Our Mission is to effectively and efficiently use agency and other available resources to enable Boone County residents with developmental disabilities to progress toward normal living and to develop, as far as possible, their capacity, performance, and relationship with other persons.

I want to thank the folks and their families we serve for the many ideas that have evolved over the years into new ways to support and improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities in Boone County.

It’s only proper that our services reflect the needs of the people we serve; and as those challenges and perceived needs change, so too should the services we offer.

I also want to extend a special thanks to the many people in the community who have supported this initiative. They have created opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to live, work and participate fully in neighborhood and community activities that we all enjoy and that help define Boone County.

On a personal note, it’s been my great pleasure to help folks in my home county and in my hometown where I have a long history with families, some reaching back four generations.

BCFR’s leadership remains committed to the purposes for which the agency was created. The professionalism and work ethic required to continue offering opportunities for people to lead more normal and productive lives is unwavering. The providers, with whom many of those served have developed long and enduring relationships, are as motivated and committed a group of service professionals you’ll ever be fortunate enough to find.

It was with mixed emotions that I accepted the job as Executive Director of the Missouri Association of County Developmental Disability Services, a statewide association of county boards like BCFR. However, opportunities to be a part of long-lasting, constructive, social change only come along occasionally in life.

Today, there are new opportunities to provide services to people with developmental disabilities that prevent out-of-home placements and help recipients realize their potential.

One special initiative is the Partnership for Hope, which is combining local, state and federal funds to transform our system from one driven by crisis to services that empower recipients and prevent calamity.

(continued on page 2)
I want to help grow those opportunities throughout Missouri and assist county boards in taking advantage of these programs. Of course, I will always be looking out for new opportunities for Boone County as well.

I have many, many fond memories and stories from my years with the agency. I’ve had the opportunity to work on a daily basis with some of the finest people in our community.

What others have to say...

He (Les) quickly became a primary advocate for independent living instead of institutional placement, a fundamental change now favored throughout the state largely because of Wagner’s pestering.

-Hank Waters, Publisher of the Columbia Daily Tribune

Les instilled in our staff that we were here to say “yes” - that is, we were here to help our clients to the best of our abilities so their lives were made better.

-Bob Bailey, Chair of BCFR Board of Directors

We will all miss Les - his friendly, welcoming manner, his encouragement for everyone and especially his big smile and even bigger heart.

-Kay Conklin, President of Friends of BCFR

Above: Les in a May, 1977 Columbia Daily Tribune article about Boone County Group Homes (BCFR today) shortly after he assumed the position of Executive Director.

Below: The first eight group home residents in their dining room. Seated are: Pumpkin the cat, Joan, Cindy, Bea, Denise, Sherry, Barb, Carla and Heidi. Standing is Lynn Whitesel, residential manager.
More than 20 students from the University of Missouri’s Department of Occupational Therapy cleaned and assessed assistive technology equipment in February at BCFR’s new storage unit behind the Atkins Building on Wilkes Boulevard. The equipment is part of the Assistive Technology Exchange Program (ATEP) sponsored by the Friends of BCFR.

Giulianne Krug, Clinical Associate Professor at MU’s OT department, said the project provided students with hands-on experience, experience which is limited in the OT program.

“Projects like this give them an opportunity to learn more about what occupational therapists do and the equipment we use with people of all ages,” Krug said. “We have limited equipment within the program for students to assess, so this is a great opportunity for an extension of the learning process.”

Krug assessed more than two dozen wheelchairs, standers, shower chairs, gait trainers, adaptive strollers and tricycles. The students took turns observing Krug as she pointed out nuances of the equipment. Krug hopes the project becomes a regular part of the OT students’ educational experience.

“To be able to provide a service while learning at the same time is invaluable,” she said.

ATEP is an online database of assistive technology equipment and devices that are available to individuals in need in central Missouri. To view equipment, visit the agency’s website at [www.bcfrr.org](http://www.bcfrr.org) and click on “Assistive Technology” on the blue menu bar.
Summer is just around the corner. So, we've put together a list of camps in Missouri and Kansas designed especially for children and teens with special needs. With so many choices, chances are there is one for you or your loved one.

