



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*

Well, there is a new sheriff in town. There are some of you that have known me for many years and some others who don't know me at all. My commitment to you is that I will be dedicated every day to our individuals and to our staff. First, we appreciate the opportunity you give us when you entrust your family to our care here at Happy Hour. Our pledge to you is that we will care for them and provide for them all that is in our power. Second, we will enjoy the interaction with them as they train or work at their jobs. I have been involved with this organization for most of my life and it means a great deal to me and my family. We are excited to be an active part of the "Happy Hour Family". My door is always open, and I invite you to come see me if you feel the need.

There is a lot going on right now on our campus. We are working diligently to re-open Recycled Treasures in Workshop IV, hopefully, by mid May. We have purchased a large facility on Green Street that will serve as our new recycling facility. The processing will be done there, but the campus drop-off will remain in the same location. This will open Workshop III for the new "Hanger Project". This project has not gotten off to the fast start we had hoped to see, but should begin to be more of a sustained effort. As you can see, there is a lot of change happening right now at Happy Hour! When it is all completed, we are looking for things to be a little more peaceful and stable.

Our residential homes and apartments are now at full occupancy. We had some vacancies for several months but those now are filled. This makes it easier for us to budget and to be able to provide those things that our individuals should have. We just purchased outdoor furniture for all of the group homes that did not have any. This also included grills for each. From what I hear, they are anxiously waiting for that first cookout! I certainly hope that everyone enjoys the food and fellowship.

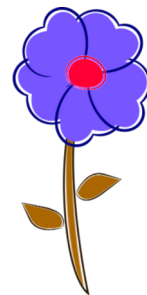
May brings our annual Association meeting and the election of officers and board members. The meeting will be held on May 19th at 3:00pm. I hope you will take the time to join us so we can meet you and get to know you. Remember, the annual cost of a membership is only \$8. We welcome your involvement here at Happy Hour. We look to see you there.

I now have been on the job for almost two months and it is quite apparent to me that our staff is totally committed to our individuals. I am most pleased to see the level of dedication and caring attitudes that are on display here. We will continue to work, everyday, to be better in our service to our individuals. Let's make 2016 a great year!

April 2016 - Issue 2

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Retirement Program

Michelle Booth-

Retirement Program Coordinator

Retirement is oh so sweet Lots of great activities and relaxation going on. We have participated in St. Patty's Day festivities, Easter egg hunts, spring garden planting, learning about the changes in our weather and gone on many outings these past few months. We've taken lots of great photos to look back on. Here are a few.



Come and visit with us and check out our retirement activities.

Human Resources Department

Lori Chaney –

Human Resources Director

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

Aequila Harris-**Instructor Aide**

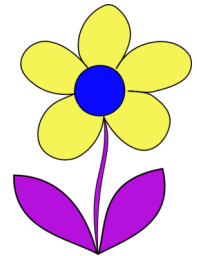
Timequa Person, Chris Taylor - **Direct Care Aide**

Diane Moroney, Demetria Harris - **Job Coach**

Drew Dennis - **Social Worker**

Jeff Strong - **Instructor/Truck Driver**

Terry Rogers II - **Warehouse Technician**



We continue to give monthly tours of our Center and welcome your organization. Please give our office a call to set one up!

Make sure to stop by the HR Dept if you need any assistance with your 403b, health insurance, questions regarding policies or procedures, etc... our door is always open.

Self-Advocacy Committee

Debra M. Spears—Advisor

Visitors are invited to attend our committee meeting the third Monday of each month at 1:00 in Workshop II Conference Room. The committee would like to welcome a new member, Joe P., who will be a great asset to our committee.

At the March meeting, the committee welcomed our guest speaker, Mike Fogue, Director of Operations here at Happy Hour Service Center. Members listened intently as Mike spoke about the new Hanger Contract and the plans for growth and change that the contract will bring to Happy Hour. Mike shared with members that the Hanger Contract will be moving and expanding to Workshop III and that Workshop III will be moving to a new Workshop V. Mike also spoke about the newly set up Senior Program and some of the changes to take place with it.

At the April meeting, the committee members were outside assisting recyclers with unloading their recyclables at the Recycle Shed. This also gives our members an opportunity to personally thank our recyclers for contributing to Happy Hour.

If you have any questions concerning our committee, please contact me at 478 929-6604.



