

The BABCOCK Bugle

Spring 2016



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Dr. BJ Simons Honored at PCW Luncheon



Dr. BJ Simons

On February 23, 2016, the Palmetto Center for Women Honors Luncheon was held at The Zone at Williams Brice Stadium. The Palmetto Center for Women Honors (formerly the TWIN Awards) are presented to women within our community whose achievements mark them as leaders and role models.

Congratulations to Dr. BJ Simons, Senior Director of Clinical Services who was an honors recipient at this year's luncheon. Dr. Simons has had a remarkable few months, first being awarded the Mary L. Duffie Service to Others Award at the Babcock Center's annual awards

banquet in August 2015. Shortly thereafter, she was awarded the Outstanding Service to the Field Award by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and receiving the PCW Honors in February.

Dr. Simons is most deserving of all these honors. As Senior Director of Clinical Services, Dr. Simons is responsible for overseeing the health care services that are received by the people we support, many of whom have complicated medical histories and are unable to communicate their health care needs to providers. Dr. Simons works tirelessly to ensure that people with lifelong disabilities receive the care they need and that it is provided with dignity and respect. She has a compassion for people with disabilities that is rare and precious, and she is continuously working to make a positive difference in the lives of the people we support.

Babcock Center is proud to call her a part of the Babcock Center family.



President's Column

By Judy E. Johnson, Ed.D.
President and CEO

The Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE Act) was signed into law in Washington on December 19, 2014. The passing of this law is the result of years of advocacy by the disability community and bi-partisan efforts in the US House and Senate. The law allows a person with a qualifying disability to open an Able account which is a form of 529 account, similar to qualified tuition programs that have been a part of the tax code since 1996.

Able accounts will allow people with disabilities more choice and control over spending for qualified disability expenses, while protecting their eligibility for Medicaid and other government benefits. Able accounts are not yet available in South Carolina, but there is currently a bill in the Senate (H3768) that is actively being discussed and amended. It is anticipated that this bill will be signed into law in the near future.

The SC Able program will be overseen by the South Carolina State Treasurer's Office. Here are some basics of what we know about eligibility for an Able account when they become available:

- To be eligible for an Able account, the individual must be blind or disabled before age 26.
- The individual must be the account owner and a resident of South Carolina.
- The individual is entitled to SSI or SSDI.
- Individuals may only establish one Able account.

There are some key benefits for individuals with lifelong disabilities to consider when establishing an Able account. For starters, the balance of an Able account is not included in means-tested federal programs. Additionally, earnings in an able account are tax-free under section 529A of IRS code, as long as the funds are used to pay for a qualifying disability expense. Some examples of qualified disability expenses include: health related expenses, education expenses, housing, transportation, legal fees, funeral and burial, employment training and support, financial management, assistive technology, personal support services and other expenses approved through Treasury Regulations.

There are limitations with the program as well in that individuals may only contribute \$14,000 per year, and the account cannot exceed \$100,000 at any time. Also, any funds spent on non-qualified distributions will be subject to a 10% tax penalty. Finally, it is unclear at this time if individuals who already have established Special Needs Trusts or participate in Special Needs Pooled trusts will be able to move their funds out of those accounts and into an Able account.

We are monitoring the progress of South Carolina making Able accounts available to its citizens very closely and will continue to keep our individuals and families informed as the state works to establish and implement the program.

SC ABLE

ACHIEVING A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE

Board of Directors News

The Babcock Center Board of Directors is proud to welcome two new board members.



Jerry Goad

Jerry Goad is a current member of the Babcock Center Foundation Board of Directors. Before retiring, Mr. Goad was the Director of Support Services at the Babcock Center. He is a retired Lieutenant Commander USNR with a total of 22 years of service. He holds a BS in Electrical Engineering from Tennessee Technical University. His experience and dedication will be a great asset to the Board.



Frankey House

Frankey House is a retired Engineering Manager. He received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of South Carolina. He is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and is Area Deputy for the Knights of Peter Claver, Gulf Coast District. Mr. House has a son with Autism. His insight will be invaluable to the Board as they work to enhance the lives of people with lifelong disabilities.

