



# THE CHALLENGER

SUMMER 2016

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

A PUBLICATION OF THE DARLINGTON COUNTY DISABILITIES & SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD

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## Darlington County Disabilities and Special Needs Board

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

### 2016 Early Intervention Safety/Fun Day

Was enjoyed by the families served by the EI department. EI's provided face painting, tattoos, photo booth, games, puppet show and a fire safety presentation by a representative from the Hartsville Fire Department.



Early Interventionist's: (Left to Right) Tara Rivers, Joni Pendergrass, LaShana Stuckey & Demetress Adams-Ludd

The Early Intervention department received 15 book bags—filled with school supplies – Donated by **Burris and Ridgeway Law Firm**. These will go to the children served by DCDSNB to help with back to school supplies.



“We, the ones who are challenged, need to be heard. To be seen not as a disability, but as a person who has and will continue to bloom. To be seen not only as a handicap, but as a well intact human being.”

-Robert M. Hensel

We would like to welcome some of the new employees to the DCDSNB team.



Mrs. Ruth Blocker, DCDSNB, Executive Director

**From The Executive Director:**

Welcome to the Summer Edition of our newsletter. With all the HOT, HUMID and unpredictable weather that is occurring across our nation, I trust everyone is staying hydrated and safe.

We've had a number of changes within our Residential and Day Programs, new faces in staff, management and the individuals we serve. There have been some challenges and obstacles that we've had to overcome, due to shortages, bed vacancies, bereavement, etc. We've pulled together as a team and successfully continue to provide the best possible person centered services to the individuals that we serve.

We were recently awarded a \$13,100 grant from the Byerly Foundation to renovate the bathrooms in two of our Community Training Homes (Trantham and King). We're very grateful to the Byerly Foundation for their continued support of our programs throughout the years. We also were recently awarded another \$13,861 from Byerly Foundation to enhance the Residential Homes.

The Darlington County Disabilities and Special Needs Board will celebrate **50 years** (in 2017) of serving individuals and families in the community of Hartsville, Darlington and surrounding areas. Stay Tuned!

**David Newman, Jr.** assumes the duties of Day Program Director. Mr. Newman brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this position. He has over 15 years of experience working with individuals with special needs, behavioral challenges, organizing and developing programs for individuals to assist them with independent living skills, job placement, case management, etc., most recently being employed as the Program Manager at Willowglen Academy in Kingstree, SC. He was also employed with the Department of Social Services and the South Carolina Department of Corrections. He is a graduate of Paine College with a B.A. degree in Sociology.



**Bridget McClendon** assumes the duties of Executive Assistant. Bridget was formerly employed with the Board approximately three (3) years ago as Human Resources Administrator and also worked in the Finance Department performing various duties. She is a graduate of Coker College with a degree in Business Administration and Management. She was formerly employed with Blue Cross Blue Shield as a Customer Service Associate II before returning to DCDSNB. She is looking forward to working with the DCDSNB team.



**Paulette Gilmore, LPN, Health Care Coordinator-** Paulette was born in Washington, DC, but raised in Hartsville SC. She attended local schools and graduated from Hartsville High. She received the Health Science Degree of Nursing from Northeastern Technical College. Paulette has approximately 10 years nursing experience. She previously worked with Beacon Hospice and Wilson Senior Care. She is married with three children.



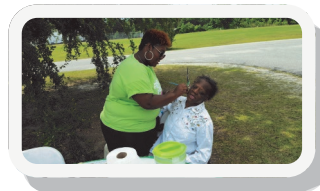
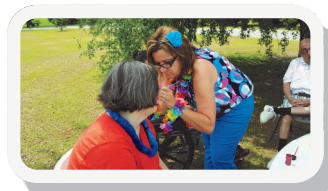
**Yvonne Hare, LPN, Health Care Coordinator**— Yvonne is a native of Hartsville South Carolina. She comes with 16 years nursing experience. She also has a Bachelor degree in Theology. Yvonne is a member of Nazareth Apostolic Church, and loves fishing and spending time with her new granddaughter Skyler Hare. She has one son, Steven Hare II. She is a veteran of the U.S Army, and has traveled overseas serving in Korea, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq.



**LaShana Stuckey, Early Interventionist** LaShana is married with 3 children from Florence, SC. She graduated from Fayetteville State University with a BA in Sociology and Webster University with a MA in Counseling. LaShana has over 5 years' experience working with children and families, and is excited and blessed to be working in the field of helping others overcome their milestones. LaShana is very passionate about working with young children and families to help make a difference in their lives. LaShana's motto is "Every child can achieve despite any obstacles that they may encounter".

