

The Agency Supports Persons with Developmental Disabilities in Living,
Learning, and Working in their Communities

agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida



Sunland Honors Our Volunteers!

On Thursday, April 14, 2016, Sunland hosted our annual Volunteer Celebration. The annual event was organized by Maria Johnson, our new Volunteer Services Coordinator, along with the staff of the Centralized Support Services department. The celebration was held in the Habile Building with approximately 60 volunteers and staff attending. Presentations were awarded by Unit 1, Unit 2, Unit 3 and Centralized Support Services. Unit 1 Director Adrian Abner, presented Stacey Collins and The Optimist Club of Marianna the Volunteer of the Year awards from his unit. James Godwin CSS Director, presented the awards for Unit 2 on behalf of Lucious Williams, Director. Sons of Italy and the Cottondale Masonic Lodge received Unit 2's Volunteer of the Year awards. Unit 3 awards for Volunteer of the Year were presented to Julie Jackson and Marianna High School Anchor Club. James Godwin presented the awards for Unit 3 on behalf of Elizabeth Mitchell, Director. Centralized Support Services selected and presented John Wynn as their Volunteer of the Year; Director Godwin presenting.

Ms. Johnson addressed the group expressing the Center's appreciation to the volunteers who demonstrate a great compassion and care for our residents. We honor our volunteers for willingly giving of their time and talents to bring happiness to the individuals who reside at Sunland.



Congratulations Sunland Equestrian Team!

The Braxton Family of Vernon, Florida recently demonstrated their support for Sunland's Equestrian Team by making a \$500.00 contribution to the program. The Sunland Equestrian Program provides opportunities for our residents to participate in various therapeutic equine activities and events with the horses at the Sunland Ranch. Therapeutic activities and events range from simple interaction with the horses to various riding programs, to include grooming and care taking of the horses. Activities and events are conducted on Center at the Sunland Ranch, as well as in conjunction with the Special Olympics Florida Equestrian Championships, held annually in Ocala, Florida.



James Godwin, Glenda Winkle, Kynley Braxton, Jill Braxton & Angia Morris

Sunland was well represented at the Special Olympics State Equestrian Games, in Ocala on April 29. We are proud to report the achievements of the following individuals:

- Floyd N – 4th Place ribbon – Showmanship
- John H – Bronze medal – Poles; 6th place ribbon - Barrels
- Benny R – Silver medal – Barrels
- James G – Bronze medal – showmanship
- Eddie M – 5th place ribbon – Barrels

Staff accompanying the residents at this event included: Chuck Dickson, Johnny Hodges (Recreation), Tyler Weeks (Ranch) and Mary Herring (Nurse), along with Jerry and Susie Neel who were proud supporters of our residents. Congratulations to Sunland's Equestrian Team for a job well done!



SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Motivational Thoughts for the Team April 2016

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

.....

Henry Ford

"Unity is strength. . . when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."

.....

Mattie Stepanek

"None of us is as smart as all of us."

.....

Ken Blanchard

"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."

.....

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team."

.....

Phil Jackson

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

.....

Helen Keller

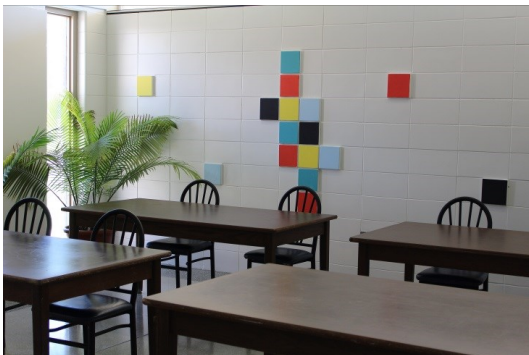
Geri Williams
Superintendent



Introducing "The Culinary Mixer"

