

Black Hills Works employee named South Dakota Direct Support Professional of the Year

Black Hills Works service coordinator Lisa Batteen has been named 2015 Direct Support Professional (DSP) of the Year for South Dakota by the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR). The award was presented at the 2015 ANCOR Annual Conference held May 3-6 in Arlington, Virginia.

Lisa assists people who have disabilities with daily living skills and encourages and supports their involvement in the community. Lisa's supervisor at Black Hills Works, Jacki Schoenrock, says, "Lisa Batteen was born to do this work. She personifies the ethics and qualities of an excellent DSP." Cindy Wernisch, one of the individuals Lisa supports says, "I'm glad she is my service coordinator. She is wonderful!"

DSPs—also referred to as caregivers, personal assistants and direct care or home care aides—provide a variety of daily support services for many Americans with disabilities. They are integral in helping people with disabilities participate in their communities and lead full and independent lives. Since 2007, ANCOR has honored exceptional DSPs with the Direct Support Professional Recognition Award for exemplary work in furthering community inclusion and full participation for the many Americans living with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities.

"The work DSPs do is so important, not just to the people with disabilities they serve, but also to the social and economic lives of their communities," said Chris Sparks, president of ANCOR. "DSPs like Lisa deserve recognition for the difficult but inspiring work they do every day." Barbara Merrill, ANCOR CEO says, "This year, ANCOR received hundreds of nominations highlighting DSPs from across the nation. Lisa stood out and she can be proud of the difference her work

has made for the people she supports at Black Hills Works."

ANCOR is a national trade association representing more than 800 private providers of community living and

employment supports and services to more than 500,000 individuals with disabilities. It addresses the needs and interests of private providers before Congress and federal agencies.



Lisa Batteen with Jeff Elwood. Lisa was named South Dakota Direct Support Professional of the Year by the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR).

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Artist Barb Heagy honored at tea

Barb Heagy, the 2015 Suzie Cappa Art Center Artist of the Year, was honored at Suzie's Royal Tea on Sunday, April 26. There were 114 people on hand to enjoy tea, meet Barb and other artists, and see the beautifully decorated tables.

Barb is a full-time artist at the center. Studio Manager Carla Julius says that Barb started drawing using stencils, but eventually began designing her own images. Her intricate artwork is full of surprises. Among the geometric patterns, she puts people, houses, plants and other objects. "She works on her art all day," says Carla. "At the end of the day, she doesn't want to quit."

Artist of the Year Barb Heagy was honored at Suzie's Royal Tea on Sunday, April 26. Here she receives her award from Brad Winter. Her sister Nelva Blenner is also pictured. More than one hundred people were in attendance to enjoy the tea, meet Barb and other artists, and see the beautifully decorated tables.



Dream comes true!

"I was astounded. It went over and above my expectations," says Cindy Roan Eagle about the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow she attended April 24-26 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The annual event is one of the largest pow wows in the United States with more than 3,000 dancers and over 500 tribes from around the United States and Canada participating this year. Cindy saved money for the trip and also received some matching support from the Black Hills Works Foundation. She was accompanied by Elizabeth Warner and Robin DeBoer. "It was my dream and without the Foundation's help, I wouldn't have done it." To make a contribution to the Black Hills Works Foundation, use the enclosed envelope.



Cindy Roan Eagle, Elizabeth Warner, and Robin DeBoer at the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow.

BHW gets 4-year accreditation



Black Hills Works has once again achieved four-year accreditation from the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL). We are the first

agency in the state to achieve this level under the new accrediting process. The accreditation process itself was an intense four-day event held April 28-May 1. But, in the end, it is striving for excellence, day in and day out between reviews, that makes this level of achievement possible.

Second tech conference held

More than 100 people attend the second technology conference, *Creating Possibilities: Innovation in Motion* May 18-19 at the South Dakota Schools of Mines & Technology. The conference was hosted by the Black Hills Works technology team and was focused on helping supporters of people with disabilities to access and implement technology in a way that promotes independence, well-being, and belonging. It was made possible throughout support of the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities and Black Hills Works.



Keynote speaker Therese Willkomm kicks it off the conference with her talk "Using Everyday Items to Create extraordinary Technology Solutions in Minutes"

AmeriCorps team visits



AmeriCorps member Aaron Rosado poses with Shad Bebout.

