



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

"Little Red Riding Hood" A Huge Hit!

August 3 was no ordinary day and the Sunland theatrical production "Little Red Riding Hood" was certainly no ordinary play. It was an experience unlike any other, an experience where you were transported to an enchanted place; a magical moment in time, a moment in which you forget yourself in the joy of someone else's presence. The cast of 18, from Unit 1 and Unit 2, were totally in character, drawing you in to experience a delightful story of innocence and intrigue. Props for the stage were created mostly from recycled materials. The actors embraced their roles, showcasing their creative imagination and talent. Sunland's production "Little Red Riding Hood" was delightfully entertaining!

Congratulations to Centralized Support Services staff who orchestrated what has become the performance of a lifetime for our residents. The actors consisted of the following: Little Red Riding Hood, played by Samantha W., Grandmother, played by Johnnie Mae W., Mother played by Sandra R., Woodsmen played by Clarence M. and Bennie R. Flowers were Rachael M., Joan B., and Connie S. and their escorts were Michael L., Kenneth C., and Samuel L. Animated "trees" were Cedrick M., and Paul W. Ushers for the event were Arnaldo M. and Robert C., with Jermain Y. and James C., serving as Security. The big, bad wolf was played by staff Nikera Olds, with the wolf voiceover by staff DeRon Johnson and Antonia Speights who delighted the crowd with a "wolf rap" while the wolf, Nikera Olds, took to the stage to show off some sporty dance moves. Clint Cox narrated the production. Prior to the play, special musical numbers were performed by Latarsha G. and Santa Maria G. A special thanks to Rivertown Community Church for providing the sound system, and publicity by Royce Reagan, videographer, the Jackson County Floridan and Jackson County Times .



Little Red Riding Hood



From the Superintendent...

*Something to ponder over the morning cup of coffee,
juice or fresh glass of water...*

Every now and again I like to share wisdom bits that were given to me over the years. I find them helpful and useful when practiced. The first is on "thank -you." It is excerpted from noted researcher Jeffrey Froh and the latter reflects on "being heard" drawing from author Dorie Clark.

Jeffrey Froh is a student of gratitude. His research is easy to read. According to Froh, there are five key elements of an effective thank-you. They are:

- 1) Be timely.
- 2) Compliment the attributes of the benefactor.
- 3) Recognize the intent of the benefactor.
- 4) Recognize the costs to the benefactor.
- 5) Articulate the benefits

*start each
day with
a grateful
heart*

Like Froh, Dorie Clark, author of Reinventing You, has seriously invested in exploring how one can be heard when in a conversation or dialogue. She suggests the following reflective phrases:

be heard

"Here's what I'm thinking."

"My perspective is based on the following assumptions . . ."

"I came to this conclusion because . . ."

"I'd love to hear your reaction to what I just said."

"Do you see any flaws in my reasoning?"

"Do you see the situation differently?"

My contribution: "Everything is a conversation. Own your voice." Why? Because you're doing the work and your contribution matters much!

Grateful,
Geri Williams
Superintendent

own your voice

Announcing Sunland's "Scarecrow Row" Contest We've Got Something to Crow About!

Chances are you've seen the posters around the campus about Sunland's first ever "Scarecrow Row" decorating contest! This will be an opportunity for everyone to get involved as we gear up for Fall Festival! Following the contest, the scarecrows will decorate the grounds during the month of October.

Please Join Us for the Fun!

Scarecrow Categories:
Funniest, Upcycled,
Most Unusual & Animated

Winners in each category awarded as follows:

1st Place Trophy
2nd Place Ribbon
3rd Place Certificate



Join us for Sunland's Scarecrow Row ~ October

How Can You Get Involved?

Entries: Any staff, resident, home, or department may enter.

Rules: Entries should be life-size and can consist of one or more scarecrows. Scarecrows must be in good taste and family-friendly. Entries that reflect controversial issues are not appropriate. Sunland reserves the right to reject and/or remove any scarecrow deemed inappropriate or offensive. Scarecrows must be free-standing or sitting. You are responsible for providing all supports/seating for your entry. One (1) promotional/informational sign no larger than 16x20 may be included in each display. *Please remember, scarecrows should be weather resistant as they will be displayed outside.*

Entries Due: Monday, September 25, 2017 at "The Hub" - Habile Building, by close of business.