We are happy to have both of these men as part of our board and feel confident that they will help us achieve our mission to empower people with lifelong disabilities to enjoy life by promoting abilities and respecting choice.

What's Happening

The BETA Group meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Mary L. Duffie Administration Building. Call Dave Kammerer at 799-1970, ext. 144 for more information.



Special Olympics Summer Games will be held May 5-7 at Fort Jackson. Babcock Center Foundation will be manning a booth in the Olympic Village. Come out and join in the fun and support these very special athletes as they strive to be the best they can be!



To volunteer at the Babcock Center contact Nikki Peake at 799-1970, ext. 124.

Dr. Johnson Honored at HSPA Conference



From left to right: Elizabeth Krauss, Jimmy Burton, Dr. Judy Johnson and Jerry Bernard.

Dr. Judy Johnson was awarded the Debbie Burton Award during the Human Service Provider Associations annual conference in March at Myrtle Beach. This award recognizes an individual who has at least 10 years of service as an Executive Director of an organization and has demonstrated outstanding service on behalf of people with lifelong disabilities.

Dr. Johnson has supported people with disabilities for over 40 years. She began her career as a Special Education teacher at a large institution in West Virginia. She has also been a QMPR, Director of Staff Development, Residential Administrator, Assistant Superintendent, Deputy State Director, Regional Vice President, and is currently the CEO & President at Babcock Center.

Dr. Johnson is a respected member of the community and has been awarded numerous awards and honors for her leadership and dedication throughout the years. We are very grateful that she has shared her leadership and vision to benefit the people we support at the Babcock Center.

Congratulations Dr. Johnson!

Interns and Volunteers Make a Difference



Interns and volunteers are an integral part of the Babcock family. Not only do they save our organization hundreds of thousands of dollars, but they also augment the abilities of our employees. When interns and volunteers join our program, they are allowing employees to focus on higher-level tasks and thus increasing productivity of the day-to-day operations.

At the Babcock Center, we have a variety of internship opportunities. For example, we often host MSW interns who focus on counseling, skill sets and one-on-one time with the individuals we support. Activities include everything from working on set objectives or just going for a walk and engaging in conversation. We also host Medical Assisting interns who can assist with bathing, grooming, giving medications and other hands-on tasks. Each of our internship programs are very important to the operation of our organization.

Volunteers are always welcome at Babcock Center, and there are many ways to get involved. Whether its providing companionship, helping with special projects such as building raised flower beds, doing yard work or participating in group volunteer activities, there is an opportunity for everyone to get involved.

If you or anyone you know would like more information on the internship programs at the Babcock Center or would like to volunteer, please call Nikki Peake at 803-799-1970 ext. 124 or email npeake@babcockcenter.org.

Babcock Names Employer of the Quarter



Eric Borden of CW Resources with Job Coaches Wade Culcleasure and Judy Brown.

Babcock Center's Supported Employment Department named Eric Borden of CW Resources the Employer of the Quarter at the Board of Directors Meeting in February.

CW Resources contracts to provide landscaping services on Fort Jackson. Mr. Borden is the Regional Manager in charge of hiring. He looks

beyond a person's disability and makes what seems to be impossible, possible.

All of the staff at CW Resources have done a remarkable job making sure that the people we support are properly trained with great emphasis on safety and respect. They have given the five individuals who work there a marketable, professional trade and a sense of accomplishment. We are most appreciative of our partnership with Mr. Borden and CW Resources.



Jamal Delk operates a gravely working on the grounds at Fort Jackson.

Some Like it Hot...Some Not!



Belk Charity Sale



The Belk Charity Sale will be held in all Belk stores on April 30th from 6am—10am. This is one of the best sales of the season with discounts on rarely discounted brands! This is a private ticketed

event. In order to participate, you must purchase a \$5 ticket. The great news is that you will get \$5 off your first purchase!

