

QUARTERLY VOICE

January 2010

PHOENIX CENTER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Spot Light on Kathy Johnson, LAPC

I have been employed at the Phoenix Center since May 1991. Things were a lot different when I began my job. I was interviewed and hired by Nancie Masters, Jean Smith and Margaret Ponder as a part-time MHMR Tech for Phoenix House Day Treatment. The program was housed in Miller Hills Shopping Center and the plan was to move into 940 Highway 96 (the Administration/Developmental Disabilities Building) once the building was completed.

It was such a transition for me since I worked as a secretary for a Forest Ranger and had never worked with anyone in this field before. Once I started working with people with disabilities, I knew immediately I had found my passion in life. I worked with Bob Lehane, Margo Cook and Thomas Miller (anyone remember these folks?). We had so much fun going on outings with the clients, helping them develop social skills, mental health education, etc. This was a growing time for me. In 1998, after 7 years part-time, I was hired full-time as Day Treatment's secretary.

It was around 1994 when I decided I needed to go back to school and get my Bachelor's Degree if I wanted to work with consumers in a different setting besides as the secretary. I went to Mercer University and graduated in 1997 with a BS in Human Services. I took over the Peer Support Groups at Phoenix House Day Treatment. It was a major change in job duties for me. After a few years I began to realize if I wanted a career working in this field I would need to go back (oh gosh...) to get my Master's Degree. In 2004 I enrolled in Fort Valley State University and in May 2008 I graduated with my Master's Degree in Mental Health Counseling. I received my Licensed Associate Professional Counseling certificate in June 2009. I have learned many things on this career road and I can say one thing that has never changed and that is my love for helping others.

I have seen SO many changes in this field since I began working here 18 years ago. I have seen many people come and go but through it all I must say that Phoenix Center has been a very large part of my life, through the ups and downs, and I have enjoyed every moment working and growing at Phoenix Center and helping others.

Just a personal note, I have one daughter, Chavohn, who is 24 years old and married. I prefer the mountains to the beach and love all types of music, (except opera) from the Beatles (my absolute favorite), Rolling Stones, and many more. In fact, I was in a rock and roll band with my husband, Billy, for awhile. I love Chinese Food, but hate seafood, favorite color is yellow and yellow roses are my favorite flower, love to go fishing for relaxation, love animals and have a house full (2 dogs/1 cat), love humor and nothing is better than a good old fashion belly laugh. I love to travel and thus far my favorite place I have visited is New York City. Halloween is my favorite holiday with Christmas a close second.



Kathy Johnson, LAPC

Out and About in our Community

Developmental Disabilities Annual Christmas Party

Developmental Disabilities Services held their Annual Christmas Party hosted by The American Legion Post 594 at 1523 Moody Rd. Over 50 clients, staff, Support Coordinators, and friends were in attendance and enjoyed laughs, music, dancing, and a good ole' fish fry. The staff participated in a contest showcasing their talents and the clients, dressed in their Christmas best, put on a fashion show. Everyone looked amazing. The clients received Christmas gifts and those clients who celebrated a birthday in the last 6 months were recognized with a birthday cake and present. I would like to thank the American Legion for their generosity and to staff for all their hard work to make this another great success!

Submitted by: Krystal Jackson

Holiday Extravaganza!

Congratulations to the Human Resource committee on putting together their 3rd annual Holiday Extravaganza! Okay well maybe not an extravaganza, but it was definitely a festive luncheon. Employees brought covered dishes to share with all. Maria Tye's shrimp salad was among my favorites! The Center provided the smoked turkeys and smoked pork shoulder (a big thanks to Vicki King for making arrangements and delivering). The break room and group room were beautifully transformed into a winter wonderland thanks to the efforts of Jennifer Meck, Anthony Morris, Stephanie Reeves, and Darius Carswell. The "gift card tree" was a lot of fun! Congratulations to Aimee Parker and Janet Cliett for drawing the \$50 gift card as grand prizes. We hope everyone had a great time at the luncheon. We look forward to doing it again in 2010. May we all have a happy and prosperous new year.