**Boy Scouts Rotary Scout Camp** (Lee’s Summit, MO) offers long-term camping experience to Boy Scouts with special needs.

**Girl Scouts Juliette Low Camp** (Rotary Youth Camp at Lake Jacomo - Jackson County, MO) for girls ages 8-18, with physical disabilities, and their friends without disabilities to share the camp experiences. This is an overnight camp, lasting six nights.

**Camp Barnabas** (Purdy, MO - southwest Missouri) a residential camp focusing on people with all types of disabilities. Ages 7 to 35, depending on their disability. Sessions directed to specific needs: developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, autism/Asperger’s, visually impaired, hearing impaired, and others.

**Camp Encourage** (Tall Oaks Conference Center in Linwood, KS) tailored to children with autistic spectrum disorders, Asperger’s and related pervasive developmental disorders. Children without an autism spectrum disorder also participate.

**Camp Hickory Hill** (Columbia, MO) a summer camp for children, ages 8-17, with type 1 diabetes in a supportive, medically supervised environment.

**Camp MITIOG** (Excelsior Springs, MO) for young people with spina bifida. All of the traditional camping activities are offered, with a one-to-one camper/counselor ratio and medical staff on-site.

**Camp Planet D** (Kansas City, MO) an overnight camp for kids with diabetes, ages 7 to 14. Newly diagnosed and first time attendees receive priority admission.

**CLO’s Midnight Farm Day Camp** (Baldwin City, KS) day camps for children with Autism. Activities include crafts, animal interactions and more. Contact campdirector@clokan.org or Diane Bannerman Juracek at (785) 218-9329.

**Horsin’ Around at Midnight Farm** (Baldwin City, KS) a horsemanship day camp for children ages 6-16 with or without special needs. Camp will also include horse-themed crafts, games, pony parade and a horse show on the last day. For registration information, e-mail dionnenewton@clokan.org or call (785) 979-1889.

**Joint Adventures** (Missouri) a five-night overnight camp for children with rheumatic diseases.

**Joshua Center Summer Camp** (Kansas City, MO) a summer overnight camp at Lake Jacomo (Rotary Youth Club Camp) for five days/four nights in June. The camp is for 3rd to 8th graders with Tourette Syndrome, Asperger’s Syndrome and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder.


(continued on the next page)
Karen Ramey (center) Superintendent of Community & Recreation Programs for the City of Columbia, was the recipient of the 2011 Marie Kovar “One Who Made a Difference Award.” In 2010, she partnered with BCFR on behalf of the city to sustain, improve and expand adaptive recreation and employment opportunities for youth with disabilities.

Ms. Ramey is pictured with BCFR’s Associate Director Robyn Kaufman (left) and Marie Kovar’s daughter, Janice.

Henry Atkinson received the 2011 Super Sib Award for his support of big brother Christopher, who has autism. From the time he was a child, Henry has stood up for his brother often defending him against insults using the “r” word. Nancy Atkinson, who nominated her son, said, “I have always been able to count on Henry for so much regarding Christopher.”

Henry is pictured with Kay Conklin, President of the Friends of BCFR.

Midwest Brachial Plexus Network, Inc and Rotary Youth Organization (Lee’s Summit, MO) a 3-day overnight camp for children with brachial plexus birth injuries.

Muscular Dystrophy Camp is a one-week residential camp for anyone ages 6 to 21 with a neuromuscular disease. Contact the local MDA office for details at (913) 859-0632.

Sertoma Fantasy Sports Camp (Overland Park, KS) a 3-day camp, June 18-21, for children with speech and hearing disorders last summer. Baseball and lacrosse instruction. Interpreters are on-site to help with instruction.

Sertoma-Schiefelbusch Communication Camp (Lawrence, KS) a collaborative effort between the Lawrence Sertoma Club and the Shiefelbusch Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic at KU. Open to children ages 4 -10 with and without communication challenges. June 18-29.

