



THE

WINTER 2020/SPRING 2021

# CHALLENGER

Challenging the community, families, and individuals to make a difference

A PUBLICATION OF THE DARLINGTON COUNTY DISABILITIES & SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD

*Our Mission: To enhance the lives, develop the abilities, and promote the independence of people with disabilities.*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from the Executive Director	1
Valentine's Drive Thru	2
Annual Training	4
Annual Service Awards	5
Human Resources Corner	8
Staff Support Team	9
Condolences	11
Special Thanks	12
Donations	13

### Message from the Executive Director

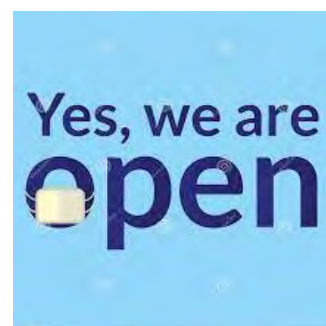
Our Day Program was forced to close due to Covid in mid-March 2020. In April 2021, we opened on a limited basis to residential Service Participants two days each week and Community Service Participants, who wished to return, on the alternating three days each week.

As of June 1, 2021, we are now fully REOPEN to all Service Participants!

All Service Participants are able to attend BTG Monday through Friday from 7 am to 3 pm. Rest assured that we will continue to use increased disinfecting procedures, partitions between classes and individuals, weekly testing, and social distancing until further notice.

Community participants will continue to be tested until the participant has been fully vaccinated (i.e., received both vaccine doses). If you are a community participant and are fully vaccinated, please send a photocopy of your vaccine card to us so that we can remove you from the testing list. If you are not vaccinated, please let us know when you or your families become vaccinated so that we can remove you from the testing list. If you need any information on vaccinations, including how you

may get vaccinated, please contact your Case Manager.



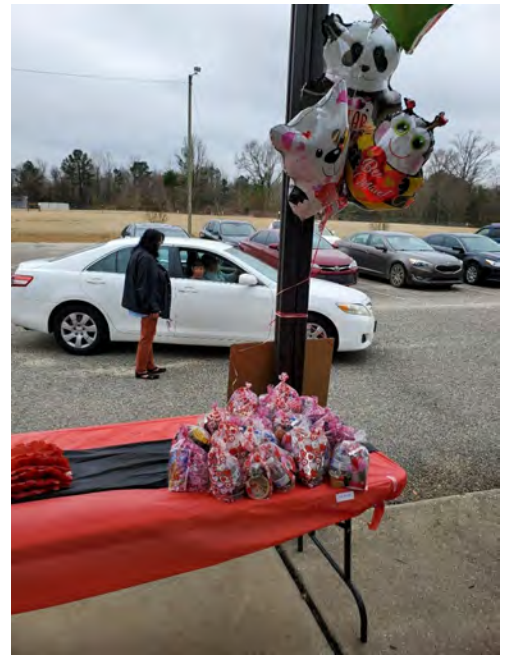
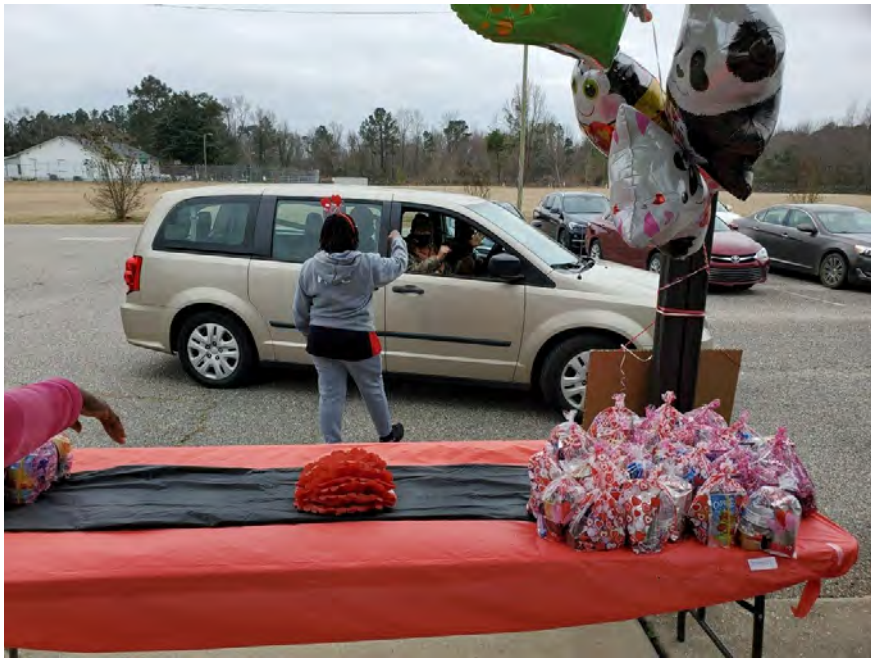
*Ruth Blocker*