Submitted by: Tracy Smith



HUMAN RESOURCES

Welcome New Employees

We would like to welcome the following employees who were hired from October through December 2009:

CSP

Rhonda Mitchell
Linda Peacock
Stephanie Pelham
Jaime Sweet

MiCasa

Vera Jones
Ashley Whitehead
Chundrell Roberts
Sharonda Leary

Warner Robins OP

Donya Howeth

Admin

Tosha Eason

Ft. Valley OP

Dr. Angela Brown
Clyde Campbell

NAGH

Sheena Little
Audrey Robinson

DD

Tara Rozier

Developmental Disabilities Employee of the Quarter

Each quarter, the Developmental Disabilities Program nominates an employee of the quarter that is selected by peers and supervisors. For the 2nd Quarter of FY 2010 (October - December 2009) Lilly Moody was selected as Employee of the Quarter. Mrs. Moody has been with the Phoenix Center since November 2001.

Retirements

Phoenix Center recently said goodbye to 4 dedicated employees. They are Meave Brennan, 34 years, Vickie Ginery, 25 years, Brenda McLure, 17 years and Ken Marsh, 2 years as part-time since 2007.



L-R: Brenda McLure,
Meave Brennan &
Vickie Ginery



L-R: Ken Marsh, Bar-
bra Byrd, Marie Mills
& Cassandra Williams

Faithful Service Awards

The Faithful Service Awards recognized employees with 5, 10, 15 or more years of service. We would like to recognize the following employees who have reached these milestones:

5 Years

Krystal Jackson, DD
Veronica Releford, DD

10 Years

Barbara Byrd, WROP Medical Records
Louise Gilbert, DD

Congratulations

Sharon Grant (MiCasa) on the birth of her son, Jared Emil Grant, 5 pounds and 9.9 ounces on December 15th.



Meave Brennan (STAR/MiCasa) first grandbaby, Amelia Nicole, 6 pounds and 10 ounces on December 28th.



Condolences

Our prayers go out to the following staff that have lost their loved ones:

- ♦ Krystal Jackson, (DD) in the loss of her mother, Pam Tomsky.
- ♦ Alma Colbert (CSP) in the loss of her mother, Francis Ellington

Phoenix Center Financial Status

FY 2010				
<u>Budget</u>	<u>Revenue Collected</u>	<u>% Collected</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>%Expended</u>
\$7,872,086	\$3,333,091	42%	\$3,534,555	44%

At the end of the second quarter of the fiscal year, Phoenix Center BHS is still in a deficit. Our accounting books are showing that we are \$627,313 in the red, but when we get paid (middle of January) from the state (DBHDD) for our December services, it will bring the deficit to \$286,547. This is an increase in the deficit of \$81,820 from last quarter.

We are doing the best we can to conserve as much as possible and cut expenses where we can. We are fortunate that we have reserves to help us through these hard times.

Submitted by Sandra Olsen

Did You Know.....

As reported in the Oct. issue of the Union-Reporter, the state of Georgia has a strict ethics policy that prevents employees from accepting gifts (this can include speaking fees, meals, tickets, discounts or anything of value over \$25) from anyone who does business with the state. To put it more simply, if McDonalds wanted to give me personally free hamburgers for life if I send business their way I could not accept this gift; however, if McDonalds decided to give all Phoenix Center employees a 30% discount on meals then that is acceptable. This is noted in our Corporate Compliance plan. Please remember that staff are not allowed to accept gifts personally from clients either unless it is for the entire Center or all of the staff in a particular program.

Submitted by Krystal Jackson

Thank You

Thank you to the Middle Ga. Community Action Agency for donating food from Red Lobster and Long Horns to STAR consumers in October and December. There was enough food to even share with Developmental Disabilities SF-II group home.

Southside Baptist donated Christmas toys and gifts for the consumers and their children at MiCasa. DFCS and HODAC donated toys for children of MiCasa. The overflow of toys from HODAC were donated to the Safe House in Warner Robins. Thanks to the kindness in our community, the STAR and MiCasa consumers and their children had a wonderful Christmas this year.