Centralized Support Services is pleased to announce the launch of "The Culinary Mixer." A new vocational program offering residents opportunities to learn skills in the Culinary Arts. Wayne Winkle, Vocational Instructor II, coordinates the program drawing from his solid experience in culinary work. The program is designed to provide its students with a wide range of kitchen and food safety skills. A main focus will be on proper hygiene when working in the kitchen, how to properly handle food items, and instruction in measuring skills for food preparation. Nutritional understanding will be an important component of the program. Students will learn about the nutritional concerns involved with medical conditions such as diabetes, high cholesterol and high sodium levels which will aid them in making healthy food choices. Finally, this program will teach students to prepare foods following a recipe. All of these skills will empower residents to be more self-sufficient when preparing food for themselves.

Upon completion of the program, residents will be equipped with viable daily living and work skills that will prepare them for employment opportunities. This will be of great benefit to individuals who may transition into a community setting. The program officially opened April 4th with 16 students participating.





In honor of Autism Awareness Month The Sunland Beacon is pleased to share a beautiful poem written by Mrs. Elizabeth Greer in honor of her son, Jeremy and all individuals with Autism.

I Know He is Different

I know he is different
When I see the look of disapproval on your face
And hear the words of reprimand from your mouth
You see a strange child
I see a small boy struggling to get into a shirt or a
Shoe and then just giving up without success...
This time.

I know he is different
When I see him spinning like a top that has run away
From its string to do a dance of its own
You see a strange child
I see a small boy performing to music only he can hear
But I listen, maybe I'll hear it...
Some time.

I know he is different
When I see him sitting all alone in a place that he claims
For his very own...to breathe and eat and live
You see a strange child
I see a small boy trying to meet a challenge that none of us
Will ever have to face
And perhaps success will come...
Next time.

I know he is different
But nothing in this world or the next can keep me from loving
Him and the way he continues to try to make sense of a world
That seems to have no reason
You see a strange child
I see a small boy trying to put together a puzzle that is the mystery of his life.
Perhaps the answers will come...
In time.

Elizabeth Greer ~ September 20, 2003

Sunland Retirees...Where are they Now?

Sunland is known for a rich heritage of employees who dedicate their lives and careers to serving the needs of individuals who call Sunland their home. Many of these employees have accomplished life-long careers ranging from 25, 30, 35 and 40+ years of service before their retirement. We honor their service to Sunland. Retirement offers new opportunities to engage in new hobbies and interests. Many individuals remain active by continuing to serve in their churches, civic groups and communities, while some return to serve as volunteers at Sunland.



Such is the legacy of Lillie Clark.

Lillie Clark is known for her kind heart and the abundance of generosity which she freely offers to everyone she has the opportunity to interact with. She spent her entire career at Sunland doing just that; serving the individuals that call Sunland home.

When asked about her memories of her time at Sunland she stated "I would like to say thank you to the residents of Sunland for allowing me to provide you with services and for trusting me to serve you, to go to the Physicians on your behalf. My time at Sunland wasn't about me, it was about the individuals God allowed me to serve. I was always sure to ask the residents "may I have your permission" whenever I needed to administer medications or provide any medical assessment. I always wanted to be respectful of their wishes and their personal space. I loved the individuals I served at Sunland. My entire time there was nothing but a blessing!"

Ms. Clark is also well known for her gifted ability as an artist. Since her retirement, Lillie has opened her own art gallery, located in Campbellton, Florida. The gallery, filled with original art work, is absolutely captivating. Art has long been one of her passions and she willingly shares this gift with those who would like to visit her gallery. Giving to others continues to be her calling. She has opened the gallery to local children, offering them a safe-haven of sorts, a place where they come after school. The children are given opportunities to complete homework, learn to express creativity through the arts and even receive lessons in daily living skills. Of course, Lillie, being the giving person she is always ensures no one goes home hungry, providing meals and snacks. She is meeting the needs of children and making a difference in their lives. We, at Sunland, are proud of Lillie and the legacy she left at Sunland and the legacy she is now building in her community!



