



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

LAZY hazy CRAZY DAYS OF SUMMER

As summer heats up, many are searching for ways to cool down! Each year, the Sunland Recreation Department offers our residents a wide array of fun activities that will help keep everyone cool and comfortable, and most importantly, safe from the heat. From a dip in the pool, enjoying poolside refreshments, wagon rides, basketball, volleyball, bingo, movies, arts and crafts, etc., there is definitely something for everyone. Nat King Cole sure got it right with the lyrics of his classic 60's era hit "roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer!" And we're doing just that! Summertime at Sunland is the place to be!



The Sunland Beach



amp Amigo! Children's Burn Camp of North Florida, Inc. Healing their burns from the inside

Each year, the Children's Burn Camp of North Florida, Inc., affectionately known as "Camp Amigo," hosts a week-long camp for burn survivors. The camp, now in its 16th year, is hosted at the William J. Rish Recreational Park, although they have traveled to other locations over the years. Camp Director Rusty Roberts stated "Rish Park is very user friendly and offers us the best of Florida with beach and bay access right on the property." So, for Camp Amigo, Rish Park is home; a place where kids with burn injuries have opportunities to re-connect with their friends and volunteer counselors whom they've come to love from their previous camp experiences. Many would tell you Camp Amigo is really a place where everyone is family. This unique camp experience is provided free of charge, through donations and fundraisers for the non-profit camp. This year, several Sunland staff volunteered of their time to lend support during Camp Amigo. Maria Johnson, Jennie Ann Dean, and Beth Basford spent the day with campers on July 11. On July 13, James Godwin, Greg Roberts, Natalie Spires, Robin Snelgrove, Onna Lipford, Johnny Hodges, Clint Cox, Rosemary Cox and Billy Davis dedicated their time to support the camp. For most of the Sunland volunteers, this was their first experience at Camp Amigo and all would agree it was life changing. Certainly, everyone came back with fond memories and full hearts. A special thanks to Park Manager Victor Rowland and his staff, John Simpson, for all they do to ensure Camp Amigo remains a special place for this group of special kids!

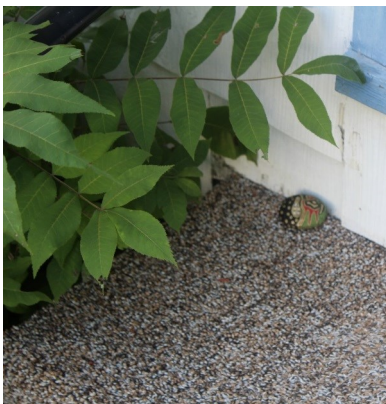


#Sunland Rocks!

During the last week of July, the #Sunland Rocks! "craze" was bumped up a notch! The painted gems were hidden all around the Center, with clues being sent out via email for a week-long contest to see who could locate the hidden rocks. The old saying "everyone loves a good mystery" certainly proved true ...staff, along with residents, quickly got in on the action, searching high and low to find the hidden treasures.

A #Sunland Rocks! Celebration, complete with prizes and popcorn, was planned for August 4, to celebrate with those who found the rocks. Congratulations to the following "Sunland Rockers!"
STAFF: Susan Himes, Robin Morris, Teresa Ellis, Leslie Hall, Chelsea Dalton, Bill Himes, Lauren Fears, James Rhynes, Johnny Hodges, Amanda Johnson, Terri Banahan, Victory Wynn, Julia Gwyn, Lillie Johnson, Dollette Everett, Zakaya Card, Matt Dryden, Jacqui Hilton, Sue Lee, Israel Davis, Lillian Wilson and Tammy Gentry
RESIDENTS: Britt W. - Unit 1/Grant House, Linda R. Unit 2/ Thiel Center

Pictured below are a few of the hidden, now claimed, rocks! Be on the lookout for the August Beacon to learn more about this exciting Sunland Summer Adventure! Residents and staff are encouraged to join in the fun. Anyone interested, please contact Maria Johnson, Volunteer Services Coordinator, at 482-9373.



