

33rd annual recognition gala held

Nearly 500 people attended the 33rd annual Black Hills Works Foundation Recognition Gala, *In the Key of Life*, on Saturday, November 7 at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center. Each year, we recognize four of the people we support for their accomplishments and progress. We also honor others in the community who have supported our mission.

This year's Outstanding Achievement Award Winners are **Kim Flowers, Tom Kaiser, Kelley McMains, and Vincent Saucedo.** The **Rapid City Police and Fire Departments** and volunteer **Lynn Nelson** were also honored. You can read more about all of our winners below. Entertainment was by 176 Keys Fun Pianos.

Outstanding Achievement Awards: **Kim Flowers** came to Black Hills Works in 2001 from Huron after her mother's death. The larger community created some challenges for her, but she soon became very independent, learning to use the city transit system and do her own shopping. Kim is devoted to her husband Gary. She works on a Black Hills Works community custodial crew which cleans local businesses in the evening. "She's an all around good employee. I would love to have ten more of her," says Direct Support Provider Jean McMahan.

Tom Kaiser came to Black Hills Works from the South Dakota Developmental Center in Custer in 1996. He spends his days in the sensory area at the Black Hills Works Learning Institute. Tom enjoys being around people and activity and he



2016 Outstanding Achievement Award winners Vincent Saucedo, Kim Flowers, Kelley McMains, and Tom Kaiser.

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loves cars, “the cooler, louder, and faster the better,” says his service coordinator Michelle Kline. Last September, with staff support, Tom was able to ride in a race car at the Sturgis dragway. “It was a great day for Tom,” says Michelle.

Kelley McMains started working at the Ellsworth Air Force Base Commissary in 2011 and moved to the Raider Café at Ellsworth in 2014. Her supervisor, Carl Dixon, says she has grown to the point that she is able to take on any of the responsibilities in the area, from food preparation, to cleaning, to pots and pans. She lives in her own apartment and enjoys caring for her dog.

When **Vincent Saucedo** came to Black Hills Works in 2011, he had difficulty maintaining employment in the community. His service coordinator Michelle Kline says that after working in-house on a woodworking contract, Vincent became the “go to” guy for any job asked of him. His training paid off, and he recently returned to successful employment in the community at the Rapid City Regional Health laundry.

Community Connection Awards
Both the Rapid City Fire Department and the Rapid City Police Department were honored for their extra efforts to meet the unique challenges of the people we support by developing relationships with both staff and



This fountain piano was created by RPM Companies.

people supported and providing and participating in training.

Volunteer of the Year Award

For nearly three years, **Lynn Nelson** has volunteered at the Suzie Cappa Art Center downtown for as much as 30 hours per month. She assists customers, runs the cash register, and tells the story of the Suzie Cappa Art Center during all of the many events hosted by the center. “We couldn’t get along without her,” says Carla Julius, studio manager.

A big thank you to our wonderful event sponsors:
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And thank you also to our inkind sponsors:

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And finally, thank you to our Thank you to our hardworking and creative committee: **Pam Lindquist, Jeanette Deurloo, Megan Batteen, JoVayne Cappa, Brad Winter, Tammie Quinn, Tammy Murner, Tim Strauss, Tara Wilcox, Helen Usera, Jenivieve Yost, and Dorothy Rosby.**

BH Services now offering electronics recycling

Echo-Works, the new electronics recycling division of BH Services, held its first collection event on Saturday, November 14. Echo-Works collects electronics and electrical devices from government, commercial and residential customers. Collected items are evaluated for reuse or recycling and are processed using methods that eliminate waste to landfills.

If you missed the event, but would like to recycle electronics, Echo-Works offers fee-based pick-up service by calling (605) 343-6466 or you can drop them off at 1350 Concourse Drive, Rapid City.



Greg Solano, Blaze Johnson, Randy Sheppard, and Dawn Wozna at the first collection event of Echo Works, Black Hills Works new electronics recycling division.

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on Facebook
and follow us on Twitter
@blackhillsworks**

New home at Antelope Ridge

Five people served by Black Hills Works have now moved into our newest residential option, the Antelope Ridge housing development located in Box Elder. It will soon be home to three more people. One of the new residents is Al Weber, who along with his roommate Dorothy Ribble, moved from a group home. Both are very happy with the new arrangement. Michelle Aman, Vice President of Residential & Nursing Services, says she visited Al and Dorothy in their new home. She asked Al what he liked best about it. He told her it was the quiet. "Listen," he said. Michelle says, "I said, I don't hear anything and Al said 'exactly.'" She says Al told her, "I am so satisfied."

Our residential waiting list of people who receive some type of service (for example, employment or day habilitation) but still live either in their family home or housing in the community hovers around 28. These are people who have a need for more supported housing due to aging or medical conditions, either their own or of their caregivers. We also have a waiting list of 18 of those people who do not currently receive services from Black Hills Works, but would like to.

