



Boswell Regional Center Bulletin

# October 2015

A Publication for Employees, Family and Friends of BRC

# Boswell Homecoming

By: Will Beeson

The Boswell Homecoming began in October 2005. It was called the Fall Ball at that time and consisted of a football game between the individuals and staff. The game was an attempt to inspire the individuals to attend classes. To make the game even more exciting for the clients, we contacted the Magee Jr. High School Band and Cheerleaders and persuaded them to perform a pep rally before the game. This became a tradition that has continued to this day. The individuals chose to name their team the Hurricanes because Katrina had brought so much destruction just a few months earlier. Staying with the storm theme, the staff selected Typhoons for their team. Coaches Calvert Sims, Jr., and Jason Holloway started from scratch in preparing the Hurricanes for their first game. Their efforts paid off in many ways both on and off the field. In the weeks that preceded the game the staff and individuals “trash talked” the game up to such a fevered pitch it resulted in a remarkable 98% class attendance rate. The Hurricanes won that game on a last second Hail Mary pass that was nothing short of miraculous.



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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, October, 2015 Issue.

# Boswell Homecoming

...continued

In the years that followed, we began playing Campus versus Community games. In the beginning it was a pretty even match up. But, over several years the Community team began to pull away and the campus individuals noticed the change. They began to look at the community differently; not as an equal rival, but as having more options and choices than those remaining on campus. Before long, everyone wanted to play for the Community team. This helped encourage several clients that wouldn't consider transitioning to a community setting. In 2014, we added the homecoming court to the festivities and changed the name to the BRC Homecoming.

The idea to begin playing local high schools is a result of the huge shift in our population from campus to community settings. During a recent class held by the Simpson County Development Fund (SCDF), I approached Marney Walker, Simpson County Academy's Elementary Principle, and asked if he thought their high school would consider playing the Hurricanes? After telling him our story, and although he couldn't speak for the Headmaster, Marney was firmly in our corner. Within a few days he called and said the game was on. Having set the date for the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, I approached the other members of the Simpson County Development Fund's Leaders Program and suggested we make this our class project. They immediately agreed and began sharing their experiences with our individuals. Each of them has a loved one with special needs or an experience with our clients that had touched them personally. Richard Rankin, the leader of the SCDF, even agreed to provide funding for the trophies and tiaras. As part of our project other community entities participated in many different ways this year. Priority One Bank provided funding and set up a Poke a Pumpkin booth at the Fall Festival following the game. The Rotary Club sponsored a balloon artist, and students from Simpson County Academy and the Simpson County Technical Center set up booths as well. The Simpson County Technical Center also sent its students to tour our campus that morning in hopes of inspiring some of them to consider a career in working with people with special needs.



# Homecoming Court



From left to right: M. McGill, J. Lott, S. Ball, S. Smith, A. Disharoon, J. Loftin, E. Manning (Queen), M. Jones, A. Green, W. Warren, M. Brant, Brett McDonnial and J. Wallace.



Meagan from Hairfabulous did J. Loftin's hair and makeup free of charge to help her prepare for homecoming. This was a dream come true for her since she didn't get to be on the homecoming court in high school.



# Paint it Pink

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness month and Boswell Regional Center helped spread awareness by “Painting it Pink” during all of the activities such as BRC’s Homecoming and Fall Festival. Employees showed their support for hope by wearing pink on October 22, 2015. The Wellness Committee set up a tent and distributed brochures on cancer, gave out candy, gave away a door prize and recognized some of our staff that are survivors.



Left: Angela Murphy, Marinell Tedford, and Kimberly Newsome are breast cancer survivors that helped work the Wellness tent. Right: Dale Mitchell is a BRC nurse who was also present to distribute materials at the tent. Below: Several employees “Paint it Pink” to raise awareness.



# Spotlight on: Rhonda McCallum



**Ms. Rhonda McCallum**  
**Director of Day Services**  
**Adult Community Programs**

The Spotlight for this month is on Ms. Rhonda McCallum. She was born and raised in the Shady Grove community of Mize, Mississippi. Thinking back on her childhood, Ms. McCallum reminisces about growing up in a loving family with three brothers and one sister. Her father was a truck driver and a farmer. Her mother was a devoted homemaker who stayed home to raise Rhonda and her siblings.

