

# HEMOCARE

## From Our Offices

This month we are paying special tribute to **Joyce Sams**, Clinical Supervisor in our Forest City Office. Joyce retired from HOME-CARE effective April 16, and we'll all miss her. Luckily, she will still be available on a more limited, part-time basis, so we can continue to benefit from her knowledge, experience, and caring.

Joyce went back to school after raising her children, earning a Bachelors in psychology from Converse College in 1986 and then a Masters Degree in agency counseling from Gardner Webb in 1999. It was then that her long association with HOME-CARE began. Joyce did her internship at HOME-CARE under the supervision of **Margaret Mason**, now our Director of Quality Improvement and Training. During the internship she worked primarily as a Behavioral Technician but also participated in other activities to broaden her experience and knowledge. After her internship she stayed on and worked as a Behavioral Tech in Rutherford County until her excellent work gained the attention of **Thomas McGhee**, then Case Management Supervisor at the old Rutherford Polk Area Program. He recruited her away, but in 2001 we hired her back as a Clinical Supervisor. We might also note that Thomas was one of the first Behavioral Technicians for HOME-CARE, beginning work out of the Charlotte office in August of 1996; in 1996 he and Joyce began working out of the same office once again when he took the position of HOME-CARE Regional Manager, responsible for the Forest City and Charlotte offices.

Joyce is devoted to her family, and now that she is retired she plans to spend even more time with son Scott, his wife Ruth, and their children Rachel, Sarah, and Daniel; son Tony, his wife Terrie, and their children Vanna and Gretta; daughter April and her children Alana, Alex and Darren. She is also Wanda Kay and Jackie Petty's guardian, and both live in on her property, as does Joyce's mother, who just recently celebrated her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday. With so much family, we aren't certain how she will find time for her hobbies: gardening, cross-stitch, reading, sewing and video games.



**Judy Long (standing) and Joyce Sams pose for a photo at Joyce's recent retirement party.**

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## Management Corporation

*News from the Mental Health Division*

## Employee Spotlight

**Naomi Hagler** joined the HOME-CARE team on Jan. 1 of this year. In this short time, she has proven to be a very dependable, responsible, creative and ambitious employee. Naomi works hard to ensure that the consumers that she works with receive quality care. She is a compassionate person who takes pride in her work.

The consumers she is currently working with have shown great improvement since she began working with them. Their mother reports that they wait anxiously each morning for Naomi to arrive, as they want to make her proud of them by working on their goals.

Naomi is very professional, always following policy and procedure, but never forgetting the needs of her consumer. According to her supervisors, she is a dedicated employee who time and again has gone above and beyond the call of duty to insure that her consumers are receiving the quality of services that they deserve.

She offers new and creative ideas to help them meet their goals, and she is able to recognize when the goals need to be adjusted to meet the needs and desires of the consumer.

Naomi and her husband will celebrate their 15-year anniversary on July 4<sup>th</sup>. As you will quickly discover when talking to her, she is also the proud mother of three children.

Naomi leads an active life, often working two jobs. But, she also knows how to enjoy herself. When she is not working or taking care of her family, Naomi enjoys reading inspirational books, attending church, spending leisure time with her family and helping people in the community.

## Client Spotlight

**Mary "Lynn" Jacobs** came to HOME-CARE Management Corporation in November of 2002. Lynn attends Brunswick Inter Agency Program, where she enjoys being a member of the Bowling League and an active participant in a wide variety of trips and social events. Lynn enjoys country music, and last year she and her mother traveled to the Grand Ole Opry. Lynn has been the Teen Youth Ambassador of the March of Dimes for more than 10 years. Lynn enjoys making scheduled appearances and often sings and entertains. Lynn also reports that she enjoyed serving as the Junior Ms. Godway in 1996.



Lynn says she enjoys the therapeutic relationship she has had with her HOME-CARE direct care workers. Lynn's goals are to one day work in a gift

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# April is Autism Awareness Month

April is National Autism Awareness month, so we will take a brief look at autism. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) refers to a group of developmental disabilities which include classic Autism, Pervasive Developmental Disorders NOS (Not Otherwise Specified), and Asperger's Syndrome. ASD affects the ability to understand what is seen, heard or otherwise sensed. It is a brain disorder that impacts communication, social interaction and behavior. It is usually difficult for individuals with ASD to understand verbal and nonverbal communication and to learn appropriate ways of relating to others, objects and events. ASD affects no two people the same and has varying degrees of severity; it is also found in combination with other disabilities.

