



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

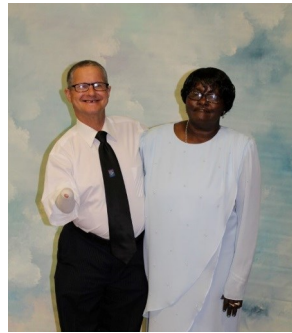
3rd Annual Sunshine Gala

"A Night at the Gallery"

Sunland residents and staff gathered for an evening of formal attire and dancing the night away at the Center's 3rd Annual Sunshine Gala on Friday, June 2. The theme, "A Night at the Gallery" set the mood for elegance and enchantment. Despite the rain, the evening was filled with dancing, fellowship and an assortment of delicious refreshments. The ladies were lovely and the men dapper in their formal attire. A special thanks to everyone who assisted to make the Sunshine Gala a very special evening at Sunland Center.



The Sunland Beacon



Sunland Artists Donate Paintings to APD State Office

From sculptures to painting's, Maria Johnson's art students displayed their craft and creativity at the State office on May 12. The student artists were on hand to discuss their work and provide State office employees an in-depth look at their projects and the talent that they have.

When asked about his sculpture Robert C. stated "What we've learned included abstract art, realism, art history and technique. It was human interaction, I think." Ruby P. proudly discussed her pieces and what art means to her. "It has added color to my life; I love it!"

Eric L. enjoyed sharing his pieces and discussing his thoughts and messages that he hoped to present to the viewers. He loves making statements with his art.

Robert C. presented Director Palmer with an acrylic painting of a pelican. Director Palmer was thrilled with the gift and assured him that it would be hung in a prominent place in the office so that many visitors would have the opportunity to see it.

Following their visit, Robert, Ruby and Eric were ecstatic when they received a nice, hand-written note from Director Palmer. The smiles on their faces (below, right) were priceless!

Sunland is blessed to have a robust art program and appreciates the hard work of Maria Johnson, who freely gives of her time, talent and her passion for the arts. Thank you Maria, for all you do!



#Sunland Rocks!

"The Hub" is encouraging all to help Rock Sunland! In the spirit of imagination, inspiration and exploration, spread a little bit of yourself throughout the Center this summer by creating and hiding hand-decorated #SunlandRocks throughout our Sunland community - find one, leave one. You might just be giving someone something they've been looking for! Many other communities in our State, including the city of Marianna, are already taking part in the activity, and have had tremendous success. Some of the first rock projects were started in Oregon and Massachusetts under the names "Love Rocks" and "Kindness Rocks." Since then, the phenomenon has swept the nation, bringing love, kindness, and joy to those who paint, as well as those who find the handcrafted treasures when they least expect them. This simple activity is perfectly aligned with the Sunland's efforts to maintain and build on the charm and character of our community. The #SunlandRocks initiative invites all staff and residents, to get busy painting. It's a great hands-on art & craft activity for all. Staff and residents have been quite busy painting and hiding rocks, on-center and also in the Marianna community. We hope you'll join in the fun!

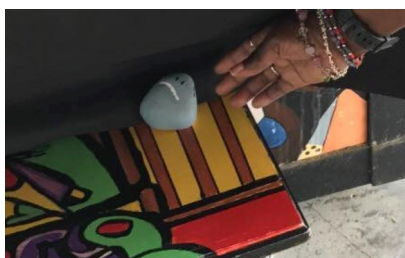
Getting started is simple:

- Paint a rock in any design - paint pens, spray paint, permanent markers, or acrylic paints work best, and it's recommended to use some type of sealant before placing outside.
- Make sure to include #SunlandRocks on the back of the rock. Just for fun, you may want to add your name or initials on your rock, too!
- Distribute your #SunlandRocks around the Sunland community. Public recreation areas, parks, well-traveled areas are recommended. Be mindful and only place in safe areas.
- Keep the community updated on painting projects, hiding, or finding these special #SunlandRocks by taking photos, forwarding photos to Sunland Communications Coordinator Beth Basford, and tagging with the hashtag. It will be fun to see your photos in future editions of the Sunland Beacon!
- Staff are encouraged to take their #SunlandRocks with them when they travel, and leave a piece of Sunland for others to find and share.



 **Marianna Police Dept**
5 hrs · 🌐

Look what we found by our back door! 🐾
Ya'll made our day our day better!
Thank you #SunlandRocks
#JCRocks



From the Superintendent...

Little Red Riding Hood

Recently, I had a great conversation with Elizabeth and John Greer. We talked about the business and joys of Sunland. The Greers are staunch and committed supporters of Sunland residents and staff and have been for many years. They contribute time and resources to help Sunland grow and advance. When I talk with the Greers, I can always count on three things 1) I am going to see great big smiles, 2) I am going to hear great stories that make me laugh out loud (*The story of Fee Fee was the best*); and 3) I will have a homework assignment when the conversation is over.

