



brevard achievement center

Star Bulletin

1845 Cogswell Street • Rockledge, FL 32955 • 321 632-8610 • fax 321 631-8207
 www.bacbrevard.com **Summer 2009**

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VIP Party Host Committee: Susie Wasdin, Honorary Chair
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FLORIDA TODAY is a proud supporter of this event.

The Space Command Hennessey Award



Left to Right - Front Row: Peter King, Darnell Harris, Melinda Frame, Cora Davis, Alina Pietroforte, Laura Devillers, Major White **Back Row:** Michael Miller, Steve Morris, A J Welch, Lt McNell, Capt Davis

The Brevard Achievement Center (BAC) has provided all the labor to complete the operational needs at the Riverside Dining Facility at Patrick Air Force Base since July 1995. BAC provides these services under the Ability One (NISH) program. The program provides work opportunities for disabled adults. The Riverside Dining Facility is one of twelve NISH contracts BAC oversees.

BAC was recently presented with the Space Command Hennessey Award, which is given to the Best Dining Facility in the Space Command as shown in the photo above.

BAC Staffer Receives Friends Volunteer of the Year Award

The Northeast State Hospital recognized Hazel Bergeron for over 25 years of volunteer service. On April 29, 2009 Hazel was presented by the Director of Patient Relations, Mr. Sam Kitching, and Mr. Joe Infantino, Administrator, with a plaque recognizing her for her commitment, dedication and advocacy for individuals served by the hospital. Over 60 administrators, staff, family and friends gathered to recognize Hazel's accomplishment. Hazel said the main reason that she got involved with the hospital was "to make change occur". Hazel has been working at the Brevard Achievement Center for 25 years and the administration and staff thank her for her service.



Success Story

The Brevard Achievement Center (BAC) would like to recognize James V. and Chris C., two former School Services Job Placement Program students, who continue to excel at their positions at the Cobb Movie Theater located on Merritt Island.

James V. was referred to the BAC School Services Job Placement Program in August 2007 from Merritt Island High School. He began working at the Cobb Movie Theater as an Usher. James quickly rose to the rank of "Key Employee" which he states was done through hard work. James stresses the fact that the BAC program allowed him to become more confident and that it gave him a reason to work in order to graduate. He also enjoyed the fact that he was able to get out of school early and get school credits for working. James had some advice for

all high school students, "by working hard, being humble and satisfying your manager they too can be successful."

Chris C. was referred to the BAC Job Placement Program in August 2008 from Merritt Island High School. He began as a Concession Stand Worker and has been working at the Cobb Movie Theater for 2 years. Chris states that he really enjoys working with his co-workers and said that the BAC program allowed him to have a job and build up his confidence.

Mr. Kiser, Lead Assistant/Human Resource Manager, of the Cobb Movie Theater states that "both James and Chris exceed and continue to excel above his expectations." Mr. Kiser states that both James and Chris are a part of a team and through their leadership has made his business thrive and both have been promoted to "Key Employees." Mr. Kiser stresses the team concept and that everyone has

a role to fill and that's what makes our customers happy. Mr. Kiser states that he really liked the follow along services BAC provided and that both James and Chris were set up in positions to succeed.

BAC looks forward to assisting all students through the School to Work Job Placement Program and thanks the Cobb Movie Theater for their continued support of all BAC programs.



BAC BEGINS CUSTODIAL ENCLAVE at Kennedy Space Center

BAC is ready to begin a new custodial Enclave at Kennedy Space Center in June 2009. This Enclave will work Monday's through Friday's and BAC will provide transportation to clients who will leave the Center at 9AM and will return to the Center at 2:30PM.

An Enclave is a group of consumers who go out with a supervisor/trainer and receive on-the-job training while getting paid at the same time. Clients will be paid a set salary for the first thirty (30) days. After thirty days they will be time studied for all tasks done and the rates will be averaged together to give them a new rate of pay. They will be time studied every six (6) months and their pay rate will go up or down slightly depending on the report of the study.

BAC has other custodial Enclaves at the Veterans Administration, Patrick Air Force Base and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

Our clients enjoy not only the competitive compensation and insurance benefits, but they like leaving the Center and gaining experience in a real working environment while enjoying the friendliness of employees in the buildings they serve.



