Boone County Family Resources became a sponsor this year for “The Sprout House” children’s activity area at the North Village Arts District Farmer’s and Artisan’s Market. On the second Sunday of each month from May through October, BCFR staff visited with folks attending the market and had activities for the kids in attendance.

By being part of the Market, BCFR helps support our North Village neighborhood and also spreads the word on who we are, what we do and information about developmental disabilities.

In May, the Brainminder puppets taught children how to protect their brains. In June, we focused on safety and made personal first aid kits. In July, “Kids on the Block”, an interactive puppet show featuring puppets with disabilities from the Department of Mental Health’s Central Missouri Regional Office, helped children see we all have abilities.

In August, we created a Market scavenger hunt and did face painting.

September featured story time with noted Columbians reading books about and for children with disabilities.

In October, come learn about the MU Puppies with Purpose – a group of dedicated students who, along with their veterinarian coordinator, work to socialize puppies before they enter service animal training programs and learn to help people with a variety of disabilities. Be sure to stop by on October 13 to see the BCFR crew!

Be more GREEN! Sign up for our electronic newsletter! See page 5
The **STEP** program (Seamless Transition Through Enhanced Partnership) is a collaborative partnership among Columbia Public Schools (CPS), Boone Hospital Center, Alternative Community Training (ACT), Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), and Boone County Family Resources (BCFR).

The program was initiated last school year, when six high school seniors spent the year in an employment immersion program at Boone Hospital Center. The agency partners communicated frequently during a fluid process of person-centered strategic planning and coordination, resulting in positive outcomes for the participants.

**Boone Hospital Center** provided classroom space (the “transition center”) where students started and ended their days. The hospital also provided on-the-job internships for the students in various departments throughout the facility. The hospital work environment and staff proved to be remarkably inclusive, respectful and dignified, fostering growth and potential in each of the participating students.

**Columbia Public Schools** provided a full time teacher and a para-professional who taught students in the classroom setting and served as liaisons to hospital personnel and support staff from ACT and BCFR. CPS also provided bus transportation to and from the hospital.

**ACT** provided a Career Specialist who assessed the strengths and abilities of the student interns and helped them adjust to their internships. As the year’s end approached and students were demonstrating job readiness, the Career Specialist helped them seek community-based employment. ACT also provided job coaching.

**Boone County Family Resources** provided support coordination and service monitoring to the student interns, as well as direct staff support to two of the students in their internships. BCFR also provided funding support during the Job Preparation phase of the program.

**VR** provided supported employment services, vocational guidance, career counseling and support throughout the completion of the internship program and employment.

As of the end of August, two of the students have full time community-based employment with benefits, two have part-time community-based employment working 20 hours per week and two continue in Job Development.

VR Director Duane Shumate summarized the STEP experience in a message to the partners as follows: “The STEP program has been a tremendous success. We have seen the lives of six individuals shaped in ways that previously had only been imagined. We have seen families, businesses and community moved through the inspirational stories of hope and pride.”

A new school year begins, the STEP partners are gearing up for year two at the hospital, and are having preliminary discussion about replicating the program with other potential host sites and partners.

For information about eligibility for the program, contact your BCFR Support Coordinator at 874-1995. For program impact and highlights, follow the links on the website at [http://www.bcfr.org](http://www.bcfr.org).
Special people in the lives of persons with developmental disabilities are recognized at the agency’s Annual Holiday Party in December. We are seeking your nominations! Nominations for the awards should include a description of the nominee’s activities and accomplishments and must be received by the deadline of October 31.

**Marie Kovar “One Who Made a Difference” Award**
Presented by the BCFR Board of Directors, this award recognizes persons who have made contributions that better the lives of persons in Boone County with developmental disabilities.
Submit to the attention of Bob Bailey, Board Chair, at Boone County Family Resources, 1209 E. Walnut, Columbia, 65201 or email to executivedirector@bcfr.org

**Super Sib Award**
Presented by Friends of Boone County Family Resources, this award recognizes the many supportive roles played by siblings of individuals in Boone County with special needs.
Submit to the attention of Kay Conklin, President, Friends of BCFR, 1209 E. Walnut, Columbia, 65201 or email to executivedirector@bcfr.org

**COMMUNICATE!**
BCFR is using the new SComms program to send you email
SComms stands for secure communications.
It’s a new way BCFR employees will send and receive email with individuals, their families and service providers.
SComms, available through Therap Services, provides encryption for electronic communications.
According to Wikipedia, encryption is “the process of encoding information and messages in such a way that eavesdroppers or hackers cannot read it, but that authorized parties can.”
For BCFR, that means information gets where it needs to go and nowhere else.
We will gladly help you maneuver the SComms system, just ask your Support Coordinator.

