



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

agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida



38th Annual Fall Festival



Saturday, October 29th was a beautiful Fall day, providing the perfect backdrop for Sunland's 38th Annual Fall Festival. The weather could not have been more perfect, starting off with a brisk, cool morning and beautiful blue skies, followed by the warmth of the afternoon sun. For Sunland, the annual festival was certainly a day to remember!

The event began with a huge parade, winding through the Center grounds and ending at the Environmental Park. APD Director Barbara Palmer, APD Deputy Director Tom Rankin, and other Agency officials joined Superintendent Williams in the parade lead off. In keeping with tradition, the festive atmosphere at the park was humming with excitement. Throngs of people gathered along the roadway, waiting to catch a glimpse of the procession, while children were scrambling to gather an assortment of candy being tossed by many of the parade participants. Following the parade, festival goers lingered throughout the day, visiting vendor booths, and eagerly searching out their favorite festival foods which were plenteous. Many gathered to enjoy the live entertainment featured on three stages located throughout the festival grounds.

Clearly, the months of planning and hard work were well rewarded by a strong show of support from the local community. Congratulations to James Godwin, Maria Johnson, all who served on the Fall Festival committee and those who stepped up to assist! The festival was a huge success and a great day for all of Sunland!

The annual festival began thirty-eight years ago as an opportunity to bring Sunland's residents and their families and friends together for a time of fellowship and fun-filled activities. Over the years, the event has grown, becoming one of the largest festivals in Jackson County. We look forward to continuing the tradition for many years to come!



Faces of Fall Festival





Faces of Fall Festival





Fall Festival Poster Competition

Each year, Sunland residents gear up for Fall Festival by participating in the Center's annual Fall Festival poster competition. Participants are eager to show off their talents by creating unique and beautiful posters which are placed throughout the community to advertise the event. We are pleased to announce the following winners of the 2016 Fall Festival Poster Competition:

Unit 1: 1st Place Tommy Lee W.; 2nd Place Stanley D.; 3rd Place Eugene R.

Unit 2: 1st Place John G.; 2nd Place Latasha G.; 3rd Place Shenandoah C.

Unit 3: 1st Place Catherine C.; 2nd Place Laura D.; 3rd Place Eugene M.

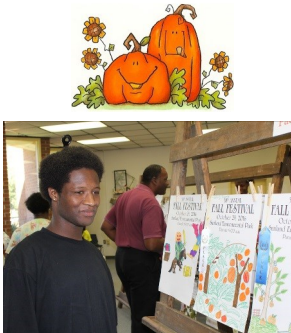
Pathways: 1st Place William H.; 2nd Place Rumaldo O.; 3rd Place Bling Bling P.

DDDP: 1st Place Steven B.; 2nd Place John T.; 3rd Place Nate D.

Best of Show: Michele B.

Best of Show received \$10.00 and a grand prize ribbon; 1st Place winners received \$10.00 and a ribbon; 2nd Place winners received \$5.00 and a ribbon; 3rd Place winners received \$3.00 and a ribbon.

A special thank you to the 2016 poster competition judges, Honorable William L. Wright; Ana Garcia, Assistant State Attorney and Amber Baggett, Senior Court Administrator. Sunland appreciates you giving of your time to support this event.



Article & Photos contributed by: Jennie Ann Dean

Pumpkins on Parade!

This year's annual "Pumpkin on Parade" decorating contest was held on October 25th at the Suntown Mall. Once again, residents of Sunland and DDDP put a lot of effort and creativity into decorating their pumpkins. There were a total of 125 decorated pumpkins entered into the contest this year, which is an increase from 78 pumpkins entered from last year. The beautifully decorated pumpkins were displayed at the Suntown Mall from October 19-27 for all to see. The beautifully decorated pumpkins were then placed as decoration at the front entrance to Sunland, the Sunland Environmental Park entrances and also on the three entertainment stages during Fall Festival. Tonya Kelly and her staff send "A Big Thank You and Congratulations" to all the participants at Sunland and DDDP, along with a very special thank you to this year's judges; Ms. Carmen Smith, Ms. Judy Stanton and Ms. Julie McAlpin. Winners are listed below:

UNIT/AREA	1ST PLACE	2ND PLACE	3RD PLACE
UNIT 1	Eddie T	Henry O	Stephen A
UNIT 2	David F	Michael B	James R
UNIT 3	Eddie C	Theresa H	Delilah L
PATHWAYS	Robert C	Brian L	Dan C
DDDP	Jordan C	Kenny A	Shantell K

Best of Show went to Eddie T from Unit 1!





