



October 2013

HEADLINES

Lindsey Colavito doesn't allow scars to define her



Following a life-altering surgery, young woman pursues dream of higher education

“I was at the top of my class before my surgery. When I went back to school, I wasn’t. It was tough. I felt like everyone was looking at me because of the scar on my head.”

Once at the top of her class, Lindsey Colavito, 28, was a member of the Beta Club and cheerleading squad, before she suffered a brain tumor at age 13. After undergoing a major surgery, Colavito was left with no short term memory.

“I went through rehabilitation, speech therapy and physical therapy. I couldn’t have done it without the support of friends, family, Monarch staff and doctors,” Colavito said.

Despite tremendous adversities, Colavito has successfully worked to put the scars behind her

and hasn’t allowed them or her struggles to define her or her life. Many of the academic achievements that once came easily to Colavito years earlier are more difficult since her surgery. She has worked hard to pursue her goal of higher education. This past May, Colavito earned a second associate degree in business from Stanly Community College (SCC). She earned her first degree in Early Childhood Education at SCC three years earlier.

To learn more about Colavito’s amazing journey, look for the Fall/Winter 2013 issue of Reaching Dreams, which is scheduled to print in November.

A night to remember: Monarch’s Annual Awards Dinner



Monarch honored more than two dozen of its staff members, people supported, and community leaders in eight different categories Thursday, Oct. 10 during the agency’s 2013 Annual Awards Dinner held at Stanly Regional Medical Center.

This year's annual event included dinner, fun, extraordinary entertainment and recognition of honorees. The event, organized by Jackie McGowen, senior executive assistant, was filled to capacity with approximately 200 Monarch employees who traveled from as far as Laurinburg, Lumberton and New Bern. Participants also included people the agency supports from across the region and surprise appearances from family members of several award recipients. Leonard Covington, human resources manager, served as emcee of the event. Dr. Peggy Terhune, chief executive officer, and Blake Martin, chief development officer, presented the awards.

The night was full of excitement for unsuspecting honorees and their colleagues. Staff members from across the state who received Monarch's prestigious awards in various categories include:



The Bill Sackter Award recognizes individuals Monarch supports who are achieving members of society. The recipients were **Geoffrey Guile** and **Harrison Young**, both of Stanly County; and **Marylene Noel**, of Forsyth County.

The Eula B. Cranford Professional of the Year honors a staff member who is involved with service to individuals supported. This year's recipients are: **Katherine Shaver**, a qualified professional in Stanly County – Region 3; **Eric Crisco**, ACTT team leader in Stanly County – Region 1; **Shanita Jackson**, a qualified professional in Stanly County – Region 3;

Amanda Nicholson, quality management coordinator in Stanly County – Region 10; **Jane Hogan**, an Intensive In-Home team leader in Rowan/Davidson County – Region 1; and **Dr. Pamela Reid**, a psychiatrist in Wake County – Region 7.



Staff Member of the Year Award honors staff members who have shown exemplary service to people with developmental disabilities. Recipients are nominated by staff and people Monarch supports. Recipients of this award are: **Jermaine Hill**, operations manager, Stanly County – Region 3; **Dorothy Williams**, developmental specialist residential, Hoke County – Region 2; **Sarah Portee**, developmental specialist, Hoke County; **Frances Hines**, developmental specialist, Rutherford County; **Natasha Black**, operations manager, Stanly County – Region 3; **Eva Katsoudas**, direct support specialist, Forsyth County – Region 5; and **Deborah Staton**, developmental specialist, Edgecombe County – Region 6.

The Martha H. Lowder Award of Excellence honors a Monarch board member who has demonstrated exemplary board involvement. The award went to Monarch's Board Member **Jeff Gaskin**, an Albemarle native, a parent of a person Monarch supports and chair of the organization's finance committee.

Industry of the Year Award went to REMPAC who has been a supporting partner of Monarch for 10 years. **Joe Terranova**, a representative of the company, accepted the award.

The Distinguished Community Service Award recognizes an organization or person that has performed an outstanding service on behalf of people with developmental disabilities, mental illness or substance abuse disorders. All 4 Fun Inflatables received this award for providing a place where people with disabilities can attend and participate with their families. The owners, Kathy and Brian Taylor, accepted the award.

