



**Special points of interest:**

- \* In the Spotlight
- \* Years of Service Recognees
- \* Employee Recognition

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## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Reflecting back on the events of this past year and all the changes that occurred, it seems as though we may not have been able to catch our breath as we are in the midst of the busiest time of the year. So hopefully we can take a couple of minutes to do just that. We also have a lot of wonderful staff who are retiring or who have retired this past year, and I want to thank them so much for their many, many contributions to RSH throughout their careers. I know the sports analogy is “next man up”, and we certainly have and will continue to follow that approach, but experience is invaluable in so many ways. I want to wish the best to all of you, your family, and friends in this holiday season.

Thank you,

*Jeff*

### Basket of Goodies

This basket of goodies includes musical & animated Santa, watches, emergency fluorescent lantern, gift card, many other items for gift giving or keeping. It's a \$125 value.



Chances on this festive holiday basket are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Tickets may be purchased from Grassroots members: Kathy Tuggle, Penny Sams, Terri Ogle, Linda Gregory, Carmie Kitchin, Rick Searcy, Mike Lowden, Luanne HandySaylor, April Craig, Peggie Layne, Beth Thompson, and Debbie Lanman. Also Switchboard and Credit Union will have tickets. Drawing will be at the Employee Recognition Dinner on Thursday, December 15th.



## In the Spotlight

Linda Gregory, RTA

My name is Linda Gregory, and I've been employed at Richmond State Hospital for 32 years and 6 months. I started out in 1979 as a Psychiatric Attendant making \$3.56 an hour. In those days we worked on units at times by ourselves, units consisting of 28 males or females. After 7 ½ years I transferred into the Activity Services Department as an RTA. I started in the Vocational area where we had 5 staff, all of us assigned to units, back then there were 12 units.

For the most part I enjoy all aspects of my job; I have workers and teach classes and other duties as assigned. I really enjoy working outside, taking care of all the flower beds and decorating the grounds for holidays. My workers always want to have a job working

outside; it's gratifying to see their faces when they've completed a task they've never done such as planting flowers and even making a cornstalk.

I enjoy all types of crafts, going to flea markets, buying a fixer upper and redoing it. I also love to cook and bake, but hate cleaning up the messes.

All of my family members live outside of the Richmond area, so I like to volunteer working the holidays, especially the major ones. The patients always express their "thanks" for having the Social Area open on these holidays along with special refreshments.

It has been fun working with all the other employees from different departments on the Grassroots Committee and seeing the support

from a lot of the employees.

There have been significant changes during my employment here, some for the good, and some not so good; I'll leave it at that. It will be hard to say good-bye to my fellow co-workers and hard to learn to sleep in, but the time has come to depart. My new hobby will be to hit the lottery and travel. Ha ha

I haven't met any famous people, but I do have a signed letter from Bobby Knight, Rupert (argh) and Evan Bayh.

During the years our department did a 6 day long carnival week, these folks were invited to be grand marshals in our large parade, unfortunately timing was off.

## RSH Mentoring Program

By Julie Leavell

The mentoring program for the new BHRA's that was started in June is running very smoothly on day shift as well as on evening shift. All new employees fill out an evaluation form at the end of orientation on their mentor and the mentoring program. All evaluations have been extremely positive. They have all had good experiences with their mentors and feel ready to begin their new job duties.

Staff Development would like to thank all of the mentors for the excellent job that they are doing in assisting us with training and coaching the new BHRA

staff. The mentors are:

### Day Shift:

Shannon Day  
Jeremy Handley  
Alan Kutche  
Stephanie Robertson  
Jesse Hodges  
Darlene Walter  
Anita Caldwell  
Michelle Rogers  
Taz Evans  
Jewell Smith  
Theresa Yoder  
Toni Storms  
Susan Retter

Dustin Deboo  
Alicia Dumlao  
Jason Buckler

### Evening Shift:

Carolyn Moffitt  
Alex Gibson  
Dejuan Darden  
Brittany Talbott  
Richard Hale  
Tim Webb  
Shawn Ford  
Carolyn Rayburn  
Wes Cowin  
Stephanie Evertts  
Bruce Wigginton

## Years of Service Recoginees

Below are the names of those that are to be recognized for their years of service at our Christmas dinner. If you feel your name should be on this list or you are on here by mistake, please give me a call at 9201 or send me an email at donna.crist@fssa.in.gov.

