

Serving people with disabilities ...

FROM THE COAST TO THE MOUNTAINS

Lenoir
(Corporate Office)

828-754-3665
1-800-223-2841

Boone

828-264-1021

Forest City

828-247-1700

Statesville
704-873-5399

Tarboro
252-641-0404

Whiteville
910-640-1153

Wilmington
910-796-6741

Service Spotlight

April is Autism Awareness month. For more than 20 years HOMECARE has supported and advocated for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Currently, HOMECARE supports more than 120 individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

- Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) are a group of developmental disabilities that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral changes. ASDs can begin before the age of 3 and last throughout a person's life, although symptoms may improve over time.
- Nationwide, autism affects 1 in 68 children; almost 1 in 42 of those affected are boys. In North Carolina, 1 in 58 children are diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

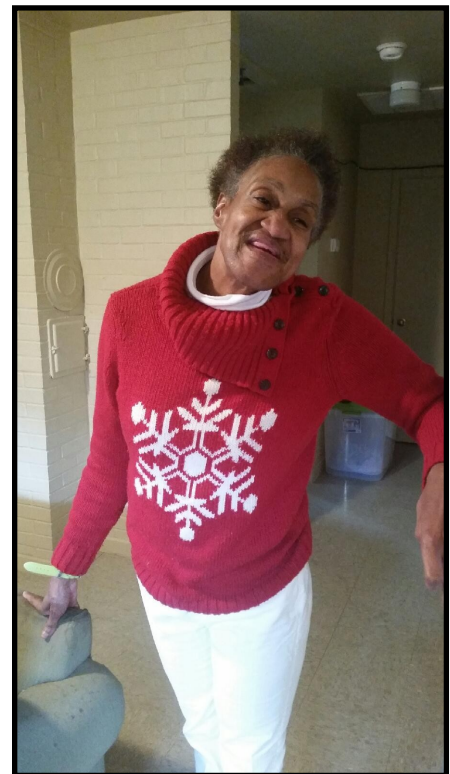
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Client Spotlight

Luvenia is a very friendly and easy going young lady. "Lou" as she is called, is known for her great sense of humor. Lou recently celebrated her birthday in January with her family and invited HOMECARE's Behavioral Technician and Clinical Supervisor to share some ice cream and cake. Lou lives with her sister and has been receiving services from HOMECARE since 2011.

Lou enjoys socializing and going into the community. Lou's favorite pastime and hobbies consists of baking desserts, collecting stuffed animals and playing her guitar, especially at church. One of Lou's favorite places to visit and socialize is the local library. While there she has an opportunity to interact with a variety of people and check out books that contain colorful pictures.

Lou has made improvement with her independent living, communication and social skills since receiving Developmental Therapy and Personal Assistance through HOMECARE. Lou was recently notified that she will be approved to receive Innovations Waiver services. This is a great opportunity for Lou to receive



more comprehensive supports.

Lou's family has expressed satisfaction with the quality of service Lou have been receiving from HOMECARE.

Visit us on the Web at www.homecaremgmt.org

Employee Spotlight

Christie Newman has worked as a Behavioral Technician in the Wilmington office since June 2013. Although Christie has only been with HOMECARE just shy of two years, she has been working with the intellectual and developmental disability population for more than 20 years, starting as a teacher at Head Start, working at Brunswick Community College with disabled adults and now working in the Pender County school system as a teacher's assistant in the EC department.

Since starting with HOMECARE, Christie has worked with the same individual providing NC Innovations services. Over the last 2 years, he has grown and matured into someone who is now ready to graduate high school in June. With Christie's support and

teaching, he has learned vital life skills, such as making simple meals and completing laundry tasks and is on the fast track to obtaining employment in his community.

When asked why she works as a Behavioral Technician, Christie responded, "I do this job because of the personal reward I feel when the person I support is successful. There is a joy that I really can't explain that comes with the smallest accomplishment. My client makes strides every day and is a joy to work with. I feel that we complement each other and that I am truly the lucky one to have the pleasure of his company each day. He



has made me grow as a person, just as much as I've supported and encouraged him in growing and learning."

The Wilmington office feels very fortunate to have Christie as part of the team! Thank you, Christie, for the efforts you put forth each and every day in making difference in the lives of our consumers and their families!

Anniversaries

Celebrating 16 years with HOMECARE this month is *Jacqueline McCoy* from Statesville; 14 years, *Rose Frazier and Margie Rankin* from Statesville; 10 years, *David Fowler and Deborah Lee* from Whiteville. Also celebrating this month are Karen Nevland from Statesville and Connie Wooten from Wilmington (6 years); Sheila Houston, Linda Keaton and Tenara Kimbrough from Statesville and Jasmine Simmons from Wilmington (5 years).

Thank you for putting our mission to practice on a daily basis. *Since 1994, the mission of HOMECARE Management Corporation is to provide the services necessary for people to be as independent as possible in their own homes and communities, rather than having to live in institutions.*

AUTISM (Continued from page 1)

- Autism is more common than multiple sclerosis, cystic fibrosis and childhood cancer.
- The cost of lifetime care can be reduced by 2/3 with early diagnosis and intervention.

The "red flags" of autism:

- ◆ No big smiles or joyful expressions by six months old,
- ◆ No babbling by 12 months,
- ◆ No gestures, such as pointing, reaching or waving by 12 months,
- ◆ No words by 16 months.
- ◆ No meaningful, two-word phrases by 24 months
- ◆ Any loss of speech, babbling or social skills at any age

Tips for families:

- ◆ Be informed, ask questions and be an advocate,
- ◆ Celebrate the small victories,
- ◆ Get involved in a support group.

**Information provided by Autism Speaks.com., Centers for Disease Control*

AUTISM AWARENESS EVENTS

HOMECARE offices across the state will host Autism Awareness activities throughout the month of April. Please join us for one of the following activities:

- The Wilmington office will participate in the 4th Annual Coastal NC Run Walk for Autism on Saturday, April 25 at Mayfaire Town Center.
- The Tarboro office will host a picnic and balloon release on April 2.
- The Whiteville office will host a Community Autism Awareness Day on April 2..