The Creative Inspiration Award is awarded by the CEO to a staff member or volunteer who selflessly shares their talent with Monarch and the people we support. **Diana Turner-Forte** received this award.

The Ellis N. Smith Award is presented to a Monarch volunteer who has demonstrated exemplary involvement in the organization. **Bill Collier**, a longtime volunteer in the Moore county area whose daughter is supported by Monarch, received this award.

The evening's entertainment was a rendition of NBC's showcase of entertainers - America's Got Talent. Monarch's Got Talent featured extraordinary performances by people supported by Monarch and staff. The entertainment included several amazing soloists, energetic fitness and dance, an original and moving acoustic guitar solo and ballad, motivational poetry, and an extraordinary and inspirational interpretative dance. Talented performances included:

Rodney Burluson, portrayed Elvis - Region 1; **Craig Cavanaugh**, performed an acoustic guitar and ballad- Region 2; **Latricia Richardson**, sang a song by Beyonce - Region 3; **Amanda Turner Lynch** and **Arnae Bacon**, performed an interpretive dance - Region 4;

Gene Roncali, sang a country music ballad - Region 5; **Joanne Vincent**, recited an inspirational poem - Region 6; and **Channel Brewington**, performed a song by Aretha Franklin - Region 10.

Pictured above: (top) The lovely ladies from El Amor Dance Fitness, led by Channel Brewington, posed for a photo before their Zumba-inspired performance. Dr. Peggy Terhune presented a Staff Member of the Year Award to Sarah Portee; and Rodney Burluson sings "How Great Thou Art" as Elvis.

To view more photos from the event, visit Monarch's [Facebook page](#). "Like" the page for regular agency updates and photos.

Monarch tapped to provide for services in Cleveland, Gaston and Lincoln counties

Partners Behavioral Health Management (BHM), the managed care organization overseeing Medicaid, state and local funded behavioral healthcare for eight counties in North Carolina, announced Friday, Oct. 4 that Albemarle-based Monarch would begin delivering behavioral health services previously contracted to True Behavioral Healthcare of Gastonia.



Last week, Partners BHM became aware that True Behavioral Healthcare would no longer be able to maintain services currently delivered to approximately 400 individuals enrolled in the Partners BHM Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Care Plan. Partners BHM immediately initiated a selection process to identify other organizations who could deliver these services.

“Our mission and responsibility is to ensure that individuals receive timely and appropriate treatment,” said Rhett Melton, chief executive officer of Partners BHM. “Our position as a publicly-funded local managed care organization allowed us to work quickly to find a provider to operate these community-based services.”

True Behavioral Healthcare operated a number of mental health, substance abuse and intellectual and developmental disability services, including clinics in Gastonia, Lincolnton and Shelby. Monarch assumed these services and began operating on Monday, Oct. 7.

“We are extremely excited and grateful Monarch was selected to provide an expansion of services in these three counties,” said Dr. Peggy Terhune, Monarch’s chief executive officer. “The opportunity to assume these services allows Monarch to fulfill its mission to offer more quality programs, expand our service continuum and provide more access to care for the people we support. I look forward with confidence as we continue our commitment to support people living with mental illness, substance abuse and developmental disabilities needs.”

To best serve people waiting for appointments, Monarch provides Open Access for First Assessment that allows individuals who need services to simply walk in for the first time without an appointment. The goal is to help people by providing a comprehensive clinical assessment, a treatment plan, a psychiatric evaluation, with prescriptions if needed, and a referral to the proper level of care.

Individuals who have received care from True Behavioral Healthcare can contact Partners BHM’s Access to Care number at (888) 235-HOPE (4673) if they have any questions or are experiencing a mental health crisis.

To learn more about Monarch, please call (866) 272-7826 or visit www.MonarchNC.org.

Partners Behavioral Health Management oversees mental health, substance abuse and intellectual/developmental disabilities services for individuals, or consumers, enrolled in Medicaid in Burke, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Surry, and Yadkin counties, along with individuals living in the same area that qualify for treatment through State and non-Medicaid funding sources. To learn about available care options, please call our Toll Free Access to Care Call Center at 1-888-235-HOPE (4673). Access to Care is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, or visit www.partnersbhm.org.