# Valentine's Drive Thru February 2021

Because of Covid, we had to be creative in hosting special events for our Service Participants. For Valentine's Day, we hosted a Drive Thru event and a socially distanced crowning of our Valentine's King and Queen!



# Valentine's Drive Thru February 2021



Mr. Byron Johnson, 2021 DCDSNB Valentine's Day King, and Ms. Peggy Scipio, 2021 DCDSNB Valentine's Day Queen!

# Annual Training February 2021

Like everything else this past year, Covid was a challenge for our employee Annual Training. Instead of two days, we had to spread out our training to comply with gathering limits. This year it was held from February 16 through February 26. We had a limited number of speakers and some video training instead of outside speakers. Our Annual Service Awards where deserving staff were recognized for their service and contributions to DCDSNB were held each day when the deserving staff attended. As always, Candy Wyrick, our Residential Admin and Training Coordinator, did an outstanding job of organizing the events.



Mrs. Ruth Blocker, DCDSNB Executive Director, reviewing our Mission Statement, Vision, and Values



Nicole Lee, DCDSNB House Manager, teaching Consumer Supervision



Mrs. Ruth Blocker, DCDSNB Executive Director welcoming the day's attendees



Mr. Byron Wilson, DCDSNB CTH Residential Director speaking about Abuse and Neglect

# Annual Service Awards February 2021

## 5 Year Service Awards

- Annie Dawson*
- Amanda Hammond*
- Lewanda Joyner*
- Kirasten Friday*
- Linda Benjamin*
- Mark Sandoval*
- Timika Short*



CTH Residential Director Byron Wilson,  
 DSP Annie Dawson,  
 CTH II House Manager Nicole Lee



Medical Transporter Winnie  
 Arnold, Bowen House Manager  
 Amanda Hammond, Nursing  
 Director/QIDP Dawanda Brown



CTH II House Manager  
 Lewanda Joyner,  
 CTH Residential Director  
 Byron Wilson



CTH Residential Director Byron Wilson,  
 DSP Kirasten Friday,  
 CTH II House Manager Lewanda Joyner



DSP Linda Benjamin,  
 CTH Residential Director  
 Byron Wilson



DSP Mark Sandoval,  
 CTH Residential Director  
 Byron Wilson



Executive Director Ruth Blocker,  
 DSP Timika Short,  
 CTH Residential Director Byron Wilson

# Annual Service Awards February 2021

## 5 Year Service Awards

**Roneka Dawson**  
**Michelle Byrd**  
**Malinda Manley (not pictured)**



DSP Roneka Dawson,  
CTH Residential Director  
Byron Wilson



CTH Residential Director Byron  
Wilson, DSP Michelle Byrd,  
CTH House Manager Rochelle Moses

## 15 Year Service Award

**Joni Pendergrass**  
**Ruth Blocker**



Executive Director Ruth Blocker,  
Early Intervention Supervisor  
Joni Pendergrass

## 20 Year Service Award

**Michelle Ratliff**

## 25 Year Service Award

**Gwen Sansbury**



Nursing Director/QIDP Dawanda  
Brown, DSP Michelle Ratliff,  
Reagan House Manager  
Verniell Hannibal



CTH Residential Programmer  
Gwen Sansbury  
CTH Residential Director  
Byron Wilson



DCDSNB Board Member Mary A King,  
Executive Director Ruth Blocker

# Annual Service Awards February 2021

**Lou Scott Award winner  
Gwen Sansbury**

**DCDSNB Employee of the Year  
Barbara Rushdan**

**Vonoka Kind Award  
Joyce Jackson**



Lou Scott Award winner  
CTH Residential Programmer  
Gwen Sansbury,  
Executive Director Ruth Blocker

DCDSNB Employee of the Year Award  
winner DSP Barbara Rushdan,  
Executive Director Ruth Blocker

Vonoka Kind Award winner  
DSP Joyce Jackson,  
Executive Director Ruth Blocker

The Lou Scott Award is given each year to a staff member who has a profound impact on the lives of the people we serve in some significant way.

