



Happy Hour Happenings



Happy Hour Service Center
Houston County Association for Exceptional Citizens, Inc.
Falcon Park, Inc. & Falcon Park III, Inc.

Blaxton's Blog

Stan Blaxton – Executive Director

When we last communicated through this quarterly, I was very new to the operation. Now, I have had time to catch my breath and the staff has had time to adjust to me. In August, I will have been on the job for 6 months and there has been much progress as we grow to fit all our contracts. We are making significant progress on our new website, which, we hope to unveil in the next 2 weeks. We have some new artist renderings for a new logo and those will be submitted to the board next week for their vote. The Board of Directors has approved replacing some of our older vehicles with new ones and 6 new vehicles have been ordered. A lot of background work goes into these decisions and I would like to express my appreciation for those staff people that pulled all the information together that helped us make informed decisions.

There are also many changes in the workshops. Recycled Treasures has re-opened and is doing well under the leadership of Phil Lattimer and his crew. The exterior of the building has been painted and it looks great! The new “totes” contract is off to a great start in Workshop I. Cedric Singleton and his staff are doing an awesome job. We finally have enough hangers for the “hanger project” to keep us busy, and that is good news! Emory Askew and his workshop have worked hard to get this contract underway. Recycling in Workshop III is at an all time high in tonnage; Jackie, JR, and Jim are doing a very good job to make this happen, while at the same time, they are very cramped for space. Our new location at 89 Green Street is under construction as new offices, restrooms and a break room are being built. More work is being done at 121 Booker Street, getting it ready to house our “Senior Program”. There is also construction being done at Falcon Park to repair the damage done when we had wind damage in April.

I am very excited to report that we have made a new hire, which, I believe, will be extremely beneficial for us. Mike Brashear has been hired to fill our Associate Director of Operations position. I have known Mike for approximately 25 years and I know him to be the type of person that can really help us. He is very bright and professional, as well as being a very good person. I would ask all to help me welcome Mike as he joins us here at Happy Hour. Mike, I look forward to working with you here, great days are ahead!

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Retirement Program

Michelle Booth- Retirement Program Coordinator

Lots of activities going on..... We have been staying busy these past few months. We have socialized with friends and staff, exercised most every day, experienced gardening, relaxed at the park and worked on crafts and seasonal activities as well as gone out into the community to shop and discover new places to visit.

Everyone has settled very well with all the changes going on. We currently have eight individuals with one almost full time visitor in the program. Within the next couple of months our program will be moving to the Booker Street Building. We will have a lot more rooms and be able to offer more open slots for any others who meet program's requirements. Anyone with possible interests for their individuals needs to contact that individual's social worker. We encourage staff and individuals to come by and visit. We love visitors.

We've included some pictures of the recent activities we've had. Tina and I hope you enjoy.

Coffee at McDonalds on Watson Blvd.



Outing lunch at Waffle House on Russell Pkwy.



Flip Flops and Sunglasses Day



Human Resources Department

Lori Chaney – Human Resources Director

Please help me welcome our newest family members to the TEAM:

Mike Brashear- Associate Director of Operations

Dan Melching-Maintenance Technician

Tyler Hubbard, Kenyetta Oglesby – Custodial Job Coach

Deonta Jordan – Warehouse Technician

Krista Melton – Instructor Aide

Courtney Anderson, Alicia Clark, Linda Brooks, Ruth Little, Monique Webster, Khadijah Nealy - Direct Care Aide

Also, please welcome Justin Bunnell and Timothy Tinnent. They began through a training program working on our custodial contracts and have recently joined the Happy Hour TEAM!

We continue to give monthly tours of our Center and welcome your organization. Please give Liz Thompson a call at 929-6466 to set one up!

Community Rewards: We are proud to announce that we have partnered with Amazon Smile to receive a portion of the sales from qualified products. If you are an Amazon shopper, please take a moment to select Houston County Association for Exceptional Citizens, Inc. as your non-profit from this link www.smile.amazon.com/ch/58-0687548.

