



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

NIGHT *to* Shine

SPONSORED BY THE **TIM TEBOW** FOUNDATION™

The 2018 Night to Shine event was certainly a night to remember. For the past three years, the Rivertown Community Church in Marianna, along with numerous community businesses, have partnered with the Tim Tebow Foundation in celebrating people with special needs in our local community. However, Night to Shine is so much more than the Marianna event. This year, 537 churches representing 28 denominations, and 175,000 volunteers in 50 states and 16 countries came together on one incredible night to celebrate 90,000 honored guests with special needs in what has become not just a nationwide event, but a worldwide movement. Sunland applauds the Tebow Foundation for sponsoring this glorious event.

For the residents and staff at Sunland Center, Night to Shine has become a highly anticipated premier event each year. Attendance at Night to Shine is complimentary for every guest. Entering the event on a red carpet, guests are greeted with cheers from a friendly crowd while "paparazzi" light up the room snapping photos. Once inside, the royal treatment continues as guests receive a crown or tiara, because they are all kings and queens for a night. Welcoming stations include corsages, boutonnieres, hair and make-up, limousine rides, professional photography, prom favors and more. Many enjoy visiting the activity room where they participate in karaoke, a photo booth with silly props, balloon art, and a caricature artist. Upon entering the ballroom, guests are announced by their name as "Queen Catherine," or "King Ronald" much to the delight of those cheering them on. There they enjoy a catered meal, a DJ and of course, dancing the night away. Night to Shine is a night not only for guests to shine, but for the many volunteers and supporters of the event to shine.

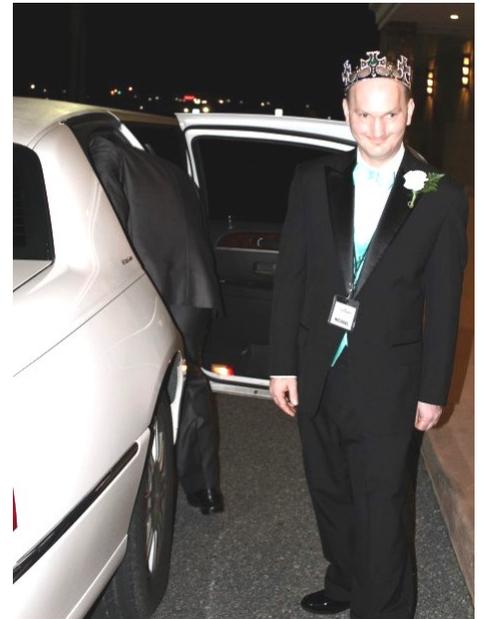
Sunland extends our heartfelt gratitude to the Tim Tebow Foundation, Rivertown Community Church, business partners and volunteers who make this a special event for the individuals we are all privileged to know, love and support.

The Sunland Beacon

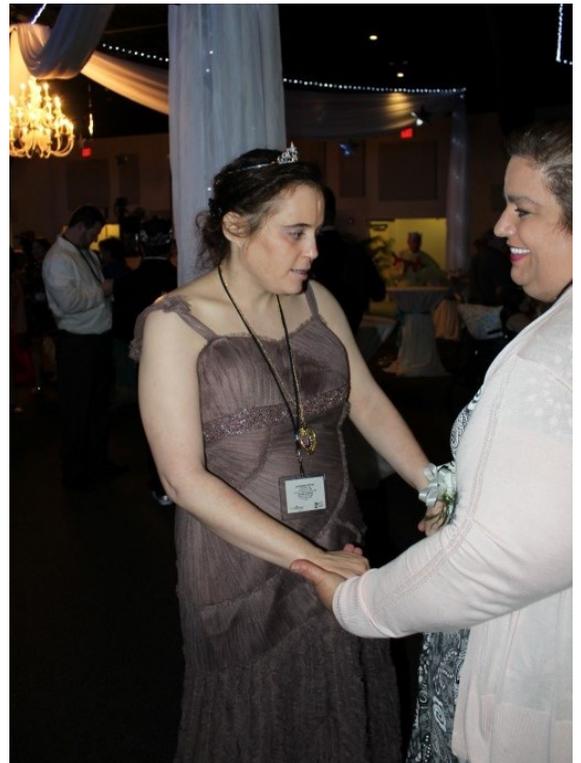




The Sunland Beacon



The Sunland Beacon



From the Superintendent...

