

The Sunland Beacon

Volume 1/Issue 3

MAY 2015

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

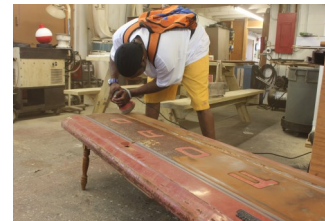
agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida



1st Annual Art in the Park Resounding Success!

It was a picture perfect Spring day on Saturday, May 2, when Sunland hosted our 1st Annual "Art in the Park." Organizers of the event, Maria Johnson, Wayne Winkle and Jennie Ann Dean, along with Superintendent Geri Williams were thrilled at the show of support from staff, residents, families and many individuals from the community. Superintendent Williams said she wanted to "highlight cultural arts at Sunland and invite community participation." She introduced the idea to Jennie Ann and Maria and they eagerly accepted the challenge. From the turnout, it is evident the Art show proved to be a resounding success! A special thanks to everyone who participated, whether you assisted with art classes, planning and organizing, set up, clean up, or contributed artwork and upcycled creations. Without your support, this event would not have been possible. Plans are already underway for next year's "Art in the Park" and promises to be bigger and better ~ Sunland style!

Ever wondered how some of the artwork was created? Pictured are several art classes. Artistic expressions were featured in this year's "Art in the Park."



Sunland Center - Marianna Campus
Developmental Disabilities Center
3700 Williams Drive, Marianna, FL 32446

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State of Florida

Sunland Center - Chattahoochee Campus
Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program
100 N. Main Street, Chattahoochee, FL 32324

Scenes from "Art in the Park"



Scenes from "Art in the Park"



From the Superintendent...

Recently, I attended a meeting at the Agency for Persons with Disabilities State Office in Tallahassee. As I was approaching the back entrance, I saw a number of geese on both sides of the sidewalk. I began to reflect on a video that was shown at one of Director Palmer's video teleconferences. I don't remember the name of the video, but I can hear the words "geese fly together!" And, I can see the Director in my mind's eye encouraging and motivating the team. The video highlighted the science and art of geese formation and flying; and what they can teach us about team work. Distinctly, I remember the V formation. The V formation is described as a lifting power for the geese as they flap their wings so that one after the other gets the benefit of the full strength of the team working together. Several lessons stuck with me as I think about this important work that we do. I want to emphasize a few:



Team Work - Sunland, Pathways, and DDDP have a rich history of staff closely working together for the greater good. As we build on that history and create new opportunities to lend a higher level of support to the individuals that we are privileged to serve, I appreciatively welcome your thoughts and ideas to advance our work. I said last month that I continue to be amazed with the unselfish giving of time and talent beyond the call of duty. Thank you for that. Seeing team work throughout our organization affirms that we are purposefully moving in a direction that speaks to advancement. I applaud your contribution. Keep up the team work!

Clarity of Purpose - Organizational leaders continue to make great strides in clarifying what needs to be done, who needs to do it, and how best to get it done; and importantly seeking input from the individuals we serve, staff, parents/guardians, and community partners. Onward!

Spirit of Giving - Some time ago, I challenged the leadership team with encouraging community engagement and active participation. You all have exceeded my expectations and community partners are delighted. Few examples: Individuals from Sunland (staff and clients) participated in the Relay for Life Walk to support the American Cancer Society. DDDP staff entertained and read to children in first grade at Stewart Elementary School in Quincy; and leaders attended the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce's Leadercast Series: One day leadership training session affording access to experience and knowledge from world renowned leaders. Thank you, team!

Connections - At a recent family day event in Unit 1, a parent gave the team a beautiful hydrangea. On the heels of telling me how much she appreciated the care her son received, she said, "This plant has been in my family for 50 years...Well not this particular plant but its root and its vine." I thought about what must have occurred over half a century ago. Certainly there would have been good soil preparing, careful planting, fertilizing, watering, and pruning. More critically, I thought about this extension of the work at her families' hands that she was giving to Sunland. That was a powerful lesson on the impact of connecting and doing the work. I wanted to pass that on to you. Connections can be awe inspiring and impactful!

