



Rotary Club of Dalton Newsletter

<http://www.daltonrotaryclub.org>

This Week:

January 19
Dan Combs, Jr.
Scott Mullis - Firestar, Inc.
Prevasive: The Future of
Infection Control

Upcoming Meetings:

January 26
Director Program

February 2
Jeff Myers
Gary Howard - Hamilton
Cancer Institute

February 9
Bob Kinard
Board Meeting

February 16
Patty Mooney

February 23
Director Program

Club Officers:

Jason Parker
President
Bruce Satterfield
President-Elect
Frank M. Hogshead
Secretary, Treasurer
David Aft
Immediate Past President
Teresa Carter
Club Administration Chair
John Hutcheson
Public Image Chair
Rick Cobb
Membership Chair
Janice Kiker
Community Service Chair
Scott Rhoden
Youth Service Chair
Kevin Brunson
Vocational Service Chair
Archana Srivastava
International Service
Chair
Greg Dent
Foundation Chair

Cross Plains Community Partner: An Overview

By: John Hutcheson



Rotarian Mel Abernathy introduced Deborah Conway of Cross Plains Community Partner (CPCP, known until 2005 as Cheerhaven). English by birth and accent, Deborah has thirty years' experience in social services in the U.K. and U.S, serving for the last decade as Executive Director of CPCP and leading it to statewide recognition.

Deborah recounted how her agency was founded as Cheerhaven by a group of concerned Whitfield County citizens nearly sixty years ago, to provide schooling for developmentally disabled children. In effect segregating them from the social mainstream, the agency's original operational model changed as new laws mandated such children's integration into public school systems, and Cheerhaven then shifted its mission to providing services for adults. Between 75 and 80 clients attended each day—often manifesting challenging behaviors—in an environment that remained apart from ordinary social settings and incorporated a one-for-all program which gave little recognition to individual preferences or other differences.

In 2000 Cheerhaven changed its service strategy to focus on its people as persons having distinctive characteristics and each needing individually meaningful activities.

Rather than conducting these only within the organization's confines, the goal became that of connecting clients to the wider community by offering appropriate services, either as volunteers or as paid employees, in partnership with schools, businesses, and non-profit community agencies. The name change from Cheerhaven to Cross Plains Community Partner signified the new approach, and currently 75% of CPCP's assistance occurs in community settings. Consequently, the agency now sees itself more as a bridge between its clients and the community than as a service provider to a special population. Especially noteworthy is an engagement with the arts through the Creative Arts Guild, where CPCP people may be found taking lessons and participating in showings.

Although many CPCP persons work in the community as volunteers—logging over 900 hours of volunteer service last year—facilitating paid employment is central to CPCP's mission. Deborah introduced Elizabeth Hunter, CPCP's Supported Employment Manager, who spoke of her passion for helping young people achieve dreams based on high expectations. Elizabeth described how CPCP assists with job-seeking, with matching prospective employees' abilities to employers' needs, and with development of interviewing skills. To help achieve maximum independence, CPCP can also help in areas such as driving, budgeting, and even apartment-hunting. Work hours provided through CPCP may be part-time or full-time, but in any case these employees will very likely demonstrate high loyalty and dedication. For example, at Hamilton Medical Center, Royal Oaks, and in the schools, CPCP partners often work in housekeeping or food services, while at Shaw Industries they are involved in office work, manufacturing, and distribution, sometimes even at the level of job-shadowing. At both Hamilton and Shaw, CPCP employees have achieved success rates of 100%.

Responding to questions, Deborah noted that while CPCP funding comes partly from Federal and state sources, this is often encumbered by extensive regulations. In that

connection she promoted CPCP's next annual fund raiser, the Grizzly Trail Run, a 5K event scheduled for March 12, 2016.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Member Birthdays

Bronson, William III (WILLIAM)
Blevins, Sheri H. (SHERI)

Birthday

19-Jan
24-Jan

Partner Birthdays

Waugh, Mary

Member Name Birthday

Waugh, Derek 23-Jan

Member Anniversaries

Hoskins, Douglas (DOUG)
Reed, Amanda (AMANDA)
Brantley, Traylor M (TRAY)
Mooney, Patricia H (PATTY)
DeLay, Scott G (SCOTT)
Bowling, John (JOHN)

Start Date

1/19/2010
1/19/2010
1/20/2015
1/20/2015
1/20/2015
1/23/2001

Years

6
6
1
1
1
15

Wedding Anniversaries

No anniversaries this period.

Partner's Name Anniversary Years

