
WESTERN HORIZONS

WINTER VOLUME

2005

Happy Holidays!



Photo Courtesy of Southern Image (David Koll, Photographer)

Black Mountain Center Holiday Celebration 2005

Black Mountain Center residents and staff celebrated the 2005 Holiday season during the month of December. The Annual Holiday Parade was held on December 7th with over 50 parade entries. (See pages 4-5 for additional photos). Additional Holiday events were scheduled throughout the month, including parties, visits from Santa Claus, musical presentations, caroling and much, much more. The Black Mountain Center Foundation, Inc., again sponsored this year's Annual Turkey Draw, providing turkeys for 32 lucky staff members.

Another initiative, sponsored in part by the Foundation and the Volunteer Services Department, is this year's Community Light Celebration. The entire campus was decorated for the holidays and community members were invited to drive through the campus to enjoy the lights and decorations. Plans are to continue this event with more decorations added each year.

Black Mountain Center Staff Assist with Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts

Black Mountain Center nursing staff and certified nurse assistant staff traveled to the Gulf Coast Region to provide staffing relief for agencies in that area who were devastated by this year's hurricanes.

Four staff assisted in Long Beach, Mississippi, at South Mississippi Regional Center, a residential facility serving persons with severe and profound developmental disabilities. Staff of SMRC worked 16-hour days to provide coverage for that facility. Many staff there have lost their own homes and some have lost family members. Black Mountain Center staff provided much needed respite for those persons in order that they could have time to devote to their personal needs.

Future plans include two more trips to the Gulf Coast to continue to assist persons with staffing needs.



Left - Debra Barnett, Lisa Maynor, Darlene Roberts & Peggy Young prepare to leave for MS.

Recent Retirees



Elmer Harper, Jr., retired 12/31/05 with 7 years and 7 months of service. Elmer served as Housekeeping Supervisor during his tenure at BMC.



Helen B. King retired 12/31/05 with over 10 years of service. Helen served in the Food Service Department serving residents at JFK ADATC Dietary Services.

Congratulations to Mary Ellen Grindstaff who also retired effective 12/31/05. Mary Ellen leaves BMC with over 21 years of state service, retiring from the Resident Records Department.



Crowder Completes PMP

William "Buddy" Crowder, BMC Accountant, recently completed the Public Managers Program sponsored by the State of North Carolina. Buddy was one of nine state employees who graduated from this session of the PMP. Congratulations to Buddy!

Staff News

Jane Carroll recently returned to Black Mountain Center as the Unit Manager for Gravely III. Welcome back, Jane!

Lora Smathers, RI Unit Manager, will assume her new duties as Senior Advocate, effective January 2, 2006.

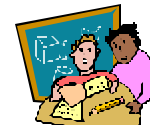
Richard Rhea is now serving as Unit Manager for the Rasberry III Unit.

The Business Office welcomes back **Lisa Gurley** as the Secretary for that Department.

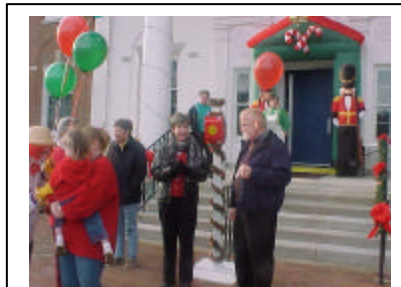
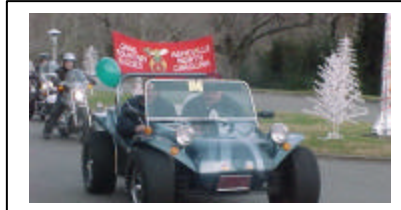
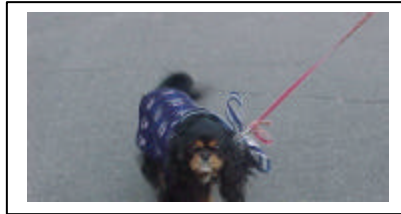
Donna Davis has assumed her duties as Reimbursement Officer replacing **Kathy Johnson** who recently retired with over 35 years of service!