### Five Years of Service

Amy Banta  
 Michael Beck  
 Constance Clodfelter  
 Tommy Cross  
 Maurcia Crutcher  
 Dustin DeBoo  
 Cynthia DeLucio  
 Alicia Dumlao  
 Brad Eidem  
 Steve Estes  
 Andomo Ferguson  
 Beverly Garnet  
 Jeremy Handley  
 Jamie Holbert  
 Teanne Howard  
 Crystal Jarvis  
 Heather Johnson  
 David Joyce  
 Pamela Karanovich  
 Carlton Kelley  
 Philip Kuhens  
 Susan Kuhens  
 Bonita Lacey  
 James Lairson  
 Tony Lee  
 Amy Marcum  
 Jonelle McGathey  
 Janet Miller  
 Chuck Minor  
 Denny Moore II  
 Amanda Moore  
 Shannon Newman  
 Gloria Patterson

Eric Scalf  
 Erica Scalf  
 Andrew Shepherd  
 David A. Short  
 David S. Short  
 Susan Sonsini  
 Robin Stewart  
 Brian Thomas

### 10 Years of Service

Fortunato Alano  
 Kathryn Barker  
 Jacquelin Burton  
 Marian Clark  
 Nancy Corman  
 John Davis  
 Nora Harris  
 Kathy Lear  
 Danny Matheny  
 George Mittenhal, Jr.  
 Therese Ryan  
 Connie Stackhouse  
 Phillip Tiemann

### 15 Years of Service

Grace Chagdes  
 Beverly Eadler  
 Tylene Ferguson  
 Nickey Goldey  
 Amy Oakes  
 Tanene Smith

### 20 Years of Service

Ronald Barker  
 Angela Blunk  
 Ronald Braund  
 Helen Darr  
 Brenda Jeffries  
 Kathy Larsh  
 Amy Lester  
 Michael Lowden  
 Donna K. McFarland  
 Phillip Melody  
 Brenda Prifogle  
 Diana Scalf  
 Rebecca Wysong

### 25 Year of Service

Mary Ellen Berner  
 Gloria Bicknell  
 Sue Bishop  
 Joyce Brittenham  
 Christie Brown  
 Terri Colvin  
 Roger Cowin  
 Holly Dils  
 Vicki Muse  
 Carmie Kitchin  
 Mary Rambow

### 30 Years of Service

Brenda Bowmer  
 Judith Pelfrey  
 Caryl Smith

## Christmas & Employee Recognition Dinner

Don't forget the Employee Recognition & Christmas dinner on December 15th, CTC Gym, 11:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.

**Employee recognition begins at noon.** For those being recognized, you may invite family members to come if you'd like, and all retirees are always welcome to attend as well.

Be sure to bring your canned goods for the food pantry! Also, if anyone would like to donate deserts, they would be greatly appreciated.

## To the RSH Family

It will soon be a year since I was taken from a regular room at Reid Hospital and moved to intensive care. Being treated for pneumonia and influenza A, my body was rapidly getting weaker. Blood pressure readings were staying consistent: 57/37. Pulse was 168 to 178 beats per minute, even reaching 188. Fever was 105 degrees and I'm told, spiking at 108. Scans of my lungs looked like a snow storm in the fog. The doctors treating me did not think I would live much longer and my family was told that I wasn't going to make it.

Then Dr. Steve Bobula, Infectious Disease Specialist, was called in for consultation. He said that he tried to grow a culture and the result was that I was "germ free". Not a good answer when a person is lying in bed dying and from what? He tried to grow a second culture and the results were clear: Histoplasmosis Disseminated. He told my family that the side effects of the medicine could prove very serious, but since my kidneys had shut down from the "histo", and my liver and other organs had already been affected why not go with the antibiotic.

Many prayers were being said which included a request that God would help and heal me. I am so thankful for family and friends. What a difference you all have made in my life. I was healed. Being sent to a nursing facility for therapy when I couldn't even raise a hand or arm, couldn't walk, couldn't roll over in bed, and facing problems associated with such a helpless condition, I slowly began to gain some strength and worked on getting "well". After all, I didn't want to be moved in a hoier lift the rest of my life.

A year later I think of so many of you and wish to thank you for your faithful prayers, wonderful visits, many phone calls, precious gifts, and encouraging cards! From my heart I want to say...THANK YOU! I also would like to share with you a favorite verse of mine from the Christmas carol, *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*.



O ye beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow;  
Look now, for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing;  
Oh rest beside the weary road  
And hear the angels sing.

*God bless you all,  
Mary Johnson*

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## Thank You



We would like to thank everyone who helped with the patients for the NAMI dance, Christmas Through Our Eyes, and the unit parties.

We would also like to thank everyone who helped by adopting a patient or by giving money for the Adopt a Patient Program. It will be a great Christmas for all the patients due to your generosity.

**Tara Jamison and the Community Relations Department**



# Staff Development News

## Training Schedule

### Recertification in Bridge Building

Dates: December 16  
Time: 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
Location: Staff Development

### Recertification in Professional CPR

Dates: December 16  
Time: 12:15 to 3:45 p.m.  
Location: Staff Development

### Evening shift recert in Bridge Bldg.

Date: December 29 & 30  
Time: 3:30 to 7:00 p.m.  
Location: Staff Development

### Evening shift recert in Professional CPR

Date: December 14  
Time: 3:30 to 7:00 p.m.  
Location: Staff Development

\*Annual recerts are scheduled during your birth-month.

