

34 Years

Connections

Spring 2009

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Human Service Center

Serving the Human Condition

See What is Inside.....



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From the Executive Director

Meeting Challenges and Succeeding

As individuals, we face some challenges in life, such as adjusting to a death in our family, losing a job or recovering from an illness. These challenges force us to make adjustments in our life so that we can live happily. As an organization, we also face challenges that require adjustments so that we can operate successfully. While individuals may face different types of challenges than organizations, some of the processes in making adjustments, such as in planning and decision-making, are similar. Over the past several months our organization has faced some challenges with successful outcomes.

One challenge occurred last October when the Office of the Comptroller had to delay payments for services provided. We responded quickly with a request to the Department of Human Services for expedited payments. The delay in payments resulted in a decision by our board of directors and management to lay off some employees. This decision helped us avoid financial distress and we were able to maintain most of our vital services. Today, our cash flow is sufficient to meet our operational needs, and we have been able to maintain high levels of service delivery. As we were dealing with financial and human resource challenges, we were also facing the demands of becoming re-accredited.

The Human Service Center has contractual and regulatory requirements to be an accredited organization. Last September, a team of reviewers from the Council on Accreditation visited our service sites to determine how well we were implementing administrative and service accreditation standards. While we had to plan and make important decisions throughout the accreditation process, the outcome was that we have been re-accredited for another four years. In addition to being challenged by re-accreditation, we were recently challenged by the State of Illinois licensing and certification reviews.

In February, a reviewer from the Bureau of Accreditation, Licensure and Certification conducted a three-day review of our developmental training program and group home serving people with developmental disabilities. Both programs received a Level I Award for being 100% in compliance with State administrative rules. After the Bureau's visit, we received a licensing visit from the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse. Again, we met our licensing requirements with excellent marks. These successful outcomes were the result of on-going planning and decision-making in our daily operations.

Whether we are faced with financial, human resource or compliance with accreditation, licensing and certification challenges, we are using some of the same processes that we would use as individuals in making adjustments in our lives. We have been able to plan, make important timely decisions and arrive at outcomes that can only be considered successful.



Visit us at
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HSC Newsletters and Annual
Reports and to see all the types of
services we have to offer our
community



Gary L. Buatte

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The Elite Dream Team

About a year ago, Cynthia Ederer assumed some new responsibilities in the developmental training program. While she has had a lot of other responsibilities during her fifteen years of employment at HSC, she had not been in charge of a janitorial team. The janitorial team cleans service and administrative areas at the center, and service recipients earn an income for their work. Cynthia observed that the team was initially somewhat complacent about their jobs, but all of that has changed. She encouraged the team to do more because the developmental training program is about teaching people with developmental disabilities new skills. As the quality of the janitorial cleaning began to improve, other staff began noticing. Cynthia said, "I started getting these e-mails from staff. They were saying that they had never seen their work area so clean." Cynthia passed these compliments on to the team members, and as a result, the team wanted to do more. Their self-esteem skyrocketed, and their solidarity as a team gelled. The team has gone from cleaning one building to cleaning five buildings at the Red Bud campus, and most recently, they began cleaning the counseling offices in Chester and Sparta. Cynthia indicated, "We also must not forget the other janitorial crew. This group only works in Building L for now, but I have no doubt that some day they will be on the Elite Dream Team, as they have been tagged. The hope is that the Elite Dream Team will grow in numbers and offer their services to other organizations in the community."



Joni Chandler
Director of Day Services

Spunky Seniors Make a Difference



A group of older adults in the developmental training program are getting together their sodas, snacks and games as they anticipate another fun adventure to the Red Bud Senior Center. About five years ago, HSC's seniors started developing relationships with the seniors at the senior center. One of the goals in the developmental training program is to help people with developmental disabilities to integrate into the community and improve their socialization skills. Sally Ratliff, who has been working with HSC's seniors for the past several years, recalled how both groups of seniors were a little uncertain of each other in the beginning. Sally said, "at first, the seniors at the senior center saw our service recipients as people with developmental disabilities, but now they just see them as people." One of the events that both groups look forward to enjoying is a monthly birthday party where everyone participates in dancing and eating cake and ice cream. Sally smiled and commented, "I'm not sure who is enjoying themselves the most, the seniors from the Human Service Center, out there shaking a leg, or the seniors at the senior center just watching us have so much fun." HSC is appreciative of the caring older adults at the senior center who have given so much support to "our spunky seniors".

News and Updates from Counseling



Dana Barrows
Gero Program Manager

299,647,682 hours of unpaid care saving the State of Illinois over 3 billion dollars. Most of these caregivers do this alone and without support from anyone and burn out physically, mentally and sometimes financially.