Successful Sounds (Overland Park, KS) – for vocal children ages 4-10 with immature or delayed social and play skills, Asperger’s, High-Functioning Autism, Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Sensory Integration Dysfunction and related play/social delays.

Sugar Creek Equinapy (Pleasant Hill, MO) summer therapeutic riding programs for special needs children.

Wonderland Camp (Lake of the Ozarks, MO) a residential camp for children with developmental and physical challenges. All of the traditional camp activities There are also special weeks for children with Prader Willi Syndrome and brain injuries. Plus a wheelchair accessible tree house!
SUCCESS SPOTLIGHTS

Jeremy
Jeremy landed his dream job late last year with the landscaping services at the University of Missouri. Preparation for his job began in the summer of 2010, when BCFR’s Life & Work Connections developed a landscaping crew for young adults needing a pathway to employment. With his sights set on becoming a landscaper, Jeremy was a perfect candidate for the program. Needless to say, Jeremy excelled in the program. With some help developing a resume and interview skills, Jeremy took the final steps to securing the job he wanted.

Brad
Brad is already a highly valued member of the Food Service team at University Hospitals, and he’s only been working there since October. In fact, co-workers were so impressed with Brad’s work ethic that they named him “Employee of the Week” during his first month on the job. Brad primarily washes dishes but says he is quick to pitch in and help others. His co-workers appreciate his eagerness to assist and describe Brad as “a fantastic and friendly worker,” “a team player” and “a huge help to the kitchen.” Brad enjoys multi-tasking on the job, but more than anything, he likes helping people.

Ricky
Ricky has worked a number of jobs in the community, but thanks to some extra training through BCFR’s Life & Work Connections, he landed a job in September as a custodian at the Hearnes Center at the University of Missouri. Before joining the staff at MU, Ricky had been unemployed for two years. To help get back on track, Ricky began working with Vocational Rehabilitation and ACT Career Services to find a job. He also began training with the Life & Work Connections Landscaping Crew to improve his work skills. His dedication paid off. Today, Ricky is doing well on the job at MU.
11th Annual Disability Rights Legislative Day & People First

By Barb Hecke, Secretary for People First of Boone County

People First of Boone County members joined 600 other self-advocates at the capitol on April 4 for Disability Rights Legislative Day. It was a good turnout. It was a chance to hear from interesting speakers at a rally and to meet legislators in person. It was a good experience.

Governor Jay Nixon made a surprise appearance. He talked about the Partnership for Hope, a program that is helping a lot of people. He likes the program. He also wanted to be sure people who are blind get the support they need. He did not want to cut their services.

People First of Boone County meets on the second Thursday of each month, 5 p.m. at Boone County Family Resources, 1209 E. Walnut, Columbia. For more information about the group, contact Mark Satterwhite at 573-874-1995, ext 154.

There Is No Place Like Home

By Laurie Ritter and Laura Cravens

Moving to a new home is exciting. But let’s face it; sorting, packing and lugging our stuff is a lot of hard work. That’s what some residents of BCFR’s Supported Living program faced in December when they prepared to relocate one of its supported living sites to a newly renovated building.

The move went off without a hitch thanks to thorough planning by staff and its efforts to prepare the 10 new occupants.

“We had a goal of moving before Christmas, and we met that goal,” said Laura Cravens, Director of the Supported Living Program. “On the day of the move, the residents were very excited.”

The soon-to-be occupants toured the apartment building several times during the four-month renovation and witnessed firsthand their new home taking shape. The complex came available when another BCFR supported living program relocated in the summer to another newly remodeled apartment building in south Columbia.

For one resident named Laurie, more space was the best part of the move. “My new bedroom is bigger than my old one,” said Laurie, who proudly gave a tour of her new apartment. “Look, I have a walk-in closet, and there is even a coat closet.”

Joyce, another resident, prepared for her new home by purchasing a brand new bedroom set with money she had saved just for the occasion.

“I hurried up and got everything put away,” she said. “When I was done, I laid down on my new bed.”

