

DSSK TALK

MISSION STATEMENT

- *Show caring in all we do*
- *Exhibit pride in our work*
- *Respect the people we serve*
- *Value & practice honesty daily, and*
- *Eliminate poverty in McDowell County*

McDOWELL COUNTY DEPT. OF SOCIAL SERVICES

THE HEARTS BEHIND THE CAUSE

BY: CONNIE O'BRIEN

When it comes to raising money for a charity in McDowell county, the employees here at DSS can be the most compassionate and giving in the county. Not only do many dig deep to donate money, they also donate their time. Many will pound the pavement to drum up donations for a raffle by contacting merchants in our community, while others set up events or prepare items using their own money and time. All of this hard work is to help those who depend on a charity to help them when they are at point in their lives when they need help the most.

Last year, the employees of this agency raised \$7,051.72 for the Foster Children's Fund. To summarize how this money was raised, we had luncheons, wear your jeans for a day passes, bake sales, yard/community sales, numerous raffles, lemonade sales, a concert benefit done by Highway Bound at the Senior Center and the donation of the profit from the sales of a Home and Garden Party. There was a lot of hard work involved in preparing for each of these events, which really has paid off for a great cause.

Not only were we generous in giving to the Foster Children's Fund, we raised \$310.00 for the Senior Games, we participated in the Toys for Tots program and the employees of McDowell County raised just over \$ 7,000.00 for the United Way Program giving us a Platinum Sponsor Award.

We had a wonderful turnout for our March of Dimes fundraiser held March 12–16 of this year. We raised a total of \$2,300.00 in one week. Each Unit worked hard and deserves to be recognized for a job well done.

Though everyone has their favorite cause that is near and dear to their hearts, it is obvious that this agency and its employees are more than willing to work hard for the charities of this county because we each know that in the end, the benefit goes to the community that we serve daily. So congratulations on a job well done.



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Phillip Hardin

The "D" Word

Sometimes we find ourselves referring to certain words by their first letter, often with good reason; the words are vulgar or offensive and words we don't use and don't encourage others to use in everyday speech. I'm sure you can think of examples. On a lighter note we sometimes avoid topics like we avoid words, for example, "Let's don't talk about poverty, its depressing".

In organizations we do the same thing. We're constantly dealing with the "C" word – **Change** – Our goal is to make change our friend and ally, even if we don't initiate it. Of course, initiating good change is much more positive than reacting to change, no matter how good the change might be.

As we move forward in strengthening our organizations through strengthening our capacity to supervise and manage, we will have to deal with the "D" word. That word is **Discipline**. It is perhaps one of the most difficult because it's about "me". Each of us must contend with how disciplined we are in our work behaviors, our use of time and resources, and our specific work duties. To use a familiar phrase it is about "walking the walk, not just talking the talk". Many organizations have commendable visions and guiding principles. We do. The measure however, of an outstanding agency is, in the end, what it accomplishes for its customers. The degree to which we practice good discipline in all areas of our organizational life will determine just how effective we are.

In the coming months we will have developed new individual goals and work plans and an agency work plan aligned with the outcomes families' want and need to achieve. Reaching these outcomes will require more maturity in workplace behaviors, more focus on getting the most from our work time, and a commitment to serving customers just as we wish to be served. It will require individual and organizational discipline.

Think about it – at the end of the day about all we truly have control over is how we use our SELVES to get the job done. With the caliber of staff we have, we can help families achieve great outcomes. All it takes is the discipline to do our best.

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CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES OF 2007



Congratulations to the graduates and their parents and grandparents of the graduating class of 2007 from McDowell High School. We have several employees with the Department of Social Services, who have graduating seniors this year.

Pictured in the top row, from left to right, are **Hannah Styles**, daughter of Vickie and Teddy Styles; **Jasmine Harris**, daughter of Neva Gallant; and **Kayla Trish Fields**, daughter of Trish and Randy Fields

Middle row, left to right are **Andre Conley**, son of Gwen and Jeff Conley; **Brandon Freeman**, son of Lynn and Randy Freeman; and **Kyle Gardner**, son of Carol and Roscoe Bailey.

Bottom row, left to right are **Allana Moore**, daughter of Brett and Allen Moore; **Dara Hollifield**, granddaughter of Pat and Daniel Biddix; and **Aaron Wheeler**, son of Rhonda and Lee Wheeler.

Not pictured are the daughters of Roger and Dawn Elliott, **Sierra Elliott**, also graduating from McDowell High and **Taryn Elliott**, graduating from A-B Tech.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The McDowell Senior Center needs volunteers to deliver lunchtime meals to homebound seniors in the Glenwood, Nebo, Pleasant Gardens and Marion areas.

Volunteers deliver meals one day a week and it usually takes about 1 to 1 1/2 hours. Meals go out at around 11:00 a.m.