Friends of Sunland, Inc. Hosts Inaugural "Rock, Roll & Stroll" 5K

On Saturday, October 15th, the Friends of Sunland, Inc., non-profit 501c3 organization hosted their inaugural "Rock, Roll & Stroll" 5K at Sunland's beautiful environmental park. The cool morning air and the natural beauty of the park and the Sunland grounds provided a picture-perfect backdrop for a morning run. Forty-two runners and walkers participated in this event. Event organizers were pleased with the showing of support and are already looking ahead to make this an annual event. Top finishers in the race were:

Top 3 Male Finishers:

- Ivan Cortes 21:50
- Dave Durbin 23:37
- Jim Dean 24:35

Top 3 Female Finishers:

- Carla Russell Elliott 25:31
- Alyssa Stagner 25:47
- Michele Chesnut 27:02



Jackson County School Reveals New Mascot



The Jackson County School Program at Sunland has proudly announced the school's new mascot, fittingly named the Sonics. The Jackson County School at Sunland wanted a symbol of pride that also tied into the historical significance of the school's location. The design of the new mascot was a collaboration of efforts between the school and Sunland's Print Shop. JCS Principal, Tim Baggett said "I hope that for many years to come it gives the students here a sense of pride, purpose and accomplishment." On October 20th, Baggett and the JCS staff hosted a mascot reveal ceremony at the school, which is located at Sunland's Habile Building. On hand to share in this occasion were School Board members Chris Johnson and Charlotte Gardner. A number of Jackson County School staff, Sunland staff and residents gathered to celebrate with the program. Following the ceremony, guests were treated to cake and punch, provided by Friends of Sunland, Inc.



On October 27th, JCS proudly presented Sonics tee shirts to program participants whose hard work has resulted in the achievement of their goals. Pictured are Josh B., Steven K., Principal Baggett, Michele B. and Scott A.

Congratulations!

Dallas Ellis
Teacher of the Month

April Clayton
Paraprofessional of the Month

These staff are recognized for their outstanding commitment to the school and the residents we serve!

LIVE2>LEAD



A host of employees from Sunland and DDDP represented APD well at the “Live2Lead” Conference, held at RCC Marianna on October 7th.

Live2Lead is a leader development experience designed to equip leaders with new perspectives, practical tools and key takeaways. The conference equips leaders to breathe new life into leadership during this information-packed half-day event.

Speakers for this year's event were John C. Maxwell, Leadership expert, bestselling author, and coach; Simon Sinek, Optimist and author, leadership authority; Liz Wiseman, Researcher, executive advisor, speaker and President of the Wiseman Group; and Dan Cathy, Chairman, President and CEO of Chick-fil-A.



Unit 2 Hosts Educational Cancer Awareness Month Program

On Tuesday, October 18th, Unit 2/Whispering Oaks House hosted their 2nd Annual Cancer Awareness Program for staff and residents. The event was held to bring awareness to cancer, as well as pay respect to those who have succumbed to the fight of cancer.

Four types of cancer were represented, each identified by colorful ribbons which were offered to attendees. Participants were encouraged to wear pink (breast cancer), black (melanoma), lime green (lymphoma) or teal (cervical/ovarian) in support of cancer awareness.

The program boasted beautiful decorations in the colors of the ribbons that represented the various highlighted cancers. Program participants included Olly Quick and Marquell Felder who served as greeters and provided cancer-related pamphlets and fans to guests. Tammi Garrett, RSS and Michael L. provided the welcome, followed with a prayer by Ron Johnson, poem by Whitney Merritt and songs by Kimberly Peterson. A symbolic candle lighting was performed by Kenny C. and Jasma Black. Kendrick Gardner spoke to the group, providing an inspirational speech, followed with a cancer awareness question and answer segment by Sandra Helms, ARNP. Derit Godwin provided closing remarks. The event concluded with an assortment of delicious refreshments coordinated by Voncille Williams.