Not a morning person? That's ok, because Belk will be doing pre-sale in the weeks leading up to the sale. Simply go in, choose your items and they will be rung up the morning of the sale for you to pick up at your convenience!

To purchase a ticket, contact the Foundation at 803-799-1970.

Addams Family the Musical

Town Theatre Presents:



Thursday, May 5, 2016

(Town Theatre—1012 Sumter Street, Columbia, SC)

\$15.00 General Admission

All proceeds benefit the Babcock Center Foundation.

Call today to reserve tickets- 803-799-1970

Lexington County Collection Sites Still Going Strong



From left to right: Tom Harmalik, Remon Hill, Tim Dixon and Jaquar Spencer.

Babcock Center has enjoyed a long term partnership with Lexington County Solid Waste Management. The Babcock Center operates nine of the eleven collection sites in the county and is the county's front line of contact to its citizens on proper disposal and recycling procedures. Recently, the county expanded its partnership with Babcock Center by adding quarterly litter pickup crews along the roads leading to the collection sites.

When asked about the county's partnership with Babcock Center, Tom Harmalik, Deputy Director of Lexington County SWM, said, "Babcock Center staffing fills a niche that has historically been very difficult for the county to fill. Based on the nature of the business, it is very difficult to hire individuals who want to do the work required at the sites." He went on to say, "Lexington County cherishes the long time relationship with the Babcock Center. Having Babcock Center staff at the collection sites has relieved the county from the burden of staffing these nine locations and has freed up management to accomplish other tasks". He said that Babcock Center workers are friendly and dependable and the citizens enjoy coming to sites where they know they will receive a helping hand, if needed, along with a smile.

Babcock Center is proud of the trust that Lexington County has placed in our staff and workers to effectively manage these sites. This partnership not only gives the county an opportunity to give back to the community, it provides the people we support with an opportunity for real work with real wages. We hope to maintain this partnership for many years to come.

Educating the Community about Babcock Center



Will Reynolds operates a compactor.

For the past few months, both employees and consumers of the Babcock Center have had the honor to talk to various groups about Babcock and employment opportunities for the people we support. In January, we presented at a meeting for the Commission of the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, and we also presented at a One-Voice meeting in February. Topics discussed in the presentations included a brief history of the Babcock Center and residential & vocational supports, but both mainly focused on our Industrial Services and Supported Employment divisions within the Business Development department.

Presenters included Will Reynolds, who has worked at the Ballpark Road collection site for Lexington County for 16 years; Markell Washington, who has worked at Babcock's Dreyfus Woodshop for the past 7 years; and Sylvester Redenburg, the Supervisor over the Palmetto Car Wash, which is Babcock's newest venture.

Both of these speaking engagements were great opportunities to highlight the capabilities of the individuals we support and to educate business professionals on the untapped talent pool of individuals we have here at the Babcock Center.



Markell Washington pointing hubs at the Dreyfus Woodshop.

Disability Advocacy Day



On March 2, 2016 over 300 self-advocates, family members, friends and providers descended on the State House grounds to raise awareness of South Carolina legislators about issues facing people with lifelong disabilities.

The day consisted of an awareness walk around the State House Grounds and a rally on the State House steps. Governor Nikki Haley was also present and de-

clared March 2nd Disability Advocacy Day in South Carolina.



Midlands Gives 2016



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH **GIVE LOCAL AMERICA!**

Midlands Gives is a local 24-hour online giving challenge, presented by the Central Carolina Community Foundation, which takes place on May 3, 2016.

Babcock Center Foundation is one of the non-profits that will be included. To make a donation, simply log on to MidlandsGives.org on May 3rd, complete the giving form and make a tax-deductible donation to your charity or charities using your credit or debit card (\$20 minimum).

There are many opportunities to make your donation go further through various prize incentives that will be provided to the non-profits in addition to the donations they receive during the challenge. So step up to the challenge and give on May 3rd!