Unit 2 ~ Thiel Center on the Move...

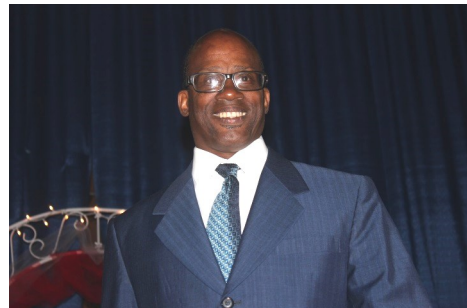
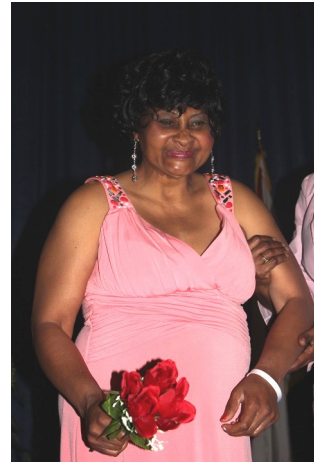
On April 19, a Bike Clinic was held at The Thiel Center. A representative from Steve's Bike Shop in Panama City provided a presentation regarding several different types of bicycles. The clinic was held for the purpose of assessing our individuals' desires and abilities with riding bicycles. It was a very successful event and Thiel Center has several individuals that will be ordering bicycles as a result in preparation for Spring and Summer time activities! Steve's Bike Shop will deliver the bikes, adjusting them to each individual. They will also provide a cover for each bike, a cup holder, flag and helmet. Further, they will also provide service/ repair bikes in the future. Sunland Center appreciates Steve's Bike Shop for partnering with the Thiel Center in this endeavor. This will certainly open new doors to exciting recreational activities for the individuals who reside at Thiel.



Article & Photos Contributed by: Tandra Cabrera

Unit 2 on the Move...

Unit 2's recent Fashion Parade and Show was held to exhibit the latest trends and styles. Participating residents wore outfits for several occasions of life such as formal attire, Sunday best, sports, and casual wear. It was exciting to see their faces light up as they modeled across the stage. A special thanks to the event coordinator, Debra Baker! The fashion show was a resounding success!



Article & Photos Contributed by: Lawanda Calhoun

Unit 3 Happenings

Unit 3 has been quite busy with birthday celebrations for our individuals and staff, art classes, fishing at the Environmental Park, kite flying, participating in Special Olympics, cookie mobiles, Spring Fling 2016, and a retirement celebration. As you can see from the pictures below, we have definitely been busy bees!



Ms. Thelma celebrates her 98th Birthday!



Johnny M. & Georgia Britt enjoy opening birthday gifts!



Maria Johnson spent time with Unit 3 residents teaching art techniques.



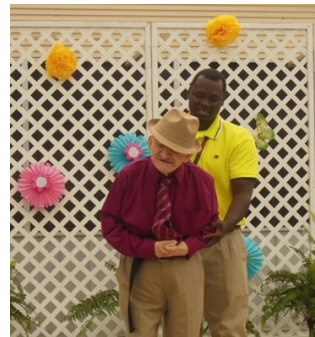
Staff & residents enjoy a fishing trip at the Environmental Park.



Staff & residents enjoy flying kites on a windy day .



The annual Spring Fling is always a grand event for Unit 3 residents, staff and their families.



Honoring a Unit 3 Retiree for 42 Years of Service!

On Friday, April 15 Gail Tipton was honored with a Retirement Tea. She will retire with 42 years of service to the State of Florida! Ms. Gail will truly be missed and we all wish her the best during this new season of her life.

Article & Photos contributed by: Allison Jones



Gail Tipton was honored for 42 years of service!

Pathways

APRIL Activities

April was a month filled with activities at Pathways for both residents and staff. Of special note was a trip to Rish Park where residents and staff enjoyed a sunny day and all the amenities the park has to offer.