Orchestra Visits BAC



March 9: A few members from the Melbourne Community Orchestra (MCO) visited BAC and taught clients and staff about their various instruments, including the history and evolution of the instruments. The musicians are all volunteers and the cellist even made his own cello. As a finale, they played "Happy Birthday." The clients are looking forward to the MCO's next visit, where the musicians will play songs requested by the clients.

Letter from the President

During the past year all of us have been faced with making difficult decisions based on the economic conditions. Belt-tightening, program analysis and creative business decisions have become daily occurrences for us at BAC. However, during this difficult time, I am proud of how the Center's Board of Directors, staff, associates, families and the community have come together to support our mission of assisting persons with a disability. Over the past several months it has been increasingly obvious to me that with everyone working together the agency continues to be an important force in the communities we serve. At times like this I think of the familiar saying, "This too shall pass." The current situation will improve over time and at the end of this difficult time I am confident the Center will emerge stronger than ever because we have all stayed focused on the BAC mission.

Dayle Olson, President/CEO

Melbourne Art Festival Donates to BAC Art Studio and VSA arts

The Melbourne Art Festival has donated \$5,000 to BAC for its Art Studio and VSA arts programs. The festival, held the last weekend in April, raises funds for arts education. Artists and visitors from all over have made this one of the top rated shows in the country. Thank you to the Melbourne Art Festival!

“All Kids Can” with CVS/pharmacy Partnership

For the second year in a row, CVS/pharmacy partnered with VSA arts of Florida-Brevard through its national campaign, “All Kids Can”. CVS provided 22 volunteers who underwent training on how to work with children with disabilities using Arts for All adaptive art tools to create individual and collaborative art pieces at the annual festival. After the training workshop, one CVS employee remarked, “I

love it. It will help me more to work with kids. I will volunteer more often!” VSA arts of Florida-Brevard makes the equipment available for loan and uses it for outreach events, like the annual Autism Awareness Festival held April 25 in Melbourne. Kudos to CVS for sponsoring the activity with a \$6,000 grant, as well as with their store volunteers.

Participants Benefit from Community Foundation of Brevard

Gary Lang, President and CEO of the Community Foundation of Brevard recently awarded a \$2,500 grant to VSA arts of Florida-Brevard to help send 625 children with disabilities to its annual festival at Brevard Zoo. BAC also received a \$2,700 donation for new computer equipment to be used in the classrooms at the center. “Local support from the Community Foundation is greatly appreciated,” Janice Kershaw, VSA arts District Director said. “It’s encouraging that we didn’t have to turn away any participants due to funding.” VSA arts of Florida-Brevard doesn’t charge for its programs.



Young Playwrights Discover Talents – Winners Announced

The winners of the VSA arts of Florida-Brevard’s third annual playwriting competition, “Pen Power” were announced on Friday, March 13, 2009 in front of an audience at the King Center Studio Theatre, where each play was presented in a staged reading format with an audience talk-back. Students were required to write a one-act play that explores some aspect of disability. The winners are:

- 1st Place,** Amy Godfrey, for her play, “Dating Denial,” Bayside High School – Teacher, Donna Kreilling
- 2nd Place,** Eric Leohner, for his play, “Izambard,” Satellite High School – Teacher, Terry Moore
- 3rd Place,** Brittnee Royer, for her play, “Choice,” Bayside High School – Teacher, Donna Kreilling

Ms. Joan Taddie consulted with the students, providing workshops and individual coaching. Satellite High teacher, Hank Rion, directed the readings. Other committee members who assisted with the program include Lisa Rehm, Karen Wilson, and Peggy Nolan.

Wal-Mart Foundation Funds Festival

The 21st annual VSA arts of Florida-Brevard hands-on arts festival, “Space-To Infinity and Beyond,” was recognized recently by the Wal-Mart Foundation State Giving Program. “We are delighted to be able to present the Brevard Achievement Center’s VSA arts program with a gift of \$5,000.00” said Michele Azel Belaire, Senior Manager of Public Affairs & Government Relations. The festival costs around \$25,000 and

hundreds of man hours to produce, according to VSA arts District Director, Janice Kershaw. “We appreciate their support.” Kershaw said. “We wouldn’t be able to provide children with disabilities a fun way to learn without the generosity of the Wal-Mart Foundation.”



