



Family and Friends Association

News & Views



APPLICATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE/ZIP: _____

DAY PHONE: _____

EVE PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Optional

PLEASE LET US KNOW HOW YOU ARE AFFILIATED OR HOW YOU LEARNED ABOUT THE SMRC FAMILY AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION:

PARENT OR GUARDIAN

FAMILY MEMBER OF SMRC CLIENT

FRIEND OF CLIENT/CLIENT FAMILY

SMRC EMPLOYEE

SMRC VOLUNTEER

Please complete and mail with \$5.00 membership dues to:

SMRC FAMILY & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
1170 WEST RAILROAD ST
LONG BEACH MS 39560-4199

MEMBERSHIP

The SMRC Family and Friends Association is open to any adult already networking with SMRC in programs at Long Beach or in any of its seven community sites or who is interested in the services and activities of South Mississippi Regional Center.

Family members—immediate and extended, guardians, professionals and community persons are invited to join the association.

Annual dues are \$5.00. An association newsletter as well as the South Mississippi Regional Center newsletter are sent to members. An invitation is also extended to members to join activities and events hosted by South Mississippi Regional Center.

For additional information, call:
Office of the Director — 228-867-1302.

GOALS

The SMRC Family and Friends Association is a non-profit organization of families and other adults interested in the services and activities of South Mississippi Regional Center. Its purposes are to promote understanding of intellectual and other developmental disabilities and the services of SMRC, to advise and aid families of people with developmental disabilities, to share information and to encourage volunteer activities on behalf of the Center.

The Association is noted for its telephone network, designed to give immediate response to state and federal legislation directly or indirectly affecting persons with developmental disabilities.

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI REGIONAL CENTER
FAMILY & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
1170 WEST RAILROAD STREET
LONG BEACH, MISSISSIPPI 39560-4199

SMRC CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF SERVICES



Note from President Pamela Emrick

If you missed SMRC's 40th Anniversary celebration, you missed a fun time. SMRC Planning Committee did an excellent job setting up event booths. Southeast Commercial Real Estate and Mugshots provided the picnic lunch. The anniversary t-shirt sale was a success. The Association raised \$2,449 from the t-shirt sale. We still have a limited number of anniversary shirts available for \$10.

The Association profited \$957 from our last Masquerade fund-raiser. Our next sale is Thursday, September 6th, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm and Friday, September 7th, 7:00 am - 2:00 pm. For those who have never attended one of the Masquerade sales, everything is \$5.00. In addition to jewelry, they have a little bit of everything from sunglasses, hats, canvas bags, etc. Volunteers will be needed on sale dates. Please contact me if you would be willing to work the sale. The sale is open to the public so come and bring your friends.

Direct Support Professional week is September 9 - 15th. When you visit your love ones, especially during this week, please thank the direct care staff for the work they do on a daily basis. The Association will provide a small gift to each direct support staff during this week as a token of our appreciation.

If you use social media, we encourage you to follow SMRC and the Department of Mental Health Facebook pages and share the good news that is posted at the sites. The official names of the pages are "Mississippi Department of Mental Health" and "South Mississippi Regional Center @SMRCNews."

Please plan to attend our next meeting on Sunday, September 16, at 2:00 pm in the Burgess Conference Room.

SMRC Upcoming events:

Join us in supporting Breast Cancer Awareness. Contact Denise Christmas-Wallace to sign up to be a part of SMRC's Team for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk which will be held Saturday, October 20 at Biloxi Town Green. The walk will begin at 9 am.

*Order your SMRC Breast Cancer Awareness T-shirt. Orders must be received and paid for by September 24. Prices S-XL \$12 and 2XL-up \$15. This year our t-shirt was designed by one of our BIDD individuals. Contact your Social Worker/Case Manager if you would like to purchase a shirt for your family member.

*SMRC Pink Parade—Friday, October 19 at 9 am. We are seeking donations of used beads for the parade.

*SMRC Pink Party —Friday, October 19 following the parade.

If you would like to purchase a t-shirt, volunteer for the Pink Parade or the Pink Party, contact Denise Christmas at 867.1448 or e-mail lchristmas@smrc.ms.gov.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT PAMELA EMRICK AT 601.268.3490

CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESSES

SMRC's Celebrating Our Successes Reception was held August 10 recognizing the Direct Care Incentive Award Winner, the Summer Employees of the Quarter, the Employee of the Year and retirees. SMRC recognized 27 of its staff with 5 to 35 year service pins. Congratulations to SMRC Employee of the Year, Michael White, and to the Summer Employees of the Quarter, the honorees are Amies Sparkman, Direct Care Incentive Award Winner; Ellen Barber, ACE; Brec Knight, Direct Support Services; Sierra Martin, Support Services. Ms. Vivian Lee Ward of Long Beach was the guest speaker for the reception.



Employee of the Year
Michael White
Golden Magnolia Enterprises

Michael has been employed with SMRC since October 1, 1994. He began his career in Long Beach, then transferred to the Wiggins Community Home program where he has worked since August 1996. Michael exemplifies the true meaning of commitment in his daily care of the people served. He has a quiet demeanor and cheerfully gets the job done regardless of the task. He is compassionate and caring, and willing to take on any task asked of him. Michael is well respected by his peers and the people entrusted to his care.

Amies Sparkman
Dolphin Cottage
Direct Care Incentive
Honoree



Ellen Barber
Bayview Cottage
ACE Honoree



Brec Knight
Poplarville
Community Homes
Direct Support Services
Honoree



Sierra Martin
Quality Services
Support Services
Honoree



Deneece Saucier Honored for 35 years of Service

Deneece was honored for her 35 years of service. Deneece transferred to SMRC July 1982 from Gulfport's Mississippi Learning Resource Center. Deneece joined the Diagnostic & Evaluation/Psychology Department as a Clerk-Typist Senior and worked in this department until 1999. She became the Administrative Assistant for the Community Services Division, formerly



the Community Living Division.