The Bike Club a new exercise program was initiated and will offer an afternoon exercise program.

Fishing at the Environmental Park always produces pride and smiles as evidenced by the residents who are eagerly displaying their catch of the day.

Also in April, the Pathways family enjoyed a double baby shower for employees Stephanie Curry and Ebonilena Long.



Article & Photos Contributed by: Juanita Alford

Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program

Congratulations to Sherrick Williams who was selected as DDDP's April STAR Employee of the Month. Mr. Williams is a Behavioral Program Specialist in Community III on the evening shift. He was nominated for being a dedicated staff member. He is always alert of his surroundings, and shows sound decision making skills in stressful situations. Mr. Williams is quick to respond to a crisis situation and has shown the ability to successfully implement least restrictive procedures. He advocates for the residents and is respectful to co-workers.

It is also noteworthy that the Medical Services Unit at Florida State Hospital recently recognized him for his politeness and professionalism during a staffing for a recent admission. Mr. Williams demonstrates the values of the Agency through cooperation and teamwork!



Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program DDDP Celebrates Spring Games

Spring was in the air during the week of April 18 – 22, when residents and staff of DDDP enjoyed their annual “Spring Games.” Numerous activities were held in both the East and West buildings each morning and afternoon. On Monday, residents enjoyed a kickoff filled with nachos and cheese and banana splits while competing in 3 on 3 and 3 Point Shootout basketball games. On Tuesday, residents enjoyed card tournaments and dominoes, along with bingo and popsicles. Wednesday was volleyball day along with bean bag toss, movie and popcorn. On Thursday, residents held dance contests, drew sidewalk art and enjoyed popcorn and snow-cones. Friday afternoon rain brought the activities inside where the residents enjoyed hot dogs, chips, cupcakes and ice cream. Both residents and staff thoroughly enjoyed the week’s activities. Thanks to the DDDP Rehab department for coordinating and holding the Spring Games activities! Great job!



Article & Photos Contributed by: Corey Chafin

Employee Recognition Committee Retreat

Members of the Sunland Employee Recognition Committee recently gathered together for a retreat at Rivertown Community Church. The retreat provided an excellent setting for committee members to review the current recognition program and discuss ideas and improvement opportunities to further advance the Employee Recognition Program. During the retreat, committee members learned how they can make a difference through the "Story of the Starfish." Following a morning "brainstorming" session, the group was treated to a delicious lunch catered by Jackson Hospital, courtesy of RCC. After lunch, RCC Pastor Paul Smith spoke to the group about "Creating a Great Culture." He shared that healthy cultures never happen by accident; they are created. Healthy cultures attract and keep healthy people, and the culture of an organization impacts the long-term productivity of the organization. The message Smith shared was strikingly similar to the theme of the retreat as ERC members were challenged to make a difference in their respective departments. All in all, it was a great day of renewed motivation, teamwork and vision expansion.

Look for great things from your Employee Recognition Committee. We are committed to YOU!



Pictured L-R Front Row: Beverly Cobb, CSS; Beth Basford, Administration; Shellie Owens, QM; Superintendent Williams, Marylin Pierce, Unit 2; Teresa Bruner, Pathways; Michelle White, Unit 2.

Back Row L-R: Franklin Williams, Unit 1; Jennie Ann Dean, Administration/Resident Advocate; Tandra Cabrera, Unit 2/Thiel Center; Tonya Kelly, CSS; Ann Marie Shelton, Unit 1; Donna Loyed, Medical/Nursing Administration; Shelly McCormick, Administration; Gail Snelgrove, Administrative Services/Purchasing; LaRhonda Barnes, Unit 3

Not Pictured: Veronica Mullinax, HR; Cindy Fitzgerald, Nursing; Felicia Varner, Pathways, Heather Traylor, QM

Quality Management / Life Safety

SUNLAND ANNUAL EXTERNAL DISASTER DRILL

The annual Sunland external disaster drill was held on April 19, 2016 and the event went very well overall. This year's scenario involved a downed military helicopter located between Unit 2 Administration and Supported Employment. The mock incident resulted in both critical and non-life threatening injuries with quick responses from Sunland Nursing and Medical personnel as well as Marianna's First Responders. Also, as a result of the incident, Buchanan House and Unit 2 Administration Buildings were evacuated.