Gaines Moving & Delivery moved the residents’ belongings while BCFR’s maintenance department and staff assisted them with unpacking and arranging furniture. Within two weeks, they had settled in and turned their new space into home.
“The Future is Now: Supporting Real Lives, Real People”

More than 500 people from across the state took advantage of an opportunity last month to talk openly and honestly about developmental disabilities. “The Future is Now: Supporting Real Live, Real People” was the first state-wide conference hosted by the Missouri Department of Mental Health Division of Developmental Disabilities.

The purpose of the gathering was to bring together people served as well as family members, providers and state and local government officials to talk about the issues facing Missourians with developmental disabilities. By all accounts, the conference was a big success.

“Times are changing,” said presenter Michelle “Sheli” Reynolds, M.O.T., Ph.D. from the University of Missouri, Kansas City – Institute for Human Development. “We think differently about people with disabilities now.”

“They aren’t medical models to be fixed but rather people with rights to be supported,” she added. “Our service systems, policies, funding and programs need to change to become ‘supports for real life.’”

Mark Satterwhite, BCFR’s Director of Life & Work Connections, was impressed with the broad gathering of stakeholders who participated in the event, including representatives of People First, SABE and others from the self-advocacy movement in the state.

Jason Mize, President of People First of Boone County, was on a panel of self-advocates and encouraged listeners to get involved. “Don’t let anybody tell you ‘no – you can’t be part of the community’ because you can be,” he said.

BCFR Executive Director Les Wagner, along with Norma Anderson, Fern Anderson, Sandy Sims, Mitchell Sims and Nathan Sims updated listeners on the Partnership for Hope program which has helped 83 individuals and their families in Boone County (over 1,200 across the state). The Anderson and Sims families shared their experience of how supports through the program have changed their lives.

Bernie Simons, Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities, hoped the conference would encourage others to get involved and be a part of a movement to change perceptions as well as realities.

“For too long people with disabilities have been passengers rather than pilots with regard to their futures,” he said. “People want real jobs, real relationships, real lives – nothing more, nothing less.”

Governor Jay Nixon made a special appearance toward the end of the conference and conveyed his intention to further expand the Partnership for Hope, citing its compassionate focus on preventing crisis, and its fiscal logic during tough economic times.

Topics of the conference included family supports, self-determination, employment, shared living and accessible housing. Presenters from across the country included: Sharon Lewis, Commissioner of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities at the Administration for Children and Families; Steve Eidelman, Co-director of the National Leadership Consortium; Nancy Thaler, Director of the National Association of Directors of DD Services; and Rachel Simon, author of “The Story of Beautiful Girl” and “Riding the Bus with My Sister,” which later was made into a movie of the same name.

The conference presentations will be available on the Department of Mental Health website by May 1. See the powerpoint presentations at [http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/futuresconference.htm](http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/futuresconference.htm).
Support Groups

**Brain Injury Support Group** meets at 6:30 p.m. the 2nd Thursday of the month at Rusk Rehab Center, 315 Business Loop 70 West. For more information, call Dr. Eric Hart at 573-882-8876.

**High School and College Youth Networks** (Services for Independent Living) meets monthly. For more information, call Mark at 874-1646.

**Central Missouri Down Syndrome Family Network** meets at 6 p.m. May 18, July 20, September 4 and November 16 at Boone Electric Cooperative, 1413 Rangeline. Free child care provided by PT, OT and Special Ed teachers. For more information, call Kathleen Basi at 573-449-8342.

**Fibromyalgia/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Support Group** meets 2-4 p.m. the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Services for Independent Living, 1401 Hathman Place, and 6:30-8:30 p.m. the 4th Thursday of each month at Columbia Public Library, 100 West Broadway. For more information, call Barbara Hartwig at 449-4842.

**Foster/Adoptive Parents of Mid-Missouri (DFS)** meets 6:30-8 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at Blue Ridge Christian Church, 2400 Blue Ridge Road. For more information, call Karin Stuart at 882-9180.