I am sure you must be wondering about the geese at the back door of the Esplanade Way's Building in Tallahassee. Well, let's just say, I let them have the side walk and I made a V-Line for the door and hurried along for my meeting. Happy May Days to a Great, Great Team! Honored to serve with you!

Superintendent Geri Williams

STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK 2015



Staff Appreciation Week 2015 was celebrated during Public Service Recognition Week, May 4 - 6 and was certainly an action filled week at Sunland! This annual celebration is designed to show appreciation to you, our hard working, dedicated staff. We trust everyone enjoyed the activities and hamburger cookout at the Park! Congratulations to the Maintenance/Operations Department who won the coveted "Spirit of Sunland" award! Pictured below are some of the activities that took place during the week. By the smiles on everyone's faces, it seems that our 2015 celebration was a great hit! Please know Sunland appreciates and thanks you for all that you do!



Sunland Thanks You for all You Do!



Staff Appreciation 2015



Unit 1 Activities...

Easter Egg-Extravaganza - The Unit 1 Easter Egg Extravaganza was truly an Extravaganza indeed. On Friday, April 3, 2015, Unit 1 residents enjoyed an Easter Egg-Extravaganza on the back patio of Roosevelt's Day Program.

The weather was perfect for the activities. Dressing in their Easter best, residents had their portraits taken against a colorful floral background. Next, it was on to the Easter arts & craft tables and an exciting game of musical chairs. The delicious refreshments included cake, orange sherbet, cheese puffs, and pink lemonade that was enjoyed while listening to music.

Rehabilitation Therapist, Tracy Sanders, took the lead, but it was the cooperation of the entire Unit that made the day a success. Thanks to Adams House for lending their karaoke machine, Parkview House for providing tables and chairs, and Behavior Specialist, Ann Marie Shelton for providing inspirations, prizes, and Easter bingo. Roosevelt staff provided the muscles for setup, take downs, and assisted in the arts and craft activities. The Unit 1 Learning Center helped to supervise the party, serve refreshments and assisted with cleanup. With so many staff working together, we were able to provide an enjoyable afternoon for the residents.



Upcoming Events:

Unit 1 will travel to Rish Park for some fun in the sun on May 20 - 22 & June 24 - 26. This is a very enjoyable time for the residents and they are

Article Contributed by: Clevelando Wedderburn

~ Birthdays ~

*"I am not getting older,
I am just getting wiser."*

Congratulations to the following residents that celebrated their birthdays in the month of April: Mr. Larry M. April 1st, Ms. Michelle H. April 18th, Mr. Terry P. April 28th, Scott M. April 12th.



Let's get cooking

Unit 2 on the Move...

What's Cooking? Staff Alice Bandele knows what a sanctuary the kitchen can be! When writing goals, Ms. Bandele talks to the residents assigned to her caseload to develop new and achievable goals. She recognizes cooking or baking can be therapeutic tools and puts these daily living skills to good use by teaching residents to cook. These goals are designed to teach healthy cooking, eating skills, wise shopping choices and budgeting skills. The ultimate goal is self sufficiency in daily living. Resident Glen B. is pictured with a meal that he recently prepared on East Truman. Great job Glen!!



Supporting the Jackson County Community ~ Living in an era where the word "cancer" is heard far too often, it is good to know there are people doing something about it -- namely, by participating in the American Cancer Society's annual Relay for Life event. Relay for Life promotes cancer awareness while raising funds to fight the disease. Relay presents a unique opportunity for families and friends affected by cancer to honor that journey, to remember those who have passed, and to take meaningful action to fight back against a disease that has taken too much from too many. Relay is a family friendly, non-athletic event that embraces everyone in our community, and fights/supports all cancers. As much as Relay For Life is a fundraising event, it is also a support network.



