

THE BUZZ**BENEDICTINE OCP VOCATIONAL
NEWSLETTER**

OCT/NOV/DEC 2011

A New Look for Vocational Services at Benedictine

From the Desk of Scott Evans

Please send submissions to:

Brenda Boyd

410-634-2115 ext. 1144

Email brenda.boyd@benschool.orgDeadline for submissions for the
JAN/FEB/MAR edition is De-
cember 1, 2011

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.

This is an exciting time for Vocational Services here at Benedictine. Over the past year the administration of Benedictine has been talking about how to streamline its services and add efficiencies to our program. These changes will offer us the opportunity to grow and expand our services into new business ventures and geographical areas.

One of the changes includes an On-Campus store located in our existing Greenhouse. We plan on remodeling the front area of the existing Greenhouse to accommodate items from our School Photography Club, Baker Bees, Screen Printing, Embroidery, Industrial Training Center, and Floral Arrangements, just to name a few. This area will be an excellent training ground for our students and adults who want to learn about retail and customer service. It will also allow the public to stop by and purchase the quality items we make right here on campus and learn more about the programs Benedictine offers.

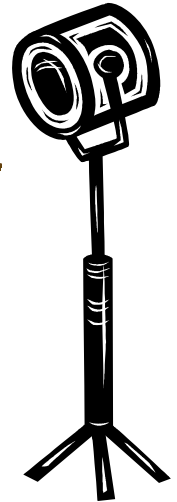
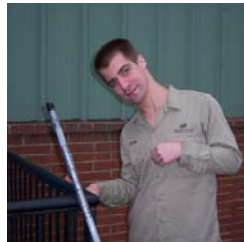
We are in the process of evaluating the expansion of our supported employment program into different geographical areas. Over the past year many of the adults we work with have been able to gain employment at many local businesses. We have received requests to expand into areas we typically have not served in the past due to transportation issues and lack of employment opportunities. We have started to see an increase in these opportunities and want to work with local business to meet their needs. More importantly we want to afford the adults we work with the chance to gain community employment.

The final project in development is a community based store in Denton. The main focus of the store will be the Baker Bees, which produces fresh baked pastries, pies and cookies. We will also sell items from our other businesses through this location including our own Eastern Shore line of t-shirts, hats and totes. We have had a great reception from the town of Denton and their Main Street Project. Our goal is to have this store opened sometime after the holidays.

We are lucky to have an incredible staff in the vocational area whose energy and ideas are driving these changes. Their commitment to Benedictine, and the children and adults we serve, is second to none. Keep checking our website, www.benschool.org, for more information on these and other exciting changes and business development in our Vocational Department.



**“SPOTLIGHT”
ON**



James V.

The Vocational Department would like to recognize James Voegler for his encouraging, inspiring, and cheerful attitude towards his work with Yard Bees (on-campus worksite). With the Yard Bees, James safely and responsibly performs a variety of basic landscaping duties using automatic/manual equipment with supervision. Over the past year, James has demonstrated notable success in developing new skills, increasing his productivity and working independently.

Through the Yard Bees James has developed a reputation of being flexible (always doing what is ask of him), never complaining, being prepared in the proper uniform, and always being ready to start his day. Yard Bees staff report that James continuously comes to work in a good mood with a smile on his face. James is considered a hard worker and valuable employee by both the Yard Bees staff and his co-workers. Congratulations James!

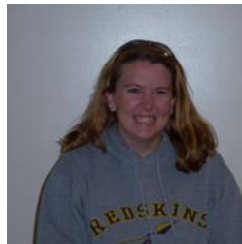
BENEDICTINE OCP WELCOMES NEW STAFF



David Ireland-DAC



Tracy Stammer-DAC



Mindy Potter-DAC



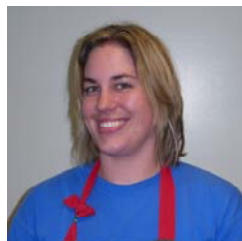
Otis Wirtz-DAC



Kayla Russell-SE



Sherman McDonald & Alecia Weaver-Busy Bee



Michelle Kelmartin-Graphics



Chris Giery-ITC



Greta Tighman-ITC

Benedictine Recognizes National Disability Employment Awareness Month

In recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Benedictine's Adult Services applauds Marc Lacoste, General Manager of the Best Western Kent Narrows Inn, owned by Guest, Inc.'s. Mr. Lacoste, in offering a paying job to an individual with a developmental disability, received a lot more in return than just another employee. According to Mr. Lacoste, "Hiring Mr. Kevin Duckworth helped boost morale. Not only did he complete assigned duties, but his positive attitude and motivation to work made everyone who worked with him feel better about their jobs."

Appreciative of the role of Benedictine's supported employment staff, Mr. Lacoste says, "They're great!" Trained job coaches provided just enough support to facilitate learning new skills as well as ensuring dependable transportation for Kevin to and from work.