The AD Report

*Mike Forgue -
Associate Director*

There's a lot going on throughout our Happy Hour workshops. I'll take this opportunity to update everyone on our current and future plans as we reorganize the processes within our workshops. Workshop I will continue to work various contracts including cleaning bank tabs for 3SI corporation. We currently clean and send them 2000 tabs per week. In addition to bank tabs our individuals are shredding paper, removing pages from books, and sorting newspaper. They continue to learn and develop motor skills to enable them to succeed on other work contracts we have throughout our workshops.

Over in Workshop II we have transformed into a fast paced hanger sorting operation. Through our partnership with Hangers Unlimited in Milwaukee Wisconsin, we now sort, package, and distribute recycled hangers to customers throughout the southeast. We receive tractor trailer loads of hangers from the Kohls distribution center here in Macon. Once they arrive at our workshop we unload the bags of hangers and our individuals sort them according to types and sizes. Once sorted they are boxed, labeled and stored awaiting shipment instructions. In the near future we will be relocating this entire operation into workshop III. This will provide plenty of space needed for the storage of sorted hangers prior to shipment.

This brings us to our biggest and most challenging change. The recycling operations currently ongoing in Workshop III will be moving to our new location on Green Street. We recently purchased a warehouse to encompass all our current and future recycling opportunities. This will allow us to seek out new customers and expand our operation, all in an effort to provide opportunities for those we serve here at Happy Hour and also keep the world a greener place by recycling and keeping items out of landfills. Renovations are ongoing to the facility to get it suitable for our recycling operation. We will continue to service the recycling drop off point here on the campus, so keep bringing your items to recycle.

The other good news is we are soon to be reopening our Recycled Treasures yard sale under new management. Mr. Phil Lattimer will be heading our efforts to provide job skills and work opportunities to our individuals who chose to work at the yard sale. If you have donation we are ready to accept items for resale in the store. Please be patient with all the work going on to get the workshops realigned over the next few months. With a little luck by the end of summer we should be completed with all the realignment and moving forward.



Robins Review

*JR Dean –
Contract Manager*

We in Robins Recycling are glad to announce that our funding has finally migrated from month to month to now being fully funded through the month of September. As we continue to provide quality service to the Air Force base populace we are also anticipating more changes coming our way in the future. As with most federal and state agencies these days, different options are always being considered to provide quality service at the best price.

Our individuals are having an enjoyable springtime participating in various activities such as Lane Packing and Special Olympics. They are also looking forward to the fishing outing coming soon. Lastly, much anticipation is being expressed about the upcoming move to the newly acquired Workshop on Green Street.

***EVERY DAY IN USA IS ARMED FORCES
APPRECIATION DAY***

Exceptional Mail & More

*Darryl Kitchens
Program Manager*

Greetings to all from the staff at Exceptional Mail & More (EM&M), as the season between Winter and Summer marks the growth of plants and the onset of warmer weather, we at Exceptional Mail and More will continue to grow and service the public with all their postal needs.

Our focus this quarter is welcoming back our individuals served and providing them with proper training on the distribution, handling, forwarding and redirection of mail within the guidelines of the United States Postal Service Regulations and the EM&M Standard Operating Procedures in accordance with federal laws.

Since our last newsletter, the EM&M staff added Miss Amy Wilkes, a Southern proud mother of two young men and hired Darryl "DATH" Kitchens as the new Program Manager. We also welcomed into world, Little Miss Genesis Jackson, the daughter of former EM&M staff member, Shalada Jackson.

We will be closed May 30th for Memorial Day.

Ryals Wing

Wallace Pitts—
Ryals Wing Supervisor

What a time we're having at the Ryals Wing!!! First of all, we have just finished celebrating a 70's Valentine's Day Party! The entire staff dressed up in 70's attire for the individuals. It was hilarious! They had fun and we made their day....St. Patrick's Day festivities and had a visit from "The Leprechaun!" thanks Instructor Aide Aaron Shultz the individuals was excited and thrilled and staff for going out the way! Thank you, Ms. Ann for that great "Shamrock Punch!" It was great!

We have been working on enhancements of establishing the skills of being productive in severe and profound, the assignment tasks given. The instructors have been working with the individuals non-stop displaying their talents/gifts. We have and will continue to pull out the God given potentials they os desire to present. Continue to applaud their efforts, continue encourage their desires; we're their biggest fans!!!

Our eggs are in place for "Easter".... And we are preparing our baskets for a great Ryals Wing gathering! We're preparing for our spring and summer events as the individuals worked on art and crafts making drawings for their classrooms. Lane Packing, Cherry Blossom, working on getting our greenhouse in order with flowers (pots), vegetables, swimming etc.

