



MAGIC CITY NEWS

Magic City Enterprises, Inc.'s mission is to create opportunities for people with disabilities to achieve individual success.

Vol. 4, Issue 2

Spring 2012



Bo the Burro



LONG-EARED FRIEND VISITS MCE

By Allison Drake

Bo is a popular guest at Magic City. He is a fifteen year old burro (also known as a donkey) that lives with Sharron Kelsey's family. He is a gentle giant who doesn't mind being crowded around and being petted. He made a recent trip to the Day Habilitation Program for a visit.

Favorite Food: Apple Flavored Horse Cookies

Full Name: Townsend's Bo (He is registered with the National Registry of Burros. His mom and dad were registered burros too.)

Hobbies: Chasing after barn cats, playing with his burro friend Fred, chewing on wood, visiting Magic City participants

Fun Facts: He gets his feet trimmed every 3 months (like people get their toe nails clipped). He is fifteen years old. He gets brushed in the spring when his coat sheds. He doesn't have to comb his hair every day.

From the CEO

By Laura McKinney

Welcome to the Spring, 2012 edition of the Magic City News. We hope that you enjoy learning about everything that is happening with the people we all care about and support.

The biggest news this quarter occurred in the Wyoming State Legislature. The waiver waiting list was one of the main topics for this session. Two bills were presented to eliminate the current waiting list with one addressing the need to keep the length of time people wait for services to a minimum. With concerns about dropping natural gas prices and the overall federal budget deficit, the legislature chose to keep most of the state budget at its current level. However, they did appropriate \$1.5 million for the waiting list. This will not eliminate the current waiting list but will help reduce it and those who have been waiting the longest will receive at least some services. We hope to keep working on this issue during the 2013 session. Thanks to all of you who contacted your legislators, wrote letters about your situation and talked with the media. This action by the actual people who have been waiting for services raised the exposure of this issue in the legislature.

The other important piece of news from the legislature is the focus on reducing the Medicaid. The Waivers have become a specific target for these reductions. At the end of the session the Medicaid Options Study bill passed both houses. It mandates that the Department of Health review all areas of Medicaid and present changes which will result in at least 4% in cost reductions by November, 2012. Magic City Enterprises is preparing to adjust for these possible funding cuts. We may need to ask for your help with



By Laura McKinney

"We may need to ask for your help with your legislators again as actions are discussed in the 2013 session."

your legislators again as actions are discussed in the 2013 session. I will continue to communicate any changes which appear to be coming.

It has been a rough year for MCE in the number of participants who have passed away since July from age and illness. We

mourn for all our friends and think about and pray for their families. It has been my special privilege to have known all of them for more than 20 years. I cherish the memories I have of my times with them and take comfort in the fact that they are no longer dealing with debilitating disabilities and are at peace.

I hope you will all join us for the 8th annual Disability Awareness Walk which will be held in Cheyenne at Frontier Mall on Saturday, March 31st beginning at 9:30 in the morning. It will be a fun event with free t-shirts and food. Let's use this opportunity to show everyone in Cheyenne and Wyoming how much people with disabilities contribute to our society.

Thanks to you all for your ongoing involvement in and support of Magic City Enterprises. I appreciate all of you and enjoy the times I get to visit with each of you.

Ladies' Club Fashion Show

**NO BOYS
ALLOWED AT
FUN-FILLED
EVENT**

By Allison Drake

The Ladies' Club hosted a fashion show featuring the participants with clothing and accessories that they had made. It has help in early February at the Day Habilitation Program. The participants involved with Ladies' Club encourage one another, develop positive friendships, and focus on areas such as hygiene and self esteem. Only ladies were invited to the fashion show. An audience of guardians, case managers, friends, family, staff, and other participants cheered on the ladies as each was introduced by Ladies' Club facilitator, Kayla Buchmeier. The fashion and fun was shared by all.



8th Annual Wyoming Disability Awareness Walk



- Join us for this free event.
- Saturday, March 31
- 9:30 a.m.
- Enjoy great food.



