

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

agency for persons with disabilities  
State of Florida



Excitement filled the air on Friday, June 3 as Sunland prepared for the 2nd Annual Sunshine Gala! The theme, "Red Carpet Review" certainly captured the essence of royalty. Participants eagerly took to the Red Carpet as they made their grand entrance into the Gala. The evening, filled with dancing, fellowship and delicious refreshments, was absolutely a night to remember!





# Scenes from the Sunshine Gala!



## SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

### Kindness

Team – Recently I read an article about improving work relationships and building strong teams.

Kate McFarlin says this: “Many full-time employees spend more of their waking hours with co-workers than they do with their spouses and families. As such, it is important to allow employees the opportunity to build quality relationships with their co-workers.”

Many of our staff share that they enjoy working with their co-workers and they love the residents with whom they work. Lots of events occur at Sunland and in surrounding communities. Thought it might be a good idea to highlight some of these events in the coming months. Allow me to share some of the priceless moments I have observed with staff and residents; and staff with staff. Making first hand observations, talking with residents and staff, and listening to their ideas can never be overstated. I watched curiously and appreciatively as I saw staff lending support warmly and kindly to Keefe. He inspires me with his independent spirit. I didn't interrupt their interactions with questions. I simply made deliberate eye contact, nodded, smiled and thanked them for their hard work and dedication. Quickly they responded, “We love our clients.” Usually, I will ask: “How's it going?” “What are you all doing tonight?” or “How was breakfast, lunch or dinner?” On this occasion, I simply wanted to be in the presence of staff and observe their natural rhythm. Clearly, these work relationships are strong and mutually respectful. I continually remind myself how grateful I am to work with some of the most compassionate, professional, courteous, and kindest people in the world.

Kindness is so important. At a recent team building exercise, Paul Smith encouraged the Employee Recognition Committee to “always show kindness.” This is affirmed by psychologists who explain why a culture of caring and compassion must be cultivated; and becomes evident when there is an abundance of kindness. Sunland and the Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program could write a book on how kindness is demonstrated in the spoken and unspoken. Whether it is a gift for an unborn child, flowers for loved ones transitioning, lunch for school children, benefits for burn victims, helping a neighbor change a tire, or delivering fresh eggs to new staff, kindness blossoms here like buds on peace lilies.

I celebrate your kind hearts and dedication to this important work that we do. Our clients benefit the most. Thank you for staying the course with team building and developing strong work relationships.

Grateful,  
*Geri Williams*  
 Superintendent



# Town Hall Meeting

During the June Town Hall Meeting a series of drawings were held. A bag filled with the names of all employees ensured everyone who works at Sunland had an opportunity to win.

Julie McAlpin and Jessica Conrad From the Sunland Credit Union conducted a drawing for the *Staff Appreciation Week \$100 Grand Prize* which was donated by the Sunland Credit Union. Congratulations to Keith Bryant, HSW II, Unit 2/Whispering Oaks, 3rd Shift on winning this coveted prize!

Faith Porter, a member of the Friends of Sunland non-profit organization was on hand to assist with drawings for some pretty awesome prizes which were donated by supporters and Friends of Sunland.

Congratulations to the following winners:

- \$50 Value Lowe's Gift Card - Ashley Griffin, HSW II Unit 2/Thiel Center, 2nd Shift
- \$60 Value Airboat Adventures for Two - Janice Barnes, Groundskeeper, Unit 3/Connally, 1st Shift
- \$92 Value Shell Island Dolphin Cruise Family Pack - Vanessa Shelly, Staff Assistant, Unit 3, 1st Shift
- \$100 Value Gulf World Family Pass - Ronnie Spears, HSW II, Unit 2/Whispering Oaks, 3rd Shift
- \$110 Value Helicopter Beach Tour for Two - Kira Sharp, Quality Management, 1st Shift
- \$100 Value Betsy Ann Riverboat Dinner for Two - Matt Dryden, Recreation Specialist/CSS, 1st Shift
- \$720+ Value El Governor Mexico Beach Trip - Clint Cox, Recreation Director/CSS, 1st Shift

A special thank you to the businesses who donated these fabulous prizes, the Sunland Credit Union and Friends of Sunland!





# "Center for Successful Living Honors Graduates!"

Unit 2 honored residents enrolled in the Center for Successful Living program on Thursday, June 30. Participants were recognized for validating or completing a goal, segment or module within the quarter( April-May-June). Each participant was given a certificate for completion. Hats off to residents who worked hard to achieve these goals!

The group enjoyed delicious treats to include cupcakes, chips and dip, fruit trays and sub sandwiches.