"There are so many wonderful things happening at Sunland," I said to Mrs. Greer. She responded, "I know!" She goes on to say, "The Gala, Culinary, and excitedly ends with Dance!" "Yes," I said. But, "there's more." Mr. Greer nodded and smiled.

Residents and staff are now practicing for their first stage play. It is Leanne Gunther's *Little Red Riding Hood* – with lots of surprises. Residents, Mr. Godwin and the Centralized Support Services Team will present *Little Red Riding Hood* on August 3, at 1 p.m. in the Sunland Auditorium. They haven't allowed me a sneak peek, but the buzz is "Residents acting skills are phenomenal!" I can't wait to see how this story will be retold through the lens of the residents and staff at Sunland.



Conversation comes to a close, I got my big smiles, a funny story, and yes my homework. Mrs. Greer - we will gear up for our Environmental Park Project Roundtable the middle of September. Thanks for agreeing to facilitate the conversation. After *Little Red Riding Hood*, then comes Environmental Park Project Roundtable. Wonderful things continue to happen at Sunland.

Grateful,

Geri Williams
Superintendent



Enjoying the Sunfest Sensation!

As Summer heats up, so does the excitement at the annual Sunfest talent show! This entertaining event, showcasing Sunland's finest talent, has become a highly anticipated occasion among residents and staff. This year, there were a total of 13 acts, ranging from musical renditions of country, pop, hip hop, rock and gospel, along with creative dancing and even some air guitar and drums. Several acts were accompanied by the Fantastic Five house band, led by Charisse Gray, keyboard/vocals, Israel Davis drums/vocals, along with Quay Brigham, Nike Olds and Destiny Lovett, who provided back-up vocals. The band closed out the show with the gospel medley grand finale.

Thanks to everyone who participated, those who worked behind the scenes in production, and those who came out to support the show. It was a sensational hit!



Enjoying the Sunfest Sensation!



APD Employees Recipients of Prudential Productivity Awards



Sunland Administration extends congratulations to two staff who were recently honored as 2017 Prudential Productivity Award recipients. Each year, Prudential and The Florida Tax Watch recognize state employees who combine their creativity and innovation to improve and deliver state services in a more efficient manner. Congratulations to Jennie Ann Dean, Resident Advocate at Sunland, and Lori Keel, Accountant IV at Sunland's Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program, located in Chattahoochee. On June 14, these ladies were recognized at the 29th annual Prudential Productivity Awards luncheon held at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center in Tallahassee. Both were presented with engraved plaques for their achievements.

Ms. Dean is the Resident Advocate at Sunland Center. She ensures the rights and needs of the individuals served at Sunland Center are provided without exception. In addition to her duties, she consistently goes above and beyond her scope of duty to search out and develop occasions that allow Sunland residents opportunities to engage in socially enriching and meaningful activities. Ms. Dean works tirelessly to enrich the lives of the individuals who reside at Sunland, advocating for opportunities that will enhance their life experiences. A couple of years ago, Ms. Dean became aware of the "Night to Shine" event sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, which enhances social engagement for people with developmental disabilities. She recognized this would be a wonderful occasion for the individuals who reside at Sunland, as well as others with developmental disabilities from our local and surrounding communities. She worked to procure an \$8,000 grant from the Tebow Foundation to bring the event to the Marianna community. She established a committee of volunteers from Sunland Center and the local community, partnering with Rivertown Community Church and community businesses to ensure all needs were met. Through "Night to Shine," Ms. Dean's efforts improved community integration activities for Sunland and increased positive community relations for The Agency for Persons with Disabilities/Sunland Center.

Ms. Keel serves as an Accountant IV at the Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program (DDDP). She understands individuals who have a wider array of choices, are at lower risk for maladaptive behaviors, in turn, being more open to learning opportunities. Ms. Keel recognized the DDDP residents needed more appealing activities and took the initiative to institute a plan of action to secure surplus computers, at no cost to the state, saving approximately \$5,000 had the computers been purchased new. The use of computers affords residents new opportunities to engage in educational computer games and activities. Through her efforts, freeware games and basic academic skills programs were made available for the residents at DDDP. By her actions, Ms. Keel went far above and beyond her job duties and responsibilities to meet the needs of the residents at DDDP.

Congratulations Jennie Ann Dean and Lori Keel for your accomplishments and well-deserved recognition!