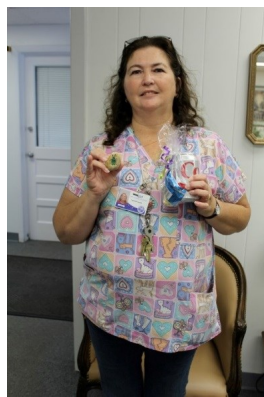
Judging: September 27th **Awards:** September 28th, 2pm @ "The Hub"

Display: All scarecrows will be displayed on "Scarecrow Row" aka Williams Drive, (i.e., main boulevard) during the month of October.

#Sunland Rocks!

Over the summer months, the #Sunland Rocks! "craze" quickly became an exciting treasure hunt for residents and staff alike! The concept was simple, paint a rock and leave it somewhere to put a smile on someone's face. To kick-off #Sunland Rocks!, the painted gems were hidden all around the Center, with clues being sent out the last week of July for a week-long contest to see who could locate the hidden rocks. On August 4, a #Sunland Rocks! celebration, complete with prizes and fresh popped popcorn, was held at the Suntown Mall to celebrate with those who found the rocks. The lucky rock finders were encouraged to re-hide their rocks for others to find, to keep the treasure hunt going. Remember...find a rock, hide a rock! Keep the momentum going!

Residents and staff are encouraged to stop by the Hub, located at the Gesslein Habile Building, to try your hand at painting a rock. This form of artwork encourages individual creativity and is quite therapeutic. Rock hunting has also become a very popular activity in the Jackson County community. Several from Sunland have joined in the fun, leaving rocks in various locations for community "rockers" to find. Looking for an idea for a field trip? How about painting rocks at the Hub, then taking a trip into town for ice-cream and rock hiding/hunting? A great community integration activity that's sure to be lot's of fun! For information on how you can get involved, please contact Maria Johnson, Volunteer Coordinator at 482-9373.



Residential Services

Unit 1 - During the month of August, the gentlemen of Adams House enjoyed three days and two nights at Rish Park on Cape San Blas. Their days were filled with lounging around the pool, walking on the beach, collecting seashells and observing the turtle nesting grounds. Thanks to all who re-arranged schedules to make this an exciting beach get-away for Adams House.

Contributed by: Renee Perry



Unit 2 - The residents and staff of Whispering Oaks recently took a journey into the “unknown.” We visited “Ripley’s Believe It or Not” in Panama City, Florida. During our visit, our residents marveled at the collection of weird and unusual relics, and rare treasures as we explored some of the most bizarre finds imaginable. They also had the opportunity to experience three other unique attractions, the Ripley’s Odditorium, a state-of-the-art 7D Moving Theater and the Mirror Maze. Residents and staff had a great time visiting this interesting place with interactive sections that made seeing, learning and exploring new things fun for all.

Contributed by: Kendrick Gardner



Residential Services

Unit 3 - The folks in Unit 3 had quite a lot going on during the month of August. We enjoyed our end of summer/back to school bash at the gym. The festivities and fellowship were fun for all! Special thanks to the staff of Centralized Support Services for helping with games. Everyone enjoyed the excellent CSS production of Little Red Riding Hood, but of course we already know our individuals here at Sunland possess an array of talents! We would also like to thank Chaplain Ruthie for coming to Connally Manor and hosting a sing along with our residents and staff! We also enjoyed another ice cream social for our staff, to show our appreciation for their dedication and hard-work. Residents participated in Special Olympics Bowling, and had an awesome time! The month was ended with a solar eclipse watch party. Everyone enjoyed watching the NASA coverage of the eclipse, learning about eclipses and the history of them, and doing activities which included a total solar eclipse art project. Connally staff also had a taste of the Krispy Kreme special edition eclipse donuts, and they were pretty yummy!

Contributed by: Allison Jones



Special Olympics Bowling Underway!

The 2017-18 Special Olympics season is off to an official start with bowling. Sunland kicked off the bowling season starting on August 9 and is now in full swing. We have approximately 50 individuals taking part in the bowling program, including individuals from Unit 1, Unit 2 and Unit 3. All the bowlers are working hard to get ready for the Special Olympics County Games, which will be held September 27 at Kindel Lanes bowling alley in Marianna. It is a total team effort to have this large of a group take part in bowling. Thanks to all the folks in all three Units, Administration, Centralized Support Services, Security, Medical and Kindel Lanes that make these outings possible.

