



# Boswell Regional Center Bulletin

# September 2013

A Publication for Employees, Family and Friends of BRC

# Walking Through New Orleans

By: Jason Holloway

On August 31, 2013, several individuals had their dream of visiting New Orleans become a reality. The group enjoyed visiting Audubon Aquarium of the Americas and the Riverwalk. For many of the individuals, this was their first opportunity to visit this great and historic city. The group also enjoyed dining at a favorite tourist dining place, Bubba Gump. In addition to visiting the aquarium and eating at Bubba Gump, the highlight of the outing for many of the individuals was shopping and walking the streets. The group enjoyed looking at the relics of former times and sightseeing by foot.

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The publication of the BRC Bulletin is made possible by the contributions of 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, September 2013 Issue.



Photography by: Lana Hall and Jason Holloway

## Spotlight on: Calvert Sims, Jr.



Calvert Sims, Jr., is a young man with many life experiences. After graduating with honors from Magee High School in 1997, he attended Copiah Lincoln (Co-Lin) Junior College where he was on the Dean's List, was Who's Who Among Junior College Students, was co-captain of the Men's Basketball team and won several other awards. He then went on to Tougaloo College where again he was on the Dean's List and was Who's Who Among Colleges and Universities. Mr. Sims was also a member of the Kappa Delta Phi Honors Society. He was recipient of the Halbrook Award which is awarded to student-athletes across the state who excel in academics, leadership, and community service. Many awards for academic excellence were earned by Mr. Sims during his attendance at Tougaloo before he graduated Cum-Laude in 2002 with a Baccalaureate of Arts in Health and Recreation. Calvert later decided to go back to school and earned a Master's of Science degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Jackson State University. He is also a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Calvert has accomplishments that go beyond his many college accolades. He has worked to develop himself professionally. He volunteered to be one of Boswell's first Mandt System trainers, which is a program that teaches staff how to prevent or handle crisis situations. He is a Certified Mental Health Therapist, a Certified Public Manager, and a 2009 FOCUS training graduate.

Currently, he is a Director where he supervises staff and programming. He also has to coordinate and organize the activities of both professional and paraprofessional staff. Prior to his employment at Boswell, Calvert showed leadership skills as a high school program coordinator, nursing home case manager, and an elementary school program assistant.

Mr. Sims has a love for sports that he uses to inspire and mentor both young and old to do their best. He has been an assistant coach for a team in the Upward Bound Basketball Program in Magee. Since 2008 he has worked closely with Special Olympics. He is currently the Director for Area 2 which includes Simpson, Pike, Lincoln, Copiah, Lawrence and Jefferson Davis Counties. He works with Kamp Kaleidoscope which is a summer camp that gives children with Autism Spectrum Disorder the opportunity to have a fun camp experience. Additionally, for the past four years, Calvert has also owned a basketball team on which he plays, is head coach, and manages. The name of this team is Southern Flavor, and they have played three consecutive years in the Hattiesburg Parks and Recreation City League Championship games. For each year the team has played in the championship games, Southern Flavor has brought home a season title. In 2012, Mr. Sims' team won the championship.

Last, but not least, Calvert is an active member of Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Mendenhall. He serves as a youth teacher and worker on Wednesday nights and on youth night. He also serves as needed on various other programs in the church.

Article by: Sondra Wells Arthur and Patreana Sims



# Brookhaven Day Services

By: Sabrina Dixon

We are doing great things at Brookhaven Day Services! This is a service where individuals from Wes-son Geriatrics and Brookhaven Autism come together to socialize under one setting. There are many programs included, such as Expressive Arts, where people work on arts and crafts and prepare snack items in the kitchen. The Fitness program gets them up and moving. They'll get a good workout as Mrs. Teresa Humphrey leads an exercise class with the assistance of Richard Simmons. At other times, they can do virtual sports with the X-Box Kinect games. Other activities include playing checkers, Karaoke singing, and dance.