Established in 1958, Monarch provides support statewide to thousands of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental illness and substance abuse challenges from more than 50 North Carolina counties. The agency is nationally accredited by The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) and is CABHA certified. Monarch, which operates The Arc of Stanly County, is an affiliate chapter of The Arc of North Carolina and The Arc of the United States.

Monarch joins effort to support National Disability Employment Month

Nationwide disability employment campaign observed in October

Monarch announced its support for National Disability Employment Awareness Month, an annual awareness campaign that takes place each October. The purpose of National Disability Employment Awareness Month is to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities.

The history of National Disability Employment Awareness Month traces back to 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

"When I was growing up, many people doubted what I could do just because I was blind. But because I had people in my life who instilled in me an expectation of work and showed me opportunities to be successful, I completed college and became known for what I can do," said Kathy Martinez, assistant secretary of labor for disability employment policy when announcing this year's National Disability Employment Awareness Month theme, which is "Because We Are EQUAL to the Task."

Reflecting this year's theme, throughout the month, Monarch works to not only identify employment opportunities for people with disabilities, but works to educate on disability employment issues and the role they play in fostering a disability-friendly work culture.

"Monarch is proud to be a part of this year's National Disability Employment Awareness Month," said Jim Kelley, chief operating officer at Monarch, who manages the agency's employment services efforts. "We want to spread the important message that a strong workforce is one inclusive of the skills and talents of all individuals, including individuals with disabilities."

Employers and employees in all industries can learn more about how to participate in National Disability Employment Awareness Month and ways they can promote its messages — during

October and throughout the year — by visiting the ODEP website at www.dol.gov/odep/.

PEOPLE WHO CARE

Statewide youth group shows support and goodwill to Monarch homes

Joshua Youth Camp, operated by Carolina Cross Connection (CCC), a collection of Freewill Baptist Churches in the area located in the western piedmont, sent several young campers to perform a variety of home repairs for the unemployed, the disabled, the elderly and single parents.



This year, residents of four of Monarch's homes in Stanly County - Moss I and II, Troy Road, and East Main – were the lucky recipients of an outpouring of the group's hard work.

"They were some of the most respectful youth and we appreciated all of the hard work that they did," explained Natasha Black, operations manager in Region 3.

The campers performed yard work and planted flowers, painted shutters, handrails and doors and shared food and fellowship with the residents of each home. Residents and staff were very appreciative for the campers' work and kindness.

NEWS AND NOTES

Reminder about brand standards and email signature

Monarch's brand and visual identity are among the agency's valuable assets. We must manage both carefully to ensure that whenever people see our name or logo, they see not only extraordinary quality in our services and compassion for people, but they also see the same typeface, configuration and colors. Consistent use of our identity makes it easier for all audiences to recognize and remember us positively. It reinforces our position to the families and loved ones of the people we support, our community and the public.

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In an effort to help manage our brand and visual identity, we ask that everyone adopt a standard email signature (see example image above) as soon as possible. Because email often reaches more individuals than our business cards, it is as important to ensure our electronic communication also reflects our high professional standards as well as consistency. Please contact the IT Helpdesk at (704) 983-2346 or (800)230-4187 if you experience problems.

There is a revised identity guide available on SharePoint (agency admin, marketing and communications folder) that outlines the uses and specifications for the Monarch logo, brand identity, letterhead, an official fax coversheet, publications, web site, flyer and sign templates and marketing collateral. If you have questions related to the guide or inquiries about Monarch's visual or brand identity, contact the Office of Marketing and Communications at

(704) 986-1582. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

'It's Time to Speak Out' about mental illness

Earlier this month, Monarch joined the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the National Council for Behavioral Health, other organizations and millions of individuals to support Mental Illness Awareness Week Oct. 6-12, 2013. This is an opportunity to learn more about serious mental illnesses such as major depression, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. This year's message: "It's Time to Speak Out!"



[Click here](#) to read more.

Leonard Covington appointed chair of local authority



Last month, Leonard Covington, human resources manager, was appointed by Rockingham Mayor Steven Morris to serve out

the remaining four years of his remaining five-year term as chair of the Board of Commissioners for the Rockingham Housing Authority. A Richmond County native, Covington has been an employee at Monarch since 2007.

