

THE BUZZ**BENEDICTINE OCP VOCATIONAL
NEWSLETTER**

OCT/NOV/DEC 2010

**Benedictine Honors
Garden Treasures and Holiday Park***From the Desk of Kelley Malone*

Please send submissions to:

Tom Ferkler

410-634-2115 ext. 1124

Email tom.ferkler@benschool.orgDeadline for submissions for the
Jan/Feb/Mar edition is December
1, 2010.***Vocational Department
Mission Statement***

The Vocational Department provides services designed to utilize existing strengths and promote self-determination. Every participant is provided vocational opportunities to develop their unique potential, experience fulfillment, and develop a sense of purpose in an integrated setting.

On October 1st, the White House released a Presidential Proclamation in recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, stating “People with disabilities bring immeasurable value to our workplaces... This month, let us rededicate ourselves to fostering equal access and fair opportunity in our labor force, and to capitalizing on the talent, skills, and rich diversity of all our workers.” This year for National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the Benedictine Open Community Program (OCP) would like to recognize two local businesses for hiring people with intellectual disabilities. Both Garden Treasures of Easton and Holiday Park Campground in Greensboro have promoted equality and fairness by hiring qualified adults with disabilities.

Garden Treasures, located on Matthewstown Road in Easton, offers a variety of trees, shrubs, flowers and plants, as well as decorative garden statues, pots, and a wide selection of festive holiday gift items. Owner Caroline Benson first met Chris when he asked to volunteer at the shop. Chris had no competitive work experience at the time, and wanted to see if his strengths matched the needs at Garden Treasures. After a few months of volunteer work, in the fall of 2009, Benson offered Chris a paying job. “It is wonderful to have an employee so enthusiastic about helping others,” Benson states. A co-worker, Mimi Roe admires Chris’ passion for flowers, “It is nice to see him so in tune with the gardening aspect of our work.”

Up the road several miles in Greensboro, Holiday Park Campground celebrates 39 years of outdoors hospitality. Owner and manager Russ Yates provides camping opportunities as well as entertainment, amenities and services on 200 acres of wooded property along the Chop-tank River. Yates hired Dominic this past March to assist primarily with grounds-keeping, landscaping, and custodial duties. Dominic smiles and averts his gaze when asked what he likes best about working at Holiday Park Campground. “The people are nice and I get to work fast. I like to work fast.” Eye contact doesn’t come naturally to Dominic, but certainly hard work and a positive attitude does. “I don’t consider him having a disability anymore” comments Yates. “I only have to tell him one time and he remembers; he is pretty incredible.”



Russ, Jill, Dominic, B.J. & Mike

Both Garden Treasures and Holiday Park Campground deserve special recognition for opening the door to competent workers who happen to have a disability. Having a Benedictine job coach available for assistance when needed is also a valued support for businesses. Yates comments, “All the coaches have been super.”

(continued on pg 2)

HONORS (FROM PG 1)

Dependability and enthusiasm can be rare commodities even in a depressed economy. Hiring a competent individual with an intellectual, or any disability, provides access and participation in the local economy, promotes independence from social security income while positively contributing to any businesses bottom line.

Benedictine OCP would also like to recognize other regional partners in employing people with intellectual disabilities: Taste Freez, Denny’s, Ruby Tuesdays, Applebees, Elizabeth Claire Salon, Denton Lily Pad, Subway and Roses, Greensboro Pharmacy, Caroline, Talbot, and Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Caroline Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Home Depot, Naval Academy Laundry, Pep Boys, and Annapolis Bowl.

Regional employers interested in hiring qualified adults should call Jessie Thomas at 410-634-2115, ext. 1234 or access the website at www.benschool.org for more information. Benedictine Open Community Program provides vocational, day, and residential services for adults with intellectual disabilities.



Caroline & Chris at Garden Treasures

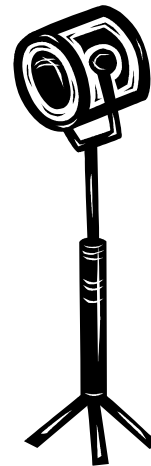


Mike, Patrick & Pat at Greensboro Pharmacy



Jason & Michele at Applebees

**“SPOTLIGHT”
ON**



Howard C.

The Day Activity Program would like to recognize Howard for his outstanding efforts and personal commitment to our ever-growing food service program. Howard is involved with all business aspects of the Snack Cart to include food preparation, supply inventory, money management, and excellent customer service. Howard is known for his beaming smile, fun-loving personality, and his ability to “make the sale” and “offer a great deal!” Twice a week, you’ll find Howard and his team selling healthy snacks throughout the Benedictine campus. Howard demonstrates professionalism and provides customer courtesy with every sale. Congratulations Howard on a job well done!

Hellos and Goodbyes...

