Happy Holidays from BCDC

I hope this holiday issue of the ***BCDC Beat*** finds you all well, and counting your many blessings! I know that this agency has an awful lot to be grateful for this year, with a successful capital campaign behind us, our brand new status as a nationally accredited human services organization in our Adult Services programs, statewide safety awards for our transit system operations, and a 30th anniversary just ahead of us.

To those of you who have supported our Child Development Center classroom expansion project, thank you for your generosity. We reached our capital campaign goal, have begun to raise additional funds for the classrooms furnishings, had a contractor's sealed bid opening a few days ago, and are planning a groundbreaking in just a few weeks. This classroom addition will double our existing space, allowing us to serve many more children and families with our integrated and inclusive childcare services. We expect the new space to be complete by May--just in time to kick off an expanded summer activity schedule. Thank you, again, for your support---you made this possible!

I would like to thank the area's employers for supporting our rehabilitation efforts---you folks have been terrific! Subcontract work in the center, and supported employment job placements in the community, have really picked up. I guess we are all hoping this is a sign of the gradually improving economy. At any rate, all community rehabilitation programs need work opportunities for their clients, and I'd like to thank the businesses and industries of Beaufort County for supporting BCDC's efforts on behalf of adults with disabilities.

Perhaps the most exciting news is that BCDC will be celebrating its 30th anniversary this May. We have already begun to plan for this event, and will be sharing details about our anniversary festivities in the next issue of the Beat. A non-profit does not survive (we think we thrive!) 30 years without the support of an entire community, and we want to share the celebration of this milestone with you .

Please be safe as you travel this Holiday season--and remember our troops overseas!

Chris

Chris Kiricoples

Executive Director, BCDC

Mission:

To empower citizens with developmental challenges through service alternatives which promote:

- self-advocacy
- self-reliance
- self-direction
- self-sufficiency
- self-actualization

Summer 2003

Self *An individual's awareness of what constitutes his or her essential nature and distinguishes him or her from all others.*

DISABILITY MENTORING DAY: CAREER DEVELOPMENT FOR THE 21st CENTURY

October 15, 2003 marked the 3rd annual participation of Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) here at BCDC. Seven consumers from BCDC and five students from Southside High School participated in this event held in conjunction with the Beaufort County Community College. The participants mentored employees of BCCC in a variety of careers including cosmetology, student coordination, custodial work, and in the library. After the mentees spent half a day learning about the different jobs, everyone met back in the conference area to enjoy lunch and receive their certificate for participation. The consumers shared stories of their experience and what they learned while with their mentors.

DMD began in 1999 as part of a White House effort to increase the profile of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. With only 30% of working age adults with severe disabilities working, the goal of DMD is clear. DMD helps enhance internships and employment opportunities for people with disabilities and dispel employers fears about hiring people with disabilities. Once the barrier is broken, more employment opportunities for people with disabilities will be evident. DMD also strives to increase confidence among students and job seekers with disabilities.

THANK YOU LOCAL SPONSORS OF DMD

THE ARC OF BEAUFORT COUNTY
PEPSI-MINGES BOTTLING GROUP
PCS PHOSPHATE
WACHOVIA BANK

TOUCHDOWN!!

Seven consumers from BCDC enjoyed cheering at the ECU Homecoming game on November 8, 2003. Although it was cold, everyone had the spirit to cheer on the ECU Pirates. This is just one more way that BCDC continues to empower citizens.

WOW!
All of our Employees combined have committed 328 Years to BCDC and empowering citizens with developmental disabilities.
That's commitment!

CDC Fall Festival

October 30, 2003 was the first annual Fall Festival at the CDC. While the kids dressed up in their Halloween outfits, they had a chance to have their face painted, play games, and take wagon hayrides

The ability to speak up for yourself, or to speak up on behalf of another.

Advocacy

BCDC Leadership
Paul Mattoon, Chairman
Kelly Crisp, Vice-Chairman
Peggy Simpson, Secretary
Judy Meier Jennette, Treasurer
Sandra Buckman
Catherine deVillier
Dalton Elks
Lisa Bunting
Fred Conner
Jeff Ford
Roy Parker
Sue LeMay, ex-officio
Chris Kiricoples, Executive Director

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As we are soon approaching the new year, we at BCDC want to thank you for your support of our organization. It has been a good year for us as we have reached our capital campaign goal to add two new classrooms to the CDC.

As we continue to grow our endowment fund and supply the 2 new classrooms with furnishings, I ask you to remember us as you make your end of year contributions. 2004 is looking bright for BCDC, and our endowment fund ensures that the future of our programs will continue to empower citizens in Beaufort County. Happy Holidays and have a wonderful New Year!

Sincerely,
Catherine Glover
Coordinator of Fundraising and Development