



*March 22nd  
IDD awareness at the Capitol*

## *Boswell Celebrates IDD Month*

**E**ach year Boswell Regional Center celebrates Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month during March. This year was no exception.

The purpose of observing March as IDD Awareness month is to raise public consciousness regarding people with disabilities and to recognize that they, too, have a place in society.

An annual event that takes place during the month of March is an IDD Awareness Day at the Capitol. At this year's event, held on March 22nd, Boswell was just one of several facilities that submitted a display. The theme was "Together... Supporting a Better Tomorrow, Today." This year's display focused on BRC's Early Intervention Program. Director of Early Intervention Program Rosalyn Forrest brought along some adaptive devices utilized by children and their parents through EIP. This program, available to children from birth to three-years-old, gives families and their children enrolled in the program ways to support and educate both the child and the parent. Parents learn that everyday activities can present opportunities for learning.

In Wesson, an exhibit focusing on IDD Awareness Month was featured at Trustmark Bank downtown on Friday, March 25th. According to Director of Wesson Group Homes,

Daniel Britt, the bank wholeheartedly supports the activity each year.

At the Brookhaven Exchange Club meeting on Thursday, March 31st several Boswell employees were featured speakers. They spoke about the center and the various programs and services that are provided. Those speaking at the meeting were Gloria Johnson, Assistant Director; Kerry Bynum, Director of ICF/MR Community Services; Daniel Britt, Director of Wesson Group Homes; and Rosalyn Forrest, Director of the Early Intervention Program and the Brookhaven Work Activity Center. They discussed the history of Boswell, ICF/MR Community Programs, Early Intervention, the Work Activity Center and fielded questions from the 35-40 members who were present at the meeting.



*Artwork donated.....Page 3*



*BRC Wellness.....Page 6*



**Pictured at IDD Awareness Day at the Capitol are, from left: Gloria Johnson, Assistant Director; Senator Nolan Mettetal of Sardis; Kathy Pittman, PR Officer, and Rosalyn Forrest, Director of Boswell's Early Intervention Program and the Brookhaven Work Activity Center.**

# DIRECTOR'S COLUMN



Raymond Johnson

With the advent of spring comes wonderful opportunities for our individuals to engage in outside activities, but we always remain mindful of extreme weather conditions and take their safety into consideration when planning these events.

And we do have a number of upcoming events planned that our individuals enjoy. In particular they look forward to Spring Fling, which is a great day of celebration and fun, filled with games and exciting tournaments, and of course, delicious food as always.

If you've had the occasion lately to visit our campus, you most likely have noticed the four new buildings are modifying the entire face of the facility's appearance and make wonderful additions. Both individuals and staff alike are excited and are waiting with anticipation receiving the word on when moving can begin to take place.

We have received wonderful news that the Goodwater Group Home is nearing completion. You may recall that the group home suffered major damage in March 2009 when a tornado ripped through the Magee area. Fortunately, we have been

able to house these individuals on campus, but we know they are ready to go home and soon that will become a reality.

There are other projects in the works including the renovation of the work activity center in downtown Magee, which was formerly the Fred's building. The workshop will offer employment opportunities for individuals living in the community setting.

This has been a very challenging legislative session for our senators and representatives. An estimated 500 citizens concerned about the budgets for education and mental health met at the Capitol on Tuesday, March 29th. Several speakers addressed the crowd regarding support for both causes, but it was a nurse from north Mississippi who told her story of mental illness and the help that she received through the Department of Mental Health that seemed to have the greatest impact on the crowd. It seems that when faces are put to the programs, then plans to cut services and programs take on a new meaning; that real lives are being affected by budget cuts.

We will be having our annual Easter Service on Friday, April 23rd at 10 a.m. in the auditorium. If you wish to and are able, we would love to have you attend this meaningful service.

Best Regards

## 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 individual's quality of life through teaching skills which aid in reaching personal potential.*



## 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**

**Kathy Lee, Editor**

**Kathy Dampeer-Pittman,  
Assistant**

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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# Two employees receive 10-year Walmart pin

Pam Webb and Charles Dykes both were recipients of their 10-year Walmart pin recently. Both are employed at the Walmart store in Magee. Pam works in the Maintenance/Housekeeping Department and Charles Dykes is a cart pusher.

Pam and Charles are recipients of Boswell services and are employed through the Supported Employment program.

For Pam, Walmart was her first job, but Charles was previously employed with Butch Russums Veterinary Clinic.

Mark Ellington, Walmart manager in Magee, believes in supporting employment of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He currently employs seven individuals who receive Boswell services.



**Pictured are Pam Webb, left, and Charles Dykes, right, being congratulated by Mark Ellington, manager of Magee Walmart, at center, on receiving their 10-year pins and certificates.**

## Boswell individuals show appreciation to bank employees



As a part of IDD Awareness Month, retired individuals who live in the community and receive Boswell services presented these special pictures (shown above) created from the heart of each one to give to the employees of Priority One Bank in Magee. The gift of these pictures is a thank you from these individuals to Priority One employees for the special Christmas party they host each year. Individuals are treated to food, fun and presents, but it's the fellowship of these special friends they enjoy the most. They are also thrilled each year by a special guest visitor-Santa Claus.