Self-Advocacy Committee

Debra M. Spears—Advisor

In the last quarter each committee member shared with the group their work activity. A number of our members work in more than one workshop or area of Happy Hour and some members work in two or three workshops or areas doing different jobs. Each member was excited to share their job responsibilities and their length of time served on different jobs. Members discussed what they enjoyed most about their jobs and they also discussed what they least liked. Committee members are encouraged to step out of their comfort zones to learn new tasks, meet new people and work in different areas.

Our Self-Advocacy Group acts on their rights as members of Happy Hour Service Center and as citizens of the community. Members continue to assist recyclers with unloading their recyclables at the Recycle Shed and members also take time to thank them for bringing their recyclables our way.

The Self-Advocacy Committee continues to meet the third Monday of each month at 1:00 in Workshop II Conference Room. If you have any questions, please contact Debra Spears at 478 929-6604.



People of mediocre ability sometimes achieve outstanding success because the don't know when to quit. Most men succeed because they are determined to.

- George Allen

Success often comes to those who have the aptitude to see way down the road.

- Laine Burns

Action without planning is the cause of all failure. Action with planning is the cause of all success.

- Brian Tracy

Robins Review

JR Dean – Contract Manager

Happy Hour and especially Robins Recycling experienced a tragic loss with the passing of Lancaster M^cG., he was an integral part of our Team for many years and will be dearly missed. His smile, positive attitude and work ethic will leave lasting impressions on us all.

On a lighter note, I'd like to welcome our newest individuals to the contract, Joe P. and Charles B. Both of these guys have prior experience with Robins Recycling and will be positive assets as we move forward.

We are striving daily to provide top notch recycling services for the base and are looking forward to the autumn contract renewal.

EVERY DAY IN USA IS ARMED FORCES APPRECIATION DAY

Exceptional Mail & More

*Darryl Kitchens
Program Manager*



AT EM&M, you will have it made in the shade! Come in today for all your mailing needs! Our staff is ready to serve you. We rent mailboxes at a great rate, actually, the cheapest in Middle Georgia. Currently, we have 316 boxes rented and even more available! Please come visit us for pricing and availability.

EM&M also offers notary, shipping and packaging services as well as money orders. Don't forget!!!! We give a 10% discount for employees, military members (active duty, retired, dependents and contractors), senior citizens (62 and older) and board members. Please have your ID available to receive the discount.

While you are visiting us for your shipping needs, check out our Everyday In USA Is Armed Forces Appreciation Day merchandise. or support our company's AED drive.

In closing, we would like to thank our customers who supported in our company's AED drive. With your support we were able to purchase eight AEDs. Happy upcoming birthday to Amy Wilkes and Liz Thompson!

Keep cool, stay hydrated, and enjoy the rest of your summer!

Ryals Wing

Wallace Pitts—
Ryals Wing Supervisor

Greetings!!!!

We have been working on the Wing! That is the **Ryals Wing!** Our staff has been working with the individuals to complete each one of the daily assignments given. **Wow!** What a good time we are having working on our **Spring/Summer activities.**

We have been waiting for a good shower down "**April.**" However, it really didn't happen. Hold on, I'm going somewhere with this. I know you have heard of the saying, "**April showers, bring May flowers!**" Well, we were expecting it to rain and help out our planted flowers/veggies in our Greenhouse garden. They're doing well despite the lack of much rain, and the individuals are very impressed about how fast they're growing.

The month of June brought on our annual yearly event/activity outing of Fishing. They had a ball going out into the community showing off their fishing skills....Lol... The staff had the individuals to draw a picture of a fish to take home to show their parents afterward.

Sadly, we have felt the sting of death once again in our family. We will truly miss Ms. McCannon & Mr. Ryals. Farewell to our beloved friends, and may they rest in peace. We here @ the Ryals Wing gave Mr. Mike Forgue a great send off as he pursues into his future endeavors. We will truly miss Mike and hope that he will visit us from time to time. However, we also welcome another "Mike" in, as the door closed to one Mike, we were blessed it opened to another. Let's all welcome Mr. Mike Brashear when you see him on the campus.