Rhonda attended Mize Attendance Center and graduated in 1990. She then attended Jones Junior College where she took her core classes. The next stop was William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. She graduated with a Secondary Education Degree with a major in Biology and minor in General Science. Later, she returned to William Carey to receive her Master's in education in the field of Mild/Moderate Disabilities.

Ms. McCallum began her career at Boswell Regional Center as a Vocational Training Technician in 1999 in what was then the Education Department. When a teaching position opened up, she applied and got a job as a teacher. Through her time in the Education Department, Ms. McCallum worked as a unit teacher and a classroom teacher. A couple of years ago, she transferred to the Staff Development Department. There she taught Mandt<sup>®</sup>, CPR, and other classes. In August 2015, Ms.

McCallum transitioned again and became the director of the Day Services-Adult Community Programs.

Rhonda still resides in Mize, Mississippi, the hometown she loves, with her husband, Jerry Pat McCallum, and her 15-year-old son, Clint. Some of her many hobbies are floral arranging, wreath making, and decorating. Favorite quote: "This is what the past is for! Every experience God gives us, every person He puts in our lives is the perfect preparation for the future that only He can see." - Corrie Ten Boom



J. Watling was sad when he had to say goodbye to his girlfriend E. Smith several months ago. Tears were shed when she had her going away party. What a happy day it was when J. Watling got to take a trip from his Broadhead home to the coast to visit E. Smith on her birthday (October 29th)! This was the best present she could have gotten.



# MH/IDD Conference

The Mississippi Department of Mental Health held its annual Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities joint conference on October 28-30, in Biloxi, MS, at the Golden Nugget. This was the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual event and “Making a Difference” was the theme this year. Mr. Allen, Director of Boswell Regional Center, presented on Wednesday in a break out session with an overview of Boswell Regional Center. Uneika Funches presented on Thursday about the SUCCESS Program. David Tedford also presented on Thursday about the Jump Start Program (An Entrepreneurial Model for Employment). Also on Thursday, Lisa Bryant presented on Empowering a Creative Pathway. Everyone in attendance enjoyed this annual event and was thankful for the wealth of knowledge shared.



# Mississippi Special Olympics Team

By: Calvert Sims, Jr.

The Pearl River Region (Area 2) combined with the Lafayette Region (Area 4) to assemble a Unified Softball Team to represent the Mississippi Special Olympics at the annual Special Olympics North America Softball Tournament held in Wichita, Kansas, from September 23, 2015, through September 28, 2015. The Mississippi Warriors gave it their all and were able to bring the silver medal back to Mississippi in this year's event. The Warriors lost to the Oklahoma Razorbacks in the Championship game 25-22. The individuals had a great time participating in the tournament and various other activities offered throughout the week. The individuals, unified partners and coaches that participated were as following: C. Wann, S. Banks, W. Turnage, W. Cochran, James Randolph, Tarius Byrd, Jeremy Clark, Trinessa Walker and Calvert Sims, Jr. I would like to thank Boswell Regional Center and the Boswell Friends and Family organization for supporting the Pearl River Region Special Olympics chapter.



# Dream Haven Costume Ball

During the Dream Haven II costume ball on Thursday October 28, 2015, many people participated. The guys who dressed up included M. Hall as a Ninja, R. Lawson as Popeye, C. Deschamp as a clown, N. Smith as a pirate and T. Dorsett was a vampire. The ladies who dressed in costume included B. Nalker as an angel, E. Richardson as a witch (in a costume purchased by her mother), M. Brown was a vampire, J. Edwards was a devil, and R. Foltz was a farmer.

Ms. Felicia Turner was the DJ and she played some great music. Thanks to second shift staff for preparing the food. Ashley Cooks from 1st shift volunteered, and she is appreciated for her dedication and willingness to serve. Most of all, thanks to Brookhaven Recreational staff Josie Taylor for making this event happen.



# Simpson County Vocational Center Classes Visit BRC



Left to Right: Jason Martin, BRC Maintenance Director; Mr. Maurice Bryant, SCTC Carpentry Instructor; Earl Smith; Jovon Newton; Marcus Hamilton; Dr. Bo Huffman, SCTC Director; Will Beeson, STS/SS Administrator; and Angie Tanner, BRC Public Works Dept.