Articles & Photos Contributed by :Katie Granberry & Mattie Hayes

# Thiel Center Enjoys Memorial Day Cookout

On Wednesday, May 25, 2016, the Thiel Center held a Memorial Day/Team Building cookout. The menu included a crab/shrimp boil, hot dogs, hamburgers, and sausage dogs with the traditional trimmings of potato salad, green beans, and even a tortellini salad.

Residents, along with a couple of parents and staff from 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> shift participated. It certainly was a great way to kick off our summer here at Thiel Center!



Article & Photos Provided by: Tandra Cabrera



# Recreation Department

## A FIRST AT SUNLAND!

It all started on a sunny afternoon in April 2015. Floyd N. came into the Kennedy Leisure Center wanting to shoot a game of pool. Staff Johnny Hodges was on duty at the time and shot Floyd a game of pool. The games continued when Floyd suggested they keep score. So without hesitation Johnny taped a sheet to the door to keep score of the games. They started keeping score when Johnny told Floyd "Let's shoot to 500 games!"

Well, they completed their 500<sup>th</sup> game on December 12, 2015. Johnny told Floyd, "Why not shoot for 1,000 games. So they did. After 14 months of shooting pool they made their 1000<sup>th</sup> game on June 17, 2016. Needless to say Floyd has been the better player, beating Johnny 571 games to 430 games. These two aren't done yet. As of this printing they are up to 1,080 games. Johnny says they will keep playing until they get tired or until Floyd is discharged from Sunland.



Article/Photos Contributed by: Clint Cox



# Food Service Recognizes

## RISING STARS



*Perfect Attendance*

During the month of June several employees in the Food Service Department were recognized for Perfect Attendance and Rising Star Awards. During 1st and 2nd Shift staff meetings Amy Mincy, Food Service Director and Kevin Bailey, Administrative Services Director presented employees having completed a 90-day work period with perfect attendance. Congratulations to Dewey Wells, Robert Davis, Luke Rule, Judy Sims and Dylan Edwards for a job well done!

Three staff were honored as "Rising Stars" within the department. Sharice Forward, Zyneshia Henderson and Barbara Gammons were presented with Rising Star cards, along with treats provided by Ms. Mincy.

Prize drawings were also held during both meetings with Doug Colson and Dylan Ammons winning the coveted prizes.

Food Service is very proud of their hard working staff and happy to recognize the many contributions these individuals make which impacts the overall success of the department!





# SUNLAND STAFF RECEIVE PRUDENTIAL PRODUCTIVITY AWARDS

Since 1989, Florida TaxWatch along with sponsors, Prudential, the Florida Lottery, AvMed Health Plans, the Florida Council of 100 and the State of Florida have proudly recognized and honored state employees and work units. The awards, known as "Prudential Awards" are bestowed upon those whose work significantly and measurably increases productivity, and promotes innovation to improve the delivery of state services and save money for Florida taxpayers.

This year, three employees within the Agency for Persons with Disabilities were recognized as Prudential Award winners. Of the three awards, we are very proud to report two of the recipients were from Sunland!

Congratulations to Aaron Pittman, who works in our Maintenance Department as an Electronic Technician II. Mr. Pittman was the recipient of a plaque and cash award for his work to refurbish a discarded hospital bed, resulting in a savings of \$3,000 for the State. We are proud of Aaron and his commitment to Sunland and the individuals we serve.

Congratulations are also in order for Randall Wynn, Sunland IT Manager, who was honored as a member of APD's "Data Center Consolidation Team." He received a certificate of commendation for his work with this team. Sunland appreciates Mr. Wynn's dedication to quality service delivery, not just for Sunland, but for the Agency as a whole.



PRUDENTIAL  
PRODUCTIVITY  
AWARDS  
2016





# Congratulations!



## June 2016

### Star Employees

### Star Team

#### Unit 1 Leadership Team

Sheila LaRue, Unit 1	Cheryl Sheffield, Unit 1
Demetra Williams, Unit 2	Bernice Rhynes, Unit 2
Allison Jones, Unit 3	Roxcie Choice, Unit 3
Robert Chambliss, Unit 3	Shellie Owens, Quality Mgmt

Gloria Roulhac, Maurice Myrick, Jennifer Edwards, Felecia Smith, Rosemary Cox, Sheila LaRue, Franklin Williams, Greg Roberts, Ashley Martin, AnnMarie Shelton, Mark Creamer, Teresa Ellis, Dorothy Perry