Unit 2 extends a special thanks to several others who assisted with set-up to include: Shawn Everett, Terrance Green, Tammy Beavers, Allyson Staley, Clint Cox, Sabrina Johnson and Stephanie Parker; also 1st shift staff for giving excellent resident care before, during and after the program. The residents and staff of Whispering Oaks would like to thank all who attended and/or supported this informative, health awareness event. There were many others who assisted in various ways and Unit 2 extends appreciation for all of your help! A special thanks to the program participants. It was a success because of people like you all! Far too often, many people deal with the effects of cancer whether directly or indirectly. We encourage all to stay abreast on the signs and symptoms of cancer, as early detection is key. No one knows your body like you, so stay aware! Thanks again from the residents and staff of Whispering Oaks and the Unit 2 family.



What's Happening in Unit 3

October was a fun and extremely busy month for Unit 3! Activities began with a celebration of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Everyone joined together for our Breast Cancer Awareness event, which was held at the patio of Connally Manor. A special thanks to Ms. Tynetta Gainer for reciting a beautiful poem; Mr. James Rhynes for leading us in song; and Ms. LaRhonda Barnes and Ms. Cheryl Jones for sharing their personal testimonies. The event came to a close with a release of pink balloons to honor those we have lost, survivors, and their families who have dealt with this illness with courage. We also enjoyed doing a Fight Against Breast Cancer Walk at Howell Field.

Of course, there were activities in between including birthday celebrations, community outings, softball games, Halloween parties, carnivals, and the dance. The month ended on a great note with Fall Festival 2016. It was a great success and our residents and staff seemed to truly enjoy the festivities and the fellowship that day! We are looking forward to November and upcoming events, including Special Citizen's Day at the Peanut Festival and most certainly, "Turkey Day" which is right around the corner!



Article & Photos Contributed by: Allison Jones

Pathways



On October 27th residents and staff at Pathways reveled in a day of fun filled activities as they held their annual residents' Fall Festival. As music filled the air, residents played bean bag toss, basketball and volleyball, rode their bicycles and had their faces painted. During the Festival residents enjoyed snacks, drinks and sub-sandwiches.



Article & Photos Contributed by: Juanita Alford

Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program

On October 11th, DDDP recognized several areas with a chili luncheon that was just right for the cooler weather that had recently arrived. We appreciate all of the hard work and dedication that these individuals give toward serving the residents of DDDP!



Pictured: Front Row, left to right: Paul Mazotta, Staff Development; Kim Page, Financial Services; Stacy Gibson, Resident Advocacy; Sofonda Davis, Staff Development; Lori Keel, Financial Services;

Back Row, left to right: Garrett Dowdell, Barber/Beautician; Ronnie Bentley, Maintenance Mechanic; Clint Hall, Maintenance Mechanic; Tracy Clemmons, Staff Development; Randy Johnson, Information Technology.

(Not pictured: Peter Vaughn, Information Technology).

Article & Photos Contributed by: Corey Chafin



October Star Awards

Star Employees

Mikel Patterson, Unit 1
Lawanda Calhoun, Unit 2
Kira Sharp, Quality Management

Star Teams

Willie Stevens & Liz See
Quality Management/Staff Development

Tammie Miller & Greg Roberts
Unit 1

Lisa Seay, Malinda Johnson, Velma Tensley & Ruth Brooks
Medical & Outpatient Clinic



Secure Your Financial Future!

Please join us for a savings seminar hosted by the
Florida Deferred Compensation Plan

Friday December 2, 2016

Sunland Auditorium

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Guest Speaker:

Taylor Corry

Communications Director

The Florida Deferred Compensation Plan



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 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>



WELCOME TO OUR NEW EMPLOYEES



Quanisha Johnson
Jasmine Barber
Keiona Pollock
Dyshena Haire
Heather Walker
Tanisha Gammon
Michael Roberts
Julia Gwyn
Antwann Taylor



agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida

Project Sunland PRIDE



Beautification Program!

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

"Community Spotlight of the Month"

Unit 2 Administration



"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; Ethan Smith, IT; Cleve Wedderburn, 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