Supported Living's Learning Adventures

By Bibi Atwell

Supported Living Participants had the opportunity to tour many businesses in Cheyenne over the past few months. There were many businesses willing to share their operations and functions, and premises during working hours. This gave us the opportunity to meet a variety of extraordinary people. We would like to provide at least one interesting piece of information on each of the tours that were attended.

The first tour scheduled was with "Channel 5 News". They demonstrated how they read news from a big TV screen that is actually connected to the camera. They stand in front of a blue screen and point to the blank blue screen based on the weather map they are also looking at. We met several of the newscasters including Robert Geha. He greeted us with a handshake and answered many of our questions.

The next tour was to "101.9 King FM" radio station. Our tour guide "Mike" was very informative and demonstrated how they put commercials in between songs along with "live" announcements. Everything is computer based and you no longer see record albums or tapes.

The 3rd tour was to "Wyoming Tribune Eagle" Newspaper. They demonstrated how the newspaper is created each day. We viewed the old printing presses. From there we viewed the new laser printers, paper room, computer, and machines that sort and fold the newspaper to create a final copy.

The following tour was number 4 with "Echo Star". Touring their facility was state of the art technology and very interesting. Did you know that the biggest satellite they monitor shoots the beams back and forth to a satellite that is over 204,000 miles away? They have a huge room with over 150 different broadcasts. People monitor these broadcasts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in order to allow us to watch uninterrupted services.

Our 5th tour we were permitted to see how Pizza Hut makes their bread dough and pizza. We were allowed to make our very own personal pan pizza. Great!

The 6th tour was behind the scenes of the "Laramie County Sheriff's Department". At the end of the tour each person attending were given ear protection and allowed to watch a deputy shooting target practice. Participants were given some mini badges as a complimentary item.

The 7th tour was to the "Steam Engine" at the train station. This tour was thoroughly enjoyed. The engine has a giant snow blower that can blow 16 feet snow drifts off the track. The inside of the living car used by company officials provided a sitting room, dining room, 3 bedrooms, a bathroom and a small kitchen. This is the only steam locomotive left in the US that was built back in 1840.

The "Cleveland Fire Station" provided us with the opportunity to watch them in action on the 8th tour. Two of the firemen raced to see who could put on their full fire gear in the fastest time. It only took 51 seconds. They allowed us to lift the gear to see that it is very heavy. We toured their facility, sleeping quarters, kitchen, and admired the new Engine they have had for 6 months.

Last stop for the end of the year was not really a tour but you could call this a mission to provide "Good Cheer" for Christmas at the "Life Care" Nursing Facility. The Participants and staff put together Christmas Cards to hand out to each of the Senior residents that live there. This was a great way to end the year with a heartwarming look at 80 smiling faces receiving these simple "Merry Christmas" Cards.

I, Bibi Atwell, Supported Living Manager would like to say thanks to those that helped attend and coordinate these visits with a variety of Participants up to as many as 14 attendees. But I specifically want to thank Crystal Thompson. Crystal has gone above and beyond to find businesses willing to share with us. Crystal also set up each and every tour. After each event the Participants were provided a thank you card by Crystal, for them to sign. The cards were sent to each organization.

Thanks so Much Crystal! You are an asset to Supported Living.

THE GSA CREW

By Mac McCracken

The GSA crew has been under a lot of pressure lately. They just had their big MARS Inspection (Similar to our Carf Inspection). Lots of cleaning had to be done before the inspectors arrived. Floors needed to be waxed, windows needed to be cleaned, offices needed to be dusted and a whole lot of other things that I don't want to bother you with.

We got the verdict back yesterday and the crew did awesome! We passed with flying colors. Carrie really did a great job getting everything ready. She was a little stressed (okay really stressed) but pulled through in a big way. Way to go Carrie!

The next time you see these guys and gals, make sure to give them a pat on the back for a great job. They really deserve it.



MCE's
Eye on employees

EMPLOYEE INSURANCE BENEFITS

BY SHARRON KELSEY

Magic City Enterprises offers several insurance benefits for eligible employees. To be eligible for insurance benefits an employee must work either a full-time position, or a part-time regularly scheduled position. Benefits offered include health insurance, dental insurance and vision insurance.

