

PATHWAYS PROCLAMATIONS

Pathways Center for Behavioral and Developmental Growth

Volume 3, Issue 14 Winter 2008

**From the Executive Director,
Joan Turner, RN**

I am happy to report that at the midpoint of the fiscal year, Pathways Center is consistently meeting the challenges presented to us and remains one of the strongest Community Service Boards in the state. The state of Georgia has implemented budget cuts at 6% and could potentially move to 10% cuts in the very near future. Thanks to the many hard working and dedicated staff at Pathways, our agency has remained fiscally intact. Despite the fiscal challenges before us this year, I am extremely proud of the staff that have worked so hard to meet these challenges. They always rise to the occasion to move our agency towards excellence. Additionally, I appreciate the support of our Community Service Board in helping to guide Pathways Center toward continued growth and success.



The new Meriwether County Child & Adolescent Facility is nearing completion and is expected to begin serving children in early 2009. We are very excited that the DMHDDAD has contracted with Pathways CSB to serve youth that are difficult to place and in need of Intensive Residential Services. This program will be a one-of-a-kind cutting edge program in the state of Georgia. It will be the first Intensive Residential Community Treatment Center in the state to serve youth. Additionally, we will be adding eight beds to the first floor of the new facility that will serve at risk youth in the local and surrounding communities. These beds maybe used for respite, short term emergency placements or as an alternative to hospitalization. Construction for the first floor will begin in early 2009.

I also want to welcome Mr. Jade Benefield as the incoming Executive Director beginning January 2009. He has been the CEO of Clayton Community Service Board for the past four years and served as the CFO prior to that. Jade received his MBA from Georgia State University and his BBA from Clayton State University. His wife, Terese, is a counselor in the Fayette County School System and they have three children. Pathways staff and the Community Service Board are pleased to welcome Jade and look forward to the management expertise that he will bring to our agency.

WELCOME!!!



**Mr. Jade Benefield
Pathways Executive Director**

“An Evening with Pathways”

On October 22, 2008 Joan Turner, Executive Director and River Pathways, Inc. hosted a fund raising event to celebrate the addition of a new child and adolescent facility in Meriwether County. John Oxendine, Georgia’s Commissioner of Fire and Safety served as Honorary Chairman for the event. Special guests included Meriwether County State Rep. Carl Von Epps, CSB Chair Bob Ziifle, Meriwether County Juvenile Judge David Turner and Superior Court Judge Quillian Baldwin. Attendees included David Millican, contractor, Alan Bell, Architect, Paul Penn, Meriwether County Manager, Mayor Ron Doche’ of Lone Oak, Mayor Ronnie Garrett of Woodbury, Carol Lane, Superintendent of Meriwether County schools, Robin McInvale, Vice-chair of the Meriwether County Board of Education and Dr. Kenneth Genova, Medical Director for the Children’s Program.



Pictured above: Photo 1, left to right, Commissioner John Oxendine, Joan Turner, Judge David Turner; 2nd photo, Alan Bell, 3rd photo, Mel Kendrick with Commissioner Oxendine, 4th photo, guests at the event.

Carroll / Heard County News

Mental Health Clinic News

Dawn Allred, Malaysia McIntosh, Tom Williams and Chimere Jackson hosted booths on behalf of Pathways Center at the Carroll County Youth and Adult Meth Awareness Conferences. These conferences were presented by the Carroll County Meth Awareness Coalition with Pathways Center as one of the sponsors. Pathways Center was also a sponsor for Southwire's Annual Back to School Giveaway Program.



Pictured at right, left to right, Chimere Jackson and Tom Williams at the Meth Awareness Conference.

Sunshine House News - Written by: Brenda Richardson, President, Sunshine House Consumer Advisory Board

On Friday, November 21, 2008 the consumers at the Carroll County Sunshine House had their annual Thanksgiving celebration. The theme was Harvest Fest. Consumers dressed in autumn colored clothing for the occasion. The celebration was a great success.

On Wednesday, December 17, 2008 we had our annual Christmas dance where there was a lot of music and couples dancing. The event included a Christmas concert and the guest speaker was Pastor Jerry Boykin of Bethlehem Temple in Carrollton, Georgia. Pastor Boykin spoke on love and how we should reach out to one another with love. The choir sang Christmas carols which put each of us in a happy mood for the holidays.

A Christmas ball and dinner was held on Monday, December 22, 2008. Everyone dressed in semi-formal attire. Two Sunshine House consumers served as disc jockeys for the event. The Christmas dinner was served by our cook, Aretha and members of the Sunshine House staff. Additional activities included Christmas movies, popcorn and drinks. Staff placed Christmas gifts under the Christmas tree and distributed them to each consumer. Everyone had a special gift under the tree.