The month of July began swimming for the individuals in the community. They are enjoying this event and eager to participate. We are working on our decorations for summer on the Wing. Well, that's all folks for now!

Keep Looking-Up!

EDIUSAIAFAD, "Attitude of Gratitude"



It's time to show your EDI spirit!!!! These last few months have been hectic, yet exciting, with the reopening of Recycled Treasures. A lot of work was put into making the store ready for our shoppers. One of the newest attractions in the store is a new display was added to the front counter in Recycled Treasures for customers to purchase a variety of items and to promote the EDI spirit. In May, the item of the month was the EDI t-shirt. The support of sales was phenomenal and now nearly everyone is sporting our patriotic tees! Shirts are still available for only \$5 and come in red, white, or heather gray! For June, EDI baseball caps were the item of the month to help shield you from the heat and sun. These high quality hats are sure to fly off the shelves, so get your hat today for only \$6! Promotions will be conducted monthly to highlight items available for purchase. Come see our display in Recycled Treasures to shop our many items or call Liz Thompson at 478-929-6466 for more details on pricing.

Recreation News

Rose R. Neal-Moore—
Recreation Technician



Recreation News

Our *Persons Served* tremendously enjoyed strawberry picking this year from April 11th-April 19th. Our fishing trip to GO FISH in Perry GA took place on June 3rd and everyone had a blast fishing, they were also very happy that we had tents set up to enjoy the picnic.



We are currently having fun at Fountain Park in W.R. during our swim days which began June 7th and will run through July 28th. On the 28th, we will swim from 10:00 a.m. til noon and then have a wonderful picnic that Ms. Ann will prepare for us on the grill. We will also plan to enjoy some volleyball, kickball, basketball and trail walking.



Special Olympic News

Masters Bowling will be held at the Gold Cup Bowling Center in Warner Robins again this year, the dates are August 26th-28th. Our *Persons Served* and unified partners will make up a total of 5 teams that will be participating in this event. We began practicing on Sundays, we thank Mrs. Shultz and Mrs. Pallini for helping the players prepare for the upcoming games. We look forward to seeing everyone.

Our standard bowling program is scheduled to start back September 13th once we have new players and teams situated.

Workshop Words

Cedric Singleton—Workshop I Supervisor

Can someone please tell me how to spell summer because I spell it **HOTT!!** Yeah, I know it is spelled with one **T** however the heat and humidity are on the rise to three digit numbers. Sorry for the delay, hello to all the parents and guardians as we enter into this amazing summer. The season brought about these changes which has given our individuals the opportunity to participate more in fun recreational outdoor activities (i.e. fishing and swimming). Even though it seems like we are having a lot of fun in group activities, staff are still able to find the time to assist the individuals with their daily pre-occupational needs. The staff in Workshop I are ready and accepts the challenge of training our individuals on new contracts as they flow in. We have recently started the Kohl's Totes Contract that is giving a new experience to many of our individuals that want to increase their knowledge in the work field. Congratulations, to Johnnie A. for being chosen as Superstar of 1st Quarter. With hard work and dedication anyone has the opportunity to earn this award. I want to thank all the staff that provided support and encouragement through TEAM WORK to help the individual's reach their goals by accomplishing their social and work skills.

Emory Askew—Workshop II Supervisor

The days are getting hotter and hotter. WSII is doing 20 thousand hangers a day. The clients are finally adjusting to their new job requirements. We will solely miss LANCASTER McG., HAZEL MCCANNON as well as MR. FRANK RYALS. Lets continue to pray for their families, better yet lets pray for each other. I don't want to leave off Kelvin Taylor and his crew for the success of the hanger project. Kelvin screens the VR participants offering us a lot of help on the contracts, THANK You, for your help. Jim Cheshire is still helping as well, continuing to do whenever is needed. The staff has been tremendous in training the individuals to sort and box the hangers. WSII would like to welcome MIKE BRASHEAR as our new Operations Manager, we are looking forward to working with him. SUCCESS IS NOT DETERMINED BY AN INDIVIDUAL.