A room called "The Classroom" is where Mrs. Faye L. offers opportunities for individuals to maintain their cognitive skills. The sensory room allows people with a diagnosis of Autism a place to calm down. Soon, Brookhaven Day Services will be offering "Me Time" in our Spa room. On Tuesdays from 8:30am to 9:30am we have "Current Events and Coffee" with Brother Daniel Britt. He asks questions about current events and the individuals respond.

Mrs. Teresa Humphrey assists individuals who do volunteer work as part of the Brookhaven Day Services program. She takes groups of volunteers to nursing homes on Bingo Day. They assist with handing out coffee, sugar, bingo chips, and other items needed. The volunteers always express their excitement when it's time for those outings. Mrs. Humphrey takes an individual volunteer to St. Andrew's Consignment where she prices stock and puts items on shelves.

Close by, are the Psychologist and Social worker, whose offices are located within the Day Services building. This is a new program that we are all excited about. We are doing great things for our individuals here at Brookhaven Day Services. We are constantly looking for new ways to develop the program and give those who participate new choices and new experiences. Our motto at Brookhaven Day Services is, "We Are Doing Great Things for Our Individuals."



Photography by: Teresa Humphrey



Sewing Machine Day on Sept. 10 celebrated a very important invention - the sewing machine. The first sewing machines were made in France in the 1830s. It wasn't until 1846 that they were patented in the U.S. What a great invention! Prior to it's creation, clothes items were sewn together by hand...stitch by stitch.

People who know how to use a sewing machine are dwindling in number. Our mothers and grandmothers had a sewing machine in the house. Pictured are Syble Thornton, Boswell Regional Center's clothing coordinator/seamstress and Assistant Director, Cindy Womack.

Ms. Thornton is so talented. She loves the ones we serve and if you are looking for a bargain shopper, here she is! We appreciate you very much!

## College of Direct Support

By: Will Beeson

Congratulations to Ridgeview DSA Mrs. Dinah Walker. Mrs. Walker, a 20-year BRC employee, graduated from the College of Direct Support this past May. She was able to complete the challenging online curriculum in just under 12 months. Mrs. Walker said she felt overwhelmed at times but kept the pace in order to stay focused. She most enjoyed the teaching aspects of the courses. The more in-depth training showed her how to connect with the individuals and help them succeed in the Community.

The ARC of Mississippi and the College of Direct Support partner in bringing this exciting program to our Direct Support Professionals. Over the past 10 years the College of Direct Support's online curriculum has been built on the idea that everyone deserves the chance to lead a rich, rewarding life. Mrs. Walker has always adhered to these principles. Her supervisor, Gary Runnels, stated that watching Mrs. Walker rise to an even higher level in her profession comes as no surprise. Having worked with her for more than 10 years, he has come to respect Mrs. Walker as one of the most caring and dedicated employees he has ever known.



# Reading Class at the Magee Library

By: Calvert Sims, Jr.

The individuals from Magee Autism Services are embracing the new challenge of expanding their community inclusion in the Simpson County area. Therefore, we have partnered with the Magee Public Library to enhance the lives of individuals living with Autism at Boswell Regional Center. This program offers library membership and etiquette, story book reading, arts & crafts, and computer activities. This is a great example of allowing dreams to become reality.



# Boswell Industries One Year Anniversary



# Community Labor Day Cookout

By: Kerri M. East

The Labor Day cookout was a day filled with fun and fellowship. The weather was perfect. As a matter of fact, we could not have asked for better weather that day. It was not too hot, nor was it raining. It was the perfect mixture! The day began at Green Park with games, friends, and snow cones. The smell of food cooking on the grills filled the air while everyone enjoyed their time at the park. The individuals were served lunch at the park, and they enjoyed a picnic-style lunch. The meal consisted of hot dogs, baked beans, potato chips, fudge round, and a drink. That afternoon the individuals gathered at the auditorium for a movie. The movie that they watched was Oblivion with Tom Cruise and Morgan Freeman. This action-packed film was enjoyed by all who came out to see it. Later that night the individuals reunited at the park for some more outside fun time. There were games played such as basketball, frisbee, volleyball, bean bag toss, and more.