Contributed by: Clint Cox



Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program

The Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program is pleased to announce Christopher Williams, Behavioral Program Specialist-F/C, has been selected as DDDP's STAR Employee of the Month for the month of August, 2017. Mr. Williams has been a loyal and dedicated employee of DDDP for over 13 years. He works well with co-workers and is always willing to lend a helping hand to assist getting tasks completed on the Ward. Mr. Williams takes time out to interact with residents in a professional manner and willingly assists residents with anything that is needed. He volunteers and accepts additional job responsibilities, and never refuses to Double On or Double Back when there is a need. When needed to work another shift, he always has a "no problem" attitude. Mr. Williams has great de-escalation skills and has a good rapport with both residents and co-workers. Mr. Williams' dedication to his job is obvious and he is a great asset to Community IV, third shift. Congratulations, Mr. Williams on a job well done!



Contributed by: Corey Chafin

Sunland Administration Hosts "Welcome Back Breakfast" for Jackson County School at Sunland

Following their summer break, the teachers and staff of the Jackson County School Program eagerly returned to work in early August, looking to reunite with the students they serve at the Sunland campus. On August 8, Sunland Administration hosted a "Welcome Back to School" breakfast for the teachers and staff. The event was held at the "Hub" located in the Gesslein Habile/Jackson County School building. The savory aroma of fresh brewed coffee, breakfast casseroles, muffins and bagels greeted the JCS crew. Everyone expressed their sincere appreciation for the breakfast and sense of camaraderie they feel at Sunland. Sunland appreciates the Jackson County School Board and our JCS Teachers!



Sunland JCS students are excited to get back to their normal routines and schedules as the new school year kicks-off! One visit to the school and you'll understand why. JCS teacher Jennifer Grantham snapped a picture of John M. from the Thiel Center, who was all smiles after completing a new puzzle on his first day back to school. The JCS program also celebrated birthdays with John M. and Marie D. this month. Truly, a smile is worth a thousand words!

August Star Awards!

Star Awards for the month of August were presented on Thursday, August 31. Award presentations were made by Deputy Superintendent Adrian Abner, along with Operations/Maintenance Director, Allen Ward and Centralized Support Services Director, James Godwin.



Maintenance Silver Team Award
Jacob Roberts, Bill Himes, Allen Ward, Jonathan Norris, Wesley Chance, Adrian Abner



CSS Gold Team Award
Antonia Speights & Matt Dryden accept award on behalf of Donna Conrad & DeRon Johnson



Silver Medal Award
James Godwin



Pathways Silver Team Award
Sarah Cowherd accepts award on behalf of Billy Collins, N'Gall Henderson, Amos



CSS "Little Red Riding Hood" Production Gold Team Award

L-R: Adrian Abner, Ron Tissue, Matt Dryden, Tony Speights, Nikki Spires, Malinda Bishop, Lori Burke, Kim Lindahl, Bill Himes, Tonya Kelly, James Godwin

Not Pictured: Annette Odom, Michael John Carr, DeRon Johnson, Robin Snellgrove, Joe Amison, Stephanie Parker, Beverly Cobb, Onna Lipford, Nikera Olds, Qualie Roulhac, Shannon Stewart, Jake Wood, Jimmy Conrad, Maria Johnson, Jay Newsome, Chuck Odom, Bill Himes, Michael Padgett, Adam Chambliss, Clay Mitchell

Service Awards

The Sunland Employee Recognition Committee hosted the center's semi-annual Service Awards Ceremony, Tuesday, August 8, at Sunland's Culinary Mixer. Staff having attained 5 - 35 years of service with the State of Florida were honored at this event. Sunland Superintendent Geri Williams and Deputy Superintendent Adrian Abner presented each honoree with an engraved award, certificate of service and service pin. Following the presentation of awards, honorees and guests were treated to a delicious assortment of refreshments served by Sunland's culinary program. Congratulations to the following employees on their career milestones:

5 Years of Service: Nancy Friend, Kevin Gambill, Tukessa Hopson, Edgar Smith, Kandis Smith, Clayton Williams and Katherine Williams

10 Years of Service: Daseana Bass, Jasma Black, Judy Cambre, Roger Culpepper, Billy Davis, Lee Florence, Clayton Mitchell, Ophelia Pittman, James Rhynes, Roberta Rutko, Kira Sharp, Roger Smith, Stephen Smith, Jimmy Spates, Tommy Williams II