Working in a learning environment adds zest to life and new energy with each new challenge. Lisa Mooney tells us,

The workplace is a microcosm of the world itself. A job should be more than a place where you do your time and earn bucks. It should be an important part of your life in which you develop and maintain your character. Numerous opportunities exist at work in which you can work on such character traits as integrity, discipline, generosity and respectfulness. Take the time to improve yourself and lead others by your example.

Our management team concurs with Mooney's assessment. We are striving daily to strengthen our organization by creating space for ongoing teaching moments. Teaching has taken place via satellite, videos, workshops, on the job training, round table discussions, and one to one coaching. We draw from the experts externally and internally.

Speaking of internal teaching and facilitating, we are looking forward to Greg Roberts from Unit 1 presenting and facilitating a conversation with the leadership team on: *Respect and Active Listening*. Mr. Roberts graciously agreed to take on this task. Management embraces learning from each other. Respect and Active Listening are important elements in open communication. I had the privilege to have an exchange with Mr. Roberts about the content of his presentation. It is exciting and dynamic. He has really invested time in putting together a great resource for the team. The information will prove helpful and insightful for this ever growing organization.

Mooney further encourages, *"Learn from others at your workplace. Listen attentively and show respect for the ideas and contributions of everyone. Show your appreciation for their efforts and your character will improve."* While our intent is to continually help others, everyone gains a richness of knowledge when exposed to new learning or historic knowledge presented from a new lens.

We will celebrate this awesome opportunity for Mr. Roberts and the team. Dates and times forthcoming. Be sure to calendar and be prepared to actively engage.

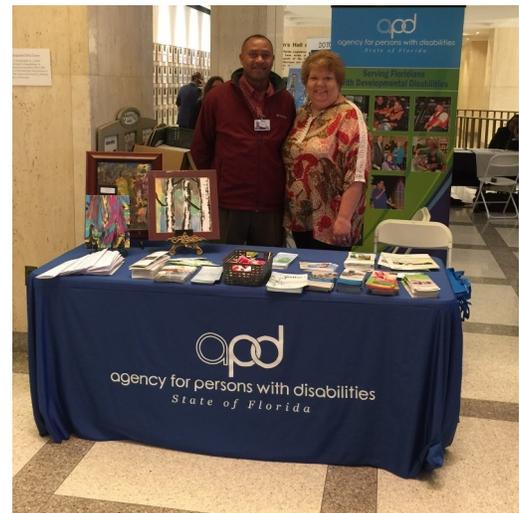
Grateful to Serve With You,
Geri Williams
Superintendent

Finding
— the —
TEACHABLE
Moments

2018 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day

On February 14, several Sunland staff and residents attended the annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day at the Florida Capitol. This event offers citizens who are concerned about quality care and funding for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities opportunities to meet with legislators and make their voices heard.

Attending from Sunland were Jennie Ann Dean, Tony Speights, Melody Powe, Erica McKinnie, Ruby P. and Connie S. The delegation from Sunland was especially excited about seeing APD Director Barbara Palmer, meeting with Senator George Gainer, visiting support organizations' booths, and the opportunity to sit in on a legislative session.



Special Olympics County Summer Games

The Jackson County Special Olympic "Summer Games" took place at Sunland on February 28, and what a beautiful day it was! The weather was perfect with a gentle breeze, warm sunshine and blue skies. On hand for the opening ceremony were Superintendent Geri Williams and Deputy Superintendent Adrian Abner, joined by Marianna Police Chief Hayes Baggett and Lieutenant Tyler Scarborough, School Board Members Charlotte Gardner, District 5 and Tony Pumphrey District 2, with JCS Principal Laurie Hamilton, and Hope School Principal Millicent Braxton. Following the welcome by Recreation Director Clint Cox and Deputy Superintendent Adrian Abner, the national anthem was performed by Sunland Security Officer Ralph Barwick. Sunland's own David R., led those gathered in the athlete's motto, which is about finding the courage to give it all you've got *"Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."* The games officially began with the torch run, cheered on by the large contingency of athletes from Sunland, Hope School and the community. They competed in events ranging from track and field, long jump, shot putt, softball throw, volleyball, and cycling.