Black Hills Works benefitted from the efforts of eight AmeriCorps members March 11-April 23. Like previous AmeriCorps teams we have hosted, members of this group taught classes and assisted with other activities at the Learning Institute on Range Road in the Suzie Cappa Art Center, the Health, Sport and Fitness Center, the Sensory Room, and the Retirement Center. They also assisted with our Special Olympics track and field.

AmeriCorps NCCC is a full-time, residential, national service program for men and women ages 18-24. More than 1,000 young adults serve nationwide for ten-month terms each year. NCCC members are organized into teams of 10-12 members and serve in communities in the areas of disaster preparation, response, and recovery; environmental conservation; public safety; urban and rural development, and education.

NCCC and other AmeriCorps programs are administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service. For more information about AmeriCorps NCCC, visit the website at www.americorps.gov/nccc.

Black Hills Works and the people we support have benefitted greatly from the time and talents of AmeriCorps members since we hosted our first group in March of 2010.

Work by four SCAC artists selected for traveling show

The work of four Suzie Cappa Art Center artists will go on a year-long tour beginning in September. Art by Sean Sipes, Heather Morris, Barb Heagy, and Maureen Conley will join work by artists in San Diego, Chicago, and Flagstaff and at the Suzie Cappa Art Center. The work will be displayed for three



months at each site, with one month between to allow for shipping and setup. It will be in Rapid City at the Suzie Cappa Art Center in May-July 2016.

This project came about after Suzie Cappa Art Center Director Brad Winter attended a conference in California and met with other directors at similar centers. Ashley Kiefer has been working with Wendy Morris from an art center in San Diego to coordinate the details.

Funds are being raised to cover the approximately \$11,000 cost of shipping the work and sending each of the four Rapid City artists to one of the out-of-town openings. If you would like to help, send your contribution in the enclosed envelope and make a note that you would like it to support the traveling show.

Black Hills Works named Corporate Cup champs again!



For the fifth time in ten years, Black Hills Works and people supported brought home the championship cup from the YMCA Corporate Cup on April 30. In ten years, Black Hills Works has never finished lower than second place in our division.

High security



Ranale Wiseman works on a security monitoring contract BH Services has at a business in the community.

Have your event at the Art Center



Got an event coming up? Surround your guests with color and be inspired by the amazing work of artists of ALL abilities at the Suzie Cappa Art Center.

Art Experience Package \$150

- Use of studio for two-hour period
- Provision of canvas (12" x 16") and supplies for up to six attendees. (A \$20 fee is applied per additional participants.)
- Available Monday-Friday 4:30-9:30 p.m. and Saturday noon to 4 p.m.

Venue Package \$350

- Use of gallery, studio, and the kitchen for three hours with an additional hour before and after
 - Use of tables and chairs
 - Use of service items
 - Outside food is welcome with prior approval
 - Alcohol can be served after hours for private parties with licensed servers
- Available Monday-Saturday 4:30-9:30 p.m.

A \$100 deposit is required for both packages. Contact Ashley at 791-3578.



Black Hills Works Putt-N-Pub held downtown

More than 160 players and 30 volunteers participated in the 2015 Black Hills Putt-N-Pub on March 14. Proceeds of this event go towards quality of life enhancements for those we support, including technology, fitness, and recreation. People supported acted as our Celebrity Putters. They kicked off play for every team in the hopes of getting a hole-in-one.

Thank you to our participating pubs including **445 Lounge, Thirsty's, Murphy's, Paddy O'Neil's, Sanford's, VFW Post 1273, and Independent Ale House** who offered specials to players and decorated holes for play. The VFW won the prize for best decorated hole. The Suzie Cappa Art Center also provided a watering hole with a palette-shaped green of their own. The festivities ended with Best Dressed, Top Score, and Worst Score awards, as well as entertainment by Braden Bilyeu and the Hillcats.



Members of Taste of the Rainbow. They were the best scoring team at the Black Hills Works Putt-N-Pub held on March 14.

Thank you to all our generous contributors!