The event was a big success! There are many staff who made this possible for the individuals that we serve, and they are appreciated very much. The main objective was to ensure that the individuals enjoyed their holiday, and that they did!!



Photography by: Lana Hall

# Paint it Purple

By: Beth Luper

Boswell Regional Center raised awareness! September 20th The Paint It Purple event was held as part of a statewide collaboration between the Department of Mental Health Division of Alzheimer's, the Alzheimer's Association Mississippi Chapter, the UMMC MIND Center and the Department of Human Services Division of Aging and Adult Services.

The emotional, physical and financial toll can be difficult for the estimated 53,000 Mississippians diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. In 2010, there were 916 Alzheimer's disease related deaths in Mississippi. By 2025, it is estimated more than 65,000 Mississippians will have Alzheimer's disease.

According to the National Alzheimer's Association warning signs of Alzheimer's disease include:

- Memory loss that disrupts daily life
- Challenges in planning or solving problems
- Difficulty completing familiar tasks at home, at work or at leisure
- Confusion with time or place
- Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships
- New problems with words in speaking or writing
- Misplacing things or losing the ability to retrace steps
- Decreased or poor judgment
- Withdrawal from work or social activities



# Painting it Purple!

## People's Bank Priority 1 Bank



# Magee General Hospital

# Central Office





# Governor's Service Awards



Boswell Regional Center employees Evelyn Williamson of Magee (10 years) , Shirley Harper of Magee (30 years) , Renee Sullivan of Mendenhall (10 years) , JoAnn Nelson of Magee (10 years) and Dinah Walker of D'Lo (20 years) were all recognized for their (80) total years of service to the State of Mississippi at the September Director's Meeting.



# Employees of the Month

Each month Boswell selects employees for this honor. These recipients exemplify one that goes above and beyond the call of duty. These employees are now eligible to be selected for Employee of the Year at Boswell Regional Center.

Congratulations! Pictured are (l) Sharon Floyd, Community Services and (r) Ben Robinson, Maintenance

# Remembering 9/11

Boswell Regional Center remembered September 9/11 by flying the flags at half-staff. The grounds were also decorated with flags and patriotically-colored balloons. Some Boswell staff have been involved with giving donations to soldiers to express their appreciation to those who sacrifice and serve our country. If you are interested giving to a serving military member, check out [AnySoldier.com](http://AnySoldier.com) for more information.



## 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*



**Any Soldier®**  
Freedom isn't free! Just ask Any Soldier...

# Concession Stand Perry Gets Pampered

The rain did not stop the game at all. Friday, September 20th, BRC was in charge of the concession stand at the Magee vs. Columbia football game. Several employees and three individuals (K. Moorman, C. Ficklin and M. Copeland) took the time out to participate in community involvement. We support our community in every effort!



Perry says he, "loves being pampered," and Jennifer Baggett, hair stylist at Lavell's Barber and Beauty Shop, gives him just that! Perry calls Jennifer regularly to get his scalp massaged and hair braided as well as his eyebrows plucked. Perry is employed at Wal-Mart and says he loves his job! Being employed in the community has developed his social and job skills. Perry is a vital contribution to the community says Kathy Dampeer-Pittman, Public Relations Director.

# National Teddy Bear Day

National Teddy Bear Day takes place in the U.S. on September 9th. Initially a U.S.- specific holiday, this is increasingly being celebrated by bear lovers across the world. There appears to be no record of the origin of this holiday or why this particular date was chosen. Perhaps the bears themselves know.

Teddy Bears are, of course, named after U.S. President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt. The name came about after a 1902 hunting expedition in Mississippi.



# Pastor's Corner

During his days as president, Thomas Jefferson and a group of companions were traveling across the country on horseback. They came to a river which had left its banks because of a recent downpour. The swollen river had washed the bridge away. Each rider was forced to ford the river on horseback, fighting for his life against the rapid currents. The very real possibility of death threatened each rider, which caused a traveler who was not part of their group to step aside and watch. After several had plunged in and made it to the other side, the stranger asked President Jefferson if he would ferry him across the river. The president agreed without hesitation. The man climbed on, and shortly thereafter the two of them made it safely to the other side. As the stranger slid off the back of the saddle onto dry ground, one in the group asked him, "Tell me, why did you select the president to ask this favor of?" The man was shocked, admitting he had no idea it was the president who had helped him. "All I know," he said, "is that on some of your faces was written the answer 'No,' and on some of them was the answer 'Yes.' His was a 'Yes' face."