The Ryals Wing staff and individuals would like to welcome our new Executive Director, Mr. Stan Blaxton. We look forward in continuing upholding the standards of the organization under the leadership of Mr. Blaxton. Our responsibilities haven't changed...Our dedication has increased... Our knowledge have produce substantial results in the way we have conduct ourselves toward the individuals, and staff, incoming visitors, etc. We're now making preparation for documentation training that will ever more so enhance our paperwork. (work ethics)...

The Ryals Wing has a strong concept on the way we work to make a difference in the individual's life.... It does take a village to make a successful workplace environment. We are here to serve! No doubt about it! We are here to shine a light that others can see our good work, and glorify our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thanks everyone for serving on the Ryals Wing!



EDIUSAIAFAD, "Attitude of Gratitude"

Michelle Booth, Retail Manager

Power Balance Bracelets \$8.00

Blue or Red



Visit our post office "Exceptional Mail & More" or come by the Recycled Treasures Yardsale to purchase merchandise with the slogan, "Attitude of Gratitude". We have a variety of items such as ball caps, t-shirts, umbrellas, power balance bracelets or many more items to express your "Attitude of Gratitude". We are a non-profit organization and all proceeds go to help fund our developmentally disabled adults needs.

Recreation News

*Rose R. Neal-Moore—
Recreation Technician*



Special Olympic News

The last day of bowling was March 15th, we had a pizza party and medal ceremony after the game.

Masters Bowling will be hosted in Warner Robins again this year at Gold Cup Bowling Lanes in the month of August.

Special Olympics Local Games was held in Fort Valley on April 29th, hosted by The Kay Center. Happy Hour participated in the Volleyball competition.



Recreation News



Once again, Happy Hour participated in strawberry picking at Lane Southern Orchards in Fort Valley! We attended April 11th, 19th, 20th & 27th. Each day after picking we had lunch and ice cream in their picnic area.

June 3rd, we have a fishing trip planned at the Go Fish GA Education Center located at the GA Nat'l Fairgrounds & Agricenter in Perry. This will be a great time for all to enjoy, parents are welcome to attend. Time 9:00a.m. - 2:30 p.m.



Summer is upon us which means our summer swim program will also be starting. We plan to begin June 7th and we will have our swim party staff that attend the scheduled swim dates.



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Workshop Words

Cedric Singleton—Workshop I Supervisor

It's been awhile..allow us to update... "THE PEOPLE" on what has happened in Workshop I. Business has really picked up, we are currently working on the 3SI contract, shredding contract, flattening newspaper and tearing old library books, thanks to our Community Partners: Friends of the Library. Our individuals put out crazy numbers of bank tabs and pounds of shred each week which requires staff to literally stay on their P's and Q's to ensure that the numbers are accurate. As the old saying goes "All work and no play makes for a dull time." When it comes to Workshop I, here is what we do for fun. We have innovated a new way for the individuals to increase and build on their social skills besides watching movies and doing arts/crafts. Instead of going out to Gold Cup Bowling Center, we created our very own bowling alley. The individuals choose their teams and then have a friendly competition to see who will wear the crown of "BEST BOWLING TEAM". As far as working on their Community Outing skills, staff set up a mock Retail Store. We did this so we could challenge and better assist our individuals with learning how to count money, budgeting and making purchases independently. Congratulations, to William M. and Angela G. on becoming our Superstars of the Quarter. We pray that the parents and guardians have noticed a change in their loved ones, as we put forth a major effort to make a difference in their lives. With that being said, I would like to thank all Workshop I staff: William Britton, BJ Davidson, Nikki Fisher, John Johnson, Antwan Jordan, Tameika Mangham and Fred Whitest for putting the mission of the organization ahead of everything else and understanding that it is all about one thing "THE INDIVIDUALS".

Emory Askew—Workshop II Supervisor

Spring is starting to show here in workshop II. We would like to welcome back Kim G. and Anthea C., they are doing a great job working on the hanger contract, which is moving along very well, only in one weeks time we were able to turn out over a hundred thousand hangers. Our Persons Served are showing their willingness and eagerness to learn new tasks and skills. Workshop II rewarded the Individuals with a cake party for their hard work. We would like to thank Workshop III and Mrs. Ramona for letting some of our individuals work alongside them in other areas, as we are experiencing some down time waiting the delivery of more hangers. Congratulations to everyone, keep up the good work.