The Older Adult program at HSC, funded through DHS and Area Agency on Aging provide services to older adults with mental illness and their caregivers to those who live in Randolph, Monroe and part of St. Clair County. Our goal is to reduce the stress level for caregivers and keep seniors living with mental illness as independent for as long as possible by offering services such as: in home counseling, connection to resources, respite, advocacy and support groups. These services are invaluable to the community. Those who have benefitted from our services are able to find a sense of relief and the joy and privilege that caring for a loved one truly is.

We also offer Training & Education to service providers who may come into contact with older adults and their caregivers.

We sponsor caregiver support meetings at the following locations and times:

Sparta Library on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 2pm • Red Bud Library on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday

These services are free of charge; however donations are accepted and appreciated to support this program.

If you would like to make a donation or know someone who is an older adult or care for an older adult who needs help please contact Dana Barrows at 618.282.6233.

Emergency Services Coordinator



Kendra Kennedy
Emergency Services Coordinator

Kendra Kennedy began her employment at HSC in January 2007 as a Mental Health Therapist. In November 2008, she accepted the position of Emergency Services Coordinator. The primary responsibility of the Coordinator is working with area hospitals, schools and police departments to provide care and assistance to people who are suicidal and homicidal or are runaways/lockouts from home. Because people can be suicidal or homicidal at any time of day, this is a 24 hour 7 day per week service. When someone is having thoughts of killing themselves or someone else, we work with them to see if they need to go to a hospital for increased care or if by working with our agency and their family we can identify protective factors in their life and they may return home and be safe. Something else Kendra enjoys doing is working with

area schools and community organizations. She is willing to provide presentations to you and your organization on suicide intervention and prevention. If you would like more information on these services or would like Kendra to come and speak for you, you can contact Kendra at 282-6233.

Visit our website at www.humanservicegroup.com

Board of Directors

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Mike Liefer, Secretary/Treasurer
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Gail Letcher
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Gary L. Buatte, Executive Director
Beth Nortin, Executive Assistant
Kimber Browne, Comptroller
Joni Chandler, Director of Day Services
Shea Haury, Director of Counseling

Star Award

The Star Award recognizes outstanding work of employees by their peers in the months of April 2008 thru March 2009 were:

Janey Willis, Amy Bauer, Mark Bollmann, Pam Brueggemann, Kim Cash, Helen Acton, Gary Nurnberger, Debbie Eggemeyer, Dana Barrows, Vic Sieberg, Lorraine McCall, Maria Meyer, John Vinyard, Michael Hunter, Kim Cash, Regina Williams, Sabrina Falkenberry, Emily Grohmann, Kim Cash, Pam Jackson, Marty Louveau, Stacy Stein, Shea Haury



Welcome New Staff

Michelle Hinnerichs
Miranda Thibodeaux
Renee Krebel
Rachael Beaulieu
Kimber Browne
Tammy Delano
Deborah Heck
Katie McConachie
LaTisha Copple

Genia Bollmann
Cathy Knowlton
Katie Pinkman
Marcie Soderlund
Jackie Powers
Emily Grohmann
Daniel Simpson
Jacklin Brant
Helen Acton

Employee of the Year



Nancy Candler, Administrative Technician, was named Human Service Center's employee of the year. Nancy began her employment in November of 1995. Her peers have described her as a real team player and a dedicated employee who strives to do her best. Gary Buatte, HSC's Executive Director, made the presentation during Staff Appreciation Day. Nancy and her family reside in Red Bud.

Philanthropy

Thank You to Our Donors – November 2007 – March 2008

The Human Service Center is grateful to our many donors who help make our mission of service to others a reality.

Financial Donations

Kalin & Kathleen Liefer	H & D Amusement	Illinois Excavators
St. John's Lutheran Church – Men's Club	Roger's Redi Mix, Inc.	Red Bud Lion's Club
Knights of Columbus - Red Bud	Knights of Columbus – Hecker	Frances Ekes
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Knights of Columbus – Evansville	Jimmy Thomas	Brian Wetzel
St. Clement Community Foundation	Luella and Elroy Schoenbeck	
Employee Community Fund of Boeing St. Louis	4 th Degree Knights of Columbus	Karen and Ken Wetzel
The Red Bud Graduate Class of 1948	Kiwanis Club of Waterloo	St. John's Lutheran Church
Country Insurance and Financial Services	Michael & Tessa Miller	Red Hat Blossoms
St. Peter United Church of Christ	William & Yvonne Rabe	Tom & Andrea Jenkins
Bobroff, Hesse, Lindmark & Martone, P.C.	Spartan Light Metal Products Inc.	Sarah Wetzel
Randolph Co. Il. Chapter of Thrivent Financial	Home Extension – Night Unit	John & Norma Preston
St. John's Lutheran Church – Men's Club	Regional Superintendent of School's	Quentin Stenzel
Red Bud Industries	St. John the Baptist Catholic Church	St. Leo's Catholic Church
Danette & Barton Miller	Wellpoint Giving Campaign	Whole Body Health
Sparta Business & Professional Women's Club	Knights of Columbus - Cutler	Knights of Columbus – Chester

