

Sheard takes CRDC into 21st Century

And sometimes it's kicking and screaming

If lightning strikes, he gets a call. If someone gets adventurous and changes the wrong settings, he gets a call. In fact, if it involves anything to do with the CRDC computers or the network to which they are connected, he will eventually get a call.



Robert Sheard, in his fourth year as Systems Administrator for CRDC, has been working hard over the past year "to take CRDC into the 21st Century." He is putting a complete network together that will link all parts of the agency, complete with e-mail and Internet capabilities – the CRDC Web site recently went on line at crdcnea.com.

"It was imperative that we be linked to the 'outside world'," said Robert Wilford, executive director of CRDC. "Robert has moved us in that direction, sometimes kicking and screaming. We now have a network server that allows us to reach out and communicate quickly and efficiently. We're getting there and Robert (Sheard) is leading the way."

When he isn't installing new network lines and setting up new computer stations, Robert is repairing equipment and installing and configuring new

software. There's always something to be done to keep the equipment up and running.

The Hayti, Missouri, native got the computer bug in the Navy. Following his discharge, he pursued a degree from Arkansas State University in business management while continuing his training in computers. His experience prior to CRDC includes being a software specialist and owner-operator of his own software company.

When he isn't busy installing and maintaining computer equipment throughout CRDC, Robert has his hands full helping his wife, Latonia, raise their four children, Juan, Jeremy, Tiffany and Tyler.

"Sometimes, I don't think keeping up with Robert is possible," says Wilford. "There is so much to do and he is constantly on the run. Come to think of it, that pretty well sums up the CRDC staff as a whole."

Alcorn brings enthusiasm to job

For Dewayne Alcorn, coordinator of Prevention Resource Center Region 7, working with young people to help them avoid the pitfalls of substance abuse is more a calling than a vocation.

The Newport native will discuss at length with anyone who will listen the need to provide young people with the ammunition they need to ward off the daily pressures from peers and others to enter the dangerous world of substance abuse.

A certified prevention specialist, Alcorn is also a minister and can share many experiences from both pursuits as he attempts to counsel his young charges and steer them along the right path.

The substance abuse prevention crusader has been a member of the CRDC family since January, 1999. Now well into his fifth year, he continues to hone his skills in the never-ending battle against substance abuse.

A graduate of Newport High School and Texas Institute, Dewayne has also

attended Mid-South Community College and is currently pursuing more educational credits on line. He is also a member of the Prevention Institute Advisory Board, the Arkansas Prevention Practitioners Association, and Adult Education Advisory Committee at Mid-South Community College.

Prior to joining the CRDC staff, he worked at Birch Tree Communities as a caseworker, was an administrative assistant for Arkansas Children's Hospital, and served a tour with the U.S. Navy. His wide range of experiences have served him well in his dealings with his youthful audience.

He and his wife, Donna, are the parents of three sons – Dexter, 14; Joshua, 7; and Jacob, 5; and when he isn't working, he enjoys spending time with his family and participating in church activities.

"We're proud to have dedicated staffers like Dewayne at CRDC," says Robert Wilford, executive director. "His

dedication and energy are focused on guiding young people away from drug abuse and providing the enthusiasm to encourage these young people to spread the word. That's a pretty lofty calling and he is to be commended."

Thanks, Dewayne, for being a part of the CRDC family.