On behalf of the Sunshine House consumers, we would like to thank staff and everyone who participated in the events for making Thanksgiving and Christmas of 2008 a wonderful and successful holiday season.

News from Carroll County Developmental Disabilities



In August two of our residential consumers from Carroll County, Bobby and Mike went to an Atlanta Braves game. Even though both are senior citizens, there was nothing senior about them that day. They went back in time to their prime. They flirted with the Braves girls and did the Tomahawk Chop to cheer on the Braves. Both enjoyed the beautiful sunny day while eating burgers and watching the Atlanta Braves whoop on their opponents. Bobby said the best part of his day was riding on the golf carts to the Atlanta Stadium which was something he used to do with his brother. Both hope to go back to support the Braves again.

Coweta County News

We are growing everyday!!!! Coweta has expanded to serve more consumers with the addition of a new group room. Also we welcome Marcy Stidum, Dawn Allred, Jill Miles, Malaysia McIntosh and Chrissy Frankowski who are now a part of the Coweta County family!

Heard County News

Heard County would like to welcome Connie Beardsley, RN to the Heard County family .Connie has worked with Pathways Center at Second Seasons and has expanded her service area to include Heard County. Connie serves as the nurse for both doctors that rotate through the county, Dr Hudson and Dr. Livingston. We love working with you Connie!!!



Meriwether News

Meriwether County has been very busy over the past few months with over 25 new staff members hired for the new Meriwether Child & Adolescent Services. The opening date for the new program is tentatively set for the end of January with Belinda Whitaker as Office Manager, Catherine Albanese as Nurse Manager and Deana Smith as Administrator. We are excited about our new endeavor providing crisis services for adolescents for Meriwether and surrounding counties.

We are pleased to welcome Mia Allen, MS, JSOCC, Robert Daniel, MS and Quashunda Johnson, Clerk 1. Ms. Allen and Mr. Daniels will transition to the child & adolescent program upon opening and we would like to thank them for all their help with clinical services. We also would like to welcome back Peer Support with staff, Susan Carr and Joyce Hand.

Meriwether County is also pleased to announce Donnie Plummer as our Site Supervisor and Akenna Ellison as Employee of the Quarter. Congratulations and job well done!!!

The holidays were great for staff and consumers. We enjoyed a special Thanksgiving luncheon and the consumers enjoyed all the festive foods. We also enjoyed a wonderful Christmas dinner that really got everyone in the holiday spirit. Thanks to everyone for their help and hard work during the holiday season. Great job!!!

The staff of Meriwether County would like to thank John Lueken and Sammy Foster for preparing such a wonderful breakfast for staff at the quarterly county meeting. Everything was delicious!!

Pictured below, left to right, John Lueken, Sammy Foster, and staff enjoying the breakfast.



Troup County News

Positive Options News

Things have been on the move during the last few months for Positive Options. Consumers had a great cookout in July that was a fun time for everyone. In September we got word we would be losing one of our long time employees, Mattie Waller. Mattie announced she would be retiring at the end of November. Mattie is missed by

Positive Options ...continued

both consumers and staff. We wish her the best in her retirement years. In November Positive Options split into two units, Psychosocial Rehab and Peer Support. Psychosocial Rehab moved into the Second Seasons building and Peer Support moved to the Meriwether County facility. This move has gone extremely well. PSR and Peer consumers and staff are well pleased with their new homes.

In October PSR & Peer consumers planned a Fall Festival and big party as one unit. Everyone really enjoyed the festivities. Soon after the move in November consumers turned their attention to the holidays. We enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner at Second Seasons. Everyone wishes to extend a special thank you to Jimmy Pilkington and Ralph Nelson for the excellent meal. After Thanksgiving, thoughts turned to Christmas. Positive Options held their Christmas party on December 23rd. Positive Options consumers would like to express their thanks to all that provided gifts and goodies for the holiday season. Positive Options is now ready to start a new and exciting year.

Services Center News

The Services Center program has been going well. Our Community Employment area took 14 consumers to Newnan for dinner and bowling. They had a blast of fun for the evening.

We had our annual Thanksgiving Dinner on November 25, 2008 with a great meal and fellowship enjoyed by all. After more than 15 years of service Carolyn Haamid retired on November 30, 2008. Carolyn was honored with gifts and a breakfast. She will be truly missed by all.

Our Community Employment area took several consumers to Peachtree Mall for a day of Christmas shopping and lunch. On December 22, 2008 we had our annual Christmas program and lunch. Everyone did an excellent job in the program. The staff worked very hard in getting the program together. The consumers enjoyed a day of great holiday food and dancing. We would like to wish everyone a successful new year.