## 1st & 2nd Quarter

## Star Employees & Star Teams!

**1st Quarter Star Employee** - Jennie Ann Dean

**1st Quarter Star Team** - Unit 3 Debra Bellamy-Chatfield & Merry Warren

**2nd Quarter Star Employee** - Sheila LaRue

**2nd Quarter Star Team** - Unit 1 Leadership Team - Gloria Roulhac, Maurice Myrick, Jennifer Edwards, Felecia Smith, Rosemary Cox, Sheila LaRue, Franklin Williams, Greg Roberts, Ashley Martin, AnnMarie Shelton, Mark Creamer, Teresa Ellis, Dorothy Perry

## Sunland Applauds Our Star Employees!

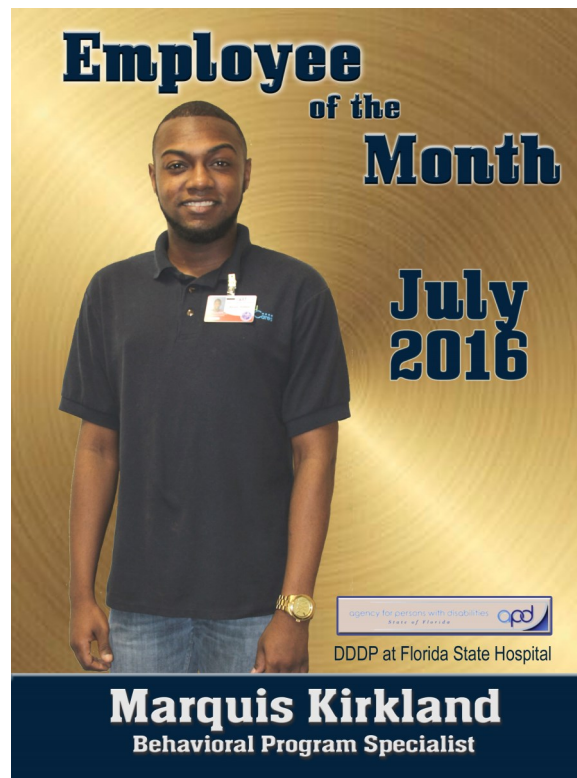




# Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program

Congratulations to Marquis Kirkland, Behavioral Program Specialist – F/C, who has been named DDDP’s June 2016 Star Employee of the Month!

Mr. Kirkland provides exceptional leadership while serving Community 3, 2nd Shift. He is a strong role model for his co-workers, encouraging them to work together as a team to better serve the residents of DDDP. He recently showed initiative by developing additional activities for the residents in Community 3 to decrease inappropriate behavior by keeping the residents engaged and involved in structured activities. He makes sound decisions based on facts in the absence of the Supervisor or as lead worker. Mr. Kirkland routinely assists the supervisor with staff refresher training on behavior plans and policies. He is always willing to flex or adjust his work schedule to ensure the outstanding quality of care for the residents we serve. Mr. Kirkland's positive attitude towards his work has lead his team through two difficult situations on 2nd Shift. Recently, with Mr. Kirkland's assistance using his "Stay Close" and PASS skills, this Community and Shift experienced two perfect reactive strategies with ZERO deficiencies. He embodies the character traits "Dependability" and "Dedication" through his display of commitment to serving the residents of DDDP with excellent care. Mr. Kirkland is an asset to DDDP and we congratulate him on this well deserved recognition!

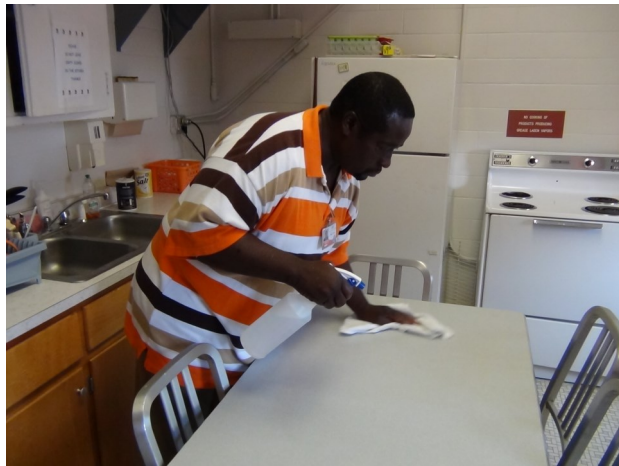


Article & Photos Contributed by: Corey Chafin

# Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program

## DDDP Takes Part in “Clean Up Day”

On Friday, June 24, 2016, DDDP took part in the Sunland “Clean Up Day.” Staff in all departments took advantage of this opportunity to go through and “spruce up” their areas by getting rid of the old and making room for the new.