**The Family Advisory Council**

The Family Advisory Council (FAC) is an organization of supporters of Darlington County Disabilities & Special Needs Board that is comprised of interested individuals, family members and advocates. Please contact your Case Manager or Teshawn Fulton if you are interested in serving on the FAC 843-332-7252 Ext. 130



The Family Advisory Council sponsored the Annual Picnic at Bridging the Gap in May. Everyone enjoyed Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, fun and games.



# EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

The Staff Support Team and DCDSNB recognized the following employees for Employee of the Month. Congratulations! ***THANK YOU*** for your Dedication and Hard Work!  
YOU are making a Difference in our community!!



January Employee of the Month is Tara Rivers  
Early Interventionist



February Employee of the Month is Shirley Blakeney DSP  
Yarborough House.



March Employee of the month is Annette Dixon. House Manager for Washington House.



April Employee of the Month is Rochelle Moses,  
House Manager for Trantham and Yarborough.



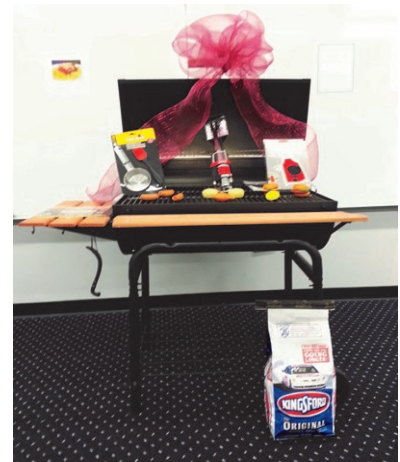
May Employee of the month is Teresa Redden, LPN.



June Employee of the Month is Lewanda Joyner,  
House Manager for King House.

DCDSNB Staff Support Team—The Staff Support Team would like to say Thank you to David Faile at Badcock & More of Hartsville for donating a Charcoal Grill and Thank you to Lynn at Broadway at the Beach for donating three bags of goodies( tee shirt, beach towel, beach ball, coaster, ink pen and magnet) Thank you to Goodies of Hartsville for donating two ladies handbags. The Staff Support Team honored our House Managers with a lunch in June. The Administration staff were honored with an afternoon cook-out. We plan to honor our very hard working DSP staff during the month of September.

This Grill was donated by Badcock of Hartsville. The Staff Support Team raffled it off to help with yearly activities to honor staff. The winner of the Grill was Becky Davis from Florence, SC. The winning ticket was sold by Wanda Cooke.



## Case Management

Teshawn Fulton, Case Manager Supervisor, Bonnie, Sheneeka, Shaunkita, and Britney - Case Managers



HASCI Case Management Department is ecstatic about the opportunity to assist individuals with Head and Spinal Cord injuries and Traumatic brain injuries. Robert Bell is an individual who is a recipient of a SCDDSN HASCI Waiver. Robert was involved in a motor vehicle accident, where he sustained a Traumatic Brain Injury. Robert is paralyzed on the left side of his body and requires a power wheelchair for his primary mobility. The South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs approved to purchase a Permobil Power wheelchair so that he could continue to meet his daily needs and continue to be out and engaged in community activities.

## FOUNDATION

DCDSNB was fortunate to receive several grants that were used for maintenance and transportation needs. A summary of the community grants received in 2016. The support of these community organizations is vital to the services the agency provides, and **we are grateful for their funding.**

**Byerly Foundation** - \$11,800 for bathroom renovations to assist with aging individuals

**Byerly Foundation** - \$10,000 for painting the exterior trim on 7 community training homes

**Byerly Foundation** - \$13,861 Residential Home Renovations

**Sonoco** - \$7,500 for bathroom renovations to assist with aging individuals

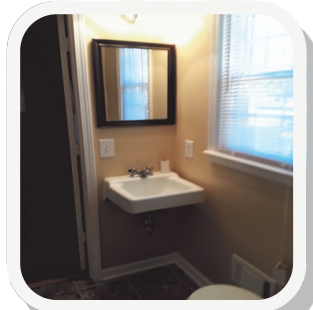
**South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT)** - \$48,000 for the purchase of a cut away van to replace aging fleet

**United Way of Hartsville** - \$30,000 to purchase a vehicle to be used by Early Interventionist and Case Managers to provide home visits/family training to the families we serve and to assist with the local match portion of the SCDOT grant.