Troup Intensive Residential Program News

Troup IRP had a very busy year in 2008. We gained new employees and new consumers. We now have a total of 21 consumers and 14 staff. During the month of July, the staff at IRP held a fish fry for the consumers.

The consumers at IRP have experienced several group outings that included bowling, fishing, and going to the Art Museum. During November, the staff at IRP prepared and cooked a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner for the consumers. In December consumers were the guests at Callaway Baptist Church for a party where they received Christmas gifts, had a great dinner and participated in Christmas games. Also, in December, a birthday celebration was held to celebrate every consumers birthday for the year. Staff provided cake and ice cream and everyone had a great time.

Pictured below are consumers enjoying the Christmas celebration at Callaway Baptist Church.

1st photo, left to right, Derrick Tucker, Darrell Hardy; 2nd photo, left to right, Tim Lewis, Greg Sellen, Jill Kimrey. 3rd photo, left to right, Issac Barber, Kelly Cox, and last photo, Cathy Brown.



Pathways Welcomes:



Larry Stephens as Director of Developmental Disabilities. Larry joined Pathways on October 16, 2008. He brings with him eight years of experience in the Investigation Section with the Division of MHDDAD and over 20 years working as DD Residential Manager with New Horizons Community Service Board. Larry resides in Columbus and is married to Beverly and they have two sons. We are glad to have you on board!

Lamar / Spalding County News

We would like to welcome Brittany Hahlen, who is working toward her license as a Professional Marriage and Family Therapist, Mary Anne Rogers, Office Manager for Lamar County, Randy MacNear, MHP, Rachel Webber, RN and Dr. Wayne Ross. Many of these staff work in both the Spalding and Lamar clinics. Our services in Spalding County continue to grow. We have recently started an Adult Day Program with consumers coming from Butts, Spalding and Lamar counties. Randy is working to continue building this program and our consumers are learning and enjoying themselves. Pat Wolfe, LPC is working closely with Juvenile Court to provide a Life Skills program and a parent education program.

In Lamar County, we have been able to work with a local after school program to provide services to those children. Jancey Wilson, SST has expanded her C&A after school program. She is also working closely with the Upson County Juvenile Court to provide services to those children and families.

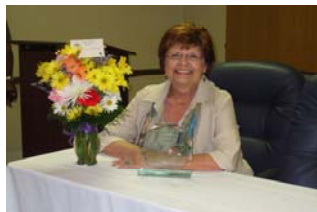
Congratulations!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

To Craig and Amalie Dunn on the birth of Keegan Aric. Big sister Mara welcomed 8 lb, 8 oz. baby brother on November 20, 2008.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Pathways Center staff wish a Happy Retirement to Wanda Yarbrough, Director of Developmental Disabilities, Carolyn Haamid, Developmental Disabilities and Mattie Waller, Positive Options. We will miss you!

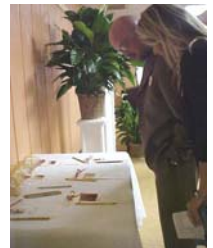


Pictured above are recent retirement events: Left photo, Wanda Yarbrough; 2nd photo left to right, Teresa Collins, Dexter Davis, Wanda, Sammy Foster; 3rd photo, Joan Turner and Carolyn Haamid and 4th photo, Mrs. Turner congratulating Mattie Waller.

FAITHFUL SERVICE AWARDS

Cindy Johnson	Carroll	25 years
Coleen Bland	Troup	15 years
Joanne Tiggs	Troup	15 years
Vivian White	Meriwether	10 years
Pam Moncus	Troup	10 years
Teresa Dix	Carroll	5 years
Margie Lockett	Carroll	5 years
Marketta Stepp	Coweta	5 years
Susan Carr	Meriwether	5 years
Pam Addison	Troup	5 years
Tom Carr	Troup	5 years
Regina Gray	Troup	5 years
Chuck Smith	Troup	5 years

Snapshots from recent Pathways events!

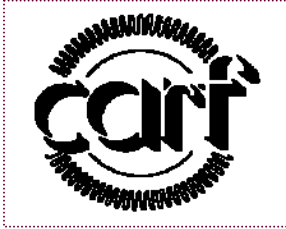


Quotable Quotes

"There are basically two types of people; those that live and the ones that watch them live. Attitude is everything."

Barron Smith, Sr.

PATHWAYS MISSION STATEMENT: Pathways provides services that are family centered, culturally and consumer responsive, and that lead to empowerment, self-sufficiency, and an improved quality of life for person affected by serious and persistent mental, developmental, and behavioral challenges.



**Accredited by CARF.....
The Rehabilitation
Accreditation Commission**

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