Community Employment

Kelvin Taylor –

Community Employment Manager

Community Employment hopes that everyone has a happy and safe 4th of July! Enjoy your summer vacation and stay cool this summer!

Due to the hard work of Community Employment, we were able to get the Kohl's totes contract. The tote box lids and bottoms are being assembled in Workshop I, but will be moved to Workshop II once Workshop V becomes operational.

Our janitorial contracts are going well and we are glad that we are able to give the Happy Hour individuals more work opportunities in the community and getting them out of the workshops into a different work environment. Andrea, Arthur and the individuals are doing a great job on our custodial contracts!

This has been a record year for Vocational Rehabilitation. We have exceeded our goals this fiscal year and are looking forward to the next fiscal year. We are putting a lot of people to work out in the community and could not do it without our Job Coaches Flora, Lucius, Tonya, Kristen, Ann and Angela. We want to thank the workshop supervisors for allowing the VRs to work in different departments at Happy Hour. If you are in need for VR help please call Kelvin or Staci.

Community Employment is working hard everyday to open new opportunities for our individuals served. Please continue to keep your eyes and ears open for new employment opportunities for our individuals. If you hear that a business would like help our individuals served or have any questions please contact Staci at 922-1700, or contact Kelvin at 922-1700 (office) or 747-8978 (cell).

Help Us Reach Our Goal! \$13,000
HCAEC, Inc. Needs AED's
(Automated External Defibrillator)



You do your normal grocery shopping...MVH gets rewards!!

We've partnered with Kroger to help us reach our goal. All you have to do is: log into your Kroger account online at <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards>,

Select **Houston County Association for Exceptional Citizens, Inc.**, and shop. That's all. *It doesn't cost you thing.*

Social Services

Carla Plant, Debra Spears, Lester Ward & Andrew Dennis
Social Workers

Happy Hour provides many services for Individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Some of our services are: Community Access, Respite, Behavioral Supports, and Prevocational. We receive many inquiries regarding our Prevocational Services, which are intended to teach career development skills that are necessary to gain employment in the community. These services also provide the individuals with job opportunities and a sense of accomplishment.

Happy Hour is subcontracting with Kohl's to provide multiple services for their clothing hangers. Some of the jobs are: Loading, Floor Technician, Box Labeling, Size Removing, and Sorting. This hanger contract serves individuals with developmental disabilities within the middle Georgia community but also serves people in Mexico and China! What happens to the hangers once they leave Happy Hour? Hangers are shipped back to the Kohl's Warehouse, Mexico, and China. The hangers that are shipped back to Kohl's and China are used to hang various types of clothing. The damaged hangers are shipped to Mexico; these hangers are disintegrated in the baler machine. The disintegrated hangers are used to create coal and asphalt. The individuals at Happy Hour are not just hanging around; they are contributing worldwide!

We are deeply saddened by the loss of one of our individuals Lancaster M. whom has been a part of Happy Hour since 1991. We are also deeply saddened by the loss of two board members and parents, Mrs. Hazel McCannon and Mr. Frank Ryals. Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers.

Recycled Treasures

Phil Lattimer—Retail Manager



We're backkkkkk!! What an incredibly busy time for the staff of Recycled Treasures! Our store opened on June 1, 2016, at 9:00 am to the general public. We are now open Tuesday-Friday from 9:00 am-3:00 pm and on the first and

third Saturdays of the month. The staff is so excited to have new matching work shirts and aprons! If you haven't seen them, come by and take a look! We are equally as excited to have new merchandise and a new layout of the store. Our newest and biggest buzz is our HAPPY HONEY! We are selling 4oz, 8oz, and pint jars of raw, local gallberry honey. People are going gaga over this delicious raw honey!! Samples are being served daily in our store. Come get your jar today!! We continue to train our individuals and VR participants in retail merchandising. From washing and cleaning donated items to effectively displaying the items for sale. We are so proud of what we have accomplished as a team in such a short time!