As you take a lap around the track and see cancer survivors and caregivers of all ages and backgrounds, it's impossible to not feel as though you are part of something so much bigger than yourself. On May 1, residents from East Truman participated in the Relay for Life at Citizens Lodge to honor their house mate and friend, Ronald B. and the other cancer survivors at Sunland Center. Employees Alice Bandele, Donald Curl and Jennie Ann Dean accompanied the residents to Relay where they took in the evening festivities. Residents enjoyed the entertainment and walking in the "caregivers lap."



Contributed by: Jennie Ann Dean

Unit 3 Happenings...

Unit 3's Family Day was a great success! Our residents and their families took delight in the decorative environment, delicious brunch and the program that was provided. Our residents played an essential part in the program and did an awesome job! Bert S. of Connally Manor led the opening prayer, Clifford H. of East Washington provided a selection, and Shirley H. of Monroe recited a poem. Westside's very own Jonathan C. and Stephlen S. provided musical entertainment and put on quite a show. Jonathan C. took over as the lead singer of the duet and sang a medley of songs. Everyone truly enjoyed the show and the participants received a standing ovation after their performances. We would like to thank the families for their support, and the staff for their dedication in assisting our residents with Family Day!

We are enthusiastically planning for the upcoming Sunshine Gala. We are in shopping mode for our night at the Sunshine Gala, because you can be sure that Unit 3 will "dress to impress." We are looking forward to dressing in our formal attire, dancing the night away, and having a superb time!!



May Birthday Stars

Residents: Theresa H., Elijah F., Beth M., Eugene M., Laura D., and Gary B.,

Staff: Susan McKinnie, Cheryl Jones, Joyce McKinnie, Judy Cambre, and Juwon Johnson



Article Contributed by: Allison Jones

NURSING DEPARTMENT



May is a special month for nurses as we celebrate National Nurse's Week. This year, DDDP Nursing invited SAM Nursing to join them for a delicious prime rib lunch on Thursday, May 7 and SAM Nursing invited DDDP Nursing to join us on Friday, May 8 for a fish fry with all the trimmings. There were also drawings for gift cards. The celebration week ended on Tuesday, May 12, with nurses being treated to ice cream!



As much as the nurse's love the attention and appreciation shown them, we are also mindful of the fact that National Nurses Week coincides with National Public Servants Week. On behalf of the entire Nursing Department...*THANK YOU!* We know just how much you help us each and every day. We could not do our jobs without you.



We not only appreciate you, we enjoy the opportunity to work with you! Each of you play an important role in the lives of our residents and in the lives of co-workers, whether directly or indirectly. Everyone who works at Sunland, Pathways and DDDP contribute significantly to a safe and health workplace. We appreciate you!

We're Growing...We are excited to have several new faces in the Nursing Department. Congratulations to Michele Henderson, our new Executive Nursing Director! Michele has previously served as a Nursing Supervisor at DDDP and at Sunland. She brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the position. Again, please join us in welcoming Michele to the Sunland team. Additionally, please extend a warm Sunland welcome to several new nurses: Janice O'Bryan, Glenda Thrasher, Annie York, and Contrannia Cooper, Unit 1; and Katherine Justice, Unit 2. We are very excited to have these professionals join our team!

Fond Farewell...Last month we said "Happy Retirement" to Josie Hall, SRNS Unit 2. Josie enjoyed a long and distinguished career in Nursing at Sunland and she is already greatly missed.



Article Contributed by: Suzanne Laramore

Pathways

FUN TIMES FOR ALL

The past few weeks at Pathways have been filled with fun for everyone. Activities began with our annual resident spring fun day on April 23. Activities included large slides, horseback riding, dancing, horse shoes and outdoor bowling. On April 29, six residents at Pathways enjoyed an off-center fishing trip. Then on May 2, several residents participated in the Sunland Art Show activities and were happy to showcase their many talents!



Resident Zack B. enjoys riding a horse led by Recreation staff member Matt Dryden



Glenda Winkle Vocational Instructor leads resident Kenny C.