Health Insurance – MCE offers two health insurance plans through CIGNA. The Base Plan is a High Deductible Health Plan that is eligible for a Health Savings Account. Under this plan, preventive services are provided at no cost to the employee; after the deductible is met, most services are provided with a 10% copay. This plan can be used with a Health Savings Account (HSA) wherein the employee opens the account at their bank or credit union and deposits money pretax for use in paying medical expenses during the period before their deductible is met. The other plan offered to employees through CIGNA is the Choice Plan. Under this plan preventive services are also free. Primary care physician visits are covered with a \$30 copay per visit and a \$40 copay per visit for Specialist care. There is a \$1,500 deductible for medical care under this plan; after the deductible is met, most services are provided with a 20% copay. The Choice Plan also includes a pharmacy plan. To assist employees in paying the cost of these plans, MCE pays \$350 per month toward the premium for all eligible employees.

Magic City Enterprises also sponsors AFLAC insurance which offers a variety of accident, illness and hospitalization insurance. Because MCE sponsors the insurance, the premiums are offered at a lower cost to employees.

Dental Insurance – MCE sponsors dental insurance through Delta Dental and AFLAC. Because both of these are sponsored by the company and basically "group" policies, the cost for the premiums is much lower than if an individual had to buy them on their own.

Vision Insurance – MCE sponsors vision insurance through VSP, which is one of the leading insurers for group vision health. Again, MCE sponsorship helps reduce the cost to our employees. VSP insurance is not available except through employers.

All of the cost of the premiums for the insurance described above is paid with pretax dollars, which is significant savings for employees. In general, an employee's take-home pay will increase between \$22 and \$30 per month for every \$100 you spend on benefits. Last year the combined amount saved by employees at MCE was a little over \$3,000. MCE is able to do this for our employees because we have elected to participate in a Section 125 Plan; there is a cost to MCE to make this available to employees, but it makes the cost of premiums more affordable for our employees.

March is open enrollment for all of the insurance described above. If you are thinking of adding or changing any of your insurance you will need to do so before the end of March. If you are not changing anything, then it is simple.....you don't have to do anything!

If you have questions about any insurance or benefit offered by MCE, you may call either Mary Mathison, Personnel Specialist or Sharron Kelsey, Staff Development Manager.

From the training department

By Jennie Enell

The training crew is busy exploring the area and getting acquainted with the schedule and materials. We have been holding class's in spite of not knowing everything we need to (documenting, subjects to cover, the whereabouts of class materials, etc.) and according to staff feedback not doing so badly.

There will be some changes noted as we settle in and get things arranged for our needs. Our predecessor left us in good hands but as each person works differently (and there are actually 4 of us now) we need to arrange things so we all know where everything is. We also want the training

area to reflect the people we serve which are MCE's staff. We look forward to getting to know the new staff and getting reacquainted with staff that have been around but we have not seen lately due to working different areas.

If you miss a scheduled class, you can call us and arrange a make-up session. We will be as flexible as we need to be (within reason) in meeting your needs for training.

You can reach us at 634-5205 or by sec.com to schedule yourself for the classes you need. Please do call in advance as some classes have limited space available. Your new trainers are Darcy Fournier; Jennie Enell; John Abas and Barb Fortish.

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

By Carol Follett

We have had staff changes over the past several months, and as usual for our department, schedule changes from week to week and day to day, as transitions in participant employment occurs.

We welcome Dan M, as our new department supervisor. He's a calm and level headed addition, who has transitioned nicely into dealing with the intricacies of IPCs, units, goal writing, and the DVR process. We currently serve 72 waiver participants and 35 non-waiver participants with connections to DVR. So glad to have you with us!

Welcome back to Dawn D, so glad you're back. Her expertise is the Biohealth contract, as she supervises participants in the assembling of test kits for lab work. It takes a lot of precision to ensure the kits, containing vials, biohazard bags, paper work, and stickers, are correct for over 100 different specific kits.

Cindy J is our new job developer and has done an awesome job of placing our participants in positions at K Mart, Avantis, TJ Max, Lowes and License Plates. She's involved in the DVR process, participant applications, interviews, and orientations, and completes paperwork before and after a position is obtained. She also does all the billing for our department, ensuring that all ISPs are completed and correct to turn into waiver billing. She's enthused, hard working, and doing an awesome job!