Autism was first identified in 1943, but to this day no one is sure what causes it. Many researchers believe there is a strong genetic component; others suggest a physical problem that affects parts of the brain that process language and information; others believe it's a chemical imbalance in the brain, while still others think it's caused by a variety of external/environmental triggers. It's very likely that ASD may be caused by a combination of factors.

ASD is the second most common developmental disability. It's estimated that there are more than 50,000 individuals living with ASD in North Carolina. It is generally diagnosed in childhood and is four times more prevalent in boys than girls.

Signs of Autism include: problems with social, behavioral and communication skills; repetition of behaviors; a difficult time understanding change in daily life; different ways of learning, paying attention, or reacting to things; severe language deficits; interest in a restricted range of topics; avoidance of eye contact; a preference for being alone; a dislike for being held or cuddled (or perhaps cuddling only when they want to); laughing, crying, or showing distress for no apparent reason; over- or under-sensitivity to pain; losing skills once held. Autism is usually diagnosed by a multi-disciplinary team and is based on observation of the individual's communication, behavior, and developmental levels.

There is currently no cure for ASD. However, with individualized treatment, education, and support, individuals with ASD can improve and develop the skills necessary to live and participate in their community.

To learn more about autism please visit [www.autismsociety-nc.org](http://www.autismsociety-nc.org). The information above is from the Autism Society of North Carolina.

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## Client Spotlight (Continued from page 1)

shop and be a country and western singer. Lynn's favorite song, and also her life motto, is "There Are Angels Among Us Everywhere." Lynn's mother says that Lynn assists her with her catering business and is extremely helpful. According to her family, Lynn also enjoys baking and doing beadwork, .

**Victoria Yandle** (Lynn's Home and Community Support worker, pictured on page 1) states that she has learned a lot from Lynn. "She has a wonderful sense of humor and is easy going and a joy to work with," Victoria said.

# Opportunities For Learning

- **Adolescence and Substance Abuse**, Charlotte, April 24, 2-4 pm
- **Meet and Eat: Open Discussion and Problem Solving About Working with Consumers**, Statesville, April 24, 6-8 pm
- **Brain Gym**, Lenoir, April 29, 3-5 pm
- **Media Madness: How Mental Illness is Portrayed in the Media and Misleads the Public, Increasing Stigma**, Statesville, May 3, 10 am-12 pm
- **Using Behavior Modification with Clients Receiving Community Support**, Tarboro, May 7, 4-5 pm
- **Abuse and Mandated Reporting**, Charlotte, May 8, 10 am-12 pm
- **CS Skill Building**, Boone, May 13, 10 am-12 pm
- **Behavioral Interventions**, Lenoir, May 15, 12-2 pm

*Please contact your supervisor for more information on these valuable training sessions and additional opportunities for you to obtain required CS training as well as for required re-certification trainings.*

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## From Our Offices (Continued from page 1)

**Judy Long**, Administrative Assistant who has worked closely with Joyce speaks for all of us when she says she "certainly enjoyed working with her . . . she has a big heart and was willing to do whatever it took for her clients." We'll miss Joyce's regular presence but are glad that she will continue to stay involved with us.

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# Anniversaries

Joyce and Thomas aren't the only long-time HOMECARE employees we are celebrating this month. **Nick McClain** has worked out of the Charlotte office for 12 years, although with some breaks. **Bruce Alderman** of Whiteville and **Burch Walker** of Charlotte have provided nine years of outstanding service, while **Amy Harrison** of Statesville and **Shondia Hall** and **Jackie Norris** of Whiteville have been with us eight years. **Emma Register** of Whiteville and **Gladys Shull** of Boone are reaching their 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary with us. Celebrating six years are **Paula Cannon** of Boone, **Kezia Hayes** and **Sabrina Keith** of Wilmington, and **Katrinia Murphy** of Whiteville. **Nate Bush** of Boone rounds out our anniversary list with five years of service. Each of these individuals continues to make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

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# PaySchedule

Services Delivered	Checks Mailed
March 1-15	April 4
March 16-31	April 21
April 1-15	May 6

## Documentation

**Documentation for ALL services except Nursing-based PCS, CAP/DA and CAP/C is due the day after you have finished providing services for the week (Sunday-Saturday), and in no case later than the following Monday. CAP/DA, CAP/C and Personal Care must be postmarked or delivered the 16th for services delivered the 1st through the 15th and the 1st for the 16th through the end of the month.**