The atmosphere at Special Olympics games is like no other...always high energy and charged with anticipation and excitement, along with the tempting aromas of freshly popped popcorn, and hamburgers on the grill. The 2018 County/Summer Games were filled with enthusiasm and cheers, and emerging winners proudly sporting their ribbons.



Contributed by: Clint Cox

Special Olympics County Summer Games



Residential Services

Unit 1 - Family vacations are always a fun time, especially when you get to go to Disney World! Gaye G., of Buchanan House, did just that. She joined her brothers and sisters, Charles Graham, Ena Norton and Betty Carolyn Smith, for an unforgettable family get-away at Disney, known as the happiest place on earth! Now, what could be better than that!



Unit 3 - Throughout the month of February, Unit 3 has been celebrating Black History Month by learning about African Americans who made profound and everlasting contributions to American culture through their inventions, heroism, and talents. We also know it is the month of love, and we discussed with our individuals that we should show that we care and love others year-round! We certainly had a great time showing our appreciation for each other during our Valentine's Day parties, for both our individuals and our staff! We most definitely cannot leave out Night to Shine. We had a blast at RCC, while participating in the various activities, interacting with everyone, and just dancing the night away. It was truly an enjoyable event and brought smiles to the faces of our individuals who are very deserving of such an event!!



In loving memory, we pay honor to Ms. Thelma G. of Monroe House, the oldest resident at Sunland Center. She passed away at the age of 99 years old on January 29, 2018. Her funeral service was held on February 6. It was truly a befitting tribute to her memory and was very uplifting and moving. Ms. Thelma deserved nothing less!!

Calling All Artists!

Mark your calendars! Sunland's 4th Annual "Art in the Park" will take place on Saturday, May 5. The event will be held from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., at the Sunland Environmental Park. This one of a kind art show features the inspired works of Sunland residents and many artists from local communities. Over the years, the show has grown significantly in size and popularity, and most importantly, in the quality of the submissions. Art in the Park has certainly earned a trusted reputation for the varied samplings of local talent at its finest. Featured are original artworks with various mediums to include paintings, photography, sculpture, wood, and fiber. Sunland's Art in the Park offers something for everyone, to include children's activities, live entertainment, artisan booths and food vendors. Event Chair Maria Johnson states "Sunland is appreciative to the community for their support of "Art in the Park." It is our pleasure to showcase the work of our residents, as well as artists from our local and surrounding communities." Anyone wishing to enter their artwork in this event should contact Maria Johnson at 482-9373 or 693-8149 for information regarding entry of exhibits. Entries must be received by April 6, 2018. Cash prizes will be awarded for Best of Show, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place in the People's Choice Awards.

New to Sunland this year will be a collaborative artwork titled "Out of Many, We are One." Sunland staff and residents are encouraged to participate in the development of this unique art piece. The art will feature painted/decorated hands, which will be fashioned into a sunburst, representative of the individuals who live and work at Sunland. Artwork should be completed at the learning centers or in each department utilizing a template which will be provided for use. Templates may be picked up from the Print Shop through Friday, March 23. Painted/decorated hands should be submitted to Maria Johnson at the Hub, no later than March 30. Please join us in creating this beautiful collection of art!

Also, the Art in the Park committee is requesting each department to consider submitting at least two (2) creative, upcycled/recycled art creations this year. Be creative...the sky is the limit! Deadline for these entries will also be April 6.

We are so excited about our 4th Annual Art in the Park, and encourage all residents and staff to join us for a beautiful and enriching day at the beautiful Sunland Environmental Park. It's an event like no other!



February Star Awards!