Contact Virginia Greene if you would like to volunteer or to get more information at 652-8953.

The Senior Center also needs volunteers in the kitchen for packing food for home delivered meals between the hours of 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. each day. Volunteers are also needed for the serving line in the dining room. If you are interested in helping one day a week or more, please come by the Senior Center and speak with Denise Duncan or call her at 652-9873.

The center also needs volunteers to be at the front desk from 2:00 until 4:00 in the afternoons to answer the phone and help any one who comes to the front desk. Please contact the Senior Center at 652-8953.

McDOWELL COUNTY CHILDREN'S CENTER

Happy Spring from McDowell County Children's Center! Here at the center, we are fully enrolled with 24 students and our classrooms are always hopping with activity.

Seven parents recently attended our second Parent Meeting. The topic for this meeting was Positive Guidance and Behavior Management. Our teachers also held the first of two scheduled Parent Conferences for the year. They shared observations of the children's progress and discussed any concerns the parents had about their child.

As the warmer weather approaches, we have decided to plant several small raised garden beds for the children to enjoy and learn from. Besides flowers, we would like to plant some vegetables. If any of you have extra seeds or seedlings, that you would to donate for the children to plant, we would appreciate your help with this project.

As always, we extend an open invitation to anyone from DSS who would like to visit the center and see what the children are learning. Hope to see you soon!

Sherri Owenby, Director

ADULT SERVICES

Greetings! The Adult Services Unit is proud to announce the birth of Eastan Grace Ayers, who was born to Woody and Robin Ayers on 2/27/07. Robin does Adult Care Home Case Management for our unit, and Eastan's Grandmother, Judy Hartman works for Children's Services.

For those of you who might not be aware of what we do, we would like to highlight one of our programs in each newsletter. In this issue we will explain our CAP-DA or Community Alternatives Program for Disabled Adults. There are several CAP programs in existence (C-Children, MRDD-mentally retarded, developmentally disabled), but the others are not managed by DSS. CAP-DA makes care at home an alternative for placement in a nursing facility for disabled adults on Medicaid as long as the client can have his health, safety and well-being maintained at home and within the budget established per the clients level of care. McDowell County has been given 68 slots for this program. With only two case managers we are not able to keep all slots filled and we have a waiting list of more than thirty people. If you would like more information about this program please call Neva Gallant or Gary Dale.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

HONOR VETS FLIGHT



SHERRY OWENBY
JANUARY 2007
Day Care Center



LEIGHANN BRIGGS
FEBRUARY 2007
EPS / Foster Care

The employee of the month is chosen by our Personnel Committee from the nominations submitted each month. Any employee can nominate anyone for this award. Each winner is awarded a framed certificate to hang in their office, and their name is engraved on the plaque in the front lobby.

Nominations are accepted until the 10th of each month. If you think one of your fellow employees goes above and beyond to help with families, or other employees, give your nomination to Debbie Gardin, in Office 107, before the 10th of each month.

Honor Vets Flight is asking for your support to help send McDowell County's VETERANS to Washington D.C. to visit and tour the memorials and monuments that have been constructed in THEIR HONOR.

Honor Vets Flight was created by Alan Mainer, McDowell Co. Veterans Service Officer with the N.C. Division of Veterans Affairs. Alan is accredited with both the NCDVA and The American Legion and holds the post officer responsibility of 1st Vice Commander of McDowell Co. American Legion Post 56. Honor Vets Flight is backed by the McDowell County Veterans Council and using their 501C tax exempt status to make this a non profit organization.

Honor Vets Flight needs your support financially to get these Honored Veterans to Washington. We are asking for monetary donations from merchants and personal donations from friends, relatives and loved ones of surviving Veterans, and anyone who just wants to say "THANK YOU" for a job well done. Without these Veterans, the USA would be a different place than how we know it today.

Your donation will be tax deductible with a receipt from the McDowell Co. Veterans Council.

Please visit www.HonorVetsFlight.Org for more information. We will post your name on the "Sponsors Page" of the web site to show others you care.

Please send your donations to:
Alan Mainer, CVSO
100 Spaulding Road
Marion, NC 28752
Or Call
(828) 317-9518

To make arrangements for your donation to be picked up

Thank you for your support, remember.....
Veterans Are Our Most Precious Natural Resource.