Pictured L-R: Karen Hagan, APD Chief of Staff; Geri Williams, Sunland Superintendent; Jennie Ann Dean, Sunland Resident Advocate and Barbara Palmer, APD Director



Pictured L-R: Geri Williams, Sunland Superintendent, Karen Hagan, APD Chief of Staff, Lori Keel, DDDP Accountant IV; Barbara Palmer, APD Director and Kim Page, DDDP OMC II

Residential Services

Unit 1 - Staff and residents from Unit 1 recently enjoyed a beach trip to Mexico Beach, and what a beautiful day it was to be out on the beach. Tiffany LaCount, Residential Services Supervisor of the Unit 1 Day Program and Roosevelt Learning Center, stated "everyone was very excited as we traveled south heading towards the Gulf of Mexico, and upon our arrival were eager to get out and walk along the beach." Following some beach time, the group made their way over to Toucans, a restaurant with a relaxing, tropical ambiance, located directly on the beach. LaCount said "while sitting at our table going over the menus and placing beverage orders, a gentleman came over to share what he had observed about us as he sat at his table. The gentlemen stated, "I just wanted to say that you all are doing a wonderful job. I'm glad to see things like this happening, and this is what it is all about!" His kind comments were answered with 'thank you' and lots of big smiles!" LaCount went on to say "after placing our orders, we were settled in and enjoying the beautiful backdrop of the beach when another gentleman came over to our table. We learned he was Mr. Scott, the owner of the restaurant. He said 'when you all get finished you can go upstairs and get any tee shirt you want from the gift shop.' We were all quite excited and replied once again with 'thank-you' and big smiles. After picking out our tee shirts, I wanted to personally thank him again for being so generous to us and that we really enjoyed the food and our visit. He shook my hand and said 'you all are doing a remarkable job! It takes a special person to do your type of work!' Mr. Scott shared his own personal experience about a time when his mother became ill and depended on someone to take care of her. His final remark was 'anytime you all want to come back, give me a call and I will make sure you all are comfortable,' followed by a warm 'enjoy the rest of your day' and a friendly wave goodbye."

All in all, it was a perfect day at the beach for Unit 1!



Sunland Nursing Hosts Visits by Bainbridge State College Nursing Program

On Friday, June 30, the Sunland Nursing Department hosted a tour of the Center for nursing students and instructors from Bainbridge State College. Michele Pettis, Sunland Executive Nursing Director stated "the observations that were made in every area visited on the tours with the nursing students from Bainbridge State College demonstrated a nurturing, compassionate, clean and friendly environment. We had some residents who took the groups on tours through their home with pride. We also had staff who reflected a great deal of passion in their role by sharing information with the students. The students and instructors were heavily engaged and the questions were endless. Supervisors, please share this with the staff on the homes."



Here are some of the great comments that were heard throughout the tour:

- "I liked most on my tour the home-like environment here."
- "I liked how it is a community and everything is here for the residents."
- "It was clean."
- "Everyone was so friendly and seemed excited we were here."
- "I noticed how happy the residents were."
- "Each house seemed to have its own personality."
- "The residents took pride in their living areas."
- "The residents we saw knew so many staff by their first name. I was impressed!"
- "These residents receive a lot of attention and care."

Overall, the visit and tour was a great success. We had some great interests expressed to come to Sunland to work as a nurse!! Congratulations Sunland Nursing for a job well done!



BAINBRIDGE
STATE COLLEGE

Pathways

Reverend Adrian Abner along with several choir members from St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church volunteered their time to provide church services on June 7 for Pathways' residents and staff. The service was held in the Sunland Chapel, coordinated by Chaplain Ruthie Moore.

The service began with a call to worship and prayer, followed by opening remarks from Michael Miller. The St. Peter Missionary Baptist choir members sang melodies of music and Reverend Adrian Abner spoke great words of inspiration. The service was closed with prayer. The evening was very uplifting as a sense of peace and joy filled the church. Thank you, Reverend Abner, and St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church for providing everyone with such an enlightening experience.

Contributed by: Juanita Alford



Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program

Team Awarded for Lifesaving Action

On June 7 a Star Team award was present to Mr. Terrell Manuel, Ms. Tanya B. Jones, and Mr. Carlos Ardila for their actions in responding to an emergency medical situation. Thanks to their swift response, resident T.H. is alive and well today. Mr. Manuel observed resident T.H. having what appeared to be seizure activity and quickly took appropriate action ensuring the resident was safe, notifying Ms. Jones to call for medical assistance. Ms. Jones promptly notified nursing staff, Mr. Ardila of the medical situation. Mr. Ardila immediately responded to the scene to find resident T.H. in acute medical distress, no palpable pulse and no observable respirations. He instructed the staff to activate EMS and immediately initiated CPR. CPR was continued by nurse Ardila until resident T.H. displayed spontaneous respiration and a palpable pulse was felt. FHS EMS arrived on the scene and transported the resident to Unit 31ER. Because of the keen observation, rapid notification, and expeditious reaction and action of this team, resident T.H. was provided necessary lifesaving intervention and has been able to make a full recovery with no loss of function. Congratulations team for a job well done!