Star Awards for the month of February were presented on Monday, February 26. Award presentations were made by Deputy Superintendent Adrian Abner, along with Denise McGriff, Unit 1 Operations and Management Consultant I; Lucious Williams, Unit 2 Program Operations Administrator; Bart Harrell, Unit 3 Program Operations Administrator; and, James Godwin, Centralized Support Services Director.



Life Saver Award

Pictured L-R: Adrian Abner, Barry Vickson & Lucious Williams



Life Saver Award, Unit 2

Pictured L-R: Adrian Abner, Xavier Perry, Terrell Brown & Lucious Williams



Life Saver Award, Unit 2

Pictured L-R: Adrian Abner & Lucious Williams accepting award on behalf of Rebeca Snyder & Dominique Murrell



Life Saver Award, Unit 1

Pictured L-R: Adrian Abner, Derreck Thrash & Denise McGriff



Silver Medal Award

Pictured L-R: Adrian Abner, Sharon Williams & Denise McGriff

Silver Medal Award

Pictured L-R: Adrian Abner, Greg Roberts, & Denise McGriff



Silver Medal Award

Pictured L-R: Adrian Abner, Lisa Oliver & Lucious Williams



February Star Awards!



Silver Medal Award

Pictured L-R: Adrian Abner, Heather Poythress for Lawanda Calhoun, & Lucious Williams



Silver Medal Award

Pictured L-R: Adrian Abner, Shanita Lewis & Lucious Williams



Silver Medal Award

Pictured L-R: Adrian Abner, Nikki Spires, Lori Burke & James Godwin



Silver Medal Award

Pictured L-R: Adrian Abner, Shelby Morris & Bart Harrell



Silver Medal Award

Pictured L-R: Adrian Abner, Kenneth Baker & Bart Harrell



Gold Medal Team Award - Employee Recognition Committee

Pictured Front L-R: Beverly Cobb, Elaine Keen, Beth Basford
 Back L-R: Tandra Cabrera, Tonya Kelly, LaRhonda Barnes, Franklin Williams
 Not Pictured: Stacy Collins, Jennie Ann Dean, Shelly McCormick, Robin Morris, Gail Snelgrove & Voncille Williams

Character Matters...



Initiative ~ Recognizing and responding to a need without being asked.

Taking initiative to do what needs to be done, before being asked is a very important character quality, showing a willingness to get things done and taking responsibility.

How can we take initiative in our daily work life? Always be alert to ways to make something work better. Speak up and share your ideas. Consider every opportunity, always be prepared. Do more than is required of you, for the good of the whole. The best leaders are proactive. They don't wait for someone else to tell them what to do. They take the initiative to identify and solve problems. A great definition of personal initiative is exhibiting a work behavior that is self-starting and proactive, and works to overcome barriers to achieve a goal.

INITIATIVE

Responding to a need
without being asked

RESPONSIBILITY

Knowing and doing what is
expected of me.

Responsibility ~ Knowing and doing what is expected of me.

To become a happy, healthy and productive employee, the character trait of responsibility is essential. A responsible employee knows and does what expected of them. They possess a solid work ethic and take responsibility for the work they do. They take ownership of their actions, words, and thoughts. Being a responsible employee requires being present for work, completing delegated tasks in a timely manner, being accountable for specific job duties, consistently doing the right thing in all aspects of your job, and working together with your team to achieve common goals for your department and the individuals you serve.

Initiative and Responsibility- two important character traits. Let's aspire to attain them!

Sunland Supports "Marry Marianna"

Sunland was well represented at the "Marry Marianna" event, sponsored by the City of Marianna on Monday, February 26. The event was designed to introduce local citizens to a group of urban planners from the American Planning Association. The planners were in town to assess the needs of the corridor between Interstate 10 and U.S. Highway 90. Improvements to that area will benefit the city's west end corridor, City of Marianna, and Jackson County.

The welcoming event drew large support from the community, which gave the Sunland Swingers square dance team great visibility as they performed. They received many accolades from the crowd. The event provided many activities to include live entertainment, local talent, door prizes, children's activities, food vendors, and exhibits. A ceremonial commitment ceremony was held in which residents "pledged to marry" Marianna and support its growth.

Sunland enjoys a great partnership with our community, and appreciates the opportunity to participate in "Marry Marianna."



