



## **Beatrice State Developmental Center Vocational and Recreational Services**

BSDC has a Vocational and Recreational Services team that operates independent of the 5 Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) on the BSDC Campus. While the ICFs participate in vocational and recreational activities utilizing their internal staff, they also have full access to the array of programs provided by the Vocational and Recreational Services team.

The Vocational and Recreational Services team consists of four focus areas: campus employment, community employment, active treatment, and social/leisure recreation. The primary purpose of the team is to develop the skill and ability of the people living at BSDC to enable each person to realize his or her full potential and achieve the greatest degree of independence possible.

### ***General Day Program/Home Room Activities***

For each person to realize his/her potential, the Vocational and Recreational Services team provides appropriate active treatment based on each person's age, health, and their personal goals. This requires extensive coordination between the team and each ICF to ensure appropriate activities are available to meet the needs of BSDC residents. Home Rooms exist on campus for each ICF; these are utilized by the residents and staff when they are not participating in specific vocational or recreational activities described in the following sections. Each Home Room is staffed with a Facilitator and a Liaison who work with the QMDDs in each home to determine what each resident's habilitation plan requires.

The Home Rooms are designed to be a place outside the homes where residents can experience habilitation opportunities when they are not participating in specific vocational or recreational activities. The Home Room Facilitators design activities that lead to additional skill acquisition to support future employment options. The Liaisons then work with the Facilitators to implement designed activities and also to coordinate referrals to other vocational and recreational services for the residents. BSDC residents are accompanied by ICF direct support professionals who support them while participating in Home Room activities.

Participating in Home Room activities ensures that all BSDC residents leave their homes each day and enjoy meaningful interactions with other people. In addition to specific skills development, this provides a structure whereby BSDC residents maintain involvement in the community outside of their specific ICF. It is expected that this involvement will lead to further integration into the community at large.

## *Vocational Services*

The Vocational Services Department focuses on finding jobs for individuals who are not classified as retired. Currently eighty-five percent (85%) of the people living at BSDC are involved in some type of paid employment. The goal is for 100% of the non-retired people living at BSDC to be employed, with more than 50% of them working in jobs in the community.

The Department provides opportunities for job exploration and offers a natural progression for job development. Those who want to try out different types of employment may work on campus to see if they like janitorial, food service, or volunteer and job shadow. Each campus job is a stepping stone to a community job; it is not a final or permanent position. This allows individuals to try out different types of work, gain skills, and prepare for a job in the community.

To increase opportunities for community employment, BSDC has partnered with two other providers for day services. Resources for Human Development, RHD Live Yes Studio in Downtown Lincoln, is an entrepreneurial site where 18 BSDC individuals work in an art studio creating items to be sold. Integrated Life Choices (ILC) opened a day service program in Beatrice and has partnered with BSDC to offer a location where production work, cement work, auto detailing, volunteer activities, and community paid employment opportunities are provided. ILC has acquired a store-front location and our campus thrift store, Treasures, will be moving into that location. ILC staff will work with BSDC individuals to operate the store.

The current BSDC job opportunities include:

- Restaurant work: Carstens Café and Snack Shack are places on campus where foodservice is provided to the public. Residents work in all aspects of these businesses, and this has led to competitive employment at restaurants in the Beatrice community.
- Retail/sales: Treasures Unlimited is a thrift store soon to be moving downtown, and Bear Creek Gifts is a gift shop on campus. Both of these resident-operated businesses provide an opportunity to learn retail skills, such as cashiering and merchandising that can be translated into jobs in the local community.
- Art: The individuals who work in the Bear Creek Art Studio create a variety of items such as our own line of candles, unique jewelry designs, cutting boards, spoon rests and decorative wall hangings using “slumped” or flattened bottles, floor mats, and many decorative items, many from recycled materials.
- Entrepreneurship: Many individuals are involved in various forms of off-campus self-employment, such as: mowing crews, janitorial services and cleaning crews, woodworking, cement and various artistic work to provide merchandise to be sold in our gift shop, at craft shows, the Farmer’s Market, the Gage County Fair, and a booth in the Beatrice Mall at Christmas time.

- Horticulture: The individuals we support have access to an immense greenhouse where they grow unusual plants and vegetable gardens, which are then taken to the Beatrice Farmer's Market each week in the summer to sell. The Department holds sales on-site at the greenhouse several times per year, and during the winter, they start plants that will be transplanted in the spring in several areas in the eastern part of the state. In spring of 2013, the BSDC plants will beautify the flower beds surrounding state office buildings in Omaha.
- Production/factory work: The local Beatrice community supports BSDC by offering limited assembly work to individuals living at BSDC, such as: assembling bolt bags, hubs and zerks, and fishing lure packages. Some of these opportunities are on-site at the various commercial factories in the community and some are assembled at the Integrated Life Choices day services site in Beatrice.
- General Employment: Individuals are employed at various service and sales companies in the Beatrice community. BSDC provides a job coach for each individual to work with them on-site. The Vocational Department coordinates with each employer to ensure proper training and supports are available to ensure that people succeed in their community jobs.
- A variety of on-campus jobs are also available involving operational support services: deliveries, janitorial and cleaning crews, mowing, mail route, etc.