From the Superintendent...

Rock On!

Agency for Persons with Disabilities' Senior Behavior Analyst Dr. Steve Coleman writes to Superintendent Geri Williams:

Just wanted to take a brief moment to say, DDDP Staff Rock!! The team that has been working with JR have done an incredible job implementing his treatment plan! Staff have been very attentive, caring and consistent in their work with this individual. It's apparent they have gotten good training from the behavioral services folks. Nursing interactions are consistent and supportive, supervisors have given good direction to staff, the case manager has been very good about meeting regularly with JR, rehab staff and the TCTP instructor have been great working one-on-one with him. The data is looking great... It all looks very good. I'm proud of this hard working group and impressed with the notable difference that they are making in this young man's life.

Congratulations Team DDDP! Awesome job! Keep up the phenomenal work with this individual and all the folks we are privileged to serve and lend support to at the Chattahoochee site. Everybody Let's Rock continues at the Sunland Center.

Parent of MB recently stopped by to see me. Dad started with:

Just want to tell you thank you. Want to let you how much we appreciate the hard work that staff do on the Thiel Center and to let you know that we are grateful for Sunland and all the good things that are happening. And, we are delighted that that our son and the residents will be going to RISH Park for a few days. Residents and staff love RISH Park.

Rock on Sunland:

Cast Party for the Theater Production for Little Red Riding Hood was phenomenal. Had the pleasure to sit with stars: Joan B., Sandra R., and Rachael M. They were so delighted to receive their celebrity star awards. What a great conversation I had with these ladies. They were heaping praise on their co-stars (staff and residents). At one point Sandra and I were talking too much as names were being announced so Rachael M. turned in our direction, placed her left index finger on her lips and told us to "shush." Then she said, "We're movie stars! Look we're on tv!" Yes. You all are stars. Shining brightly in every space you occupy. Rock on Centralized Support Services Team. What a great theater production. We want an encore!

Grateful,

Geri Williams
Superintendent



Sunland Hosts Jackson County Chamber of Commerce

"Leadership Jackson County"

On Thursday, July 13, Sunland hosted the 2017 Leadership Jackson County class, which is sponsored by the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce. Paul Smith, Senior Pastor of Rivertown Community Church serves as the mentor of the 2017 class, alongside Tiffany Garling, Chamber Director.

The purpose of Leadership Jackson County is to develop, connect and inspire leaders to strengthen our communities according to the evolving future of the county. Several years ago, the Chamber developed the program to help identify and develop emerging leaders within the business, education, government, professional and local communities, and to assist them as they prepare for well informed, engaged leadership positions. Leadership Jackson contributors and presenters include top business, civic, community, and organizational leaders.

Following lunch, class presentations and an overview of Sunland by Deputy Superintendent Adrian Abner, the group was provided an informative and guided tour of the Center. Everyone enjoyed opportunities to interact with residents and learn more about the Center from residents' personal experiences and perspectives.



Cottdale Masonic Lodge Cookout for Lincoln House

On Saturday, July 8, the Cottdale Masonic Lodge hosted a cookout for Lincoln House. Residents were treated to grilled hotdogs and hamburgers with all the trimmings. The Cottdale Masonic Lodge has sponsored Lincoln House for many years. The gentlemen who reside at Lincoln House look forward to the annual cookout in honor of the fourth of July, and spending time with their long-time friends from the Lodge. As always, a grand time was had by all!

For more information on how you can sponsor a house, or volunteer at Sunland, contact Maria Johnson, Volunteer Services Coordinator at 482-9373.



