

Wm. Weston J. Newton, Chairman  
February 3, 2012  
Disabilities and Special Needs

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in the pledge of allegiance.

Pledge

We are privileged to have the Reverend Edward Cushingberry lead us in the Invocation.

Invocation

Thank you, Reverend Cushingberry. Now, I am pleased to present a musical selection by the father and son duo -- David and Paul Green. I understand they would be more than happy for us to sing along if we wish.

Musical Selection

Thank you, David and Paul! Good morning everyone! Welcome to all of you. This is a wonderful day for Beaufort County Disabilities and Special Needs. Thank you for joining us this morning as we dedicate this beautiful new day program and administrative facility. You should have received a program as you came in today. It describes the structural amenities of this new building and the cost attached to the project, but it must be said that this facility is more than steel and glass, brick and mortar, it's a sanctuary, a safe and caring home away from home where our special needs consumers can learn and grow. Where they can build friendships and enjoy a sense of community. It is a positive place. As symbolized by the light pouring in through these many windows and by the visibility of the nature that surrounds us. It is a happy place where consumers are cared for by patient, respectful, skilled people who understand their needs and who work hard to perform a valuable service.

Enough cannot be said about Mitzi Wager and her outstanding staff, or about the guidance and support of County Administrator Gary Kubic and Human Services Director Morris Campbell. Enough cannot be said about the dedicated service of the Beaufort County DSN Advisory Board and that of the Disabilities Foundation, or ABLE, as it is known, which helps families with special needs members and raises much needed funds to keep Camp Treasure Chest going year after year. This annual summer camp for youth means more to our special population than you and I would ever know.

This new building is a symbol of our commitment to our special needs citizens and like most of the county's major capital improvements, it could not have been completed without effective partnerships between Beaufort County and several other groups and government bodies. I would like to thank our partners at the Lowcountry Council of Governments and the South Carolina Department of Commerce for help with the Federal Stimulus Grant of one-half million dollars. I would like to thank the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs for its generous grant of \$800,000 to purchase the site for this new building. I would like to thank the ABLE Foundation for raising \$23,000 for a special garden which will enhance the outdoor experience on this property. Able will break ground on the garden Monday. And last but not least I would like to thank our consumers who enrich our lives with their gentle spirits. Together, we all share in this proud moment.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to introduce Helene Gruber, President of the Beaufort County DSN Advisory Board. She will be followed by Dr. Beverly Bescumi, Director of the State DDSN and Mayor Samuel Murray of the Town of Port Royal.

Mrs. Gruber

Dr. Bescumi

Mayor Murray

David and Paul Green will honor us once more with a musical selection. Again, feel free to join in.

Musical Selection

Now, I invite our DSN Director Mitzi Wagner to have the last word with you with you today.

Mitzi Wagner

Thank you, Mitzi. Reverend Steve Keeler will now lead us in the benediction.

Benediction

Thank you, Reverend Keeler. Now let's all follow Mitzi as she gives us a tour of this new building. Thank you!