This unique relationship came about in 2003 after bank employees agreed to take on a project for Christmas and they chose Boswell. Because of that decision made almost eight years ago, a wonderful relationship has formed. At last year's Christmas Party, bank employees also made a book filled with pictures from past Christmases celebrated at Priority One and presented it to them. The Christmas Party tradition is one that employees and BRC individuals plan on continuing for many years to come.

# Art students work displayed at Magee library

Pictures painted by Boswell individuals are currently being displayed at the Magee Public Library. The art can be purchased as well.

A percentage of the purchase price of the art goes to the individual and the remainder goes back into the Expressive Arts program to purchase materials.

Forty-one Boswell artists had 74 works of art on display at the Arts Center of Mississippi from March 14-April 3 for the 23rd Annual VSA/Goodwill Exhibition for Artists with Disabilities.

The artist pictured at right was the recipient of an Honorable Mention Award.



**An individual receiving Boswell services is pictured with his award winning drawing on display with other individuals works of art at Magee’s library.**

## *Employees of the Month, Gov. Service Award Recipients*

### Employees of the Month

#### **Resident Living:**

#### **November 2010**

Lashina Keys- Unit 4 (1<sup>st</sup> Shift)  
Curtis Hobbs- Unit 3 (2<sup>nd</sup> Shift)  
Alice Stokes- Unit 3 (3<sup>rd</sup> Shift)

#### **December 2010**

Job Craft- Unit 4 (1<sup>st</sup> Shift)  
Emma McCullum- Unit 1 (2<sup>nd</sup> Shift)  
Jocephus Gardner- Unit 3 (3<sup>rd</sup> Shift)

#### **Community ICF/MR:**

Mae Griffith- Pineview (3<sup>rd</sup> Shift)

#### **Community Services:**

Betty William- Brookhaven

### Governor Service Awards:

Debbie Whitlock - 10 years  
Cindy Quick - 20 years  
Barbara Smith - 10 years  
Jessica Womack - 10 years  
William “Lawrence” Sills - 20 years

### Employees of the Month

#### **Resident Living:**

#### **January 2011**

Neacole Price- Unit 1 (1<sup>st</sup> Shift)  
Sharon Jaynes- Unit 2 (2<sup>nd</sup> Shift)  
Lisa Blackwell- Unit 2 (3<sup>rd</sup> Shift)

#### **Community ICF/MR:**

Ruby Piner- Brookhaven

#### **Community Services:**

Sherry Meadows- State Farm Apartments

### Governor Service Awards:

June Green - 20 years

### Employees of the Month

#### **Resident Living:**

#### **February 2010**

Nate Magee - Unit 4 (1<sup>st</sup> Shift)  
Lee Harris - Unit 4 (2<sup>nd</sup> Shift)  
Stanley Dampier - Unit 4 (3<sup>rd</sup> Shift)

#### **Community ICF/MR:**

Lamesha Bridgewater - Wesson ICF/MR Group Home

#### **Community Services:**

Joe Garner - Oakplace Apartments

### Governor Service Awards:

Diana Mills - 30 years

# ***In and around Boswell***



Party hats were plentiful at the St. Patrick's Day party held on March 17th. Everyone enjoyed a good meal and a night of socializing and dancing.



The Valentine's Dance, which was held Feb. 17th, is one of most anticipated events of the year! Most individuals were content to dance the night away to some of their favorite tunes.



Pet Therapy remains very popular among the individuals. This in-training therapy dog is pictured visiting the Primitives program. Each month Al Gordy of Magee takes time out to visit several different programs at Boswell with one or more therapy dogs.



Lawrence Sills and Benji Purser from the Maintenance Department added some finishing touches to the old road grader that dates back to the days of the Sanatorium. The piece of equipment was most likely raw metal and then painted. Pictures and information from that time indicate it would have been painted yellow. Formerly painted black and located near the front entrance, it is now located in front of Building 14, where the Campus Police and Public Relations departments are housed.



Dr. Paul Cotten, former director of Boswell, and 12 of his psychology students from William Carey University visited Boswell's campus on Friday, March 25th. They had a full day at the facility including watching and participating in an Orff class in Expressive Arts, pairing up with some individuals at the WAC, and lunch at the Rainy Day Room. Also pictured with Dr. Cotten and his students is David Tedford, Director of Vocational Services.

A healthy environment

# BosWellness is in the air!

**T**here's a feeling in the air and it's healthy. Boswell Regional Center has been active over the past several months with events focusing on the well-being of individuals served and Boswell employees.

Last fall, potato chips and other higher in calorie snacks were replaced by healthier ones in campus vending machines.

In early November 2010, employees were offered a variety of tests through the Mississippi State Department of Health who partnered with SafeHeart Health Screens to provide a limited number of heart health screenings. Health screens were to test for the risk of heart attack, stroke, atrial fibrillation, abdominal aneurysm rupture and peripheral artery disease.