This annual exercise is critically important to ensure Sunland is prepared for any emergency or disaster. It also serves as a reminder for all of us to remain familiar with Sunland's annually updated Emergency and Disaster Plan and the roles for which we are each responsible during any emergency situation to ensure the safety of all residents and employees.

A huge thank you goes out to all participants to include residents, Unit staff, Medical and Nursing staff, Maintenance, Security, OQM/Life Safety staff, Administration, Marianna Fire Department, Marianna Police Department, and Marianna Fire and Rescue. Successful outcomes of these types of events are



Following the disaster drill, Sunland resident Joe N. happened to be at the right place at the right time and received an impromptu bike tune up by some of Marianna's gracious first responders!





April 2016 **STAR** awards

Star Teams

Team CSS - Manual Skills

Deron Johnson & Michael John Carr

Team CSS - Rish Park

Victor Rowland & John Simpson

Team CSS - Recreation

Donna Conrad, Johnny Hodges, Ruth Moore and Bruce Williamson (Volunteer)

Team Medical - Outpatient Clinic

Melissa Rich, Kris Lenderman, Susie Neel, Richard Turnage, Wesley Sims, Velma Tensley, Ruth Brooks

Team 3rd Shift - Unit 2

Arthur Gray, Virginia Lewis, William Pollock, Deronda Spencer, Shirley Dillard, Boris Granberry

Star Employees

UNIT 2 - 3rd Shift

Ronald Richards, Terrance Anderson, Sharon Somnitz



NEW EMPLOYEES

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Sha'Qunna Williams | Angelia Goldwire |
| Melisa Burks | Sarah Johnson |
| Crystal Jackson | Laderius Lee |
| Latonia Wright | Jody Wade |
| Fredie Harris | Terrick Sullivan |
| Akira Jennings | Marquell Felder |
| LaQuila Felton | Robin Morris |
| Shironda Graham | Tynetta Gainer |
| Sheila Barbee | Jason Kent |
| Melissa Egnew | Bobby Viverette |
| Reshamiah Dawsey | Freddy Pruett Jr |
| Michelle Alver | Jayla Hobza |
| Brittany Reynolds | Clynesia Holmes |



RETIREEES

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Dainel McKelvain | Oliver Williams |
| Elizabeth Jones | Marva Wooden |
| Joshua Blount | |

Contributed by: Joni Laramore

HUMAN RESOURCES



For more information regarding vacancies, deferred compensation or other personnel issues, the Human Resources Department may be reached at 482-9230 or *04.

In addition, information regarding vacancies can be obtained at the People First website at:

<https://peoplefirst.myflorida.com>



agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida

Project Sunland PRIDE



Beautification Program!

PERSONAL **R**ESPONSIBILITY **I**N A **D**ESIRABLE **E**NVIRONMENT

"Community Spotlight of the Month"

Sunland Ranch



"The Sunland Beacon" - Newsletter Committee

Suggestions and/or news article submissions are welcomed; please contact any committee member:

Beth Basford, Administration - Editor; Clint Cox, CSS/Recreation - Co-Editor; Ashley Hill, CSS/Print Shop; Maria Johnson, CSS/Print Shop; Ethan Smith, IT; Cleve Wedderburn, Unit 1; LaWanda Calhoun, Unit 2; Allison Jones, Unit 3; Juanita Alford, Pathways; Lynn Baxley, Maintenance/Operations; Joni Laramore, Administration; Mary Gallagher, Quality Management; Suzanne Laramore, RN/Nursing-Medical