Contributed by: Maria Johnson

Residents Enjoy Vacation Bible School

Over the past several summers, Chaplain Ruthie Moore has partnered with local churches who wish to volunteer their time to offer Vacation Bible School activities for the residents of Sunland. This year, four churches participated in the VBS activities July 17, 18, 24 & 25. Classes were held at The Mixer and Gymnasium. A special thank you to the members of First Baptist Church of Greenwood, St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church of Sneads, Salem-Wesleyan Church of Grand Ridge, and Foundation Temple Apostolic Faith Church of Cottondale.

The VBS classes offered a variety of interesting activities and opportunities for meaningful interaction. We appreciate our local community churches and their support of religious programs for our residents.



3rd Annual Summer Social a Big Hit!

Sunland's 3rd annual Summer Social was held on Friday July 14, at the Suntown Mall. This event was held in conjunction with Sunland's seasonal summer program and was hosted by the Suntown Mall and Ms. Cherise Gray, summer program employee.

Resident Michael L. provided an opening prayer, and the event was kicked off with Sunland's very own welcoming committee "Ms. Johnnie Mae W." The entertainment grew from there with a dance performed by Lonnie F., followed by Judith O., James C., Arnaldo M., Sammy L., Tim B. and many other talented residents singing their favorite songs. Cherise Gray shared her talent by lending a helping hand on the keyboard.

Refreshments were beautifully displayed and enjoyed by our residents from Sunland as well as residents who attended from DDDP. Fun was had by all!



Contributed by: Kim Lindahl & Tonya Kelly

Residential Services

Unit 1 - Family visits are an important part of life for the residents of Unit 1. Recently, Teresa Ellis, Unit 1 Human Services Counselor III, made the necessary preparations for David O. of Harrison House to enjoy a field trip to Pensacola for a family reunion with his brother and sister.

Contributed by: Teresa Ellis & Renee Perry



Unit 2 - Several ladies from Pierce House gathered in front of their rose garden to snap a photo for the Beacon. Staff Janice Baker Brown spoke about the symbolism of the rose, how it begins as a small bloom, and over time blossoms, the colors varying in shade. She proudly reflected how the ladies at Pierce House are much like the rose. Given proper attention, care and love, these ladies have blossomed, in their own time, to become like the roses, each unique, and each individually beautiful.

Contributed by: Beth Basford

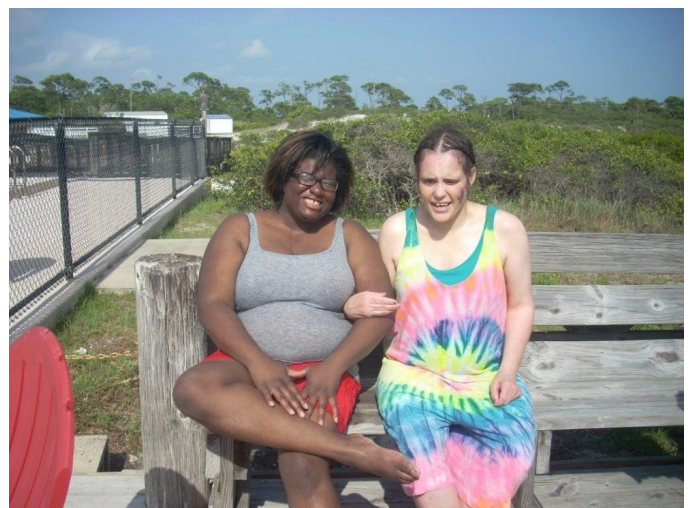


Unit 3 - During July, Unit 3 staff and residents did not let the summer heat slow us down! We enjoyed attending the summer activities on center provided by Centralized Support Services, including volleyball games, gym activities, vacation bible school, and sing along activities, just to name a few. We also enjoyed events for the Unit as a whole during the month. We usually enjoy the cookie mobile; however, this month, LaRhonda Barnes switched it up and held an ice cream social. Staff were provided with various flavors of ice cream and all the toppings to go along with it. You really cannot go wrong when you have homemade brownies as a topping, made by Sunland retiree Mrs. Julie Jackson, a former RSS of Unit 3. All those who indulged in this special treat enjoyed and appreciated the gesture. Another event we participated in was the wheelchair stroll and cart ride, organized by Donna Conrad from the CSS department. We had representation from each home within our Unit, and everyone's wheelchairs and carts looked extremely festive for the event! Great job to our staff who assisted in decorating the wheelchairs and carts for our individuals, and a special thanks to all of the CSS staff who assisted with the event! Upcoming events: Unit 3 End of Summer/ Back to School Pool Party, August 3.