The Vocational Department team wishes Mary Mostrom the best as she leaves for new adventures in the mid-west. Mary has served Benedictine as a Vocational Coordinator since 2003. Her contributions to the department, aside from frequent and contagious laughter, include development of programming designed to promote community employment, coordination of participation in the Special Swim Olympics, and completing vocational assessments with transitioning students for DORS. Good luck Mary, and keep in touch! Jessie Thomas has been promoted into the role of Vocational Coordinator as of October 18th. Welcome Jessie!



Mary Mostrom



Jessie Thomas

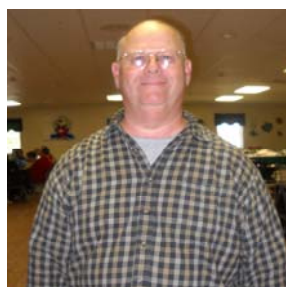
Attention Holiday Shoppers!

Wrap up your holiday shopping at the Queenstown Outlets this holiday season! Benedictine Elves will be providing festive holiday gift wrapping services for the Queenstown Outlet shops. For a minimal fee or donation, choose from a variety of wraps, ribbons, and bags for your Christmas or Hanukkah gifts. Both staff and individuals will be wrapping from 10:30-2:30 on the following dates: Friday November 26th, (Bright Friday!), Wednesdays through Fridays December 1st – 3rd and 15th – 17th, Wednesday December 22nd and 23rd as well as the first three Saturdays in December. Come on out and shop at the Queenstown Outlets, then “wrap it up” with a visit to Old Navy where our gift wrapping services will be located.



BENEDICTINE OCP WELCOMES NEW STAFF

AVOID HOLIDAY STRESS

Sherry Buckle
DACMark Harding
DACTom Mavity
DAC

As the holiday season approaches, it is important to take steps to minimize the stress you experience. Here are a few simple tips.

- Plan Ahead
- Be Realistic
- Stick to a Budget
- Take a Breather
- Don't Abandon Healthy Habits

SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Kevin Cathcart
Graphics Dept.Tiffany Meredith
Vocational Dept.Sherry Pinder
ITC

- Tom Ferkler celebrated 5 years on November 7th
- Stephanie Stubbs celebrated 10 years on September 20th

Group Updates

Laugh Out Loud Group (LOL)

To begin the fall festivities the Laugh Out Loud (LOL) group recently visited Councill Farms, located on Rt.50 in Cordova, MD. Group facilitators Stephanie and Tiffany along with support staff Missy and Gothea accompanied the group members Barbara B, Eileen P, Mary N, Kathleen H, Paula H, Holly M and Bridget W. on the tour. The objective of the outing was for each group member to purchase a pumpkin, which would later be painted during their art session. An added surprise was the generosity of Councill Farms in the donation of the pumpkins. The group members enjoyed playing games at Councill's Field of Fun. Games included a bean bag toss and a rubber duck race. The tour ended with a picnic lunch at the farm.

Previous LOL outings have included lunches at Batter's Up and Olive Garden and attending several plays in Annapolis. In preparation for the Thanksgiving holiday the Art and Craft group will be constructing pine cone turkeys.



Eileen, Missy, Kathleen, Barbara & Mary
funs & games at Councill's Field of Fun



Stephanie, Barbara, Mary, Kathleen, Holly
& Linda enjoying arts & crafts



Holly, Paula, Eileen, Missy, Bridget, Kathleen, Gothea & Barbara



Stephanie, Barbara, Mary, Eileen, Missy,
Kathleen & Holly

Worksite

Day Activity Center (DAC)

The Day Activity Center encompasses both vocational job training as well as therapeutic services. Jen Benson and Susan Edwards (our therapeutic team) provide quality services to individuals who require physical therapy and/or personal training. These services are offered through private contracts and are provided on an individualized basis. To learn more about our therapeutic program contact us through our new website at www.benschool.org or call 410-634-2115 ext. 1347.

Industrial Training Center (ITC)

The fall/winter season has started off busy. Orders for the wood kindling bundles have been placed steadily from Graul's Market of St. Michael's. This year the ITC and Yard Bees have joined forces to assemble the wood bundles.



Jason, Dominic, Tom & Joe

Updates

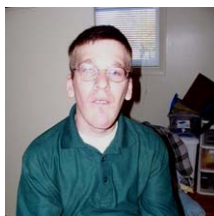
Graphics Department

The Graphics Department will be holding a clearance sale November 15th through the 19th. Discounted items and misprints will be on sale at the warehouse from 8:00am until 11:30am and from 1:00pm until 3:45pm.

Prices:	Short sleeved tees... \$1.00
	Long Sleeved tees... \$2.00
	Crew sweat shirts.... \$3:00
	Hoodies.....\$5:00
	Hats and totes.....\$1:00

Also look for the Graphic Department's sale table in the school recreation room on November 22nd. They will be selling Eastern Shore and Benedictine wear from 1:00pm until 4:00pm.

OCP Welcomes...



Wilson M.

RESIDENTIAL STAFF

REMINDER:

- Please be sure new jackets, coats and hats are labeled with the individual's name.