Donations received February 1-April 30

Bates, Marilyn
Birkeland, Beverly
Bodeson, Joseph & Tammy
Bowman, Cecilia & Richard
Bsharah, Norman
Caylor, Dallas
Downtown Lions Club
Fischer Furniture
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Hofmann, Alfred & Kay
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Krause, Marty & Bobbi
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Crist, Martin

Hazlett, Chuck & Kaona

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Robert & Evelyn Mason

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Jennie Schatz

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Lien, Leighton & Sue

Syvvertsen, Betty

Liebelt, Orand & Ruth

In kind

Blumer, Bobbie

Dante, Theresa

Dark Canyon Coffee

Deering, Jessica

Dunn Brothers Coffee

Fischer Furniture

Freed's Fine Furnishings

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Haase, Kathy

Hecker, Joe

Hight, Deb

Janzen, Connie

Jolly Lane Floral/Greenhouse

Julius, Carla

Little Red Styling Hood

Miller, Eugene

Mitzi's Books

Nolen, Sara

Quinn, Jeanne

Rippa, Kayla

Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory

Teuber, Larry

Wilcox, Tara

Wiley, Duane & Millie

Jennie Schatz

Martha Clavel

In honor

Michael Wayne Braden

Braden, Ann

Edwin Kukkola

Reed, Dr. & Mrs. Ronald

Robert Mason

Austin, Mary L. & Donald L.

In memory

Joe Atkins

Clavel, Martha

Dr. Dale Bergeron

Mullen, Anita



Don't forget to register your team or reserve a hole sponsorship for the 2015 Golf FORE a Cause tournament. The event will be held at the Red Rocks Golf Club on Monday, July 20 from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Register a four-person team for \$600, which includes lunch, green fees, cart fees, and extras. Businesses can also sponsor a hole at \$300 or the ball drop raffle at \$250. Event sponsorships are also available. Registration links are available on our new website at www.blackhillsworks.org. For inquiries, contact Tara Wilcox at (605) 718-6207 or twilcox@bhws.com.

Susan Guest Volunteer of the Year



Humane Society of the Year Susan Guest with a friend.

Susan Guest was nominated by the Humane Society for the Purina Cat Chow Shelter Volunteer of the Year Contest. Volunteers from across the nation were nominated for the award. The shelter associated with the winner received a \$25,000 makeover. While Susan didn't win the top honor, her nomination did result in the Humane Society receiving \$1,000 and much-needed food and pet supplies from Purina.

Over the past six years, Susan has spent over 500 hours volunteering at the shelter. Below are the comments the Humane Society made in their nomination:

Susan Lee Guest is one of the most faithful volunteers we have ever met! Like clockwork Susan arrives every week to give our cats the love and attention they need. She has logged over 85 hours in 2014 and has done so similarly every year for the last 6 years. It is a delight to see her in our cat room, "Whispering Forest," as she gets cozy on the cats level, sitting on the floor making the cats relaxed and welcome in her arms.

Our staff has also noticed her commitment; often when they see her in "Whispering Forest," she has fallen asleep with 3-4 cats cuddled up with her. On her volunteer service record where she records her hours, under "Activities" she always writes "Brush cats and gave love." We could not function without volunteers like Susan, freely giving her time and love to the cats at our shelter!

SCAC artists use talents to help community

Suzie Cappa artists have recently lent their talents to support important causes in our community.

The Center hosted the kick-off reception for the **HOPE Center** during their monthly Art Night April 10. Proceeds from wine sales and partial proceeds from a silent auction of art went to the HOPE Center which offers the homeless and those without hope in our community

an environment of respect, encouragement and guidance, as they move toward a better life. The HOPE Center was established in 2010 as an outreach project of First United Methodist Church in downtown Rapid City.

Ten artists at the downtown location of the Suzie Cappa Art Center painted bowls for this year's **Empty Bowls event** held April 22 at the Surbeck Ballroom at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. The event benefitted the Backpack Program of Feeding South Dakota. It featured a simple meal and attendees received a hand-painted ceramic soup bowl as a reminder of the bowls we still need to fill for the hungry. Empty Bowls projects happen all over the world, raising millions of dollars to fight hunger. In the Black Hills area, 1,812 backpacks are packed weekly during the school year for children at 35 schools at a cost of \$150 per student each year. We are proud of the Suzie Cappa Artists who have used their talent and skill to support such an important cause.



People First and artists share talents at NDACP conference

Left to right: Gene Mason, Chad Moore, Jen Harp, Elizabeth Warner, Cindy Roan Eagle, Lisa Batteen, and Keven Moulton. Members of the People First group presented a session on employment at the North Dakota Association of Community Providers conference held May 6-8 in Fargo. Representatives from the Suzie Cappa Art Center also attended the conference to show and market their artwork.



Making progress at The Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center

By Morgen Crawford

It was the fourth day on the job and I was excited to arrive. I started towards the building and before I knew it I was sliding backwards with my head taking the impact from the unforgiving ice and pavement. Little did I know, my life had just changed entirely.