# Wesson Geriatric Fall Festival

The Wesson Geriatric Home enjoyed a fall festival lunch on October 12, 2015. The luncheon was hosted by the Zion Hill Baptist church in Wesson, MS. Music filled the room as the clients enjoyed a spiritual atmosphere from songs by Mr. Ken Hedgepeth. The clients enjoyed cheeseburgers, baked beans, chips, tea and a choice from a variety of desserts. They also were given large goody bags as they departed.



# MAC at Special Olympics



Some of the guys from Mississippi Adolescent Center attended the State Special Olympics Fall Games at Camp Shelby October 9 -11.

# MAC at the Fair



# Lunch at McDonalds



Guys from the MAC enjoyed lunch at McDonald's on Wednesday, October 7, 2015.

# Meeting Bobby Rush



During Mr. Green's August PSS meeting, he said seeing blues singer Bobby Rush would be a dream come true. Staff worked to make that happen, and on October 21st Mr. Green had a chance to meet Blues Legend Bobby Rush. He was performing at the local Mexican restaurant, Fernando's, in Magee, MS.

# Treat Street

On Saturday, October 31, 2015, Magee General Hospital held their annual Treat Street event. Due to inclement weather, the event was moved to the National Guard Armory. W. Keys and M. Copeland had a blast giving out treats to the little ghost and goblins as they passed the Boswell Regional Center station. All proceeds went to HealthTrust.



## *Pastor's Corner*



The month of October was Pastors' Appreciation Month. During the October Directors' meeting, Mr. Steven Allen honored BRC chaplain, Bro. Rudy Jackson.

### **Forgive Me When I Whine**

Today upon a bus, I saw a lovely maid with golden hair; I envied her -- she seemed so happy, and how, I wished I were so fair; When suddenly she rose to leave, I saw her hobble down the aisle; she had one foot and wore a crutch, but as she passed, a smile. Oh God, forgive me when I whine, I have two feet -- the world is mine.

And when I stopped to buy some sweets, the lad who served me had such charm; he seemed to radiate good cheer, his manner was so kind and warm; I said, "It's nice to deal with you, such courtesy I seldom find"; he turned and said, "Oh, thank you sir." And then I saw that he was blind. Oh, God, forgive me when I whine, I have two eyes, the world is mine.

Then, when walking down the street, I saw a child with eyes of blue; he stood and watched the others play, it seemed he knew not what to do; I stopped a moment, then I said, "Why don't you join the others, dear?" He looked ahead without a word, and then I knew he could not hear. Oh God, forgive me when I whine, I have two ears, the world is mine.

With feet to take me where I'd go; with eyes to see the sunsets glow, with ears to hear what I would know. I am blessed indeed. The world is mine; oh, God, forgive me when I whine.

**Psa 100:4** Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, *and* into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, *and* bless his name.

Have a blessed day,

Bro Rudy

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# Day of Diversity

On October 13<sup>th</sup> BRC celebrated Day of Diversity with an estimated participation of 135 people. Three countries were represented - Mexico, Japan and Ireland. Clients from the Day Services Program dressed in the proper attire representing each country. Randy Robertson from our maintenance department displayed his teepee with artifacts of fox hide, raccoon hide, beaver hide, traps, rifles, camp fire and much more. The menu consisted of fried rice, fried tortilla chips, homemade salsa, sugar cookies with green sprinkles, fortune cookies and green punch. A video was shown representing each country. This event began at 9:00a.m. and ended at 3:00p.m.



# Governor's Service Award



Boswell Regional Center employee receives Governor's service award in recognition of 20 years of state service. Lee Middleton, Information Technology Department, was recognized for his dedication to BRC at the October Directors' meeting. Congratulations!

# BRC September EOM



During the October Directors' Meeting, Boswell Regional Center recognized Employees of the Month in the area of support/professional staff. Employees of the Month for September are Sandra Craft, Pinelake, and Carla Nichols, switchboard. Congratulations to you both!!!!

# MAC September EOM



MAC's 2015 September EOM is Phillip Kimble. Phillip works in the Residential Living Department as a MH Active Treatment Technician Trainee on A Shift. He began working as a contract RLS worker on May 6, 2013, and became a full time employee on November 4, 2013.