Contributed by: Allison Jones

Thiel House Visits Rish Park

The Thiel house crew enjoyed a trip to Rish Park July 25 - 27. What a special get-away it was! Everyone loved the delicious food prepared by our very own renowned "chefs," Lenora Edwards and Voncille Williams. Residents and staff relished in recreational activities such as movies, coloring, face painting, pool, walking on the beach, collecting shells and lots of bubbles! A special thanks to our dishwashers and cleaning crew, Tyrone Davis and Arthur Gray! They did an exceptional job, and also spent time interacting with our residents. The beach was enjoyed by all and we are certainly looking forward to going again! Thanks to the Thiel staff who worked together as a team and assisted in making this an AWESOME vacation for our residents!



Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program

DDDP is pleased to announce that Gary Gibson, Human Services Program Supervisor, has been selected as DDDP's Star Employee of the Month for June, and Latina Germany-Godfrey, Human Services Program Administrator has been selected as Star Employee for the Month of July.

Mr. Gibson displays a work ethic that goes beyond the expected. He is always responsive to issues, gathers required information and immediately responds to requests. He interacts positively with both staff members and residents, and works hard to meet all of the goals for the department, regardless of unanticipated roadblocks. He always pursues the best method to effectively complete any task assigned to him and exceed the expectations. He always handles situations that need attention in a prompt and professional manner. Congratulations Mr. Gibson and thanks for all you do for DDDP!

Since her employment at DDDP, Ms. Godfrey has demonstrated an extremely high work ethic. She is very dedicated to ensuring that the job is completed, coming in early or staying late, to make sure all tasks are accomplished. She always makes sure that her department is running smoothly. Ms. Godfrey has shown great dedication in ensuring that several major events involving residents and their families were well orchestrated and enjoyable, which resulted in numerous successful activities and positive feedback. Ms. Godfrey is extremely timely in communicating possible resident transfers, discharges, etc. She is very helpful in assisting outside individuals and agencies and always has a positive and helpful attitude. Ms. Godfrey always readily assists in covering her subordinates' job duties in their absence, ensuring continuous service to residents. Ms. Godfrey has a great rapport with co-workers and residents, which fosters a productive and pleasant work environment. Congratulations Ms. Godfrey and thanks for all you do for DDDP!



Contributed by: Corey Chafin

INFORMATION SERIES FOR ADULTS

3 Important Reasons For Adults to Get Vaccinated

You may not realize that you need vaccines throughout your adult life. Vaccines are still important to your health and here are just three reasons why.

1. You may be at risk for serious diseases that are still common in the U.S.

Each year thousands of adults in the United States get sick from diseases that could be prevented by vaccines — some people are hospitalized, and some even die.

Even if you got all your vaccines as a child, the protection from some vaccines can wear off over time. You may also be at risk for other diseases due to your age, job, lifestyle, travel, or health conditions.

2. You can't afford to risk getting sick.

Even healthy people can get sick enough to miss work or school. If you're sick, you may not be able to take care of your family or other responsibilities.

3. You can protect your health and the health of those around you by getting the recommended vaccines.

Vaccines lower your chance of getting sick.

Vaccines work with your body's natural defense to lower the chances of getting certain diseases as well as suffering complications from these diseases.

Vaccines lower your chance of spreading certain diseases.