After an MRI, CAT scan, a couple of neurologists, brain evaluations and tests, along with several doctors in tow, it was determined that I had sustained a mild traumatic brain injury--my sixth concussion. (Yes, I was a risk-taking child.)

I was accepted to The Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center (TBIRC) a couple months later and have been getting better ever since. The staff are kind, gentle, and patient with my slow but sure improvement.

I'm one of about 20 clients at the TBIRC where we retrain our brains and in the process gain new neuro pathways after injury. Basically, that means that in the past we used to do a task by using what's now an injured brain path, so we've learned how to circumvent the broken path and use a new route which still arrives at the original goal.

Brain injuries affect people differently. Some symptoms of my injury are that I was forgetting names, directions to places I knew well, visits from friends, what I'd read the night before, and entire

conversations along with the words needed to converse. Also, I was extremely exhausted, had difficulty staying on topic, wasn't able to concentrate or understand, and I wasn't sleeping.

As for some of the other TBIRC clients, they've had strokes, car and cycle accidents, falls, Legionnaire's Disease, and brain tumors to name a few accidents. We all respond to rehab differently, sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly, but if we work we see improvement in memory, balance, using utensils, walking, speaking, understanding, and retention.

I have to say that it's so comforting to know others like me – to see their struggles and triumphs, because most people, including doctors, haven't caught up with the emerging research on Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and they just don't understand.

Through the process of getting better we experience a realm of grief, anger, denial, growth, and acceptance. For me, acceptance has been slow. At first my attitude was "why me," and, "no, I won't accept this," but it has slowly turned into an attitude of acceptance and on most days, gratitude. The staff told me this would happen, but I didn't believe them as I was so angry that "the executive" I once was would no longer exist.

Most days now I've found some "Post Traumatic Growth," which basically means accepting the new me and working towards being different, and better than before.

The staff at the TBIRC are really fantastic. They've helped me come to terms with my injury and proven to me with scores, plotted graphs, and percentages that I'm progressing. Their gentle reminders that progress happens with hard work also helps a lot. I can't imagine going through this without them and feel so bad for brain injured folks who have to fight through the fog without their help.

As for the present, I've recently taken a seven-year hobby of making beaded gemstone jewelry to the next step and have sold some of it at the downtown store, "Suzie Cappa," and a couple of craft fairs. I've met all kinds of artsy and joyous people and the stress compared to the old is practically nil! One day I will open an

online store and with the help of the staff at the TBIRC I have little doubt that I'll get there.

It has been a joy to relearn and live in today, and most days it's fun. I still fight the demons of the past but I'm getting happier again. Each day feels like a day of accomplishments and new understanding – sort of like learning new things when I was a kid.

Storm has success at tournament



Rocky Allard from the Lightning Team won the Spirit Award at the 2015 State Basketball Tournament.

The Rapid City Storm had a successful Special Olympics Basketball tourney in Pierre March 13-14. The Blizzard team earned a gold medal, the Thunder team earned a silver medal, the Lightning team earned a bronze, and the Cheer team earned a bronze medal. But more important is that everyone had a great trip. Thanks to all coaches and chaperones for taking their time and volunteering to help with the tourney.

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Morgen Crawford wearing one of her own jewelry creations. Her jewelry is for sale at the Suzie Cappa Art Center.

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Helping out at the Salvation Army



Kenny Kirkpatrick and Kevin Papen volunteer at the Salvation Army. They mainly work at the loading dock accepting donations, but they also help with the sorting and stocking the selling floor, too.

Address changes?

Please check your address label carefully. Send your address changes to:

Dorothy Rosby
Black Hills Works
P.O. Box 2104
Rapid City, SD 57709

You can also email your changes to drosby@bhws.com or call 605-718-6205.

If you would prefer to receive your newsletter via email, send your email address to drosby@bhws.com. It will not be shared with other organizations.

The Works is published quarterly by the Black Hills Works Foundation. The Black Hills Works Foundation is dedicated to supporting comprehensive, quality services for people with disabilities. The Foundation is committed to ensuring those services now and in the future. Comments and questions are encouraged and may be addressed to Dorothy Rosby, Editor, Box 2104, Rapid City, SD 57709, or call (605) 343-4550. You can also email drosby@bhws.com. Visit us at our website at www.blackhillsworks.org.