Community Employment

Kelvin Taylor –

Community Employment Manager

Community Employment hopes that everyone is enjoying the nice spring weather! We are still offering the special on carpet cleaning for two rooms and a hall for \$99.00 (different rate for staff)! As the weather gets warmer we will start washing company as well as staff vehicles for \$10.00. Contact Staci or Kelvin if you would like your vehicle washed.

We would like to welcome our two new staff members Diane Moroney, who is a custodial job coach and helps on the custodial team, also Demetria Harris, who is our new job development class instructor. Please give them a warm welcome.

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, Eric, Phillip and the individuals are doing a great job on our custodial contracts!

The Vocational Rehabilitation program is going well. Flora, Lucius, Kristen, Ann, and Angela worked diligently in finding opportunities for our Voc Rehab individuals. If you have a need for VR help in the workshops 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 8 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, Jennifer Dalton & Lester Ward
Social Workers*

Spring is in the air. With Spring comes change and such is the same for Happy Hour Service Center and the Social Services Department.

The Social Workers would like to welcome Mr. Stan Blaxton, Executive Director and

Andrew Dennis, Social Worker. "Drew" has 15 years experience in Social Services and Education. He mentors and educates kids in the local area. Drew will make a great fit with the Social Work Team which now consists of two females and two males. Let's welcome Drew aboard. We will miss Jennifer Dalton, Social Services Manager and new Mom.

We would like to welcome back Kim G. to our Day Services. Ronald J. is no longer receiving Day Services.

Our hearts are saddened by the loss of Abby Newell and Danny Snell. Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

The Social Workers are attending Transitional Meetings of Individuals waiting to graduate high school this year.

Our new Hanger Contract from Kohl's Department Store and the Donnie Jones Retirement Program are continuing to develop and create new opportunities for our individuals. We would like to acknowledge all of our individuals' hard work towards achieving their goals with the motivation and encouragement from staff.

~+

Recycled Treasures

Phil Lattimer—Retail Manager

Our yard sale operation is getting ready for kick-off with a brand new manager, Mr. Phil Lattimer as well as a "facelift" to our building that will be outstanding improvements. We will be in the same location so please come on out and shop with us! We are shooting for the first part of June, so keep your fingers crossed!

We look forward to seeing all of our great customers and wonderful volunteers. For updated information please visit us on facebook.



We're on facebook



Check us out at <https://www.facebook.com/RecycledTreasuresYardsale>.

As a reminder: Tell everyone within your circles that we need donations and are willing to pick them up. Donations are taken M-F 9:00-3:00 p.m. We also provide a receipt for taxes. Please remember, if you wouldn't buy it, it's probably not worth donating. If you have doubts, please call us so we can help you. 478-919-3439 or 478-602-5101 Don't forget that you can drop off your unwanted electronics to be recycled here at Happy Hour Service Center. We take computers, scanners, printers, keyboards and mice.

As always,

Think Green

Transportation & Maintenance

Jim Cheshire, Transportation Manager

Happy Hour follows the Houston County School District schedule for weather related closures. Tune into 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!

Remember, call 478-929-6603 for transportation changes!

Winter has gone—with no real wintry days to suffer through—and Spring is springing with some beautiful days. The April Fool's day storm did some damage around Happy Hour and Falcon Park. Fortunately, none was severe, though dealing with a number of repairs and clean-up by our maintenance and grounds guys, and some outside contractors. In transportation we appreciate everyone's cooperation in helping us to shut down the Center and send folks home early that day as we had a campus wide electrical power failure.

We work every day to keep all our bus routes running smoothly, while being as efficient as possible and serving all the individuals we can. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns with transportation issues.

As all may know, we are preparing to make some significant moves in our workshops. Workshop IV, our "Recycled Treasures" yard sale, is being prepared to reopen. We are refurbishing the front façade of the building at 200 N. Davis, and working inside to prepare shelves, storage, and all floor areas to again serve the public. We are also bringing persons served and some VR individuals back into training in this retail operation.

In a few months, we will begin to move recycling operations to Workshop V, a warehouse off of Green Street. This will allow our Kohls hanger contract to move and expand in Workshop III, and allow Workshop I to have some individuals move to Workshop II for their activities. All of this is requiring some maintenance and repair work, both by our guys and contractors.