Affordable and accessible housing has long been a challenge in our community. Black Hills Works is currently working to raise money to build more affordable and accessible housing. In the meantime, we have been looking for privately owned housing that we could bring supports into in order to help meet the growing needs of people on our waiting lists. That's why we are so pleased to be connected with the management of Antelope Ridge.

Antelope Ridge is a 825-unit housing development. The mix of fourplex and duplexes was originally constructed on Ellsworth Air Force Base in the mid-1990s as Air Force housing. Recently the gates of the base have been moved, opening Antelope Ridge to the community at large. Air Force families make up 61% of the occupants and 29% are other community members. Rents are affordable for the people we support.

The Black Hills Works Foundation has signed leases for three units that will house seven people. All three are located in the same vicinity, allowing for staffing and transportation efficiencies.

Chief Executive Officer Brad Saathoff says "We have been very pleased with the welcoming nature of the Antelope Ridge administration.

They have been very supportive to include people we support in the activities the community has routinely going on." Brad says Antelope Ridge staff are also helping recruit staff for the homes from among the residents in the development.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in a position at Antelope Ridge, have them check out our website, blackhillsworks.org.

Al Weber, one of the new residents at Antelope Ridge, shows off his catch. Direct Support Professional Jennifer Hidde accompanied him fishing.



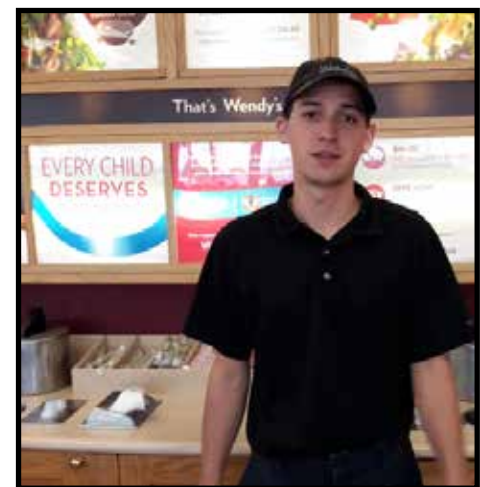
Sewing job for Rachel



Rachel Brown Bull has a new job mending bedding, scrubs, and other items for Regional Health. She works at their laundry facility three days a week and goes to the Suzie Cappa Art Center downtown the other two days.

Increased duties

For the past few years, Josh Dvorak has worked at the Wendy's on 5th Street one or two days a week. When he transferred to Wendy's on Cathedral Street, his hours and responsibilities increased. Josh now works weekdays, picking up trash in the parking lot, wiping tables, cleaning windows, sweeping and mopping and more.



Josh Dvorak at work at Wendy's.

Flutter Productions joins Black Hills Works family

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. Approximately 300 individuals performed on stage 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. Its mission is to continue to work with, 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.

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 theatre classes are also being offered in the BHW Learning Institute.



A scene from Flutter, an all-ability movement and dance piece, which was performed in 2008.

Employment at Pizza Ranch

Sarah Ray has been employed at Pizza Ranch since Monday, June 22. Her duties include putting parmesan cheese containers on tables and cleaning tables and chairs.

Black Hills Works Job Developer Amanda Harvey says Sarah has been very successful in her new position and seems to be enjoying working at Pizza Ranch.



Sarah Ray poses in front of Pizza Ranch where she has worked since June.

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 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.

Rushmore Lions Pancake Benefit

Sunday, February 28
7:30 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Black Hills Works
3603 Range Road
Tickets are \$6
Children 8 and under eat free
All proceeds benefit BHW



Thank you for your generosity

Donations received August 1-October 30

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Brighten the holidays

Christmas can be a lonely time for those without family. Each year, Black Hills Works uses donated funds to purchase gifts for 70-80 of the people we serve who do not have involved family. If you would like to contribute to the Christmas fund, send your donations to Dr. Helen Usera, Black Hills Works, PO Box 2104, Rapid City, SD 57709. Let us know you'd like the gift to be used for Christmas gifts. You will be helping to brighten the holidays for many people.



BHW participates in United Way Day of Caring

The Black Hills Works Out & About Program sponsored a team for United Way Day of Caring on September 3. They weathered temperatures in the 90s to pull weeds at the Canyon Lake Senior Center. The team was taped by KOTA for their closing segment.

Out & About is a new program at Black Hills Works which utilizes volunteers to help provide opportunities for community involvement to people we support. Along with volunteer activities, Out & About supports individuals to attend a variety of sporting, arts, community event and activities.



Susan Guest and Derrick Boegel were part of the group from Black Hills Works who volunteered on United Way Day of Caring.