Monarch, OBX Children at Play Museum team up for 'Tuesdays Together'

The Outer Banks Children at Play Museum, is continuing a program with Monarch this fall called Tuesdays Together.



Pictured above: Lisa Marion (left), who attends Monarch's Lighthouse Club in Currituck, assists a young museum goer with arts and crafts.

This program brings adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Outer Banks area from the Monarch Beach and Lighthouse clubs into the museum on Tuesday mornings to work with young children. Children and adults work together to complete simple arts and craft activities which they take home with them. The adults participating have grown to love volunteering in the museum, benefiting from the leadership roles they play as well as feeling valued while helping at a non-profit organization.

Children in the program have learned that people that may be different from them have many abilities and can be great teachers and

friends. A major sponsor of this program in 2013 was the Outer Banks Community Foundation.

To learn more about the Outer Banks Children at Play Museum, visit www.childrenatplayobx.com/.

Monarch to host Fourth Annual Community Craft Show

Vendors from across the region will display unique items, gifts just in time for the holidays

Monarch will host its Fourth Annual Community Craft Show from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26 at its Stanly Industrial Services, 730 Greenwood St., Albemarle. The public is invited.



Vendors from across the region will display unique handmade crafts, beautiful wreaths, candles, purses, jewelry, decorative baskets and much, much more – just in time for the holidays. Organizers are expecting a number of new vendors this year.

Monarch's Grapevine Gift Shop, one of the event's most highly-anticipated vendors, has graciously offered a 25 percent discount to all Monarch employees.

Admission to show is free, but a canned food donation is encouraged to benefit Christian Ministries. Proceeds from the sale will benefit activities and programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Stanly County. For more details about this year's craft show, including details about vendor opportunities, please contact Sandy Hendrick at (704) 986-7221 or sandy.hendrick@monarchnc.org.

MONARCH SPOTLIGHT

October 2013

Jackie McGowen, Senior Executive Assistant



How long have you worked at Monarch?

Nine years the end of this month

How did you first become affiliated with the agency?

We learned about the Greenwood Center (GWC) just after moving here. It had been open for a short time; and I believe it was as though God had sent us here. GWC was significant in our daughter Beth's development and having her ready to attend Governor Morehead School. Our focus was then on school until Beth graduated and returned home. Beth needed an advocate so we could again have services for her. That was when we met Peggy and the rest is history.

What has been your most rewarding or satisfying experience or your proudest moment while working here?

Any of the Annual Awards Dinners. To take part in planning an evening to honor so many of our extraordinary staff is awesome and indeed a special night. To see so many smiling faces coming together makes it all worthwhile. Planning the agency's 50th Anniversary celebration was very rewarding as well. We met the challenge of raising money to fund the events and brought together people from the past who were so important in forming the agency.

What might someone be surprised to know about you?

I rode my own Harley.

How would your family describe you?

Loving, caring and passionate about things I believe in.

What do you do when you aren't working?

Spend time with family, travel and try to unwind and have fun.

Favorite place to visit?

Cancun and Florida

Movie or song best describes you?

The Song "Forever Young" by Rod Stuart. I am blessed!

Sadly, Jackie is retiring from Monarch in a few weeks. We wish her the absolute best as she embarks upon a new journey filled with lots of great adventures.

Monarch Spotlight is a regular feature. If you have suggestions about a Monarch staff member or volunteer who should be featured, please send your ideas to natasha.suber@monarchnc.org.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Stanly Industrial Services will host its Fourth Annual Fall Community Craft Show

Saturday, Oct. 26, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., SIS, 730 Greenwood St., Albemarle

Montgomery Community Living Skills (MCLS) will host Fourth Annual Fall Festival for local preschoolers

Thursday, Oct. 31, 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m., 215 Page St., Biscoe

Forsyth Industrial Systems presents “The Power of Music”

Saturday, Nov. 2, 5 p.m., Behavioral Health Plaza - 725 Highland Ave., Winston-Salem
Tickets: \$10

Contact: Gloria Hunder or Pam Malloy at (336) 725-7527 ext. 600.

National Survivors of Suicide Day

Saturday, Nov. 23, 2013