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Treatment Team/Plan Refresher classes will be held on Tuesday, December 13. There is a morning class from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and a class for evening shift from 3 to 4 p.m.

**Staff Development will be closed Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> and Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> for the Christmas holidays.**

New Employee Orientation was held December 5 - 9 in Staff Development. We welcomed twelve new employees to RSH. The new employees are:

- Chad Blue
- Bruce Brown
- Jason Burkhart
- Lisa Butler
- Stacy Byrd
- Chhum Dalton
- Marlena James
- Joseph Lore
- Robert Payton
- Daniel Potters
- Ramon (Terrell) Walker
- Randy Wood

**Please welcome** our new Behavioral Health Recovery Attendants who have completed their training in Staff Development on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- Michelle Bond
- David Hutchens
- Donna Longnecker
- Chris Pardo
- Cathy Parrett
- Jessica Wilson
- Casie Yoder

## America and the Creation of Santa Claus



The American Santa Claus is generally considered to have been the invention of Washington Irving and other early nineteenth-century New Yorkers, who wished to create a benign figure that might help calm down riotous Christmas celebrations and refocus them on the family. This new Santa Claus seems to have been largely inspired by the Dutch tradition of a gift-giving Sinterklaas, but it always was divergent from this tradition and was increasingly so over the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. So, the American Santa is a largely secular visitor who arrives at Christmas, not the 6 December; who

dresses in furs rather than a version of bishop's robes; who is rotund rather than thin; and who has a team of flying reindeer rather than a flying horse. At first his image was somewhat variable, but Thomas Nast's illustrations for *Harper's Illustrated Weekly* (1863-6) helped establish a figure who looks fairly close to the modern Santa. This figure was taken up by various advertisers, including Coca-Cola, with the result that he is now the 'standard' version of the Christmas visitor and has largely replaced the traditional Father Christmas in England.

**Santa Claus**, also known as Saint Nicholas, Father Christmas, Kris Kringle, or simply "**Santa**", is a figure

with legendary, historical and folkloric aspects who, in many western cultures, is said to bring gifts to the homes of the good children during the late evening and overnight hours of Christmas Eve, December 24. The modern figure was derived from the Dutch figure of Sinterklaas, which, in turn, may have part of its basis in hagiographical tales concerning the historical figure of gift giver Saint Nicholas. A nearly identical story is attributed by Greek and Byzantine folklore to Basil of Caesarea. Basil's feast day on January 1 is considered the time of exchanging gifts in Greece



## New Years



L	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	X	V	Z	K	N	X	Z	V	X	H	X	N
M	D	W	L	W	Y	T	L	V	B	Y	T	U	Q	L	Y	V	J	D	P
I	Q	Q	G	T	V	D	F	S	R	C	I	B	G	U	N	X	X	A	V
D	C	O	P	Q	K	O	A	S	K	K	H	A	S	M	Q	C	R	Z	A
N	L	S	Q	Y	P	L	R	K	N	V	E	Z	Y	S	J	T	M	A	H
I	L	U	L	M	N	Y	I	R	A	E	Y	W	E	N	Y	P	P	A	H
G	A	V	R	T	F	S	X	S	L	Y	L	M	D	G	C	N	I	C	Y
H	B	T	I	Q	S	Z	K	X	H	Z	W	G	R	P	O	D	H	O	Y
T	T	K	C	O	N	F	E	T	T	I	T	O	T	I	I	G	H	U	V
D	O	P	F	C	Y	D	V	V	A	Q	A	B	S	Y	C	K	C	N	U
X	O	H	M	B	A	K	I	L	F	I	R	E	W	O	R	K	S	T	L
B	F	S	P	T	D	T	K	K	Z	Q	M	M	I	U	K	N	C	D	E
P	X	M	P	M	S	N	X	H	H	A	B	X	Y	U	F	H	Y	O	A
J	G	Z	A	D	R	A	Q	B	K	B	A	L	L	O	O	N	S	W	M
U	O	V	K	S	A	G	O	E	R	Y	A	R	G	J	G	Q	T	N	H
D	D	O	I	J	E	O	R	T	Q	G	Y	P	Y	C	S	L	G	P	G
X	J	X	C	S	Y	A	G	X	N	E	W	Y	E	A	R	S	E	V	E
W	N	T	Y	C	W	E	R	A	U	Q	S	S	E	M	I	T	W	T	D
D	W	E	C	T	E	W	B	I	J	M	S	L	L	Y	V	R	H	O	D
O	G	J	Z	K	N	K	M	V	U	S	O	K	J	J	X	E	F	O	P

**NEWYEARS DAY**  
**FOOTBALL**  
**FIREWORKS**  
**TOAST**  
**CONFETTI**

**NEWYEARS EVE**  
**PARTY**  
**KISS**  
**FRIENDS**  
**BALLOONS**

**MIDNIGHT**  
**TIMES SQUARE**  
**NOISEMAKER**  
**COUNTDOWN**  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**