**IT’S RAINING KEWPIES!**
Sometimes it feels like it’s raining Kewpies. There are 14 Hickman High School graduates in the BCFR supported living program, half of whom graduated in the 1980’s. We already knew the 80’s were, like, totally awesome. What we didn’t know is that in supported living there are Hickman grads ranging from the 1990’s clear back to 1966! Carol is the senior-most Kewpie and is proud of it, having graduated at a time when many people with disabilities did not have the opportunity to graduate from public school.

Carol, Alethea, Laurie and Denise are just four of the Hickman grads who also happen to be neighbors. Denise (back center) loved candy-making in Home Economics. Laurie (right and far right) 1985 Hickman Grad hasn’t aged a day since her Senior Picture.

Robert graduated in the 80’s. He didn’t recall a favorite class but remembered his girlfriend’s name was Michelle.

Carol, the most senior member of the Hickman grads, proudly holds her diploma from 1966! Her favorite class was Music.

Jimmy is a die-hard Kewpies fan and still attends the high school football games.

Laura graduated in the 80’s and loved swimming class.
People First of Missouri Statewide Conference

By Jason Mize, President of People First of Boone County

People First is a group of people with disabilities. We support each other and have a great time together. We work to make Boone County and the state of Missouri a better place for everyone to live.

In July, some of us from the local People First chapter went to the statewide conference. This year it was held in Kansas City. There are local chapters all across the state and many of them sent members to the People First of Missouri statewide conference. That’s me on the left in the picture, and Donald on the right. We’re about to do the flag ceremony.

The People First conference was great. We learned a lot about “self-determination.” We had an exercise where we drew a picture of a pizza, and we divided it into slices. Each slice had different things on it that we feel like are important in our lives.

The hotel was a Courtyard Marriott. It was very nice and very accessible. The keynote speakers were great. They gave us ideas and advice, and we felt inspired.

There were breakout sessions – like classes. One of our members, Sherry, went to a class about personal safety and she said she learned a lot about personal safety in the community. There was a live band and a dance on Friday night and a DJ and another dance on Saturday night.

At People First, we don’t talk so much about what we can’t do. We talk about things we can do. We talk about things we want to do. We share ideas with each other about how to advocate for ourselves and get where we want to be in life.

If you would like to join People First of Boone County, just come join us! We meet at Boone County Family Resources, 1209 E. Walnut, Columbia, every second Thursday of the month from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Eleven-year-old Jonathan survived an arterio-venous malformation (AVM) rupture in 2009, and faced a long road to recovery. While Jonathan continues to make progress towards walking again, he also uses a wheelchair. Jonathan’s home is a popular split-level design, which raised concerns for Jonathan’s safety when accessing the home after he started using a wheelchair. At his 2012 Individual Plan meeting, the family and Support Coordinator (SC) identified the issue as one of Jonathan’s biggest safety risks and decided it was necessary to build a ramp. And this would not just be any ole ramp! The best location to add the ramp to the home was attached to the deck in the backyard. Because the deck’s main level is close to 60 inches above the ground, it quickly became apparent that the ramp would need to be **60 feet** in length!

Soon after the meeting, the SC began searching for resources to help build the ramp. Jonathan qualified for the Partnership for Hope Medicaid Waiver Program which can assist with home modifications. The project was completed by Job Point’s Columbia Builds Youth program (CBY).

CBY assists disadvantaged youth in earning GEDs while also obtaining work skills training in the construction field. CBY participants built a ramp that was not only functional for meeting Jonathan’s accessibility needs but also aesthetically pleasing!

This was BCFR’s first collaboration with CBY and it proved successful. It was a win-win for both agencies and the family. CBY participants gained useful experience adapting a home following ADA guidelines to become more accessible and Jonathan received a much-needed ramp. At the end of the day, it was collaboration worth celebrating!

Boone County Family Resources is reducing paper by increasing the use of electronic media. The agency newsletter is one example, as this will be the last mass-print newsletter in the current format. Look for future newsletters to be shorter, more frequent and digital – sent directly to your email inbox – in addition to being accessible from our website.

If you need, or even just prefer, a paper copy of the agency newsletter, please inform your family’s Support Coordinator or contact the BCFR Outreach and Referral Coordinator, Sherry Wohlgemuth.

The change in newsletter is twofold. First we aim to provide more current information in each newsletter which will be more easily accomplished electronically and with increased frequency. Second, the move to a digital format is just one of many ways BCFR is dedicated to becoming increasingly Earth-friendly and environmentally responsible.