Our Lowes contract, for janitorial work, continues to be a well liked source of employment. Shifts vary from 5 to 6 hours a day, and days worked from 2 to 5 days as fits each individual's desires and capabilities.

Lowes rewards all employees with catered luncheons for safety and production achievements. The most recent was catered by the Tortilla Factory, but has included the Outback and Texas Roadhouse. There are barbeques and goodies throughout the year in addition.

KMart has become our most recent awesome employer, being receptive and knowledgeable with working with our participants.

The successful employment of our participants is enhanced and supported by our team of CE staff, who provide transportation, job coaching (hands on instruction, direction, and assistance), encouragement, intervention, and emotional support. A big thank you to our team for their dedication and versatility, which includes all of our dedicated participants without whom we would not have all of these great contracts.

"Lowes rewards all employees with catered luncheons for safety and production achievements."



GLASS ART SHOW

By Allison Drake

Participants from the Day Habilitation Program attended the Art Show at the Botanical Gardens. Local award winning glass art was displayed. The participants enjoyed seeing the art.

POET'S CORNER: WHAT MATTERS MOST

BY RICK BENNINGHOVEN

Immaturity is thinking that we have all the answers.

Wisdom is knowing that we don't

Weakness is wanting to control everything around us.

Strength is gracefully accepting and valuing what we are given.

Insecurity is the constant, gnawing desire to have it "all."

Confidence is knowing that by faith we are enough.

Failure is thinking that we can advance by pushing or holding others down.

Success is understanding, that by lifting up others, we are lifted up.

Despair is committing to shallow, superficial things of this earth.

Joy is filling your world and your life with the things that matter most.

Word on the street

What does Spring Fever mean to you? Do you have it?



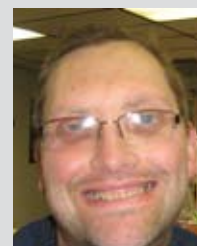
"I get Spring Fever all the time. I like to go for walks in the park and drives in the car. I sometimes get Spring Fever" - Teresa R.



"I like to ride my bicycle and run track at Special Olympics. Sure am ready for Spring." - Donald



"I don't get Spring Fever." - Shelton J.



"Spring Fever means going fishing to me. Yeah, I have Spring Fever a little bit." - Larry H.



"Spring Fever to mean s headaches and allergies. I am excited to plant flowers and camp in the back yard." - Stephanie Z.



"Going for walks and eating outside. I have Spring Fever." - Jasmine A.



"Seasons? What's that. No. I don't get Spring Fever." - Chris B.



"It's when the weather starts to get nice, and I want to be outside. Yes. I get Spring Fever!" - Lydia R.



"Spring? Oh, I love Spring! I can ride my bike and go to Estes Park. *Yes, I do have the Fever!*" - James H.

Adaptive Equipment Process "Why is this taking so long?"

By Darcy Fournier

There is a process to obtain adaptive equipment. It may take weeks or even months to complete this process. Remember, good things take time. There are many contacts involved, including participant, case manager, guardian, staff, physician(s), therapists, Durable Medical Equipment (DME) providers, Medicaid, Medicare, adaptive equipment specialist, etc. There is necessary/mandatory documentation, and it must be correct, justified and complete for this process to occur in a timely manner.

There are other factors to consider. What if a participant becomes ill or an injury has occurred? The process

may be delayed and in some cases stopped entirely. Other factors may include a change of anatomy due to weight loss, weight gain, an injury that requires hospitalization (fractured leg, hip or arm), unexpected surgery due to illness, etc. Other delays may be due to a physician's or therapist's availability. They, too, are susceptible to unexpected daily happenings. A DME provider may have to stop services because the business is failing financially.

Really, there are many, many factors involved in this process. Time, availability, cooperation, documentation and consistency play a big role in the process for obtaining adaptive equipment. Patience is always required.

The Process To Obtain Adaptive Equipment:

- 1) Initial identification of need communicated to the Case Manager.
- 2) Proper documentation of a true need.
- 3) Team review of documentation and development of a plan.
- 4) Follow-up research and completion of required documentation.
- 5) Appropriate action to assure successful delivery, training, and care of AE.