**Meet and Greet Group** (Services For Independent Living) Time and location varies. Call Steve Dopp at 874-1646.

**Moms Of Children With Autism** meets monthly to share information and resources. For more information, contact Lora Hinkel at lorahinkel@hotmail.com

**Missouri Apraxia Support Group** meets to share information and resources. For meeting times/locations, contact Barbara Varner at 573-687-3526 or varnerb@missouri.edu

**Multiple Sclerosis Support Group** meets at 6 p.m. the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Rusk Rehabilitation Center, 315 Business Loop 70 West. For more information, call Rusk Rehab at 817-2703.

**Parent Network** (Services For Independent Living) meets 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the 2nd Thursday of the month and from 6-8:00 p.m. the 4th Thursday of the month at Services for Independent Living, 1401 Hathman Place. For more information, call Mark Ohrenberg at 874-1646.

**Parkinson’s Support Group** meets 4-5:00 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at the Senior Center, 1121 Business Loop 70 East. For more information, call Gerri Neely at 573-815-3554.

**PAVE (People Advocating for The Voice of Equity)** meets regularly. For more information, call Services for Independent Living at 874-1646.

**People First of Boone County** meets at 5 p.m. the 2nd Thursday of the month in the Friends Room at Boone County Family Resources, 1209 East Walnut. For more information, call Mark Satterwhite at 573-874-1995.

**Services For Independent Living’s Brain Injury Support Group** 1-2:00 p.m. the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 1401 Hathman Place. For more information, call Jill Lamberti at 874-1646.

**Women’s Support Group** (Services For Independent Living) meets 2-3:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Services for Independent Living, 1401 Hathman Place. Call Jill McClintock at 874-1646.

**Wii Excellerate** for youth with and without disabilities to hang out, play games and have fun from 6-8:00 p.m. the 1st, 3rd and 5th Friday of the month at Services for Independent Living, 1401 Hathman Place. For more information, call Mark Ohrenberg at 874-1646.

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**REMINDER!**
Support Groups are updated regularly on our website at www.bcfrc.org/support-groups
Webinars & Upcoming Conferences

Social Security Benefits Webinar - Fear of jeopardizing Social Security benefits poses one of the significant barriers to developing work experience or planning for higher education. http://www.benefits-training.com/webinars.asp

Social Security Benefits Webinar - Session provides the foundation to understanding the benefit programs. More information: http://www.benefits-training.com/webinars.asp

Autism Spectrum Disorders Webinar: Evidence-based Practice and Interventions - Interventions that research suggests is effective when working with children with ASD. http://thompsoncenter.missouri.edu/training/index.php.


May 21 MPACT Training: Is Your Child the Target of Bullying? - St Louis, Special School District (12110 Clayton Rd) –Workshop designed to introduce parents and professionals to a range of intervention strategies that can be used by the parent, parent and child, and family and school. 6-9:00pm. http://ptimpact.org/Training/Training.aspx

May 21-22 - Association on Aging with Developmental Disabilities: 22nd Annual Conference - St. Louis – Topics include technology, Alzheimer’s, transitions, emotional impact and physical outcomes, legal issues, end of life, failure to thrive, aging with DD, community partnerships. http://www.agingwithdd.org/

May 31-June 1 - DMH Spring Training Institute - TanTarA, Lake of the Ozarks – Professionals in the fields of substance abuse, mental illness and developmental disabilities share evidence-based practices and knowledge about services provided to Missouri citizens. http://dmh.mo.gov/ada/provider/springtrain.htm

June 2 MPACT Training: The Art of Effective Advocacy - Jefferson City, Independent Living Resource Center (3620 W Truman Blvd) – Organizing your child’s records, needed information in your child’s file, how to communicate more effectively with your child’s school district. 10:00am to 12:00pm. http://ptimpact.org/Training/Training.aspx

June 5 MPACT Training: Positive Behavior Interventions - Chillicothe, Farm Services Credit Building (2880 N Washington) – Learn the importance of a Functional Behavioral Assessment, how to reinforce positive behavior and how to develop a Positive Behavior Support Plan. 6:00-9:00pm http://ptimpact.org/Training/Training.aspx

