



Burnt Mountain Matters

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Look For Us On 

Staff in the Spotlight



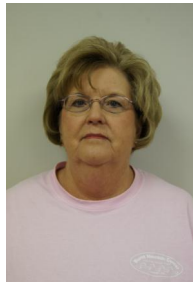
Tricia Anderson is a lifelong resident of Pickens County. She resigned from her job at DFACS as a Medicaid Specialist and has been employed with Burnt Mountain Center for almost 2 years as a Human Service Professional. She is currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Professional Counseling. She has a 17-year-old daughter, Kaitlyn, and lives on a farm. She enjoys raising animals, cooking, and loves being at home. She loves her job at BMC and hopes to continue working here for years to come.

Safety Committee News



The Safety Committee had their first meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2012. They elected the following officers: Deanna R., Charlie D., Tommy C., Michael J., and Michael P. They discussed safety issues, such as the corner of rugs curling up in the back of the workshop. They resolved to fix this issue promptly.

Goodbye BMC, Hello Retirement!



Longtime employee of Burnt Mountain Center, Brenda Thurman, has retired. Brenda worked for BMC for 13 years and was hired on January 20, 1999. She began her career at BMC as a workshop Instructor Aide. She later chose to work on an off-site job, Benson Printing, where she was a job coach. She then became an Instructor in the workshop and finished her career as the Workshop Supervisor. Everyone was very fond of Brenda, not only as a supervisor, but also as a great friend. Brenda's husband Jackie recently retired and Brenda decided she was ready to join him. They reside in Ellijay. When asked what she planned to do with all her free time, she said she was just looking forward to relaxing at home with her family. She still plans to help out with Burnt Mountain Center and has decided to become the treasurer of the ARC/Parents group. We wish her the best of luck and much happiness with her retirement!

2011 BMC Closings

February 10.....Valentines Party
April 6.....Easter
May 28..... Memorial Day
June 22..... Luau
July 4 Independence Day
September 3..... Labor Day
October 26Halloween Party
November 22 & 23..... Thanksgiving
December 7.....Christmas Banquet
December 24-31..... Christmas

Biggest Loser News



The overall winners of the 2011 Biggest Loser Challenge were participant, Thomas Forest, and staff member, Amenda Waldroup. They were each given a \$100 gift card for their efforts, but the best reward proved to be the healthier life they gave to themselves. Congratulations to everyone who had success with this challenge. As for next year's competition, staff member Melissa Chapman will be taking the lead! She has a great year planned and we hope that every participant has success in the 2012 quest for health and fitness!

DONATIONS WELCOME

Burnt Mountain Center is a non-profit organization for adults with developmental disabilities. BMC greatly accepts donations. Please make checks payable to Burnt Mountain Center. All donations are tax deductible.

DDM News



Developmental Disabilities Ministries (DDM) has exciting news! They have signed a lease to rent a home for several BMC participants! Before they can open the home, they must find suitable house parents. They are hiring for part-time and full-time positions. If you would like more information or know anyone who is interested in this position, please contact Debbie Rooker at (706) 692-6016.

2011 Club Recap



2011 proved to be a great year, according to participants of Burnt Mountain Center. When asked what some of their favorite times of the past year were, clubs were at the top of that list. Here is a quick recap of the 2011 Club Events:

Civic Club:

- Learned how to properly fold and hang the American Flag
- Started a new ritual of saying "The Pledge of Allegiance" in the workshop each morning
- Held a BBQ fundraiser
- Attended the Veterans Day Parade
- Had a picnic at Jasper City Park
- Went on an outing to Kennesaw Mountain
- Presented a Wreath to Veterans Memorial
- Went to the Ellijay Apple House
- Contributed to a White Christmas family

Drama Club:

- Watched a play at Creekview High School
- Acted out "Goldilocks and The Three Bears" using handmade puppets
- Held a fundraiser and sold handmade Cool Wraps
- Watched various plays on DVD
- Contributed to a White Christmas family

Dance Club:

- Danced to various DVD
- Danced at the park
- Discussed the importance of hydration and stretching
- Contributed to a White Christmas family

Garden Club:

- Toured Pickens County FFA livestock facility and greenhouse
- Held a fundraiser and sold plants
- Visited GA State Farmers Market

- Visited Long Swamp and toured Jamie Rosenthal's organic garden enterprise
- Visited Mack Aaron and R&A Apple Houses in Ellijay
- Sampled produce from a variety of places
- Visited a cabbage patch in Ellijay
- Visited Uncle B's farm and garden
- Saw various animals

Cooking Club:

- Learned about kitchen safety
- Made various dishes, including salad, dirt cake, fruit salad, cookies, chip dip
- Exchanged recipes
- Discussed nutrition and the food pyramid
- Had a bake sale fundraiser
- Made popcorn and delivered to the Pickens Progress Office
- Had a pizza party
- Purchased canned goods to donate to C.A.R.E.S.
- Baked cookies and delivered the Fire Department

Sports Club:

- Held a cornhole tournament, baseball game, kickball game, wiffleball game, water balloon battle, bowling tournament, soccer game, and a Wii bowling tournament
- Discussed the importance of hydration
- Went on a field trip to watch the Atlanta Falcons practice
- Held a contest to predict top teams during football season
- Contributed to a White Christmas family

Fitness Club:

- Did various exercises
- Discussed the important of good nutrition, hydration, and stretching
- Visited local parks and used resources, such as walking tracks
- Held a softball game
- Joined another club to dance at the local park
- Had a pizza party
- Purchased canned food to give to the food pantry and C.A.R.E.S.



