



Edgemcombe County Department of Social Services

April 2008

Diane Johnson -Editor

A Message from our Director



Hooray!! Spring is here and the pollen is finally gone. The month of April has been busy with lots of training seminars and conferences. On April 2 & 3, 2008, Interpreter's training was held in Cary, North Carolina, and on April 23, 2008, the units clerical staff attended Professional Day at Stacks Restaruant which was sponsored by the Tarboro-Edgemcombe Chamber of Commerce. Staff were treated to an elaborate lunch and some were lucky enough to win a door prize. Beginning April 30 through May 2, 2008, six unit clerks will attend the Administrative Professional Conference at Atlantic Beach, North Carolina, and the Work First staff will attend a conference April 29 through May 1. Training is essential to the agency and makes a difference in how we function and what we have to offer. Proper training creates knowledgeable staff, and helps us to master our jobs thereby enabling us to better meet the needs of our clients. Training also motivates us and improves our morale. I encourage each of you to take advantage of any training offered and endorsed by the agency. Remember, training is vital to your success and the success of our agency.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Diane Johnson for an outstanding job she has done for the last year in preparing our monthly newsletter. Diane's last day at Edgemcombe County Department of Social Services is May 2, 2008. She has accepted the position of Administrative Assistant with the City of Tarboro. Diane has been an excellent Administrative Assistant who took pride in everything she did. She will be truly missed at this agency! Diane, we sincerely thank you for your dedication and professionalism displayed at the agency as well as in our community. We wish you the very best and much success in your future.

*The beautiful thing about **learning** is nobody can take it away from you.*

- B.B. King

April Service Anniversaries

April Birthdays

Employee	Unit - Area	Yrs	Day	Employee	Unit - Area
Anne Pittman	Food & Nutrition – Rocky Mt.	31	April 5	Ruby Hill	Maintenance – Rocky Mount
Cheryl Bynum	Food & Nutrition – Tarboro	24	11	Sharon Revis	Medicaid – Rocky Mount
Martha Price	Food & Nutrition – Rocky Mt.	22	12	Michele Cherry	Children Services – Rocky Mount
Carol Mitchell	Child Support – Rocky Mount	15	14	Deloris Lyons	Adult Services – Tarboro
Grace Cobb	Child Support – Rocky Mount	12	14	Suzette Mercer	Clerical – Rocky Mount
Henry Mercer	Children Services - Tarboro	12	15	Iris Batts	Children Services – Tarboro
Margaret Wiggs	Child Support – Rocky Mount	12	15	Clara Dundas	Work First – Rocky Mount
Annie Godwin	Fiscal – Tarboro	8	15	Margaret Wiggs	Child Support – Rocky Mount
Wayne Pitt	Work First – Rocky Mount	8	16	Annetta Pitt	Adult Services – Tarboro
Terill Pitt-Adams	Work First – Rocky Mount	7	17	Brenda Harris	Food & Nutrition – Tarboro
Herb Tillery	Children Services – Tarboro	6	20	Martha Price	Food & Nutrition – Rocky Mount
Natasha Thomas	Child Support – Tarboro	4	21	Denise McKnight	Work First - Tarboro
Tiffany Branch	Food & Nutrition – Rocky Mt.	1			

*Congratulations
Marie !*



*Social Worker of the Year
March 31, 2008*

Who They Are & What They Do

Children Preventive Services

Preventive Services is a short-term (6 months), intensive, home-based family and school-based interventions program. Services are provided to court involved youth or at-risk youth. Referrals are accepted from Juvenile Court Counselors, Department of Social Services, School System, Law Enforcement and Parents. The ages of the youth range from 10-17 years old. Within the program, issues of poor behavior at home, poor communication skills, disruptive school behavior, alcohol and substance use, gang involvement and other behaviors that may lead to court involvement are addressed. The program addresses family management problems by identifying poor practices and defining alternatives for parents and youth. Goals and objectives, depending on the needs of the family, are established for both the youth and parent to work towards achieving. A referral can be made to the Children Service's Unit Support Team I.

Adult Protective Services

The Department of Social Services definition of "Protective Services" is services provided by the State or other government or private organizations or individuals, which are necessary to protect the disabled adult from abuse, neglect, or exploitation. These services consist of evaluation and mobilization of essential services on behalf of the disabled adult.

North Carolina has been providing protective services to adults through the departments of social services since 1975. The nation made this one of their first initiatives to recognize the needs of older and disabled adults who had been abused, neglected, or exploited and to develop a protective services program to address their needs. The mistreatment of elderly and disabled adults is not a new problem; however, there has been an increased demand for Adult Protective Services in North Carolina since the mid 1980's. Several factors have contributed to this need for service. The nationwide growth in the elderly population combined with North Carolina being a place where retirees return after retirement. Another factor is that adults are living longer, experiencing a serious decline in mental or physical functioning, and have not anticipated or planned for circumstances. These adults are more vulnerable to abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Elderly abuse can be physical or verbal. Physical abuse includes any kind of physical battery such as slapping, pushing, kicking, punching, or injuring with an object or weapon. It also includes deliberate exposure to severe weather, inappropriate use of medication, and unnecessary physical restraint. Neglect is any lack of action required to meet the needs of an elderly person. This includes a disabled adult who is either living alone and not able to provide for himself the essentials to maintain his mental or physical health or is not receiving services from his caretaker. "Exploitation" is the illegal or improper use of a disabled adult or his resources for another's profit or advantage.