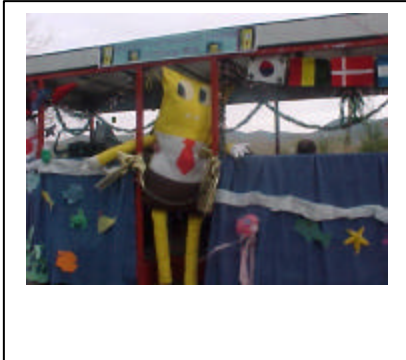
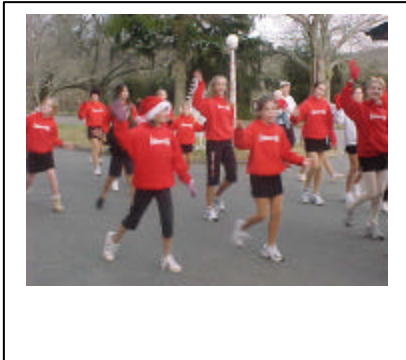
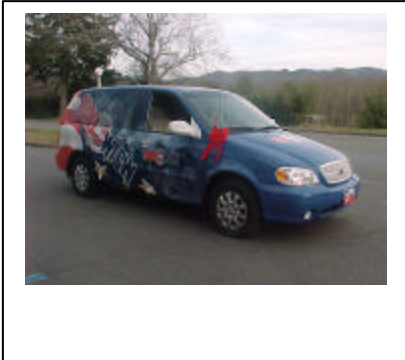
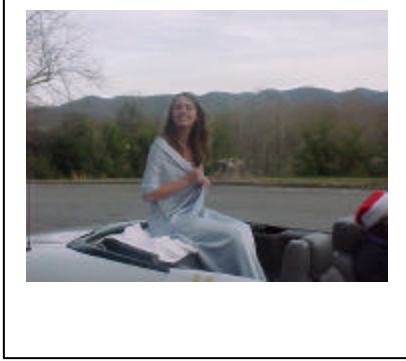
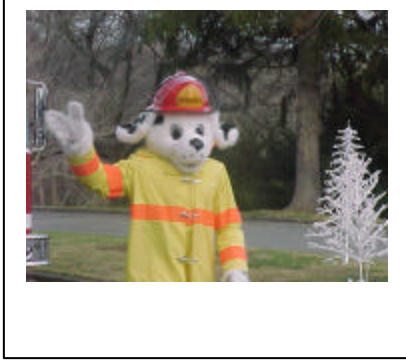
Kathy Wallace has recently joined our staff as our new Music Therapist. **Sue Hayes** has accepted the position of Creative Arts Therapist.

**Got time on your hands?
Why not volunteer!
Contact Diane Trainor at 669-3152**



Holidays - 2005







Ms. Pugh accepts home made scarves & mittens for residents for Christmas from Margaret Ballew & Joyce Preston, VFW Ladies Auxiliary Post 9116.

FOUNDATION NEWS

- **The Foundation welcomes the following new Board Members:**

**Betsy Blöse
Tina Holmes
Mike Mayer
Gaye Harris**

- **The 3rd Annual Black Mountain Center Foundation Silent auction – “An Evening of Magic” is scheduled for Friday, April 7th. This year’s event will be held at the Crest Center in Asheville. Mark your calendars now and make plans to attend. Tickets are \$20 per person and are available now.**

For additional information, please contact Beth Allison, Executive Director, at 669-3320.

Black Mountain Center Nominates Two Staff for the Fabulous Fifty Award

Each year, the North Carolina Health Care Facilities Association awards 50 outstanding employees in long term care settings. Black Mountain Center nominated two employees for awards.

Julie Ann McKinney was nominated for a Fabulous Fifty Award in the Housekeeping Division. Julie Ann is deserving of this nomination for her outstanding work in her department and her commitment to other volunteer opportunities within our facility. She is known for her energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to others. Julie Ann currently serves as Co-Chair of the BMC Wellness Committee and is a trained Hospice Volunteer in McDowell County.

Peggy Young was nominated in the CNA Division of the Fabulous Fifty Awards. Peggy represents the very best qualities of a CNA. She is competent, caring, dedicated to her residents, a great team player, and is consistently positive in her approach to work. She is extremely hard working and always able to make time to give special attention to residents. Recently, Peggy completed a week of volunteer work as a member of the BMC Nursing Staff Relief Team that traveled to Mississippi to work in a regional center whose staff members were adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Peggy has been selected as a District One Winner of the Fabulous Fifty Awards. She received her award in a special ceremony at the Renaissance Hotel in Asheville on November 29th. Congratulations on this wonderful accomplishment, Peggy!

Black Mountain Center is fortunate to have so many excellent staff and to have the opportunity to recognize two of them is a very special opportunity!