The Vonoka Kind Award is designed to recognize Full-Time or Part-Time *Direct Support Professional Staff* who have been employed with DCDSNB for at least one year and demonstrates exemplary service to the agency. The nominee demonstrates excellence in the following categories: Commitment, Dedication, and Dependability; Teamwork and Leadership; and Service Above and Beyond.

**Sue Woodham  
Award winner  
Whitley Rogers**

Nursing Director/QIDP  
Dawanda Brown,  
Sue Woodham Award winner  
DSP Whitley Rogers,  
Executive Director Ruth Blocker



The Sue Woodham Award is designed to recognize a staff member who is in a *\*management position\**, employed at DCDSNB for at least one year, and demonstrates exemplary service to the agency. The nominee should exhibit the following characteristics: Teamwork and Leadership, Creativity and Innovation, Commitment and Dependability.

## Human Resources Corner



**WELCOME  
TO THE TEAM!**

### December 2020

Waynetta Johnson	ICF – Bowen House DSP
Russell Nance	ICF – Bowen House DSP
Ganera Scott	CTH – King House DSP
Sheril Strong	Early Interventionist

### January 2021

Candace Graham	Director of HR / Scott
Ce'Quaya Resper	ICF – Bowen House DSP

### March 2021

Roberta Alston	ICF – Bowen House DSP
Madison Baker	CTH – Register House DSP
Capricia Gary	ICF – Bowen House DSP
Essence Neddham	CTH – Shaw House DSP
Sara Rothe	ICF – Bowen House DSP
Danika Streater	CTH – Register House DSP
Jukira Windham	ICF – Reagan House DSP

### May 2021

Kiara Rogers	ICF – Bowen House DSP
Victoria Cagle	ICF – Bowen House DSP



# WE'RE HIRING DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

At DCDSNB, we continuously accept applications for Direct Support Professionals who wish to work Part-time or on a PRN basis. This position requires exceptional people who are experienced caregivers with tireless patience. Caregiving is a calling, not just a job. If this is you, we welcome your interest by completing an employment application today! Visit us at [www.dcdsnb.org](http://www.dcdsnb.org) or contact us at 843-332-7252 for additional information.



## The Staff Support Team (SST)



### Employee of The Month



The Staff Support Team and DCDSNB recognized the following staff for Employees of the Month. Congratulations! THANK YOU for your dedication and hard work!  
(SST Members: Joyce Jackson (Chair); Jasmine Miller, Carrie Chenard, Amanda Hammond)



#### MISSION and PURPOSE

Provide a direct link between the employees and administration of DCDSNB, and to provide morale boosting activities for employees.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

#### MONTH

January 2021

February 2021

March 2021

April 2021

May 2021

#### EMPLOYEE

Joni Pendergrass

Barbara Rushdan

Candy Wyrick

Felecia Scott

Nicole Lee

## The Staff Support Team (SST)



<u>EMPLOYEE</u>	<u>ANNIVERSARY</u>
Janay Bishop	June 2
Malinda Manley	June 9
Rebekah K Rush	June 15
Gwen M Sansbury	June 20
Michelle Byrd	July 27
Vanessa Carroway	July 17
Annie L Dawson	July 27
Roneka M Dawson	July 27
Lorraine Harrington	July 25
Loraine Jackson	July 12
Shandra Josey	July 17
Latasha Pearson	July 12
Whitley Rogers	July 17
Tanya H Samuel	July 12
Timika K Short	July 27
Ruth J Blocker	August 1
Dawanda Brown	August 14
Willie L Dixon	August 5
Verniell Hannibal	August 13
Shaquana J Jordan	August 24
Nicole B Lee	August 20
Deoshai D Mason	August 24
Joni Pendergrass	August 15
Brittney Rogers	August 5
Lashonda M Wilson	August 4
Nikesha Wingate	August 5
Tylisha Yarborough	August 24