Although the fall season brought this summer job to an end, Kevin looks forward to new career opportunities in the hospitality field, saying he's "broken new ground into the hotel industry." With his broad smile and enthusiastic articulation of Guest, Inc.'s philosophy, "We Love Guests ®" Kevin is sure to go far with his intention to embrace similar themes as a year-round employee in the hotel industry.

Tyrone Murray was certain that he wanted to apply his skills in another retail environment after being laid off at the peak of the recession like so many other Americans. After months of job searching, Tyrone was hired by Jeanette Hoff, Executive Team Leader at Target of Easton. In recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Benedictine Adult Services applauds Hoff's efforts as well as Target, Inc. for promoting a mission of diversity and particularly for giving Tyrone an opportunity to put his skills to work once again.

Target applauds Tyrone as well. Hoff explains, "Tyrone is always on time and always smiling. He takes care of our guests, ensuring carts are available, our facilities are sparkling, and everyone is made to feel welcome." Hoff continues, "At Target, in addition to valuing a diverse team, our goal is to deliver exceptional guest service." When asked what he likes about his job, Tyrone notes, "I like helping others; it makes me feel good!"



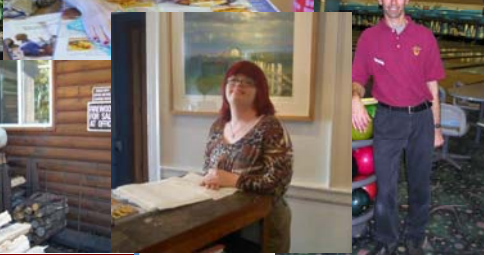
From left to right: General Manager of Best Western Marc Lacoste, Guest Service Concierge Kevin Duckworth with Job Coach Brenda Beaudet



From left to right: Cynthia Morrison, Target team member and Tyrone Murray

Benedictine encourages the support of businesses who hire people with a disability. In addition to Best Western Kent Narrows Inn and Target, the following businesses have partnered successfully with Benedictine's supported employment department: in Easton—Garden Treasures, Applebee's, Ruby Tuesday, Denny's, Taste Freez, and Elizabeth Claire Salon; in the Denton area—Holiday Park, Food Lion, Lily Pad, Subway, Roses, and McDonald's. Employers interested in hiring qualified, motivated, and dependable people such as Kevin Duckworth and Tyrone Murray should contact Jessie Thomas at 410-634-2115 ext. 1234. *Submitted by Kelley Malone*

Thank you to all of our community employers...



- Annapolis Bowl
- Anne Arundel, Caroline, & Talbot County Public School Systems
- Applebee's
- Caroline County Nursing Home
- Denny's
- Elizabeth Claire Salon
- Food Lion
- Garden Treasures
- Greensboro Pharmacy
- Holiday Park
- Holiday Inn Express
- Home Depot
- The Lily Pad Café
- McDonald's
- Pep Boys
- Rose's
- Ruby Tuesday
- Subway
- Target
- Taste Freeze
- Unites States Naval Academy

Worksite

Updates

Graphics

The Benedictine Graphics Department has been very busy over the past four months with a number of new clients coming on board, including Black Widow Guitar, Baltimore City Fire Company, and a naval reunion in California.

Benedictine Graphics also had a presence at this year's Summerfest in Denton, MD. Despite being rained out on Friday, the festival was well attended on Saturday and gave many Caroline County residents the chance to see creative and high quality work done in the screen printing and embroidery departments. **AND** as a reminder, the holidays will be upon us before we know it, so now is a good time to order personalized gifts of shirts, bags, towels, hats, vests, jacket, etc. There is a wide variety from which to choose. To order please call Josh Forston at 410-634-1912 or Caren Parry at 410-364-9622. Order must be received by December 11th.

Graphics Department welcomes Tyla Jones, who recently transferred from DAC, to the Embroidery area.

Submitted by Caren Parry

SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

- Missy Holden celebrates 15 years in November
- Elsie Edwards celebrated 10 years in June
- Charles Hilton-Bey celebrated 5 years in August

Busy Bee

Busy Bee would like to welcome Sherman McDonald, Alecia Weaver and Mark Harding on board. We have been very busy adjusting to the new school schedule and getting the cleaning done. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the individuals and staff for working hard and making it work! With the start of the new school year we embarked on a new training program for OCP individuals and school students. Busy Bee received three new work vans and we would like to thank the Benedictine Foundation and everyone that was involved in the process of acquiring them.
Submitted by Angel Russell

ITC

Transporting three separate shipments for in-house work, Benedictine's Industrial Training Center (ITC) took on a large and challenging job this summer for Konsyl, a pharmaceutical company in Easton. Each shipment was composed of 50 barrels of bulk fiber product. Individuals completed and packaged 825,000 packets. Packaging required 6 packs per carton, with 20 cartons per shipper. Benedictine transported the finished work to Konsyl, who transported the work to the Baltimore Harbor for cargo ship to China. ITC contract individuals met all deadlines while learning and improving counting, packaging, and team work skills. Konsyl praised the quality of work and the quick turn-around time. Way to go ITC! *Submitted by Mary Lynn Wright*