When I read this story, I could not help but think of the individuals that we serve and the rivers in their life that they face every day, and what makes their daily crossings, of what ever that river may be, a successful one.

Surely it depends on the staff that are in place that have that "Yes Face" that gives our friends comfort and confidence they need to be independent and successful. But I'm convinced that our community involvement should know how much they are a strength and comfort for our friends also. The surrounding community churches that have found a ministry at Boswell may not realize what a blessing they are and how much we depend on their involvement. I personally believe that they are a vital key to the success that we will have in our community placement of our individuals. I also want to challenge area churches that are looking for a rewarding ministry to look our way, but it will require you to put on a "Yes Face." What kind of a face are you wearing around today?

Have a blessed day,  
Bro. Rudy Jackson



**Bro. Rudy Jackson, BRC  
chaplain**





The week of September 9th-13th was designated as Direct Support Professional Recognition Week. This marked the sixth consecutive year that the United States Senate made this declaration. Every day, direct support professionals (DSPs) work tirelessly to support thousands upon thousands of individuals, in all fifty states, and around the clock. A banner was displayed at the front entrance, and Mr. Allen sent handwritten letters to every program stating their value to the ones we serve. The results are reflecting our motto, "Where Dreams Can Become Reality."

# ATTENTION ALL EMPLOYEES



## Health Insurance Open Enrollment

If you need to add dependents to your Health Insurance **only**, please come by the Payroll Office between

October 1, 2013  
and

October 25, 2013

8:00 am to 4:30 pm



**ATTENTION**  
**ALL**  
**EMPLOYEES**



**Mandatory**  
**for all Employees**  
**to attend!**

## **Cafeteria Plan Meetings**

**On Campus (at Training Center)**

October 17-18, 2013  
6:30 am to 4:00 pm each day

**Brookhaven WAC**  
**For all Brookhaven and Wesson employees**

October 16, 2013 from 6:30 am to 4:00 pm

# Men, make informed decisions about your prostate health. Know the facts and options for testing and treatment.

Talk to your doctor about the possible risks and benefits of prostate cancer testing so that you can decide if testing is right for you.

## The talk about testing should take place:

- At age 50 for men who are at average risk of prostate cancer and are expected to live at least 10 more years
- At age 45 for men at high risk of getting prostate cancer. This includes African American men and men who have a father, brother, or son found to have prostate cancer at an early age (younger than age 65).
- At age 40 for men at even higher risk (those with several family members – father, brother, son) who had prostate cancer (younger than age 65)



To learn more about prostate cancer, visit the American Cancer Society's Web site at [cancer.org](http://cancer.org) or call us at **1-800-227-2345**. We want to help you stay well.

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**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     In Honor of

\_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledgement should be sent to the following:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### 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.

### Fundraisers

Some examples of fundraisers that have been held are:

**Scrub Sales**

**Jewelry Sales**

**Book Fairs**

**RADA Knives**

**T-shirt Sales**

**Special Hosted Events**



## Friends & Family Association



How to become a member...

### Membership Information

Indicate at right which type of membership you wish by placing a check mark in the appropriate box.

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 2012-2013

- Single/BRC Employee - Free**
- Single/Non-employee \$5** Membership Card
- Bronze \$25** Membership certificate designating level of giving
- Silver \$50** Membership certificate designating level of giving  
Name on all Friends & Family sponsored events
- Gold \$100** Membership certificate designating level of giving  
Name on all Friends & Family sponsored events  
Recognition in each issue of the Bulletin newsletter
- Platinum \$500** Membership certificate designating level of giving  
Name on all Friends & Family sponsored events  
Recognition in each issue of the Bulletin newsletter  
Publicity in local media  
Boswell 35th Anniversary cookbook