Residents Adrian H., Carlos C. and Anthony M. enjoy the music.



Kenny C., Gary P. Urias L., Adrian H., Jessie D. and Clarence M. show of the catch from their fishing trip.



DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES DEFENDANT PROGRAM



Family Day - On April 25 the DDDP Family celebrated our annual Family Day festivities in both the East and West buildings. Attending this occasion, DDDP staff welcomed 165 family members. The theme for the evening was a carnival setting, accented with a rainbow of colors. Our residents and their families were entertained by the DDDP staff with all sorts of games, popcorn, sno-cones, and much more. Colorful balloons filled the air as art work was being displayed, and friends and family enjoyed a time of socializing and reminiscing about the "good old days."

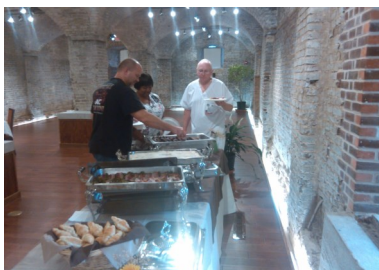


Hat's Off! - Congratulations to DDDP's David Hamilton upon his induction into Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society and achieving status on the Dean's list at Chipola College for four consecutive semesters!

Mr. Hamilton will be entering the nursing program at Chipola in August and plans to continue on to Troy University where he plans to obtain his Doctorate in Nursing. Congratulations and best of wishes in all your endeavors David Hamilton!



Nurses Week Celebration ~ DDDP Nurses play a vital role in the care and well being of our residents. To show appreciation for our nurses, they were treated to a delicious prime rib meal on May 7 at the FSH Mt. Vernon Arsenal. Following the luncheon, nurses were treated to mini-manicures and seated massages. On behalf of the Nurses, Larry Johnson presented Executive Director of Nursing Richard Cook with a "Motor Oil Bouquet."



DDDP Gives Back to the Community - On May 7, several DDDP staff, along with Superintendent Geri Williams, participated in "Read United" at Stewart Street Elementary School in Quincy. They read storybooks to 1st Graders and distributed books to the students. Everyone was grateful to participate in this worthwhile event. Pictured are: Beverly Hollis, Superintendent Geri Williams, Adrian Bishop, Pam Cook, Daryl Chavers, Tammy Cloud, Jennifer Bailey and Stacy Gibson.

Articles & photos contributed by: Cynthia Raines & Richard Cook

CENTRALIZED SUPPORT SERVICES

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK OBSERVED AT SUNLAND CENTER

National Volunteer Week was first established via Presidential Proclamation by President Richard Nixon in 1974. Former President George H. W. Bush showed his support of American Volunteering in his 1991 State of the Union Address, commending "a volunteer's generous gesture," and calling it "an idea that is simply right." The manner of celebration for national volunteer week varies. Many organizations, like Sunland, host special events to help engage their local communities in volunteering and making them aware of opportunities that are available year round. *Did you know...besides the benefits to society...scientific studies have shown that individuals who volunteer enjoy psychological and physical benefits, including increased satisfaction, improved sense of belonging, lower blood pressure, increased protection from Alzheimer's, and decreased mortality. Live, laugh, love...and VOLUNTEER!*

At Sunland, volunteers were honored at our annual Volunteer Picnic on Thursday, April 16. Due to rain, the event was moved to the Harvest Cafeteria, but nothing could dampen the excitement of the day or the delicious smoked chicken dinner! During the event, Ronnie B., along with Glen B., Michele B. and staff members Donna Conrad and Kimberly Peterson provided delightful musical entertainment.

Ms. Ruth Weidner was named as the "2015 Volunteer of the Year" and the Optimist Club of Jackson County was named at the "2015 Volunteer Group of the Year." Sunland salutes the men and women who dedicate their time and talent to help us. With much gratitude, we say "Thank You!"