**BCFR - Going More Green**

BCFR has a Green Committee focusing on many areas including power usage, e-rated appliances, energy audits and non-toxic cleaning supplies. Examples of other BCFR Green initiatives include: recycling paper, aluminum and plastic; transitioning agency forms, reports and manuals from paper to electronic; encouraging staff to “Be Green, Read on the Screen”; and decreasing the use of disposable cups and utensils.

If you would like to help BCFR “Go Green,” you may:

- read the newsletter online by clicking the “Newsroom” tab on the agency website
- sign up to receive the newsletter electronically at bcfr.org/newsletter-and-sign-up/
- let your Support Coordinator know you would like to sign up and provide them with your email address.
BCFR’s Life & Work Connections program has provided skills training for independent living and work readiness to people determined eligible for those services for many years. Last year, in partnership with Columbia College, we began teaching skills for life and work in classroom settings on the college campus.

We call the partnership “Transition Network,” because it is intended to help people transition to greater independence and productivity. So far, 39 people have participated in the group learning experiences at Columbia College.

Classes are complemented by peer support provided by students enrolled in Columbia College or by Service Learning students from the University of Missouri. To promote community integration and enhance social competency, activities sometimes spill out of the classroom into the real world. Participants have gone to a movie or a museum with student volunteers and done community service together. For more information, contact Mark Satterwhite at 874-1995, ext 154.

Ross was one of the first students involved in Transition Network. He took the inaugural course, called “Planning to Live on Your Own,” offered in fall 2012 at Columbia College, and then moved into his own apartment in January 2013. Ross said the class helped him learn how to save money on groceries, which he found useful after moving out. Ross also says the best thing about living on his own is that he gets to watch movies and TV and have friends over whenever he wants.

After moving, Ross continued taking Transition Network classes. He participated in “Professional Development” and “Professional Communication” in spring 2013. Ross is currently participating in “Live Well” and says, “it’s really fun going to different parks for exercise.” Ross is registered to take the August “Healthy Relationships” class and wants to learn how to handle abusive relationships.

Mitchell worked on Boone County Family Resources’ janitorial crew and with ACT Career Services, learning skills needed to help him be successful in community employment.

Mitchell enrolled in Transition Network’s “Professional Development” class in February 2013. Three short months later, Mitchell was offered a job at McDonald’s. Paul Weatherford, Career Specialist with ACT, said the following of Mitchell’s participation in the Transition Network class, “Mitchell has drastically improved in his interview abilities. The difference between today and just two months ago … is like night and day. Mitchell wouldn’t be where he is now without the supports he receives from BCFR and I can't thank you enough.” Support Coordinator John McNail says that Mitchell would not have gotten the job without the training provided in class.

LeRaun has several vocational interests and would like to work in a retail store, a horse stable operation or car detailing. LeRaun took “Professional Development” in spring 2013 and said it “helped me a lot. It’s going to help me find a better job and helped me practice my interview questions.” LeRaun has created a resume which he is using with Community Skills Specialist Jamie Short as she assists him finding a job.

LeRaun will take “Work It” and “First Responders” classes in the fall. “Work It” partners participants with Columbia College students who help BCFR clients identify their strengths and supports needed in the workplace. “First Responders” combines first aid training with education about preparing for emergencies. LeRaun will practice extinguishing fires and stock an emergency bag in case of disaster.
Save this date for fun!
More information available soon - watch for it!

December 5
(snow date is Dec. 19)
Annual Holiday Party
Sponsored by Friends of BCFR

Are you missing our
Upcoming Conferences
and
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Do You Know Someone We Can Help?

A Developmental Disability is a mental or physical impairment that occurs before the person is 22 years old, is likely to continue, requires individually planned, coordinated services and limits the person in two or more areas (self-care, communicating, learning, walking, judgment and living or working independently).

Persons with a developmental disability and their families are eligible for services from Boone County Family Resources. The Family Support Program is a collaborative effort of the Boone County Family Resources Board and the Department of Mental Health through the Central Missouri Regional Office.

To apply for services contact BCFR

Thanks to Elks Club #594 for sponsoring our Annual BCFR Picnic on September 26

Every year, we enjoy the food and fellowship with each other and the Elks’ members, but this year was especially great as the perfect weather, smiles, great cooks and tasty food came together to be one of the best. Over 400 attended!

Fine Cooks! Tasty Food! Smiles & Miles!

Good Times!

Mille Borne Music!

This year we also added a 5K Walk, Run, Wheel on the trail around the lake.