<u>EMPLOYEE</u>	<u>BIRTHDAY</u>
Shermeka Latoya Brown	June 1
Dianne Mickens	June 11
Jasmin Sandoval	June 11
Gloria Benjamin	June 17
Deoshai D Mason	June 20
Madison C Baker	June 29
Denita Gary	June 30
Casey Muir	July 6
Ce'Quaya Resper	July 6
Sharease Green	July 8
Mark E Sandoval	July 16
Victoria Cagle	July 25
Kendra Mcleod	July 31
Destiny L Days	August 1
Joni Pendergrass	August 16
Virginia Ray	August 17
Alfreda G. Williams	August 17
Jasmine Miller	August 17
Latasha Pearson	August 18
Jennie McQueen	August 18
Malinda Manley	August 23
Nikesha Wingate	August 27

## *In Loving Memory of:*

*Ms. Detina Jones, sister of Washington House DSP Tanya Samuel*

*Mrs. Retha M. Chapman, mother of our facility physician, Dr. Raymond Chapman;*

*Community Service Participant Kermit “Stan” Perritt;*

*Day Program Service Participant Mr. Jamie Walker;*

*Ms. Nancy Reed, mother to BTG DSP Lakasha Reed*

*HASCI service participant Virginia Carter;*

*HASCI service recipient Caesar Cockerill;*

*Mr. Bernice Leverne Wilson, Sr., father of CTH Residential Director Byron Wilson*

*Chris Bridges, husband of Reagan House DSP Teresa Bridges;*

*Mrs. Hermenia Graham Yarborough, grandmother of Pauley House DSP Tylisha Yarborough;*

*Mrs. Tihisia Gary Butler, mother of Bowen House DSP Capricia Gary;*

*Mr. JW Davis, uncle of Accounting Tech Wanda Cooke;*

*Ms. Jequitta M. Pelzer, cousin of Reagan House DSP Teresa Bridges;*

*Mr. Leroy King, brother of BTG DSP Felecia Scott and Washington House DSP Ganera Scott*

*Our Condolences to their families and friends.*

# Special Thanks

"Nurses are the **heart** of healthcare"

National Nurses Week  
May 6-12 2021



LPN Leativia Johnson, Medical Transporter Winnie Arnold, Director of Nursing Dawanda Brown RN, BSN, QIDP; LPN Chris Bedenbaugh; and Medical Transporter Vanessa Cabbagestalk



## HAPPY NURSES WEEK

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO.



Thanks to Ms. Diana Norris for her donation of 20 handmade dignity bibs for our Service Participants who use them!

*The Darlington County Disabilities Foundation  
appreciates all of our generous donors.*

*The following Donations were received after the last printing of the Challenger.*

**INDIVIDUALS:**

*John & Judith Davis  
Andrew Nelson  
Edie Kelley  
Joe McCullough  
Diana Norris*

*Elizabeth Register  
Debbie Fink  
Christy Moody  
Hattie Hughes*

*John & Elaine Nichols  
Ann Easterling  
Stephen Twelkemeier  
Julius & Carolyn Black*

*Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center Admin & Staff in memory of Linda Sue Stephens*

**BUSINESSES:**

*United Way of Hartsville  
Byerly Foundation  
Hartsville Kiwanis Club  
Manheim Darlington  
Maxie's Auto Sales, Inc.  
Fink Rentals  
Knights of Columbus  
American Heritage Girls*

*Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center  
Wesley United Methodist Church Women's Group  
Price's Automotive Investments  
Lakeview Baptist Church  
Hartsville Lions Club  
Triplets A/S, Inc.  
Terry Harrelson Auto Sales  
West Hartsville Baptist Church*



*We appreciate all donations and use them as we strive to provide services to over 500 individuals with Disabilities and or Special Needs in Darlington County. Thank you for enriching the lives of our individuals. We appreciate your generosity.*



*"A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles."*

*-Christopher Reeve*



**Darlington County Disabilities & Special Needs Board**

201 North Damascus Church Road  
Hartsville, SC 29550

Telephone: 843-332-7252 • Fax: 843-309-9965 • Website: [www.dcdsnb.org](http://www.dcdsnb.org)

**Mrs. Ruth Blocker, M.A.**  
Executive Director

**Board Members:**

Ms. Dorene B. Hughes, Chair  
Rev. Alvin Rogers, Vice-Chair  
Rev. Troy Shaw  
Mrs. Mary Alice T. King  
Mrs. Carolyn Black  
Mrs. Hattie E. Hughes  
Mrs. Tammie Robinson  
Mrs. Brenda Ferguson



**Foundation Members:**

Penelope Bright  
Lamar Caldwell  
Debbie Fink  
Hattie Hughes  
Mary Alice T. King  
Joe McCullough