Contributed by: Corey Chafin



# Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program

## DDDP Offers New Rehab Class

DDDP recently developed a new Rehab class titled "Stress Management through Music Enrichment." This class is designed to use music interventions to facilitate positive changes in behavior and emotional well-being by providing music as an effective educational and therapeutic tool to teach new ways to deal with stressors. The interventions are designed to reduce stress and increase students' adaptive coping skills.

Classes provide students with direct instruction and practice, assisting the students in the acquisition of skills to promote a positive effect on stress management. Residents of DDDP have thoroughly enjoyed this new Rehab Class!



Article & Photos Contributed by: Corey Chafin

# Keep Food Safe During Summer Picnics!

## Keep it Clean!

☒ Food should not be left out of the cooler or off the grill more than two hours (one hour when the outside temperature is above 90 degrees). Holding food at an unsafe temperature is another major cause of food-borne illness.

■ Raw meat and poultry may contain bacteria that cause foodborne illness. These foods must be cooked and held at temperatures either too hot or too cold for bacteria to survive and grow. Bacteria multiply readily between 40 F and 140 F.

■ Remember to pack a food thermometer to check the doneness of meat.

For example, burgers should reach an internal temperature of 160 F and chicken breasts, 165 F. Clean your thermometer with warm, soapy water after every use.

■ When reheating food at a picnic, make sure it reaches 165 F.

Although mosquitoes and flies can be annoying pests at picnics, the “bugs” you can’t see, such as harmful bacteria, are a bigger problem. Bacteria love the warm, humid days of summer and multiply faster than at any other time of the year. Use the following tips to beat bacteria at your summer picnic.



**Keep Hot Foods Hot!** Food should not be left out of the cooler or off the grill more than two hours (one hour when the outside temperature is above 90 degrees). Holding food at an unsafe temperature is another major cause of food-borne illness.

■ Raw meat and poultry may contain bacteria that cause foodborne illness. These foods must be cooked and held at temperatures either too hot or too cold for bacteria to survive and grow. Bacteria multiply readily between 40 F and 140 F.

■ Remember to pack a food thermometer to check the doneness of meat. For example, burgers should reach an internal temperature of 160 F and chicken breasts, 165 F. Clean your thermometer with warm, soapy water after every use.

■ When reheating food at a picnic, make sure it reaches 165 F.



## Consider Nonperishable Picnic Alternatives

- Baked potato chips instead of potato salad.
- Washed whole fruit (apples, oranges, bananas, etc.) instead of cut-up fruit salad.
- Cookies or brownies instead of perishable cream or fruit-filled pies.

## Keep Cold Foods Cold!

■ Keep perishable foods cool by transporting them in an insulated cooler with plenty of ice or frozen gel packs. Perishable foods include meat, poultry, seafood, eggs, dairy products, pasta, rice, cooked vegetables and fresh, peeled and cut fruits and vegetables.

■ Pack the cooler just before leaving home. Foods chilling in your refrigerator should be placed directly in your cooler with ice or frozen gel packs.

■ Avoid frequently opening coolers containing perishable food. It’s a good idea to store beverages and perishable foods in separate coolers.

■ Keep the cooler in an air-conditioned vehicle during travel and in the shade at the picnic site. Avoid transporting the cooler in your vehicle’s trunk.

Article & Photos Contributed by : Suzanne Laramore



# HUMAN RESOURCES

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE OF STATE GOVERNMENT

APD Policy 2-0009 requires that all requests for approval for employment outside the Agency must be reapproved each fiscal year.

If you have additional employment outside of State government, please review this policy and complete the Additional Employment Outside of State Government Form.

You must resubmit this form even if you have already had it approved for your current job. Please submit your Outside Employment Form to your supervisor for signature by **July 31st, 2016.**



Amanda Johnson, HR Manager and her staff, Veronica Mullinax, Lizzie Holland and Stacey Goodwin are always happy to serve you!

For more information regarding career opportunities, deferred compensation, retirement or other personnel issues, 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>



A BIG WARM WELCOME

# NEW EMPLOYEES

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Michelle Smith  | Susan Himes        |
| Myra Davis      | Priscilla Carlisle |
| Cheryl Jones    | Charisse Gray      |
| Mary Lewis      | Qualie Roulhac     |
| Jamis Jones     | Jhon Metzler       |
| Anthony Holmes  | McKenzie Conner    |
| Gwendolyn McGee | Toni Layton        |
| T'Keah Starks   |                    |

# RETIREEES

Linda Johnson



Contributed by: Amanda Johnson, HR Manager



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# Project Sunland PRIDE



## Beautification Program!

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN A DESIRABLE ENVIRONMENT

### "Community Spotlight of the Month"

# Rish Park



#### **"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