Babcock's Biggest Loser

Research shows that weight loss groups have more success than individuals do when attempting to lose weight alone. With this knowledge, employees and consumers of the Babcock Center have decided to join in a friendly 12-week competition.

Babcock's Biggest Loser Competition kicked off in February with 89 participants. In May, a final weigh-in will take place, and the winners will be determined based on percentage of weight lost and will be awarded cash prizes. Together, employees and consumers can become happier and healthier!



Our Contributors

Babcock Center Foundation appreciates the generosity of those who contribute their time, talent and treasure to help us continue to enhance the lives of people with lifelong disabilities supported by the Babcock Center. The following represents donations, memorials, honoraria and in-kind contributions from October 15, 2015 thru March 15, 2015.

Donations

Leslie Adkins
Kathryn Allen
Lillian Alston
Nellie Alston
Jason & Sandra Ballington
Elizabeth Baynard
Louie Blaze
Charlotte Bright
Roy & Jennifer Brooks
Lisa Brooks
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Jerry & Jeanette Coulter
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Travinia's
Clareta Sulton
Deloris Ward
Henry P. Williams
Donald & Betsy Woodward

*“ To know even one life has
breathed easier because you
have lived. This is to have
succeeded”.*

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Our Contributors

In Honor of ...

Sandra Ballington
by Judith E. Johnson
Dianne Martins

Comanche Trail Staff
by David Carlson

Melissa Hallbick
by Sandra Ballington
Robert Charles
Diane DeFoe
Dianne Martins

Comanche Trail Staff
by David Carlson

Jerry Goad
by Ruth Camp Campbell Foundation

Cissy Keenan
by Frank Keenan, Jr.

Ben Lawrence
by Earle & Sara Pope

Scotty Snelgrove
by Miriam Rhett

Gerald & Annie Hancock
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Henry "Buck" Hook, Jr.
Mark & Angela Davis
Bill & Lois Falkenberry
Cynthia Malphrus
Mt. Sinai Baptist Church
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Redd

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Elizabeth Cain
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James & Beverly Zorn

Kenneth Swink, III
Kenneth & Irene Swink

Randy Vereen
Faye Atkinson
Deb Brown
Constance Dunham
LeRoy & Martha Lewis
Nancy Vereen

Wayne E. Whitworth, Jr.
Henriette Smith

In Memory of ...

Stuart Blair
Osmund & Barbara Dixon

Corey Jane Collins
Wanda Collins

Douglas Day
Bevelry Byars

Billy Eleazer
Bob & Sue Butler
Mr. & Mrs. Rhett Eleazer



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Promoting Abilities By Respecting Choice

We're on the Web!
www.babcockcenter.org
or
like us on Facebook!

Ladder Safety Tips



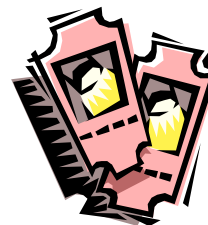
More than 90,000 people receive treatment in an emergency room each year with ladder related injuries and 43% of fatal falls in the last decade involved a ladder.

As the weather warms up, we are tempted to tackle those household tasks that may involve the use of a ladder. Here are some tips to stay safe and prevent injuries:

- Use the right ladder for the job.
- Only one person on the ladder at a time.
- Keep both feet on the ladder.
- Don't step above the labeled maximum height for the ladder.
- Don't extend your reach more than 12 inches beyond the ladder rail.
- Never stand on the bucket shelf of a ladder.

Follow these simple tips and be safe while making those home repairs and improvements!

Why Pay More?



Discounted tickets for movies and Riverbanks Zoo are available in the Foundation office. Contact Anne Carrig at (803) 799-1970, ext. 112 to purchase tickets.

| | <u>Reg. Price</u> | <u>You Pay</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| AMC Cinemas | \$9.25 | \$7.25 |
| Regal Cinemas | \$9.25 | \$7.25 |
| Riverbanks Zoo (Adult) | \$13.95 | \$11.50 |
| Riverbanks Zoo (Child) | \$11.50 | \$9.50 |