We are again saddened, at the passing of the long time leader of this organization—Mr. Ryals was dedicated for over fifty-five years to the HCAEC, as a board member and a caring man—also one of the smartest men I've known. He will be missed and we pray for Ms. Nell and the family.

At the same time, I am pleased to see Stan Blaxton as our new Executive Director. We look forward to great times ahead for Happy Hour and service to all our individuals under his leadership.

Remember seat belts save lives and prevent injuries!

Falcon Park Happenings

*Rosemary Wright , Freddie Wallace & Rhonda Pittman
Home Managers*

Falcon Park Frenzy!



Spring has sprung and we are ready for some summer fun!

Let me take this time to welcome new staff members: Tracy McDaniel, Timequa Person, Alicia Taylor, and Chris Taylor! They are all becoming acclimated to the residential routine and happily serving our individuals! Welcome aboard, we are so thankful to have you!

Falcon Park II has been blessed with one new addition, Dwayne Noles. Dwayne comes to us from our day program and is adapting nicely to his new surroundings. Please welcome him to our residential family!

I would like to thank the staff members of Falcon Park I who endured the demands of working through the storm on April 1, 2016.

There was considerable damage and staff had to be flexible to serve our individuals. Thank you to everyone for keeping everything as normal as possible for our individuals given the damage caused by the tornado.

As summer approaches, staff is planning a summer trip for all of our homes and individuals. Last year, many of the homes went separately but this year we are hoping to have one large vacation together! There are many exciting suggestions on where to go on the table and we are looking into all of them. More details to come on our summer fun!!

Lastly, we are super excited to all have new outdoor furniture and grills!! Outdoor table, chairs, umbrellas, and grills were purchased to provide an outdoor entertainment center for all to enjoy! This makeover has definitely lifted our wintery spirits and has everyone ready for food, fun, and fellowship!



Come on out to see why Falcon Park is the place to live and work! Rhonda

Accounting Counts

*Deletta Hall –
Accounting Manager*

We have ended the first quarter of the new year with a successful issuance of the W2's for all the individuals and staff. We are now working towards the implementation of our new software which is scheduled to go live July 1, 2016, a goal we pray will be accomplished timely. The set up has begun and as with all things we are encountering additional tasks that need to be handled as we move forward, so please say some prayers for us.

We are extremely excited and pleased to welcome Mr. Stan Blaxton as our new Executive Director, his reputation as a past board president will allow the perfect blend between the Board and the Staff.

Congratulations to the Employee of The Quarter recipients; Tico Springer (WS), Louise Smith (Admin), Gloria Phillips, Lachelle Bryant and Jason Brown-Records (Group), Lester Ward, Debra Spears, Carla Plant-Social Workers (Group) and Kimberly Draines (Residential).

Short newsletter this quarter because "so much to do and so little time". May you have a blessed day and please keep our individuals and staff in your prayers.

"Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation." II Corinthians 7:4

God Bless

Deletta Hall

Accounting Manager



Workshop Words cont. from page 5

Jackie Barnett—Workshop III Supervisor

Spring is here and we're already feeling some "summer" heat.



There's a lot of excitement from staff and individuals alike anticipating our big move to Workshop V. Workshop III has four drivers now, a long time waiting, with Jeff Strong being the most recent. Terry Rogers also recently joined us as a Warehouse Tech, both are doing a fine job. Thank you, to all staff for the hard work you do each day. We are having a large amount of cardboard come in on a regular basis and we appreciate the help from Workshop II. Thanks to Jim Cheshire for coming in and helping us keep things running smoothly.

We are proud to have Mr. Blaxton as our new Director. Let's pray for the families who have lost loved ones, they will be greatly missed. Remember, our individuals are always come first. Vacation time is almost here, everyone please be careful and enjoy the time with your families.



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 1st Quarter

Louise Smith—Administration
Tico Springer—Workshop
Kimberly Draines—Residential

Happy Hour Team Award

Social Workers—Debra Spears, Carla
Plant, & Lester Ward
Records—Lachelle Bryant,
Gloria Phillips & Jason Brown

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



Participant Awards

Superstars of 4th Quarter

WS I—Johnnie A.
WS II—Greg W.
WS III— Reggie J.
Ryals Wing—Cherie B.



Dates to Remember:

May

Board Meeting—19th 2:00
Annual Meeting—19th 3:00
Memorial Day—30th CLOSED

June

Board Meeting—16th 2:00
Staff In-Service—17th CLOSED

July

Independence Day—4th CLOSED
Board Meeting 21st—2:00