Endowment Donations

Red Bud Industries	Rayburn Fricke	Tom & Tracy Welge	Steeleville Pharmacy
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John & Brenda Ingalls	Irene Tabor	James & Connie Kirkland	Orvel & Betty Cox

Other Donations

Stan Wallach	Glenn and Debbie Gielow	Curves	Reverend & Mrs. Graves
Margie Buch	Marie Wagner	Wayne Matthews	Earl Schmitz
Red Bud Rotary Club	Susan Harbaugh	Red Bud High School	Jewel Stevenson family
Red Bud Women's Club	Hope Christian Church	Red Bud Elementary School	YMCA – Red Bud
Randolph County Road Riders	Tom Wissehr	Steve Koester	Kevin Miller
Miller's Meat Market	Donald Nitzsche	Steve Papenberg	Edward Jones
Discovery Youth Center	Holy Cross Lutheran Church	Gladys Wittenauer	
Fred Gerberding	Pat Blechle	Scott Linders	Joe Halbleib
Daniel Koldditz	Katherine Chunn	Jimmy Thomas	Pat Ramsey
Red Bud City Clerk's Office	St. Leo's Catholic Church	St. Patrick's Catholic Church	Coulterville High School
Ruma 4-H Roadrunners	Red Bud Lion's Club	Peggy Buettner	Girl Scout Troop 935
American Legion - Prairie Du Rocher		Prairie Du Rocher Elementary School	
Perandoe Special Education School District		Christ of Savior Lutheran High School	
Sow and Grow	Cub Scout Pack # 342	St. John's Lutheran Church - Red Bud	
Red Bud Industries	Seth, Cora & Ella Task	St. John's Lutheran Church - Ruma	
Boy Scout Troop # 343	Dollar General Store	St. Peter's United Church of Christ - Red Bud	
Meg Wittenbrink	Whole Body Health	Scott Air Force Base Chapel Vacation Bible School	
Bob & Bernie Snyder	Mary Epplin	Red Bud Chamber of Commerce	
Matt & Missy Steines	Trinity Lutheran Church	Employees of Red Bud Regional Hospital	
Southwestern Illinois College	Kerry Ingredients	Integrated Manufacturing Technologies	
Holy Cross Lutheran Church - Renault			

Visit our website at www.humanservicegroup.com

Community

During the past year HSC hosted several fundraising events.



Human Service Center in Red Bud is having a May plant sale....

HSC will be having a fundraiser just in time for Mother's Day! On May 7th - 8th from 1pm - 3pm, we will be selling a variety of hanging baskets at \$14 each at our Red Bud facility. Presale orders are encouraged. The order form and money are due by May 1st. If you would like to place a group order, delivery will be available for orders of 10 plants or more. Come early...plants sold out quickly last year!!

See our website www.humanservicegroup.com for more information or e-mail Monica Wessel at hscredbud@htc.net.

1st Annual Poker Run

Human Service Center hosted its first annual poker run on August 23, 2008. There were lots of activities for the day including 50/50 drawing, silent auction, dinner and Hobbs on Vacation to round out the evening's entertainment. Everyone who participated had a great time and is looking forward to another HSC sponsored poker run. Be checking your local newspapers for dates and times for this year's event. Thanks to the Steeleville Eagles for providing food and to Hobbs for the musical entertainment.

Pictured is Melissa Sauerwein and HSC Employee Michael Hunter.



Trivia Night



HSC's third annual Trivia Night was a big success!

The event, hosted by the Steeleville Eagles raised \$1,568. The proceeds from the event will go to support programs and services. All winning teams donated their money back to the agency.

Pictured is the First Place Trivia Team Winners.



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LOCATIONS

Red Bud

10257 State Route Three
Red Bud, Illinois 62278
Office (618) 282-6233
Fax: (618) 282-6220
TDD#: (618) 282-3747

Sparta

104 Northtown Drive
Sparta, Illinois 62286
Office (618) 443-3045
Fax: (618) 443-5767

Chester

115 East Stacey Street
Chester, Illinois 62233
Office (618) 826-4547
Fax: (618) 826-4549

Some programs were funded in whole or in part by the Illinois Department of Human Services

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