Festival Celebrates Space

More than 1,000 children with disabilities enjoyed a hands-on day of art, performances and exhibits April 15-17 at Brevard Zoo. Teachers register their classes and participate in pre-festival activities to help integrate art into the festival theme, “Space-To Infinity and Beyond.” Three artists visited classrooms to prepare students and conduct an arts lesson. They are: Mary Williams, Mary Moon and Tim Perkins. The classes submit 2-d and 3-d artwork for display at the festival. Festival Coordinator, Lori Emly, arranged “artstops” throughout the Zoo and enlisted almost 500 volunteers and artists to help over the three days. The festival is funded in part by a grant from the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners County Cultural Grant through Brevard Cultural Alliance and the State of Florida, Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as VSA arts of Florida and the University of South Florida.

BAC would like to recognize two staff members who have recently retired. Donna Schiber who has been with the agency for 24 years and Billy Rhodes who has been with BAC for 13 years, both staffers have had a positive impact on the lives of the clients they have served. BAC thanks both Donna and Billy for their commitment to the agency’s mission and wishes them the best for their future.

VSA Space Station Circles County

Visitors to the Melbourne Art Festival had a rare chance to see a space station up close. Just a week after the VSA arts festival at Brevard Zoo, VSA arts volunteer Tim Perkins, aka “Mr. Science” disassembled and re-assembled a space station sculpture created from art so more people could see it in downtown Melbourne. Perkins designed and built the space station frame and each class that participated in the VSA arts festival made and brought with them to the Zoo a module to install on the station.

Jazz Up Your Jeans Day Brings Bling

Brevard County School Board employees generously contributed \$1,500 to VSA arts of Florida-Brevard during “Jazz Up Your Jeans Day” in March. Employees were allowed to wear jeans to work in exchange for their contribution. And, they were encouraged to “Jazz Up” their jeans with some bling!

Mission Statement

To assist individuals with disabilities achieve vocational and social independence.

SUPPORTING BUSINESS OF THE QUARTER AWARD

Brevard Community College

Glenda Broderick, BAC School Services Coordinator, nominated Brevard Community College for their support this school year in coordinating tours for the ESE students from local high schools. Many students were interested in attending BCC and needed to know what is available to help in transition from high school to college. Danielle McKinnon, Student Development Specialist/Advisor, introduced the students to the heads of the Dental, Veterinarian, Nursing, X-ray and Cosmetology departments, who in turn spoke to the students about their programs.

Ms. McKinnon made sure the tours were educational, insightful and interesting and the participating students were provided with a complete schedule for the tour that included the classes that would be a good fit for the students. Upon arriving, Ms. McKinnon met the students with enthusiasm and she went above and beyond on each tour and BAC appreciated the effort.

BAC thanks the Brevard Community College and looks forward to working together to better the lives of individuals with disabilities. The Health & Services Department is located on the BCC Cocoa Campus.



Student Development Specialist / Advisor, Danielle McKinnon, (center) accepted the Supporting Business of the Quarter for the 1st quarter of 2009. The "star" plaque, made by clients of BAC in the Art Department, was presented by Jennifer Secor, Vice President of Employment Services at BAC (left) and Glenda Broderick, School Services Coordinator at BAC (right).



1st Annual Manatees Golf Tournament at Turtle Creek

The Brevard County Manatees hosted their 1st Annual Golf Tournament at Turtle Creek Golf Club on May 13, 2009. The tournament is a charitable event with all proceeds going to the Brevard Achievement Center to support the agencies programs in Brevard County. One hundred and four players that participated, and for the first time in the history of the golf club, two holes in one were made on the same hole on the same day. On the 6th hole from one hundred and forty yards away, both Josh Turner and Juan Cabrera scored aces within 30 minutes of one another.

The event included a four person team scramble with a shotgun style format. Each team was comprised of three guests and one Brevard County Manatee baseball player. The tournament was a huge success and included a continental breakfast, goodie bag, free on-course food and beverages, lunch from Jimmie's Restaurant and awards for the first, five places along with recognition for a number of skills events.

BAC looks forward to continuing its relationship with the Brevard County Manatees and thanks them and the Turtle Creek Golf Club for their support.



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