THE MAGIC CITY STORY

By MCE Day Hab Participants written in Relationships Group

What is Magic City Enterprises like? It is a place where people come for jobs, activities and outings. People are nice to each other. Everyone is polite and uses good manners. We all get along with each other. Everyone likes to see their friends here, and like making new friends. We miss old friends who are no longer with us. Friends treat each other with respect. We look forward to Special Olympics. Some will do bowling, soccer and cycling. We all do our best, but win or lose we will be good sports, have a good attitude and have fun.

NEW THERAPEUTIC GROUPS

By Allison Drake

MCE Psychologist, Dr. Sink and MCE Therapist, Kayla Buchmeier, have introduced therapeutic groups to the Day Habilitation Program. A variety of subjects are discussed twice a day such as dealing with stress, making healthy choices, relationships, current events, leadership and success, personal space (Circles), and rainbow of emotions. The self advocacy group, Voices, continues to meet weekly. All of the therapeutic groups are a venue for participants to talk about what is going on in their lives and get group and individual help and feedback.

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING THROUGH THE YEAR

By Shay Ingram

The Day of Giving has helped Magic City a lot this year with supplies we needed for activities and projects. Gretta from the Day of Giving has helped us this entire year and we are so grateful. Day hab made them a thank you placard with all the participant's names on it and she was very impressed in it she stated that they don't get many of those and it warmed their hearts. The Day of Giving has donated a lot of yarn items, markers and crayons as well as Christmas craft kits. Magic City Day Hab would like to ask that when the next Day of Giving takes place this spring that we help by donating what we can so others can get the help they need as well.



MCE HUB held a Valentines Day Party at the hub on February 10th, 2012. "There were balloons and food," stated Gary L.

What is Customized Employment?

By Rick Benninghoven

Customized Employment is a process of individualizing the employment relationship between employees and employers in ways that meet the needs of both. It is based on a match between the unique strengths, needs, and interests of the individual, and the identified needs of the employer. Customized Employment is a relatively new way of thinking for the State of Wyoming, which is supported by such state agencies as DRV and DD and that is being pioneered by Magic City as part of a grant from the state.



Moving Toward Success

When Charla wanted to work at a paid position any paid job would be fine. "Doing what?" was the question as she had never had a job before. Community employment started to get to know Charla as a full "Discovery" was completed. During this process, we discovered Charla loved to do crafting, liked to do crossword puzzles and loved to bowl. Charla has long history bowling with the Special Olympics. Also if I didn't mention her love of the Denver Bronco, Charla would never forgive me. She is looking forward to next fall and plans are being made to attend a preseason game. Community Employment used the "Discovery" process to gain information about Charla's interest and strengths towards having her on Beaded Jewelry Micro-Enterprise, which she was already engaged in on a small scale. Community employment with the input from DVR and Charla's Customized Employment Team developed a business plan, which is waiting for final approval from her team and DVR. Our main goal here is to keep Charla involved in the many activities she loves, keep her beading small busi-

ness fun and break even. So Charla can continue doing what she loves beading. If Charla made extra money to see Tim Tebow throw a few touchdown passes that would be most welcomed too. Charla is excited about getting started and we spent a few hours looking at semi-precious gem stones she wants to use instead of the plastic and glass beads she has been using. She has begun coming over to community employment and we are starting to look for places to cosign her already finished pieces. The full success story is yet to be written and with the help of those involved, Parents, her Case Managers, Day Rehabilitations, and Residential there are many chapters yet to be written. By ourselves we hardly able to even stand, with the support of those around us we not only are able to stand, but fly to new heights once thought unreachable. Customized Employment at Magic City Enterprises and Wyoming is taking its first few small steps and there are many others ready to follow and help lead the way.



MCE 2012 CHILI COOK OFF

On February 3rd, MCE held its Annual Chili Cook Off. It was a tough competition this year with over a dozen entries. Chili makers representing the different service areas of MCE battled and when the dust settled, there were three place winners. Kathy Wood won first place for Day Habilitation; Mia Patterson won second place for Accounting; and John Abas won third place for the Commissary.