Pictured L-R: Carlos Ardila, Tanya Jones, Terrell Manuel and Assistant Superintendent Sheila Barbee

Contributed by: Richard Cook

Quality Management




Quality Management is delighted to announce our newest members of the Quality Team. Ms. Velma Tensley is Sunland's Direct Services Staff Field Instructor and has already started coaching and mentoring our newest HSW II/Direct Services Staff. Ms. Tensley is developing core competencies for these employees that will significantly improve and sustain our quality care and customer service, and develop and retain more skilled Direct Services Staff. Using a mentoring and "hands-on" approach to bridge Direct Services Staff learning from classroom in New Employee Orientation to the actual work environment may lead to a greater overall job satisfaction and retention of valuable new care staff.

Contributed by: Mary Gallagher


SUMMER HEALTH AND SAFETY

PROTECT YOUR SKIN • STAY HYDRATED • PUT SAFETY FIRST




Skin cancer is the **MOST COMMON** type of cancer, accounting for **NEARLY HALF** of all cancer cases

PROTECT YOUR SKIN




The sun's UV rays are **STRONGEST** between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.


— SUNSCREEN FACTS —




UVB rays are the **MAIN** cause of sunburns



SPF measures how well sunscreen protects against UVB rays only



Water-resistant sunscreen provides protection while swimming or sweating



Broad-spectrum sunscreen protects against both UVB and UVA rays

Congratulations June Star Award Winners!

Star Awards for the month of June were presented on Friday, July 14 by Deputy Superintendent Adrian Abner, who was joined by Unit 2 RSD Phil Anderson, QM Manager Mary Gallagher, Unit 3 POA Elizabeth Mitchell, and CSS Director James Godwin. Congratulations to award recipients for your dedication and hard work. Sunland Appreciates You!



Unit 2 employee Tammi Garrett accepts Gold Star Team Award on behalf of Whispering Oaks House



Unit 2 employee Jasma Black accepts Gold Star Award



Unit 2 employee Alesia Holland accepts Silver Star Award

Unit 2 employee Tammy Beavers & Quality Management employee Elaine Keen accept Silver Star Team Award



Quality Management employee Teresa Burden accepts Gold Star Award



Unit 3 employee Vanessa Shelley accepts Silver Star Award



Elizabeth Mitchell accepts Gold Star Award on behalf of former Unit 3 employee Darlene Boykin



CSS employee Pat Collins accepts Gold Star Award



CSS employee Paul Money accepts Gold Star Award

HUMAN RESOURCES

BACKGROUND SCREENINGS - With the new background screening system in the Clearinghouse, it is ESSENTIAL that all communications you may receive via email, standard and/or certified mail etc., from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and/or Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) regarding any background screening information be addressed as outlined in the communication you receive as quickly as possible. These communications are not sent to Human Resources; they are sent to the employee directly. If you bring a copy of the communication received to HR we will assist you with providing any copies of documents needed that we may already have on file or have access to. Please do not ignore these communications as it may affect employment eligibility status regardless of your hire date or service time.

PAY RAISES - Effective October 1, 2017, eligible employees are employees who, at a minimum, meet their required performance standards, if applicable, and are employed on October 1, 2017. Other Personal Services (OPS) employees are not eligible for a competitive pay adjustment.

For employees with a base rate of pay of \$40,000 or less on September 30, 2017, an annual increase of \$1,400.

For employees with a base rate of pay greater than \$40,000 on September 30, 2017, an annual increase of \$1,000; provided however, in no instance shall an employee's base rate of pay be increased to an annual amount less than \$41,400.

For part-time employees, the full-time equivalent value of the base rate of pay on September 30, 2017, shall be used, but the amount of the annual increase for a part-time employee shall be proportional to the full-time equivalency of the employee's position.



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



Marcorious Tiggs
Samuel Hodges
William Corbett
Christopher Fielder
Chubby Virgin
Demetric Claiborne
Eric Weddington
Ophelia Pittman
Desmond Bellamy
Selena Godwin
Angie Thomas
Rachel Hernandez
Equallia Dickens
Rex Chambliss
Qualie Roulhac
Nikera Olds
Charisse Gray
Te'Quavis Brigham

James Leavins
Douglas Stone
Autumn Buggs
Joseph Byler
Willie Mae Joiner
James Daniels
Brittany Watson
Demetric Claiborne
Nyleah Merritt
Rebecca Mullins
Maria Sanchez-Shilon
Chasity McGriff
Jalan Johnson

Retirees

Roger Baxter





agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida

Project Sunland PRIDE



Beautification Program!

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN A DESIRABLE ENVIRONMENT

"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; 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