In addition to existing employment opportunities, the Vocational Services Department is in the process of developing a new service bureau/copy center. The service bureau/copy center will offer general copy, laminating and binding services to the public, as well as handle these services for the BSDC campus. This will provide an additional opportunity for people living at BSDC to learn retail and merchandising skills in environments that mirror community opportunities.

BSDC currently has 67 people working in the community. The jobs they hold include:

- cleaning crew positions for Department of Roads (Beatrice and Fairbury), Asera Care (Beatrice and Lincoln), Oasis Staffing, Beatrice Police Department, Carriage Motors, Wymore Public Library, and Harmon-Wright Mortuary;
- a production job at Wurth Adams;
- a dishwashing job at Valentino's Restaurant;
- flier delivery for a private business;
- newspaper delivery for the Penny Press;
- work in an art studio in downtown Lincoln; and
- a variety of jobs through the ILC day program.

BSDC's Vocational Services Department is blessed with strong community partnerships. It has partnered with the local Chamber of Commerce and Oasis Staffing to grow community employment opportunities for people living at BSDC. It has also partnered with Integrated Life Choices and the Nebraska Autism Center on several product development projects for the new gift shop. The Department also participates in Alliance for Full Participation in collaborating to improve employment options for people with developmental disabilities living throughout

Nebraska. Relationships with our community partners are crucial to the success of the Vocational Services Department.

The Vocational Services Department will continue to progress with its current projects. It will meet quarterly with leadership from the ICFs on campus to determine the needs and preferences of the individuals living at BSDC, and it will work with them to make any necessary adjustments to the vocational programs at BSDC.

### ***Recreational Services***

The Recreation Services Department sponsors several social and volunteer opportunities for the individuals who live at BSDC and is staffed by a manager, activity specialists, and recreational aides.

Volunteer activity is one way in which the residents of BSDC can have a meaningful impact on their community. Each month more than 20 people help deliver Meals-on-Wheels. Another group of people on campus has adopted sections of a Veteran's Memorial Park and Hannibal Park, and each week they clean their sections. Another group has a community garden plot at Homestead National Monument Park where they have planted and harvested vegetables. BSDC residents are also active in community volunteerism through the Humane Society, Red Hat Society, Grow Big Red (Beatrice beautification project), Salvation Army bell ringing, recycling, Nature Abounds, the Boy Scouts, Special Olympics, various churches, and other local clubs and organizations. Contributing to their community makes BSDC residents feel valued and contributes positively to their self-image.

Initiated by the donation of a scoreboard and other equipment, BSDC developed a new baseball field. With the 2010 summer kickoff baseball game and picnic, a new BSDC tradition has been initiated. All staff, people living at BSDC, people supported in the community by Mosaic and Region V, and all community members are invited. The rules of the game are modified so that people of all ages and abilities can play and enjoy the game.

BSDC sponsors many other recreational events that involve the community. The end of summer tradition, Family Fun Day, has continued to be well attended. Ice cream socials, street dances, and other events are planned by the Recreational Services Department throughout the year as well. These activities give people living and working at BSDC a sense of community and provide an opportunity for us to know each other better.

The Department coordinates all Special Olympics activities for people living at BSDC. The Special Olympics teams we participate in include track & field, basketball, basketball skills, bowling, roller skating and swimming. Special Olympics activities provide opportunities for physical activity, friendly competition, and the development of lifelong friendships with other community competitors.

Recreation isn't just fun – it truly has a positive impact on the health and well being of the people we support at BSDC. The Recreational Services Department will continue to collaborate with the ICF leaders to ensure that a wide array of preferred and appropriate recreation opportunities are available, both on and off the BSDC campus.

### ***Planning***

This year the Vocational and Recreational Departments have held focus group meetings, involving all staff in the two departments. The staff members are evaluating our communication, scheduling process, and the IPP process, and developing solutions to overcome our obstacles.. By directly involving our front-line staff to provide solutions to improve these key areas, we believe it will improve our service delivery and provide better outcomes for the individuals we support.

The Vocation and Recreation Departments are working very hard to accommodate every person's needs, goals and desires here at BSDC as we support each individual to reach his or her full potential in these areas. This department will continue to grow and develop moving forward.

**Attachment: Bear Creek Gifts Flyer**