June 7 MPACT Training: Journey to Adulthood - Sikeston, Sikeston Regional Center (2 Plaza Dr) – Parents and those who work with kids with specials needs work on the foundations that they have already built or to establish new foundations to work upon. 9:00am to 12:00pm. http://ptimpact.org/Training/Training.aspx

June 15 MPACT Training: Is Your Child the Target of Bullying? - Springfield, Touchpoint Autism Services (1740 S Glenstone) – Workshop introduces parents and professionals to a range of intervention strategies that can be used by the parent, parent and child, and family and school. 10:00am to 12:00pm http://ptimpact.org/Training/Training.aspx

June 16 MPACT Training: Positive Behavior Interventions – Columbia, Boone County Family Resources (1209 East Walnut) – Learn the importance of a Functional Behavioral Assessment, how to reinforce positive behavior and how to develop a Positive Behavior Support Plan. 1:00pm to 4:00pm http://ptimpact.org/Training/Training.aspx

June 25-27 Fifth Annual DESE Transition Institute - Jefferson City, Capitol Plaza Hotel – Learn new skills in secondary transition and collaborate with other secondary special education teachers, administrators, adult service providers and transition professionals across the state. http://dese.mo.gov/se/ep/training.html


August 7 MPACT Training: Understanding the IEP Process – Herculaneum, Jefferson County Developmental Disabilities Resource Board (1615 Vine School Rd) - The evaluation process, qualifying for an IEP, components that must be addressed in the IEP document and monitoring. 6-8:00pm http://ptimpact.org/Training/Training.aspx

August 8-10 - APSEMO Employment Summit - Stony Creek Inn, Columbia - Focusing on expanding integrated employment opportunities and services for people experiencing disabilities. www.apsemo.org
BCFR TAKES THE PLUNGE

At first, the notion of jumping into a freezing cold lake dressed in a silly costume in the middle of February seemed outrageous, especially if you volunteered to do it. But for Karrie Mitchell and the rest of the Boone County Family Resources’ team that participated in Polar Plunge 2012, the zaniness was worth it.

In fact, the annual fundraiser for Special Olympics Missouri is downright fun. “Each year I say to myself, ‘I must be crazy signing up to jump into the freezing cold water.’”

“But each year, once I am at the plunge, I am instantly reminded of why it is so important,” said Mitchell, a Supervisor and Client Services Coordinator at one of BCFR’s supported living sites. “The energy coming out of the event is electrifying.”

Special Olympics Missouri reported a record 430 plungers raised $72,063 for Special Olympic athletes during the local event on February 18 at Stephens Lake Park; one of 13 locations across the state. The Plunge is an annual winter event in which teams of about 10 people raise money for Special Olympics by dressing up in costumes and plunging into a body of water. This year, BCFR plungers dressed like characters from the computer game Angry Birds.

Melissa McBroom, a site Supervisor and Client Services Coordinator, and Associate Director Robyn Kaufman have participated in the event since the first plunge in 2008. They were joined this year by Mitchell and staff members Adrian Cummings, Justine Hohmann and Krystal Smith. Staff members Kim Cearlock and Amanda Swindell raised money but didn’t participate in the plunge. New to the BCFR team were residents of the agency’s supported living sites, Daniel, Shaina and Barb.
Join a team who believes in creating better life opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. We want someone who can reach out, help build confidence, and enable people to become more independent, successful members of our community.

That someone could be you!

Visit our web site at www.bcfr.org for a listing of current position openings

Outstanding benefits package!

To apply send resume, cover letter, & 3 work references to:
Human Resources Dept.
BCFR
1209 E. Walnut
Columbia, MO 65201
or email jobs@bcfr.org

EOE/Drug-free Workplace

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 Center. To apply for services contact BCFR.

MORE GLIMPSES OF DISABILITY RIGHTS LEGISLATIVE DAY

Upper Left: Jeff Johnson, Vice President of People First of Boone County, visits with Representative Mary Still

Above: Self-advocates from across the state on the floor of the Capitol Rotunda

Lower Left: Lora and Patti in the Capitol Rotunda