In order for the agency to accept a referral on an adult, they must be mentally or physically incapacitated or suspected of being abused, neglected, or exploited, and is in need of protection.

Some of the signs to look for in elderly abuse are:

1. Discrepancies between a person's standard of living and his financial assets, or depletion of assets.
2. Inadequate physical care, including dehydration or lack of food, poor hygiene, urine sores, or bed sores.
3. Physical injuries such as bruises, burn marks, welts, rope burns, broken bones that can't be adequately explained.
4. Medical needs not met.

The Department of Social Services recognizes that Adult Protective Services is a shared community responsibility. This is a community problem that can best be addressed through the cooperation and support of public and private agencies, professionals and lay people, and involvement of families, friends, and other informal caregivers.

Safety in the Office

Accidents do happen in the office. Few office workers realize that they are twice as likely to be injured in a fall as a non-office worker. Nationally, only automobile accidents outnumber falls as the leading cause of all accidents. In the office, slips, trips and falls are the number one cause of disabling injuries.

Thinking and working safely can prevent most accidents. You can become aware of the most common hazards in the office environment. The following are some examples of common hazards and what you can do to prevent them from becoming accidents.

- ❖ Don't lean back in your chair. Keep legs on the floor so that you do not end up on the floor. Take time to reach out and hold on to the chair as you sit down. Be sure that the chair is beneath you as you sit.
- ❖ Keep the floor and walkway clear of electrical, telephone and computer cables, boxes, etc. They are tripping hazards waiting to happen.
- ❖ Close one drawer in a filing cabinet before opening another. This prevents the file cabinet from tipping over on you.
- ❖ Close the drawer in your desk before getting up and close file drawers before walking away from the file cabinet. This prevents the danger of people walking into an open file drawer or desk drawer.
- ❖ Store supplies inside cabinets, not on top of them. Store heavy items in lower drawers or on low shelves.
- ❖ Watch out for slippery surfaces. Spilled drinks or water from umbrellas are typical hazards and need to be cleaned up/or identified immediately.
- ❖ Look where you are going. Don't block your view by carrying loads higher than eye level.
- ❖ Don't read while walking. It doesn't save enough time to justify the risk.
- ❖ Don't climb on chairs, desks or boxes. Use a step ladder.
- ❖ Don't overload wall sockets and extension cords.
- ❖ Always watch for unsafe conditions such as defective equipment, burned out lights, loose steps, torn carpet, etc and report them to your supervisor immediately.



Agency News



Clifton Hickman's daughter, Comesha Hickman, was on the Dean's List and Honor Roll at North Carolina Central University during the fall semester. Keep up the good work Comesha!!

Clifton and Sandra Hickman recently returned from the MLK Historic Tour. Cities toured included Atlanta, GA., Tuskegee, Al, Selma, Al., Montgomery, Al., Birmingham, Al., and Memphis, TN. They learned so much about history relating to the civil rights era and the contributions of all those that were involved in the struggle for equal rights. The tour is sponsored annually by the North Carolina MLK Resource Center in Raleigh.

Kimberly Pearce's daughter, Sharnetta Kiah, a junior at Southeast Halifax High was recently inducted in the National Honor Society. Sharnetta also got her first job this year. *You go girl !!*

Beverly Clark, Food & Nutrition Unit – Rocky Mount, would like to thank everyone that gave shared leave time to her during her recent illness, and thanks to those who wanted to give but could not. *We're happy to have you back!!*

The **Employee Relations Committee** will sponsor a Silent Auction during the month of May. Items collected in Tarboro will be displayed in the Tarboro office and items collected in Rocky Mount will be displayed in the Rocky Mount office. Committee members are **Louise Draughn, Co-Chairperson, Peggy Lyons, Co-Chairperson, Donna Barnes, Barbara Batts, Pat Drewery, Malinda Ingram, John Jones, Sandra Jones, Edwina McMillan, Miller Moore, Wayne Pitt, and Linda Williams.**

Elana Pittman, Adult Services Unit – Tarboro, loves to make people feel good through dance and music. She has been writing songs, producing, and arranging her own music for three years. Elana finds it more challenging to write and produce songs for others, rather than sing for herself. Her music range from R&B, gospel, pop, hip-hop, rap, rock and country. She has been choreographing for the Dancers for the Lord (D4L) Mime team for two years. The Mime team consists of all males, ranging between 7-18 years old. Her 2nd CD will be released in May. If you should ever have a need for a dance mime team, a song, and of course Medicaid transportation questions, be sure to contact Elana. *She's TALENTED!!*

From Diane Johnson:

In lieu of saying "bye", I will say "see ya later". I have truly enjoyed my time at DSS. It's been great and I will miss each of you. The good part is I am still in TARBORO and will be just down the road at the other end of Main Street, so I know I will see some of you from time to time. Take care!!!

Congratulations to our new Employees

Nevonda Barnes, Food & Nutrition – Rocky Mount
Montressa Bridgers, Food & Nutrition – Rocky Mount
Tina Parker, Medicaid - Tarboro
Pamela Prunty, Medicaid – Rocky Mount
Latosha Jenkins, Medicaid – Tarboro
Glenda Surles, Food & Nutrition – Rocky Mount

Just for Laughs



"When you finish the project, we take the training wheels off."



*"It's not the best way to choose team leaders,
but I love the look on their faces when the wheel spins."*