Elisa Mitchell, Westside RSS, pictured with Ruth Weidner, 2015 Volunteer of the Year & Elizabeth Mitchell, Unit 3 POA



Pictured with Mike Miller, Johnson House RSS, is Debbie Gochenauer representing the 2015 Volunteer Group of the Year - Optimist Club of Jackson County



Ronnie B.



Kimberly Peterson



Michele B., Donna Conrad & Glen B.



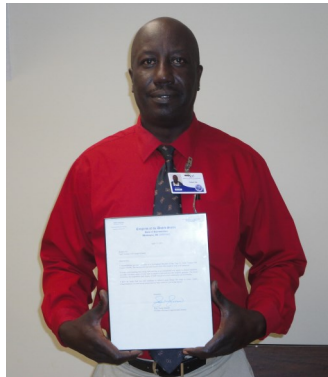
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 2015

April 12-18, 2015

Volunteers: Passion. Action. Impact.

MAINTENANCE / OPERATIONS...

Chances are you've seen Robert Nix around the Sunland campus on various work projects and maintaining the Center's grounds. Robert is known as a dedicated, hard worker on the job and off duty as well. Recently, Mr. Nix was recognized by his church, Faith Temple Full Gospel Church, as the "Spotlighted Member of the Year." He was honored for serving as an exceptional role model to church members, and for volunteering much of his time to improve and maintain the church's grounds. Mr. Nix was presented with a congratulatory letter from Congresswoman Gwen Graham, 2nd District Florida, who commended him for his hard work. She writes *"the hours of service, the inspiration, and display of faith you give to your community are invaluable."* Sunland joins Congresswoman Graham in celebrating your gift to your church and community. Congratulations for a job well done!



Grady Cloud retired from his position as Property Administrator effective April 30, after 8 years with Sunland. Grady began his employment with Sunland in the Purchasing Department before transferring to the Warehouse. Grady was treated to a retirement celebration on Thursday, April 9, at the Warehouse. Pictured with Grady is Allen Ward, Operations and Management Consultant II, Maintenance. We wish Grady a happy and blessed retirement!



Article & Photo Contributed by: Lynn Baxley

HUMAN RESOURCES



Welcome Aboard!!

New Employees:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Zyneshia Henderson | Jenelle Neel |
| Kayla Kelley | William Flagler |
| Debbie Spears | Jeremy Watson |
| Betsy Newman | Johanna Farmer |
| Glenda Thrasher | Tacara Long |
| Treasure Dixon | Jack Brewer |
| Samantha Smith | Montearice McLeroy |
| Connie McNease | |



- Kenneth Grantham
Henry Grady Cloud
Josie Hall
Linda Patterson
Gerald Williams
Corliss Denise McGriff

Contributed by: Joni Laramore

now apply now hiring

<https://peoplefirst.myflorida.com>

For 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 may be obtained at the People First website at: <https://peoplefirst.myflorida.com>

Celebrating April Stars!!!



Star Employee - Donna Conrad

Star Team - Johnson House
Christopher Kelly, Jonathan Money,
Amber Damron, Kandis Smith

QUALITY MANAGEMENT / STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Linda Patterson of Staff Development retired April 30, 2015 after 41 years of employment at Sunland. This achievement was celebrated with a big FSU themed send off.

On April 23rd Kira Sharp attended Adobe Day in Tallahassee. Other state facilities such as the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Department of Health, and Florida Department of Financial services also attended the seminar. Presentations, demos, and great insight of the Adobe Solution were provided by the Adobe team. Ashley Willard, from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, provided a live customer demo of the Adobe Solution at work. Throughout all of the presentations and demos, the main theme focused on how the digital landscape is constantly evolving, and these changes offer agencies new ways to deliver services more cost-effectively, efficiently, and securely.

Announcement: The PASS training site has been relocated to the Unit 2 Building and beginning May 15, 2015, all PASS training will be held at the new location.



Article contributed by: Mary Gallagher



agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida

Project Sunland PRIDE



Beautification Program!

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



"The Sunland Beacon" - Newsletter Committee

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

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