

## From the Executive Director:



I bought a new vehicle a few months ago—a full size pick-up truck. While I did not expect this to be a life changing experience, I knew it would be a Big Deal. With the high quality of trucks available today, I knew that I could not make a *bad* choice—but I wanted my decision to be the best one for me. I already knew that it had to be a full size truck, because I had been driving a compact and had the stuffing knocked out of me a year earlier in an accident. It needed to be pretty—but not so pretty that I would be afraid to knock the shine off of it as I hauled dogs to the vet, kayaks to the creek, trash to the dump, or lumber and pine straw from the home improvement store.

I collected all the new truck manufacturer brochures I could get my hands on. I studied equipment and capacity charts until my eyes went blurry. I could spout off the torque ratings, gear ratios, maximum gross vehicle weight ratings, horsepower, and tire size of practically every model for sale in these United States—foreign or domestic. Yes, I was doing my “homework” in an effort to find the truck that was just right for me. Somewhere along the way reality set in—in the form of sticker shock and rising gas prices! Did you know you can easily spend way over \$40,000 on a new truck, or that some of them only get about 8 miles to the gallon? That narrowed the field, because this truck had to be affordable to own and operate. Then I started taking test drives—and that narrowed the field of candidates down even further because some of them just did not “feel” right. Even though several sales people tried to convince me with the “that truck is you” line, I knew it wasn’t! I ignored them, and made my *own* choice, based on *my* needs and preferences. I’m glad I explored all the options that were available to me and that I had the time and opportunity to make such a well-informed decision.

Human services ought to be like that—when people go to an agency looking for help they ought to have the opportunity to thoroughly examine and even experience the choices that are available before they have to select one. The chance to “test drive” a career choice or a residential setting—or to actually experience a half-dozen of each—insures that the individual has the experiential base upon which to make an informed choice. Having the time to really assess your needs, and the confidence in your own ability to decide what’s right for you, is just about as important.

This certainly is not a new idea in human services circles, but in our field we are seeing a revival of the person-centered approach to service planning, and of the importance of an individual to be able to “speak up” for himself. BCDC has recently sent four of its staff to a “train the trainer” style workshop in self-determination, and will soon be enrolling two more. These folks have already begun to introduce these self-determination ideals and values to our consumers and their families, as well as our own staff, and by the end of this calendar year everyone in our adult services programs will have had the opportunity to receive this training. We hope these efforts will empower people to ask for what they really want out of life, to expect that they will have the opportunity to sample many new experiences that they might not otherwise have, and to develop the confidence that comes from knowing that you have made

*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 2004

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

## BCDC's 30th Anniversary Celebration

Although it was a hot day, there was no cloud in the sky as we celebrated BCDC's 30th Anniversary. Around 500 people attended to play games, relax, and enjoy a family style pig picking. A tribute was made to the late Mr. & Mrs. Phil Roberson Sr. for their contributions and commitment to BCDC. A special thanks to the monetary and give-away sponsors who supported the event. We look forward to serving the people of Beaufort County for the next 30 years.



Special Affairs Catering cooked a wonderful pig picking dinner.



Everyone enjoyed relaxing under the tent. It was a hot one!



Families enjoy time with each other.



Children enjoyed the Kids Corner. The cotton candy and snowcones were a favorite.



Phil Roberson Jr. and Phyllis Hendrickson receive a tribute to their parents, Mr. & Mrs Phil Roberson Sr.

### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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*The Planning Group*  
*Pepsi*  
*Coca Cola*

## Coalition 2001

### BCDC/ARC Advocate for People with Disabilities



Consumers of BCDC and The ARC of Beaufort County headed to Raleigh, NC on June 9 to participate in Coalition 2001 Advocacy Day. Coalition 2001 was started in 1991 to support the NC Legislature's ten year plan to provide adequate funding for MH/DD/SA system. Since that goal was not met, the name continues as a reminder that the goal remains to be achieved. Consumers came across with a clear message to the Senate and House Members: People with disabilities are counting on you to provide services and support and we represent families who will be directly affected by these cuts. During the visit, consumers toured the Legislative Building, met with Senate and House members and enjoyed a late lunch at Cracker Barrel on the way home provided by The ARC.

## BATS Honors Driver of the Year



Magolene Keyes was named Beaufort Area Transit Systems Driver of the Year at the annual BATS Banquet. BATS employees enjoyed dinner with their families at Blackbeard's Restaurant as an appreciation for the work they do. Magolene has been

with BATS since July 18, 1994. The award is given to a driver based on surveys received from passengers rating their work performance. The award also takes into account the drivers Safety Performance.

**Congratulations Magolene!**

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

*Advocacy*



*Kelly Crisp, Chairman  
Sandra Buckman, Vice-Chairman  
Paul Mattoon, Treasurer  
Peggy Simpson, Secretary*

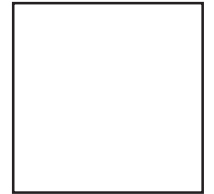
*Judy Meier Jennette  
Catherine deVillier  
Dalton Elks  
Lisa Bunting*

*Fred Conner  
Lynn Lewis  
Sue LeMay, ex-officio*

*Chris Kiricoples,  
Executive Director*

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## It's Done!!



The Child Development Center held an Open House/Ribbon Cutting on August 3, 2004 from 4:30-6:30pm. It was an opportunity for families, donors, neighbors, staff, and supporters to get together and tour the facility and enjoy refreshments. An official ribbon cutting was held at 5:00pm. BCDC would like to thank everyone who made this expansion possible. We couldn't have done it without you. If you couldn't make the open house, be sure to stop by and check it out. The CDC would love to see you!

## NAEYC Accreditation



National Association  
for the Education of  
Young Children

The Child Development Center has earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children-the nation's leading organization of early childhood professionals. CDC is the only child care center in Beaufort County with this national accreditation. NAEYC lets families in our community know that children in our program are getting the best care. This is a wonderful accomplishment for the CDC and one they have been working on for quite some time. When you see the staff of CDC, be sure to congratulate them!