It's a new year and everyone is excited to join new clubs! The 2012 Clubs are Dance, Cooking, Civic, Sports, Drama, and Fitness. The participants who did not wish to join a club will work during club meetings. Participants were asked to pick their three favorite clubs. Staff then divided each participant into a club according to their top picks. Club leaders will have an agenda ready to hand out at the first meeting. Each agenda will follow the 2012 Club Guide, which involves a theme for each month, with the year ending in a Club Banquet. Everyone is very excited to begin an exciting new year!

2011 BMC Christmas Party



With the Christmas Banquet out of the way, participants were now focused on the next festivity: The BMC Christmas Party. Everyone went on a shopping trip to purchase gifts and then enjoyed lunch at the place of their choice. All the gifts were wrapped and everything was in place for a great party. On the morning of the party, an aroma of sausage and country ham biscuits filled the air. After breakfast, Jep read "The Night Before Christmas" and the Choir sang some holiday tunes. After a pizza lunch, everyone opened gifts! The floor was filled with wrapping paper and the air was filled with laughter as joy filled the hearts of everyone. Santa Claus even made a surprise visit! Everyone boarded the vans to go home and celebrate Christmas at home with their families. Everyone was excited for the New Year and what it would bring. If it was anything like 2011, we are in for a treat!

Christmas Banquet 2011



The 2011 Christmas Banquet, held by Burnt Mountain Center annually, was a great success! Participants and staff arrived dressed in their finest attire, ready to have a good time. After a quick introduction from Executive Director, Debbie Rooker, and an Invocation from BMC Participant, Matt Pharr, guests dined on pork tenderloin, baked potatoes, coleslaw, green beans, and strawberry shortcake. Diane Quinton, Tammy Massey, Christie Davis, and Ryan Quinton prepared the meal and it had many compliments from everyone. Later, the BMC Choir, led by pianist Janice Thacker, performed a few Christmas Carols, which gave way for good oleqSt. Nick to come strolling in to deliver gifts to participants and children. Joy filled the faces of everyone and camera flashes filled the room while memories were being made. Not a soul left the party without the spirit of the Holiday season in their hearts. Everyone had a great time at the Christmas Banquet that proved to be the best yet. We hope next year will top it!



New Employees!

Amy Rice Amy is the newest employee of BMC. She was recently a service coordinator, but decided to join BMC so she could spend more time with her children. We are glad to have her on our team!

Cookbooks

We still have several copies of the Burnt Mountain Center Family Cookbook, Holiday Edition left for sale. We have reduced the price from \$12.00 to \$10.00. If you would like a copy, please call us at (706) 692-6016.

White Christmas



Burnt Mountain Center decided to participate in White Christmas this year. With help from staff members and clubs, we were able to help several needy children. A huge box was filled with gifts that were delivered to thankful families. Thanks to everyone who donated to this great cause! We hope next year we can help even more people!

Taking 2012 By Storm



Happy New Year everyone! Burnt Mountain Center is looking forward to another great year. We are exploring different opportunities in the community, the work force, and through government programs. Burnt Mountain Center recently contracted with the Department of Labor Vocational Rehabilitation Program. This will enable BMC to work within the school systems and the rehab community. We are very fortunate to have a workforce that enables our participants a variety of opportunities at Burnt Mountain Center and in the community. In the past year, we have established ourselves as assets to the North Georgia Printing Industry. Burnt Mountain Center has been very fortunate to have support from the community, local clubs and churches, the Appalachian Court System, and all facets of the Pickens County Government. With support from the BMC Board of Directors, the ARC, and the Parents Group, we see a bright and prosperous year for Burnt Mountain Center.

Sincerely,
Debbie S. Rooker
Executive Director

ARC/Parents Group News



The Burnt Mountain Center ARC/Parents Committee held their first meeting of the New Year on Thursday, January 19, 2012. The committee welcomed their newest member, Brenda Thurman. Brenda retired from BMC in December, and accepted the role as treasurer and secretary of the committee. We feel very fortunate to have her in this capacity. The committee discussed new business and plans for the future. They voted to assist BMC with their new transportation plan, and donated funds toward the purchase of a vehicle. They discussed topics that they would be presenting in the future, which included Medicaid changes, new banking requirements for Social Security, and training for the committee. The group will be assisting the BMC staff with decorating and act as chaperones at the Valentines Party, which was given the theme of %Sadie Hawkins+, on February 10. We discussed the challenges to BMC with the new proposed rate cuts to services. BMC's budget would be reduced by \$270,000 per year based on our current rate of service provision. We encourage parents to become involved and write our congressman, senator, and governor in protest to these actions. If you have questions, please contact BMC at (706) 692-6016. There will be a DCH meeting at 2 Peachtree St., Atlanta, GA in the 5th floor boardroom on February 9, 2012. President Catherine Davis set the next meeting for February 23, 2012 at 6:00 pm at BMC. At this time, Jep Greer will present SWOT training. This will help the origination recognize their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. We encourage all parents to attend.