15 Years of Service: Aariran Batson, Tiffany Peterson-Pollock, Sharon Williams

20 Years of Service: Janice Brown, Kevin Brown, David Douglas, Barbara Gammons, Sandra Helms, Elaine Keen, Belinda Lord, Gavin Tucker, James Turner

25 Years of Service: Richard Hendrieth, Edith Phillips, Lisa Seay, Gail Snelgrove, Roy Wilt

30 Years of Service: Lula Johnson, Randall Lowery, Jenethal Reed, Carolyn Young

35 Years of Service: Acenia Dickens



5 Years



Pictured: 5 Years of Service L-R: Katherine Williams, Fancy Friend
Not Pictured: Kevin Gambill, Tukessa Hopson, Edgar Smith, Kandis Smith, Clayton Williams

10 Years



Pictured: 10 Years of Service L-R: Roger Smith, James Rhynes, Billy Davis, Jasma Black, Daseana Bass, Lee Florence, Stephen Smith
Not Pictured: Judy Cambre, Roger Culpepper, Clayton Mitchell, Ophelia Pittman, Roberta Rutko, Kira Sharp, Jimmy Spates, Tommy Williams II

15 Years



Pictured: 15 Years of Service L-R: Sharon Williams, Airiran Batson
Not Pictured: Tiffany Peterson-Pollock

20 Years



Pictured: 20 Years of Service L-R: James Turner, Gavin Tucker, Elaine Keen, David Douglas, Kevin Brown
Not Pictured: Janice Brown, Barbara Gammons, Sandra Helms, Belinda Lord

25 Years



Pictured: 25 Years of Service L-R: Roy Wilt, Gail Snelgrove, Lisa Seay, Richard Hendrieth
Not Pictured: Edith Phillips

30 Years



Pictured: 30 Years of Service L-R: Jenethal Reed, Lula Johnson
Not Pictured: Carolyn Young, Randall Lowery
Not Pictured: 35 Years of Service: Acenia Dickens

Global Leadership Summit

On August 10 & 11, several Sunland staff attended the "Global Leadership Summit" held at the Rivertown Community Church and community center. The Global Leadership Summit is a two-day event that is telecast LIVE from Chicago every August to more than 600+ locations in North America. Throughout the fall, Summit events take place in an additional 128 countries—translated into 60 languages. The faculty assembled for the 2017 Summit included: Billy Hybels, Founder and Senior Pastor, Willow Creek Community Church; Sheryl Sandberg, Chief Operating Officer, Facebook; Laszlo Bock, Senior Advisor, Google, Best Selling Author; Fredrik Haren, Author; Business Creativity Expert; Bryan Stevenson, Founder & Executive Director, Equal Justice Initiative; Andy Stanley, Leadership Author, Communicator, Pastor; Marcus Lemonis, Star of CNBC's The Profit; CEO of Camping World and Good Sam; Juliet Funt, CEO Whitespace at Work; Marcus Buckingham, Best-selling Author, Founder, The Marcus Buckingham Company; Immaculee Ilibagiza, Advocate for Peace and Forgiveness; Best-selling Author; Angela Duckworth, Professor, University of Pennsylvania; Best-selling Author; Gary Haugen, Founder & CEO, International Justice Mission, Sam Adeyemi, Founder and Senior Pastor, Daystar Christian Centre in Nigeria, and Michael Jr., Comedian, Actor and Author.

The GLS has established one common vision: *Everyone wins when a leader gets better.* At Sunland, we believe this to be true. Leadership potential and growth is encouraged and celebrated. Thank you Sunland Administration for encouraging opportunities for professional growth and development.