Workshop supervisors, take a break in your day to come over with the individuals to browse our store. Remember they can use their Happy Bucks for anything in the store!



Please like our Facebook page to stay current on the deals and promotions we have! <https://www.facebook.com/RecycledTreasuresYardsale/?fref=ts>

Finally, **spread the word**. Let people know about our store and how they can contribute to our success. Donations are always welcomed.



Transportation & Maintenance

Jim Cheshire, Transportation/Maintenance Manager

**PLEASE CALL 478-929-6603 FOR
TRANSPORTATION CHANGES!**

Happy Hour follows the Houston County School District schedule for weather related closures. Tune in to 13WMAZ or WNNM AM 1350 if bad weather is coming our way and you are wondering about possible closures.

For individuals that are transported by Happy Hour please call 929-6603 for ALL changes to your schedule. (Not coming into center, not needing ride home, etc.)

We would like to be as efficient as possible and not make unnecessary trips. Your phone calls are always welcome!

As Summer has arrived with a vengeance, we have started to have the usual headaches with air conditioning systems in both the workshops and in our vehicles. Our maintenance guys have been good to work problems as they occur. We have had to go to outside repair for some work—we'll keep trying to keep everyone comfortable although sometimes the weather and the machinery get the better of us!!

Work on the Workshop V building continues as we progress toward moving some work down there. It is already being used for storage of both materials and products from our two contracts with Kohl's. Work is also moving along on the building at Booker Street. Formerly housing programs of the Epilepsy Association, the building needed upgrades and new fixtures to make it into a great location for our "Retirement Program".

To reiterate the above: if your individual rides one of our buses/vans, please let us know at 929-6603 of any changes to transport needs. I know some calls go to the instructor staff or a driver, but we sometimes don't get the word timely. 929-6603 has a good recording machine, and we check the tape early each morning to make note of changes, so please make the call.

We'd also like to remind that route times can vary on occasion. We say that the bus time has a 30 minute window (15 minutes on each side of schedule). Things that may change the predicted time could be: an individual ahead of your stop is out for the day, meaning the bus will arrive early; a maintenance problem (flat tire, van won't start, etc.) may throw the bus late. So, please understand that there can be variations in the bus time (call 929-6603 if a question comes up on any of your pick/dropoff times). We are obligated to wait three minutes at each pickup, so please have your individual ready to load the bus when we arrive. Thanks for your help making things run smoothly for all on the buses.

Again, this "Happenings" we express regrets at losses. Board member and mother "Mrs. Mac" passed away—she was a truly wonderful person and will be missed. We also lost Lancaster, one of the people we served in the Recycling area; he was a dedicated worker and always wanted to help in anything he could.

Falcon Park Happenings

Rhonda Pittman, Home Manager



Congratulations to Aysegul Doty for receiving her CNA certificate from Health Tech of Georgia while still maintaining her full-time position in the group home. We're proud of you, Aysegul!!

Falcon Park Fun

Talk about your dog days of summer and it's only the beginning! The residents of Falcon Park are doing their best to stay cool! The last few months have been quite busy, but we have managed to make time for some fun in the sun. We kicked off our summer activities with a wonderful family picnic at Lynn Haven Nursing Rehabilitation Center. Great food, family, and fellowship was had by all!



With the addition of all of our new outdoor furniture, each home is enjoying evening and weekend cookouts. We are anticipating the return of Amy G. to our program and a fabulous trip as a group to close out our summer.

I would like to welcome all of our new hires for April, May, and June: Linda Brooks, Monique Webster, and Khadijah Nealy! Welcome aboard ladies, we look forward to working with each of you!

In conclusion, the staff and residents of Falcon Park would like to take the time to pay our respects and remember a kind woman who has been a huge part of our organization. Hazel McCannon has served countless hours to our residential and day program for many years and will be truly missed.