Jackson County School

Congratulations to Ms. Jenny Johnson who was recently named as Teacher of the Year for the Jackson County School at Sunland and Ms. April Clayton, who was named as the Paraprofessional of the Year. Jenny loves her job, and she will quickly tell you so. When asked what she enjoyed most about her job, Ms. Johnson stated *"I enjoy working with students with special needs because I find it challenging to help them achieve their best. They love unconditionally; all they ask for is a little love and respect in return."* Ms. Laurie Hamilton, Jackson County School Administrator stated of Ms. Johnson, and Ms. Clayton *"Jenny's love for and patience with her students is very evident in her classroom. Just one visit to her class and you will know why her students are successful. She and Ms. April Clayton make a wonderful team!"*

Congratulations to Ms. Johnson and Ms. Clayton! We applaud the exceptional educational services you provide for the individuals we are all privileged to serve at Sunland!



 **Hats Off**
TO THE BEST
Teacher
& Paraprofessional



Spring Cleaning!

An ongoing effort of *Project Sunland PRIDE* involves beautification of the campus, our homes and our offices. Spring cleaning is the perfect opportunity to take a look at the areas in which you work, with a fresh lens, and develop a plan to clean and spruce things up.

Spring cleaning is the practice of cleaning our work spaces and residential homes from top to bottom, especially after a long hard winter. This process not only removes stagnant energy from closed-up areas and eliminates any leftover germs, improving the health of residents and staff, but also removes clutter, making way for renewed energy.

Did you know that cleaning your personal workspace can also improve job performance? The reason for spring cleaning, especially your personal workspace, is simple. When you clean up, get rid of clutter and organize, you eliminate chaos and disorganization and replace it with effectiveness and improved performance. Discard and de-clutter to eliminate chaos – file it, store it, organize it or get rid of it – hallways and walkways are not storage areas where stacks of boxes should be stored.

Ideas for spring cleaning tips include, but are not limited to:

- *Scrubbing floors, shampooing carpeting – cleanliness makes everyone feel better about being there eight hours or more per day.*
- *Checking all equipment to make sure it is working properly, and fixing anything that needs to be repaired or replaced – the result is a more efficient workforce.*
- *Making sure workstations and regularly used supplies are in close proximity, so less time is lost and efficiency increases.*
- *Encouraging employees to maintain their workspace and desktop as a “clutter free zone.”*

Don't limit this process to just spring – put it on the calendar to review every four to six months and repeat as needed but at minimum, annually.

And finally, an important part of Spring cleaning is to lead by example. If you can do spring cleaning in your workspace and maintain it, your co-workers can do the same and the entire organization will benefit from increased efficiency and productivity.



Coming Soon...



***Spring Break will be observed March 19-23
Be on the look out for lots of fun and exciting
activities!!***

Unit 1 Wagon Rides
Spring Fest Music Program
Unit 2 Spring Dance/Fun Day
Volleyball, Kickball
Arts & Crafts at the Hub
Bingo
Unit 3 - Kite Flying & Field Day
Fishing Rodeo
Movies

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Information Security is as simple as :

Always

Be

Careful!

HUMAN RESOURCES

For any personnel needs, please contact Veronica Mullinax, Katey Hobbs, Lizzie Holland, Nicole Sims and Robin Morris at Sunland, and Debra Cone, Faith Bentley and Jodi Nesmith at DDDP. The HR Team is always happy to serve you!

For more information regarding personnel matters, the Sunland Human Resources Department can be reached at 482-9230 or *04. The DDDP Human Resource Team may be reached at 663-7738.

Information regarding vacancies can be obtained at the People First website at: <https://peoplefirst.myflorida.com>

NEW EMPLOYEES


Welcome Aboard!

Michelle Dickson

Lisa Rowland

Sharon Scott

Faith Barnett



agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida

Project Sunland PRIDE



Beautification Program!

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN A DESIRABLE ENVIRONMENT

"Community Spotlight of the Month" Woodridge House



"The Sunland Beacon" - Newsletter Committee

Suggestions and/or news article submissions are welcome; 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