There are many things you want to pass on to your loved ones; a vaccine preventable disease is not one of them. Infants, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems (like those undergoing cancer treatment) are especially vulnerable to vaccine preventable diseases.

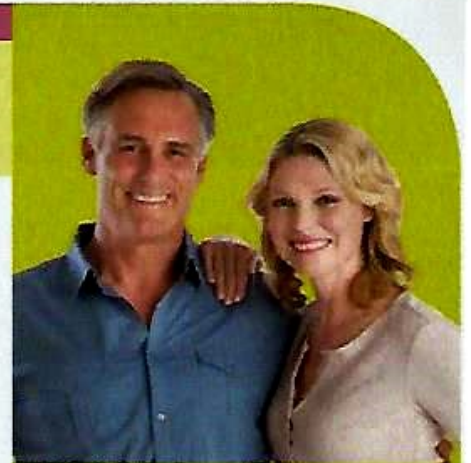
Vaccines are one of the safest ways to protect your health.

Vaccine side effects are usually mild and go away on their own. Severe side effects are very rare.

Getting Vaccinated

Adults can get vaccines at doctors' offices, pharmacies, workplaces, community health clinics, health departments, and other locations. To find a vaccine provider near you, go to vaccine.healthmap.org.

Most health insurance plans cover the cost of recommended vaccines. Check with your insurance provider for details and for a list of vaccine providers. If you do not have health insurance, visit www.healthcare.gov to learn more about health coverage options.



What vaccines do you need?

All adults should get:

- Flu vaccine every year to protect against seasonal flu
- Td/Tdap to protect against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough)

Based on your age, health conditions, vaccines you received as a child, and other factors, you may need additional vaccines such as:

- Chickenpox
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
- MMR
- Meningococcal
- Pneumococcal
- Shingles

Traveling overseas? There may be additional vaccines you need. Find out at: www.cdc.gov/travel

DON'T WAIT. VACCINATE!



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

July Star Awards!



George Rivers, RSD accepts Silver Star Award on behalf of Rommie Edwards Pathways employee



Ladarius Lee, Pathways employee accepts Silver Star Award



Lisa Williams, Unit 3 employee accepts Gold Star Award



Rose Crews, RN accepts Gold Star Award



Mikel Patterson and Naton Williams of Unit 1 Harrison House accept Gold Star Team Award



Maurice Myrick accepts Gold Star Award

Tony Speights of Centralized Support Services accepts Gold Star Award



Stephanie Parker Centralized Support Services-Print Shop accepts Gold Star Award



HUMAN RESOURCES

Sunland Center Human Resources Manager Amanda Johnson and APD Human Resource Specialist Kaylyn Minnix both hosted a booth at the Strategic Employment Placement Program Summer Job Fair 2017 on July 13 at Tallahassee Community College. The purpose of the booth was to recruit new talent to apply for job openings with APD across the state. The pair provided job postings, as well as answered questions asked by job fair attendees.



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>

Welcome NEW EMPLOYEES

Dominique Murrell
Deja Preston
Amy Nelson
Larry Levins
Angel Lewis
Tamika Lynn
Jacob Roberts
Davonte Johnson
Craig Sorrell
William Collier
Shawndena Horne
Otis Orange

Keith Dewitt
Brennan Blackmon
Javoris Garrett
N/Gall Henderson
Richetta Worlds
Krisalynn Lawrence
Laporshia Edwards
Marquita Cooper
April Bryant

Farewell! **Retiree**
Lula Sherrod

SHOUT OUT!

Congratulations **Tambra Cabrera** on her accomplishments in passing the BACB RBT exam, completing requirements for becoming a *Registered Behavior Technician!* Also to **Jason Huckaby** who is also on his way to becoming a *Registered Behavior Technician!* We're proud of both of you!



agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida

Project Sunland PRIDE



Beautification Program!

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN A DESIRABLE ENVIRONMENT

"Community Spotlight of the Month"

Rish Park Beach View



"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