

THE EXCHANGE

*Published for parents, family members, and guardians
of individuals served by Black Hills Works*

Fourth Quarter 2015

Thank you DSPs!



Congratulations **Danette Schille**, who was named Black Hills Works overall DSP Superstar during Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week September 13-19. She will be recognized at the statewide *Simply the Best Conference* which will be held November 6 in Pierre.

Danette came to Black Hills Works 16 years ago as an intern from Western Dakota Technical Institute and currently serves as the coordinator of the Learning Institute. Her efforts have greatly expanded networking opportunities for people we support, leading to many new relationships in the community.

Direct support professionals **Rhonda Andrews, Destiny Christensen, Michelle Mechaley, Lynnette Braun, Leah Drummond, Margaret Jones, Robin DeBoer, Carla Julius, Mallory Darling, Randy Sheppard, Sandra Ollila and Mallory Buxton** were also recognized for exemplary service.

BHW welcomes Flutter Productions!

In 2008, fifteen performers from Black Hills Works joined community members in bringing to life the tale of a butterfly in *Flutter*; an all ability movement and dance piece. It was the first production of Flutter Productions which was founded by Heather Pickering while she was serving as the Education and Outreach Director for Black Hills Community Theatre (BHCT). Andrea Schaefer of Barefoot Dance Studio joined the project as choreographer, and the partnership continued through four subsequent productions: *Vita, Dakota Dreams, Quintessence, and Ascent*. Around 300 people performed in these productions.

Now Black Hills Works is happy to announce that Flutter Productions will become a full-time, year-round entity operating out of Black Hills Works in conjunction with the Suzie Cappa Art Center. It's mission is to continue to create and produce work that reflects and includes historically marginalized groups, including those with and without disabilities. Eventually, we will be offering opportunities in other communities where opportunities are not offered for all-ability casts.

Along with the joy of discovering their talents and the artistic growth experienced by performers, previous productions

also led to friendships between those served by Black Hills Works and others in the community. Heather says, "We want to create new creative communities for people served by Black Hills Works through all ability--meaning people with and without disabilities--performance opportunities throughout the entire year." The plan is to stage a large all-ability, movement based show every other year with additional smaller performances in off years. A variety of classes will also be offered through Flutter Productions in an area of the Learning Institute which is being remodeled for that purpose.

Black Hills Works 2016 Holiday Calendar



New Year's Day	Friday, January 1
President's Day	Monday, February 15
Memorial Day	Monday, May 30
Independence Day	Monday, July 4
Labor Day	Monday, September 5
Thanksgiving	November 24 & 25
Christmas	December 25 & 26

BH Services 2016 Holiday Calendar



(For those working on federal contracts)

New Year's Day	Friday, January 1
Martin Luther King Day	Monday, January 18
Washington's Birthday	Monday, February 15
Memorial Day	Monday, May 30
Independence Day	Monday, July 4
Labor Day	Monday, September 5
Columbus Day	Monday, October 10
Veteran's Day	Friday, November 11
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 24
Christmas	Monday, December 26

The Exchange is published bimonthly by the Black Hills Works for parents, family members, and guardians of the individuals we serve. Comments and questions are encouraged and may be addressed to Dorothy Rosby, Editor, Black Hills Works, Box 2104, Rapid City, SD 57709; call (605) 718-6205; or email drosby@bhws.com. We also appreciate your keeping us up to date on your address changes, corrections, or duplicate mailings. If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, email drosby@bhws.com.

Family members welcome!

Great Lives Partnership

The Great Lives Partnership is an education and advocacy group for families of people served by Black Hills Works. All family members and guardians are welcome to attend meetings of the Great Lives Partnership. Come learn more about the issues that affect your loved one and how you can affect those issues.

The next meeting of the Great Lives Partnership will be held Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 5 p.m. at Black Hills Works, 3650 Range Road. For more information, contact Colleen Ronning at (605) 718-6203.

Bowling underway

Special Olympics bowling is underway now through February 25. We will again be offering THREE sessions, all on Thursdays: 10 a.m. at Robbinsdale, and 4:15 p.m. at both Robbinsdale and Meadowood. Bowling will NOT be held on Thursday, November 5, due to the SO State Bowling tournament being that weekend. Of course, it will also not be held on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and New Year's Eve.

The annual Bowling Awards Banquet is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 3. For information on these and other Special Olympic activities at Black Hills Works, contact Joe Burmeister at 593-1144.

Hampton tries Alternative Day Services

People supported at Hampton Group Home have a new alternative to their day. The change was implemented to decrease the total number of individuals who attend the Learning Institute during the day and to provide additional community based integrated activities with smaller support-staff ratios.

One person continues to use the day services to provide a consistent schedule, and another person works at Suzie Cappa Art Center downtown three days a week. Otherwise, the total care residents are provided with engaging activities.

During a typical day, there are five staff on hand, which allows for a smaller staff-to-person-supported ratio. A direct support professional, who is trained as a physical therapy assistant, supports individuals with their physical therapy needs. Staff support people to engage in sensory activities throughout the day in the sensory room which features a swing, black lights, massage chair, and tactile games.

Staff have a schedule of activities that include arts and crafts, science projects, and outdoor activities. Residents can also participate in community activities.

This model will work well this winter. Rather than individuals being loaded into buses and exposed to the cold and illnesses, the residents of Hampton will be able to stay home and enjoy the different activities provided there.

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