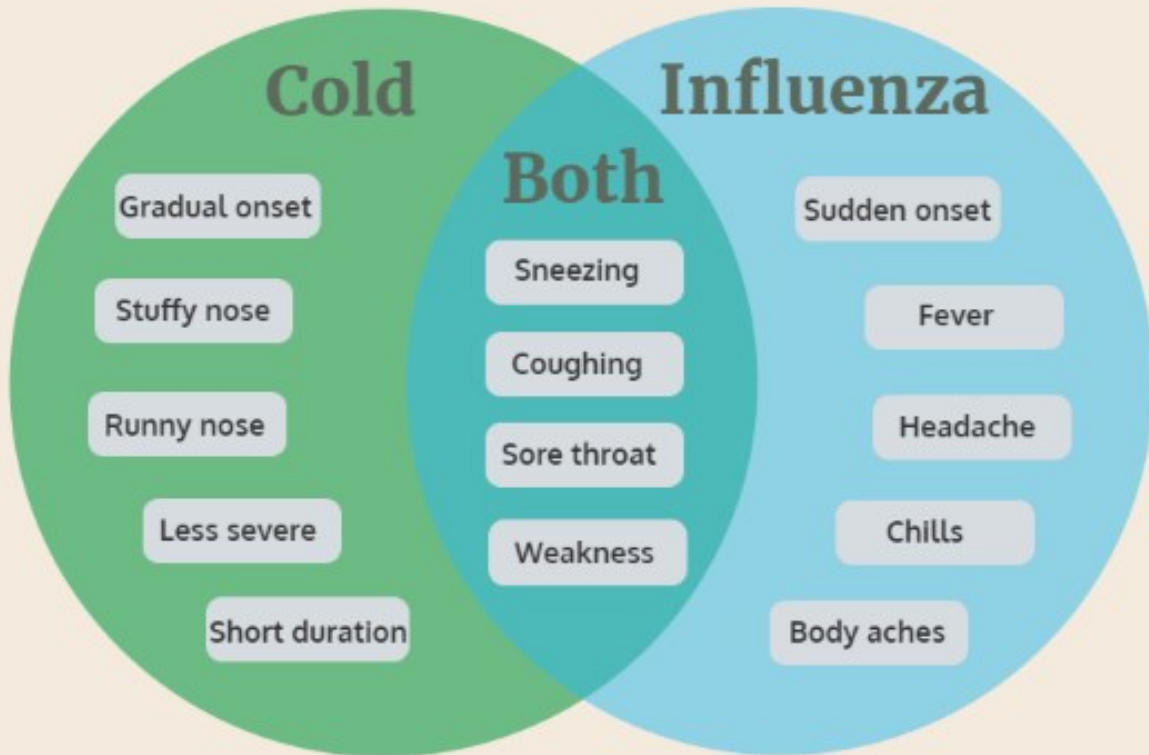




COLD vs. FLU

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

Cold and flu season is here. Are you coming down with a cold? Or is it the flu?



1-3 days of discomfort



POTENTIAL COMPLICATIONS



bronchitis, pneumonia, hospitalization

HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COLD AND FLU:



Get a flu shot



Stay home if you are sick



Wash your hands



Cover your cough



Food Service Celebrates 90-Day Perfect Attendance!

Amy Mincy, Food Service Director and Kevin Bailey, Administrative Services Director are pleased to announce 90-day perfect attendance for the following Food Service employees. Thank you to our dedicated and hard-working staff! Your contributions to the daily operations of the Food Service Department are so important and very much appreciated!

1st Shift:

Elizabeth Atkinson
Evelyn Boyd
Robert Davis
Luke Rule
Fred Speights
Jody Wade



2nd Shift:

Barbara Gammons
Patti Grainger
Ruth Jones
Vickie Richards
Terry Vicks

HUMAN RESOURCES



Amanda Johnson, HR Manager and her staff, Veronica Mullinax, Lizzie Holland, Nicole Sims and Regina Decker are always happy to serve you!

For more information regarding background screenings, pay raises or other related personnel matters, the Human Resources Department can be reached at 482-9230 or *04. Information regarding vacancies can be obtained at the People First website at: <https://peoplefirst.myflorida.com>

NEW EMPLOYEES



Jacob Baxter
Corey Smith
Tabatha Baker
Tequavis Brigham
Kim Brown
James Patterson
Stephanie James
Douglas Diamond
Ava Neel
Erik Utter
Jaquana Wright

Brittany Johnson
Sharon Spear
Denoris Speights
Sarah Foster
Tierra Campbell
Ace Curl
Thomas Melvin
Tracy Begor
Porshae Garrett
Ronald Lawrence
Taylor Merritt

Retirees

Elbert Collins
Edith Phillips
Toretha Godwin





agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida

Project Sunland PRIDE



Beautification Program!

PERSONAL **R**ESPONSIBILITY IN A **D**ESIRABLE **E**NVIRONMENT

"Community Spotlight of the Month" Project Sunland PRIDE!



"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; Stephanie Parker, CSS/Print Shop; Renee Perry, Unit 1; LaWanda Calhoun, Unit 2; Allison Jones, Unit 3; Juanita Alford, Pathways; Joni Laramore, Administration; Mary Gallagher, Quality Management; Suzanne Laramore, RN/Nursing-Medical