Accounting Counts

Deletta Hall –
Accounting Manager

Hello all, hope you have been enjoying your summer, staying cool seems to be the main goal this year. **Our goal** is to get the year closed, have the audit and learn the new software program. While some things move faster than others; we are making progress.

We mourn the passing of Mr. Frank Ryals, Mrs. Hazel McCannon and Lancaster McG. Mr. Ryals was known as Mr. Happy Hour for all his years of dedication to this organization, we will truly miss his presence and leadership. Mrs. McCannon was an asset to the corporation as well, loved by many and will be missed for her contributions to the individuals and staff. We were shocked at the sudden loss of our beloved Lancaster McGhee, always a smile on his face, he took pride in his job working on the Robins Recycling contract. Our hearts are heavy with all the losses Happy Hour has endured in the past year, a reminder that life is unpredictable; so hold your loved ones close and tell those around you how much they mean to you.

In closing we want to say how pleased we are that our Accounting Department was chosen as Employee Group of the Quarter. I say to the accounting staff that I appreciate all your hard work and thank you for all that you do each and every day. Congratulations to the Employees of the Quarter, Tammy Dawson-Workshop, Donna Voigt-Administration and Laurette Severe-Residential. To all other employees, your hard work and dedication is the backbone of this organization and your efforts do not go un-noticed. Thank you to all who make every day the success it is, you are appreciated.

“Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked” Psalm 82:3-4

Workshop Words cont. from page 5 Jackie Barnett—Workshop III Supervisor

Hello, from Workshop III. It is already July and the heat is on with a daily reminder for the individuals to keep drinking plenty of water. The cardboard is still coming in more than ever by the truck loads, packed to the max. We have Deonta Jordan joining us as our new Warehouse Tech/Instructor Aide. Along with James and Terry, he is doing a good job learning the baler and the duties that go with it and he likes to clean; we welcome you. The drivers are doing a good job at keeping the routes caught up and making sure the individuals are OK while in the heat. At this time, all machines are running good, all we need are more VR's and community service workers to keep the baler loaded with cardboard. Mr. Napier, has a birthday coming up and we want to say “Happy Birthday” to him! We are all saddened by the loss of Lancaster McG., let's keep his family in our prayers, remember the individuals always come first.

HAPPY HOUR

Houston County Association
for Exceptional Citizens, Inc.

202 N. Davis Dr. PMB 164
Warner Robins, GA 31093

For more information about Happy
Hour please call Letitia Peebles
@ 478-929-6613

Houston County Association for
Exceptional Citizens, Inc., working
as Happy Hour, has been in opera-
tion since 1956, and is one of the
oldest organizations in the Middle
Georgia area serving developmen-
tally disabled individuals. Over
these years, there have been many
expansions from the original seven
consumers to the present one hun-
dred seventy (170).

Happy Hour is accredited by the
Commission on Accreditation of
Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).
We are also a United Way Agency
and a non-profit agency under IRS
rule 501 (C) (3).

To:
Staff/Consumers/Parents/
Guardians/Service Providers/
Business Partners



We're on the Web!

www.hcaec.com



Employee Awards

Employees of the Year 2015

Jennifer Dalton
Patricia Washington

Employees of 2nd Quarter

Donna Voigt—Administration
Tammy Dawson—Workshop
Laurette Severe—Residential

Happy Hour Team Award

Accounting Department
Rhonda Atcheson, Helen Davidson,
Deletta Hall & Wilson Wilhoit

Congratulations to everyone
and thank you for
your hard work and dedication.



Participant Awards

Superstars of 2nd Quarter

Debora Horsley—Retirement Program
Tina Brewer—Ryals Wing
Phong Nguyen—WSI
LaDarius French—WS II
Duard Bennett—WS III
Ikeisha McFadden—WS IV



Dates to Remember:

August

Board Meeting—18th 2:00

September

Labor Day Holiday—5th CLOSED
Board Meeting— 15th 2:00
Staff In-Service— 16th CLOSED

October

Board Meeting 20th—2:00
Fall Festival—TBA
GA National Fair—10th-14th
(Tentative)