Fitness Center is for everyone

More people who use wheelchairs are using the services at the Black Hills Works Fitness Center. Kelli Blossmo comes down to the fitness center every morning with her friends. Shane Ruml says Kelly's routine includes using the wind jammer exercising machine for 30 minutes, strength training and conditioning for 30 minutes, often with friends. She also often dances or plays Pac Man to build hand eye coordination and muscle control. Shane says Kelly is a great advocate for her own health and she spreads the word to others about how great she feels and how much fun she is having in the Fitness Center.



Kelli Blossmo and Abbie Wells work out with bands in the Fitness Center.

Lawn crew honored



Members of the 2015 Black Hills Works lawn crew received end-of-season awards in November. Pictured are Matt Morin, Blaze Johnson, and Sy Neff. Also on the crew were David Heemstra, Matt Blauvelt and Sam Garcia. Everyone received a mower key chain. In addition, Blaze Johnson was awarded an embroidered cap for attendance and outstanding performance. The Lawn Crew was headed up by Robin Murner and Randy Sheppard and they serviced more than 40 plus customers this summer.

2016 Calendar of Events

**Rushmore Lions Club
Pancake Breakfast
February 28**

**Putt-N-Pub
March 12**

**Suzie's Royal Tea
May 1**

**Golf Fore a Cause
July 18**

**Recognition Gala
November 5**

SCAC artist's work chosen for Simply the Best



Congratulations Hoksila Long whose drawing of a horse was selected from designs submitted from across the state.

It was featured on the 2015 Simply the Best t-shirt. He received \$50 for his design. Simply the Best is a gathering and honoring of direct support professionals from across the state.



CanDu Week at BHW



September 8-September 11 was CanDu Week at Black Hills Works, a time for the Black Hills Works Foundation to honor some

of the many businesses who support us, either by employing people with disabilities or contracting with us.

During CanDu Week, Foundation staff visited the following businesses and presented small gifts: **Meyer and Dana Orthodontics, Scheels, Rushmore Media, Buffalo Plains Group at Morgan Stanley, Fenske Media, Loves Travel, Regional Health, Servall, Hubbard Feed, Northwest Pipe Fittings, Fountain Springs Church, Jenner Equipment, Rapid City Regional Eye Institute, Keller Williams, Security First Bank, Sound Pro, West River Electric, Wood Stock Supply, and MDU.**

Haunted House ten years old

Approximately 750 people attended the tenth annual Black Hills Works Haunted House October 30 and 31. Admission was a non-perishable food item which was donated to Feeding South Dakota.

The Haunted House has expanded over its ten year history, from one area in the Learning Institute, to the gym, and to this year, where it took up much of the building. A highlight this year was the Storybook Land Gone Bad.

More than 60 volunteers helped scare visitors on Friday and Saturday evenings. Our thanks to students from **Beyond the Books, Teen Up, Stevens High School, West Middle School, St. Thomas Moore, and Douglas school's ROTC.**

BH Services receives \$100,000 grant for hydroponics

BH Services has received a \$100,000 grant from SourceAmerica and its Ideas to Work Fund (IWF) whose purpose is to fund innovative and jobready projects that create jobs for people with disabilities, in this case hydroponic gardening.

Black Hills Works has partnered with Gregson's Gardens in hydroponic gardening. Black Hills Works owns a greenhouse and has grown plants in the past, and Gregson's brings the expertise to allow for this project to be fully implemented and give people served an opportunity for community-based employment.

Through the Discovering Personal Genius process, a system we use at Black Hills Works to help customize employment for people we serve, several people have already been identified who have gardening and business ownership as their personal goals. These individuals are being introduced to the hydroponic gardening project.

With the grant and its own matching funds, BH Services will form Hydro Greenhouses for the specific purpose of growing chemical and pesticide free, superior quality, fresh, locally grown produce to consumers in the surrounding area while employing, training and mentoring people with disabilities. The long range goal will be to help people who express and demonstrate the desire to establish their own hydroponic micro business. The Hydro Greenhouse will be operated by BH Services and managed by Gregson's Gardens. Eventually, it will employ 10 to 25 people with disabilities.



Freida Henschel wins Olympic Spirit Award

Congratulations to Freida Henschel, who won the Spirit Award in the slow pitch division at the State Softball Tournament this summer. Freida was nominated by her coaches Amy Jobgen and Tyson Dietrich.

"She always tries her hardest and is willing to learn new things," says Amy. "Freida always has uplifting words for her teammates if they get down and gives words of encouragement and praise to everyone. Freida's heart and soul are always in the game."



Freida Henschel shows off her Spirit Award.

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Another successful season at Mount Rushmore

Six people completed a summer of employment at Mount Rushmore. Four people started in May working in the dining area, busing tables. They eventually began working in the serving line as well. Two others spent the summer in the gift shop,



keeping T-shirts folded and stacked. Part of the team is pictured above: Melissa Carger, Direct Support Professional Bethany Larson, and Lisa Steele.

Address changes?

Please check your address label carefully and 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.