all over the world. It was a very successful event with staff dressing in clothing that truly shows how diverse our culture is. The individuals visited the exhibit and enjoyed learning about the various cultural identities from across the world. Many thanks go to all staff who prepared and participated in this event on the Day of Diversity.



**Pictured is Randy Roberson from the Maintenance Division. This exhibit was a big hit with individuals and staff alike. Thanks Randy!**



**Pictured is Jennifer Chennault, Nutrition Services, with her tribute to China.**





# Many Thanks to our Friends and Family Sponsors for your Generous Donations.

## Boswell Regional Center

BRC's Friends and Family Association is a non-profit all volunteer organization that works to ensure BRC individuals are valued and loved. All monies received from memberships are donated to the organization to purchase items for the individuals served by BRC.

For more information on how you can become a member of this worthwhile association, please contact:

Kathy Pittman  
Public Relations  
601-867-5000 ext 75021

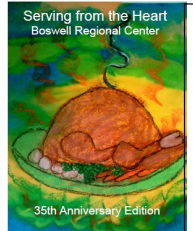
### Platinum

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Manning  
Shivers Construction  
MageeNews.com (Sue Honea)  
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### Silver

Jann Houge and Angelique Nunnery  
Paul and Betty Loper  
JoAnn Powell  
Keith and Frances Woods  
MISSCO

Purchase a 35th Anniversary Boswell cookbook today!



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*This is a hard covered, binder cookbook  
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Proceeds will benefit BRC's Friends & Family Association

### Gold

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Sharon Lawson  
Entergy Corp.  
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### Bronze

Robert E and Lisa Bryant  
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James Wooten  
Ms. Oletha M. Hill  
Marvel Thomas and Richard Thompson  
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Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Lee  
Cathy L. McGinnis

BRC Cookbooks are  
Available for Immediate  
Purchase!  
They make wonderful  
Christmas Presents

## Mission Statement

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

