

2017 Achievement Honor Roll Award Winners

Consumers

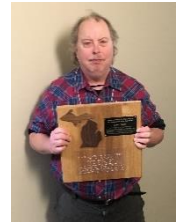


Felicia Bradford – Flint

Felicia was recognized as BSBP's Training Center Student of the Year for being a model student and a role model for others on how to overcome obstacles in life. As a former police officer, Felicia worked with Kalamazoo Public Safety to provide an informational class at the Training Center on personal safety for students.

Steven Hanson – Bad Axe

Steven is a perfect example of how diligence and determination can result in gaining employment leading to greater self-sufficiency. BSBP provided Steven with several computer and assistive technology devices to view printed/visual materials and assist with his successful job search.



Judith Jeter – Detroit

Judith was determined to regain her independence. She began by attending BSBP's Mini Adjustment Program as a day student and training in her home relearning skills to resume her day-to-day responsibilities. Judith's enthusiasm and willingness to learn are contributing factors to her newly acquired high level of motivation and confidence.

Carol McCall – Escanaba

Carol wants to continue living independently in her own home. With the help of BSBP, she has learned to use an iPad with no prior computer experience. She previously attended BSBP's Mini Adjustment Seminar in Marquette and she said it was one of the best events she had attended.



Ruth Osorio – Pontiac

Ruth has been a client of BSBP since October 1999. BSBP has provided her with counseling services, job placement assistance, vocational evaluations, computer training, assistive technology devices and independent living skills training. She utilizes these skills in a career field that she loves, working as a certified bi-lingual translator (she is fluent in Spanish). Ruth is now gainfully employed as an interpreter.

Mark Roberts – Muskegon

Mark is working, earning a competitive wage and transitioned from a part-time to a full-time position. He has received several services through BSBP: orientation and mobility instruction; preferred employment and living services; adaptive devices with instruction; in-home services; and job coaching. His employer states: "I wish I had more employees like Mark."





Dale Williams – Coldwater

Dale, a retired local physician has made great use of adaptive equipment he received through BSBP, including a talking calculator, a digital voice recorder, a Keys U See keyboard and a talking clock, that have allowed him to stay independent. Dale has also benefitted from learning adaptive techniques through the BSBP Independent Living Older Blind program and makes good use of the Braille and Talking Book Library program, all of which have helped him reclaim activities he thought he could no longer accomplish.

Employers



Henry Ford Hospital – Detroit

Henry Ford Hospital is recognized for going above and beyond to help ensure on-the-job success and continued employment of a BSBP consumer employed at the hospital's W. Grand Blvd location. A strong commitment among individuals at four levels of management at the hospital allowed BSBP staff to come into the hospital and work with the BSBP consumer in her position to achieve success on the job.

Marco's Pizza – Cedar Street, Lansing

Marcos Pizza is an employer who has embraced the opportunity to assist two former BSBP clients with their vocational goals by employing them. Marco's Pizza has been very receptive to hiring individuals with disabilities and accommodating their unique needs.



Polo Ralph Lauren Factory Store – Birch Run

This employer hired a BSBP consumer without any hesitation after learning of his legally blind status. The BSBP consumer was hired based solely on his personality and knowledge of inventory. They would like to hire more BSBP consumers with retail experience.

Community Partners



Goodwill Industries of Mid-Michigan – Saginaw

Goodwill has been a long-time community rehabilitation partner of BSBP. The Mid-Michigan division was specifically recognized for its diligent efforts in providing community employment assessment and placement services for blind and visually impaired consumers. Goodwill Mid-Michigan continuously advocates for BSBP consumers to help secure employment opportunities and vocational rehabilitation success.

Michele Tocco – New Baltimore



Michele is a licensed American Sign Language interpreter with Deaf-Blind interpreting endorsement. With her outstanding professional skills and ethical business practices, Michele has been invaluable in BSBP's interaction with the deaf-blind community by facilitating communication between BSBP consumers and their vocational rehabilitation counselor, employers, community partners, and technology trainers.

Julie Unatin – Huntington Woods

Julie has been a long-time partner of BSBP and is currently a teacher consultant for the visually impaired in the Oakland County School District. As a fierce advocate for her students, always championing their independence, Julie has long served as a positive intermediary between BSBP and school administration; provided orientation and mobility services on behalf of BSBP; and continues to assist with BSBP's Youth Low Vision and transition programs.

Western Michigan University, Office of Diversity and Inclusion (WMU ODI) – Kalamazoo



WMU ODI worked on the job placement of 13 BSBP College Prep Program students on the WMU campus during the 2017 Summer II semester. These BSBP students worked up to 15 hours per week for seven weeks, at competitive wages, providing many of them with their first paid work experience. Currently, the ODI is providing work-based learning experiences for two BSBP students in Disability Services for Students, and two students through the WMU Autism Student Program at Disability Services for Students.