THINGS ARE LOOKING BRIGHTER



Thanks to Phyllis Ennis and Project Challenge, we have started the painting of the building. There are plans in the works to do all the hallways beginning next month. Project Challenge is a program for teenagers to do their community service by helping agencies with

needed projects. We have supplied the paint and supplies, Phyllis and her kids will do the work. We started with the main conference room, it has been cleaned, painted, new tables have been ordered and artwork is waiting to be hung. Connie O'Brien, chair of the Building Committee and Brett Moore, volunteer, have been a great help in getting this work done. Any volunteers who wish to help, see Connie.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 3 — Lena Jones
- 4 — Renee Barrier
- 7 — Jenny Taylor
- 10 — Rusty Watkins
- 15 — Joyce Suppes
- 15 — Alan Mainer
- 17 — Kathy Martin
- 21 — Belinda Buchanan
- 26 — Cynthia Freeman
- 28 — Agnes White

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 5 — Andrea Calhoun
- 5 — Brett Moore
- 9 — Marie Yap
- 10 — Francis Martin-Standly
- 11 — Julian Grant
- 14 — Laura McCurry
- 18 — Jill Kehler



- 21 — Diane Price
- 27 — Thelma Messer
- 27 — Cynthia Flevaris

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 4 — Rhonda Wheeler
- 17 — Linda Waters
- 24 — Elaine Burgin
- 25 — Lori Cornelius



SENIOR CENTER NEWS

BALLROOM DANCE CLASS OFFERED TO ALL AGES

The McDowell Senior Center will be offering ballroom dance classes for adults of **ALL AGES** on Tuesday evenings beginning on Tuesday, April 3, 2007 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. You do not have to be a senior adult to take this class. These classes operate on an on-going basis. Classes are \$28.00 per person. Couples must register before the class starts and for more information, please call Lisa Wylie at the McDowell Senior Center, 652-8953.

MCDOWELL SENIOR GAMES – 2007

McDowell Senior Games are set to begin April 30, 2007 through May 17, 2007. The registration deadline is Friday, April 13th. The goal for this year's senior games is 150 participants. Any McDowell County resident who is 55 years and over and lives in McDowell County for three (3) consecutive months a year is eligible to participate. McDowell Senior Games also need lots of volunteers to do various tasks. If you volunteer, you will receive a Senior Games t-shirt. If you are interested in volunteering for McDowell Senior Games, please call Lisa Wylie at 652-8953. Please tell friends, family members and neighbors about the McDowell Senior Games.



RECIPE BOX

LEMON BARS

SUBMITTED BY TERESA BEAM

- 1 Box of lemon cake mix (with pudding in the mix)
- 3 eggs
- 1 stick of butter or margarine
- 1 8oz. cream cheese
- 1 box powdered sugar
- 1 lemon
- 1/4 cup lemon juice

Mix cake mix, 1 egg, 1 stick of melted butter or margarine and 1/4 cup lemon juice. Press into 9x13 inch pan. Combine softened cream cheese, 1 box powdered sugar and 2 eggs and beat real well. Add zest of one lemon. Spread on top of mix. Bake at 350 for 40-45 minutes or until golden brown. Let cool then cut into squares. Will be gooey!

BITS AND PIECES



Congratulations to Robin Ayers, APS, and husband, Woody (ex-CPS) on the birth of their first child, Eastan Grace Ayers, born Feb, 27, 2007. Eastan weighed 6lbs. 11 oz and was 20 inches long. Eastan is also the granddaughter of Judy Hartman, CPS. Congratulations to all !!



THE BIG SNOW OF FEBRUARY, 2007

Carol Bailey found herself with a little extra time on Feb. 1, 2007 during break. And since we closed at noon, due to the "big snow" storm, she used the arm of the bench at the back door and built the "gigantic" snowman you see here. He was gone in an hour, but he was good while he lasted.

Thank you all for the thoughts, prayers, hugs and good wishes that you have given me and Bobby in this trying time for both of us. It has made a very difficult and unchangeable situation a little easier to bear.

— Barbara Stroud

CHECK OUT WHAT'S COMING

April 5th, Covered Dish Luncheon to celebrate Easter; April 9–11, Jeans Week; Joke Contest with winner being announced at the next Staff Meeting.

May 4th, Dessert Raffle; Limerick Contest, with winner being announced at the Staff Meeting in May. Details will follow.

NEW EMPLOYEES

LaToya Conley began employment with the agency on February 1, 2007 as the Family Conference Coordinator in the Administrative Unit supervised by Phillip Hardin.

April Pope started on February 16, 2007 with the CPS Unit supervised by Daniel Pearce

Teresa Duncan began her career at DSS on March 16, 2007 with the Family and Children's Medicaid Unit, currently supervised by Debbie Gardin. We welcome all of you to the DSS family and wish you a long and enjoyable stay.

QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.

— Thomas Edison

COME ENJOY THE SHOW!

The McDowell Senior Center holds a variety show every other Friday on stage in the dining room from 10:30–11:30 a.m. This popular venue showcases acts of singing, storytelling, dancing, comedy sketches and just about everything else you can imagine. This long running program is a great way for McDowell residents to show off their skills. If you have a unique talent, a story you have to share, or a song in your heart.....call 652-8953 and speak to Denise Duncan or Margie Boyd.