*Thank you for your support !!*



Before Renovation



One of the CTH II Bathrooms after renovation - to assist with aging individuals. This was made possible with the **Byerly & Sonoco Grants.**



One of the vehicles purchased with Grants from **United Way & SCDOT**



The Exterior of two of our Community Training Homes –Jones and King were painted with the funds from the **Byerly Grant.**



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

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

United Way of Hartsville	SCDOT
Sonoco Products	Tammy Hicks, Pepsi Cola of Florence
Byerly Foundation	Joe McCullough
Raymond Metts	Jiffy Lube of Florence
Lamar Caldwell	Wal-Mart-Florence
Charlotte Hardin,	Wal-Mart of Cheraw
Billie Stoudemire, Pilot Club of Hartsville	McDonalds of Hartsville
John Davis, Kiwanis Club	Yogi Bear Honey Fried Chicken
Gilmore Entertainment	Wal-Mart of Hartsville
Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center	Jumping J's Restaurant of Florence
Zaxby's	60 Minute Cleaners of Hartsville
Florence Red Wolves	Badcock & More of Hartsville
Burriss and Ridgeway Law Firm	Africa Jackson

*Are you interested in making a difference in the Lives of Individuals with Disabilities & Special Needs*

The Fredrick Carl Bowen House Campaign is seeking funds to build a new home for individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Special Needs on land donated by the Bowen family. All funds received will go toward the construction of the new home for residents with Disabilities and Special Needs. These homes are an integral part of our mission to enhance the lives, develop the abilities, and promote the independence of people with disabilities. Please consider being a sponsor for this campaign and help to change the lives of those less fortunate in our community. If you would like to make a donation— Please mail your donation to: Fredrick Carl Bowen Campaign 201 N Damascus Church Road Hartsville, SC 29550. Look for our Go Fund Me Page in the near future.

*Thank you for your consideration!*

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.



*Our Condolences: In Loving Memory of:*

*Mr. David Fulton, Father in law of Teshawn Fulton, Case Manager Supervisor, Mr. Terry Bethea, HASCI individual, Mrs. Connie Lane, sister of Shelia Hicks, Mr. Pim Flowers & Mrs. Alton Lane, brother in law of Shelia Hicks that works at Bowen. Mrs. Sylvia Crowley, Aunt of Anne Brumley, HR Director, Paula Johnson, sister in law of Sandy Ratliff, House Manager at Register, aunt of Kirasten Friday, Ms. Alberta Harris, grandmother of Britney Brisbon, Case Manager, Mr. Derek Singletary, ID/RD Individual, Juanita Sansbury, grandmother of Gwen Sansbury, Residential Programmer, Mr. Henry Greene, grandfather of Mia Greene, Ms. Annette Dawson, grandmother of Annie Dawson and Great grandmother of Ronkea Dawson, Ms. Beatrice Tinsley, grandmother of LaToya Martin,  
Mr. Mac Atkinson, father in law of Brian Hoffman, Maintenance Technician*

**Abbreviation / Acronyms**

DCDSNB - Darlington County Disabilities & Special Needs Board	FAC - Family Advisory Council
DCDF - Darlington County Disabilities Foundation	EI - Early Interventionist
DDSN - (SC) Department of Disabilities and Special Needs	SST - Staff Support Team
ICF - Intermediate Care Facility	DSP - Direct Support Professional
CTH - Community Training Home	BTG - Bridging the Gap Enterprises
	CM—Case Manager

Darlington Disabilities & Special Needs Board  
201 N. Damascus Church Road  
Hartsville, SC 29550

## **Darlington County Disabilities & Special Needs Board**

201 North Damascus Church Road  
Hartsville, SC 29550

Telephone: 843-332-7252 • Fax: 843-332-3168 • Website: [www.dcdsnb.org](http://www.dcdsnb.org)

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

### **Board Members:**

Rev. Troy Shaw, Chair  
Rev. Alvin Rogers, Vice-Chair  
Mrs. Mary Alice T. King, Secretary  
Mrs. Margaret Lanier  
Mrs. Carolyn Black  
Mrs. Hattie E. Hughes

### **Foundation Members:**

Mr. Gregory Alexander, Chair  
Dr. Joe H. McCullough, VP  
Mrs. Debbie Fink  
Mrs. Hattie E. Hughes  
Mrs. Jennifer Perkins  
Rev. Troy Shaw  
Ms. Jana E. Pye



**UNITED WAY**