# eating better on a budget



## 10 tips to help you stretch your food dollars

**Get the most for your food budget!** There are many ways to save money on the foods that you eat. The three main steps are planning before you shop, purchasing the items at the best price, and preparing meals that stretch your food dollars.

### 1 plan, plan, plan!

Before you head to the grocery store, plan your meals for the week. Include meals like stews, casseroles, or stir-fries, which “stretch” expensive items into more portions. Check to see what foods you already have and make a list for what you need to buy.

### 2 get the best price

Check the local newspaper, online, and at the store for sales and coupons. Ask about a loyalty card for extra savings at stores where you shop. Look for specials or sales on meat and seafood—often the most expensive items on your list.



### 3 compare and contrast

Locate the “Unit Price” on the shelf directly below the product. Use it to compare different brands and different sizes of the same brand to determine which is more economical.

### 4 buy in bulk

It is almost always cheaper to buy foods in bulk. Smart choices are family packs of chicken, steak, or fish and larger bags of potatoes and frozen vegetables. Before you shop, remember to check if you have enough freezer space.

### 5 buy in season

Buying fruits and vegetables in season can lower the cost and add to the freshness! If you are not going to use them all right away, buy some that still need time to ripen.

### 6 convenience costs... go back to the basics

Convenience foods like frozen dinners, pre-cut vegetables, and instant rice, oatmeal, or grits will cost you more than if you were to make them from scratch. Take the time to prepare your own—and save!

### 7 easy on your wallet

Certain foods are typically low-cost options all year round. Try beans for a less expensive protein food. For vegetables, buy carrots, greens, or potatoes. As for fruits, apples and bananas are good choices.



### 8 cook once...eat all week!

Prepare a large batch of favorite recipes on your day off (double or triple the recipe). Freeze in individual containers. Use them throughout the week and you won't have to spend money on take-out meals.

### 9 get your creative juices flowing

Spice up your leftovers—use them in new ways. For example, try leftover chicken in a stir-fry or over a garden salad, or to make chicken chili. Remember, throwing away food is throwing away your money!

### 10 eating out

Restaurants can be expensive. Save money by getting the early bird special, going out for lunch instead of dinner, or looking for “2 for 1” deals. Stick to water instead of ordering other beverages, which add to the bill.

# IT TIP

## Shopping Online

Shopping online offers lots of benefits that you won't find shopping in a store or by mail. The internet is always open and bargains can be numerous online. Here are some tips to help you stay safe while shopping online this holiday season:

### Use Familiar Websites.

- \*Start at a trusted site rather than shopping with a search engine. Search engines can be rigged to lead you astray.
- \*Beware of misspellings of a store name in the website address. Some attackers try to trick you by creating malicious websites that appear legitimate.

### Look for the Lock.

- \*Never buy anything online using your credit card from a site that the web address doesn't start with https://. Usually, once you begin a secure checkout, this will appear in front of the address of the website.
- \*Also, an icon of a locked padlock will appear somewhere on your browser. Typically this is located in the status bar at the bottom of your web browser or right next to the address bar. Never use unsecured wireless networks to make an online purchase.

### Don't Tell All.

- \*No online shopping store needs your social security number or your birthday to make a purchase. However, if crooks get them, combined with your credit card number, they can do a lot of damage. The more they know the easier it is to steal your identity.

### Use Safe Payment Options.

- \*Credit cards are generally the safest option. Unlike debit cards, credit cards may have a limit on the monetary amount you will be responsible for paying if your information is stolen or used by someone else.

### Keep a Paper Trail.

- \*Print and save records of your online transactions, including the product description, price, online receipt, terms of the sale, and copies of any email exchange with the seller. Check your credit card statements often for any unauthorized charges and report any discrepancies to your bank immediately.



### 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 person, family, and community, dreams can become reality.**

***Where Dreams Can Become Reality***

**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**



**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!*

## 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

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## 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**

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Boswell Regional Center  
Post Office Box 128  
Magee, MS 39111  
Telephone: 601-867-5000  
[www.brc.state.ms.us](http://www.brc.state.ms.us)

A MS Department of Mental Health Facility