Also in November, a memory screening was conducted by Kathy Van Cleave, Division Director for the Department of Mental Health's Division of Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementia.



**Boswell's administrative team set the example on Wear Red Day. Pictured are, Steven Allen, Assistant Director; Raymond Johnson, Director and Gloria Johnson, Assistant Director.**

The first Friday in February 2010, was celebrated as Wear Red Day in conjunction with the national observation of this day to promote healthy hearts.



**Employees are pictured lining up for health screenings during Boswell's Health Fair in February, which is nationally observed as Healthy Heart Month.**

Employees were encouraged to wear red shirts for the day.

A Health Fair was held in February for employees. Staff from Magee General Hospital were on hand to check blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar, bone density, sleep apnea testing, and the Diabetic Foot Clinic provided checks for foot health. Employees were also measured for their Body Mass Index (BMI). Approximately 150 participated in the event

Boswell is helping to promote local free breast exams offered in Magee and Mendenhall in March through the Runnels Foundation.

Also in March, four sessions on stress were offered to employees. Topics included: Targeting Stress, Personal Stress, Workplace Stress and Stress Management.

One of the long term changes that is being made is additional sidewalks will be constructed on Boswell's main campus. These sidewalks will make it easier for both individuals and staff at Boswell to take walks on campus during weather permitting days.

*Continued on Page 8*

# Recent retirees honored at BRC

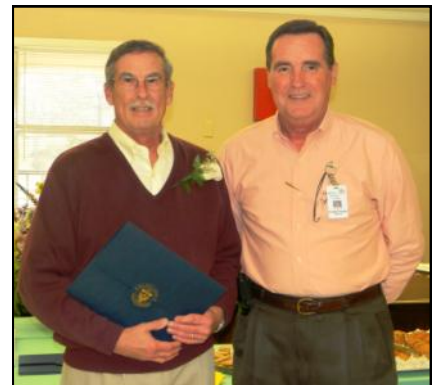
While it's hard to see our co-workers retire from Boswell Regional Center, we are happy that they'll be free to participate in all those things they've been planning on doing upon their retirement. Whether it's fishing trips, travel, spending time with grandchildren or other employment, we congratulate 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.

Recent retirees are pictured with Raymond Johnson, BRC Direc-

tor. Pictured top from left: January honoree Patsy Burris, Quality Assurance; February honorees Janice Duckworth, Business Services; Roger Reed, Maintenance; and second row, from left: Eddie Conn, Director of Boswell Industries in Brookhaven and March honoree Charlie Brown, Maintenance.



## Important dates to remember

- April 22-Easter Service  
10 a.m.-Auditorium
- April 27-Administrative Professionals Day
- April 29-Friends & Family Meeting  
9 a.m. -Auditorium
- April 29th-Education Awards  
9:30 a.m.-  
Auditorium
- May 6th- Spring Fling

Boswell sponsored a blood drive on Friday, March 18th. A total of 30 units were given. All those who participated in giving one of the most important gifts in life is very much appreciated.

Pictured is retired employee Terry Bogan, who is always faithful to donate.



# Briefs



## HR director receives certificate

Boswell Regional Center Human Resources Director Suzanne Wilder of Magee (pictured above with Lynn Fitch, Executive Director MS State Personnel Board) recently graduated from the Human Resources Certification Program. During the recent graduation ceremony she spoke on behalf of her class as the graduate representative.

## Griffin appointed to board

Manda Griffin of Houlika was re-

cently appointed to the Mississippi Board of Mental Health as a lay representative for the second congressional district.

Ms. Griffin is a registered respiratory therapist, a licensed social worker, registered nurse, and a board certified family nurse practitioner.

She received her bachelor's degree from Mississippi University for Women and her master's degree from Alcorn State University.

Ms. Griffin and her husband, Rondal, live in Houlika with their two children.

*Continued from Page 6*

The committee has been celebrating National Nutrition Month in March by promoting "Eat Right With Color" campaign. Table toppers with six healthy eating tips have been placed on the tables in the Le-Grand Café.

"We have plans for activities throughout the year and are working in conjunction with the State Wellness Committee," said Jennifer Chennault, Director of Nutrition Services and Boswell's Wellness Committee chairman. Planned future activities include:

- Promoting MORA (Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency)
- Encouraging walking on campus
- Beginning a campaign to use the stairs instead of elevators.

"We are making great strides in promoting wellness at Boswell," said Facility Director Raymond Johnson. "We first began with making our center a smoke-free facility in October 2008. Through our Wellness Committee, we will continue to offer programs, health fairs and other opportunities for our individuals and staff. I appreciate all the Wellness Committee has done over the past several months and look to the future for a healthier tomorrow for all of us."

## In Memory

**The Boswell Regional Center flag flew at half mast in memory of one of our individuals, Tommy Ragland. A memorial service was held on campus on Feb. 9th.**



**BRC employees and individuals also mourned the loss of Ms. Rose Jones, who was employed in Nutrition Services. Funeral services were held on March 12th.**