

JULY 2025 ISSUE



Once you choose



anything's possible.

- Christopher Reeve

A Message from the Sunland Center Administrator

As we launch the very first edition of The Sunland Gazette, I want to take a moment to wish all of our incredible Sunland team members a joyful and relaxing summer. I also want to personally thank each of you for the dedication, compassion, and care you bring to our residents every day.

Sunland is a truly special place because of the people who make up this amazing team. It takes passion, commitment, and heart to carry out the mission and vision of our organization—and you all exemplify these values in every interaction and task.

*Thank you once again for all that you do.
Have a safe and wonderful summer!*

*Warm regards,
Kim Barnes - Center Administrator*



Welcome to the Sunland Team

June 6, 2025

Sonja Barkley
Callie Boyd
Mackenzie Collins
Tra'Jan Spears
Charles Sowell
Lydia Henry
Richard Dickens II
Candice Pinkard
Rotishia Miller

June 20, 2025

Dominique Russ
Shelby Jones
James Kenny
Iyana Blue
Cigi Snell
Samuel Garrett
Dallis Thompson
Dreshawn Perry
Nykevia Johnson

July 4, 2025

Timothy Herring
Madison McCoy
Thomas Pugh
Stephanie Combs
Amy Reed
Hollie Windham
Eureka Honors
Danielle Steinman
Joslyn McGuirk
Darrell Hand

July 11, 2025

Jessica Fullwood
Mike Patterson
Deana Roper
Kristina Bush
Jamie Duncan



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Join us on Wednesday, July 30, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the auditorium for a special event celebrating our amazing residents. This unforgettable occasion will honor the 2024–2025 reigning kings and queens from each unit, along with other distinguished participants.

To ensure a smooth and successful celebration, we kindly ask that biography forms for all participants—including unit royalty—be submitted no later than July 21, 2025.

Attire fittings can be scheduled with Mrs. Rachel Williams, so please reach out to her at your earliest convenience to secure a fitting time.

If you have any questions, need help with forms, or would like more details about the reigning kings and queens, feel free to contact me directly using the information provided below.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO CELEBRATING THIS JOYFUL AND MEMORABLE EVENT TOGETHER!



Star Awards

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

SHANDRA GLOVER
MICHAEL KENT
HEATHER WILLIAMS
SANDRA PERRY
TAMMIE GILLEY
STEPHINE ARMOR

TEAM AWARDS

CSS - (RANDY HICKMAN
STEPHEN SMITH, ANDREW
GILLETTE, LENNY LINDAHL, &
MIKE WILLIAMS)
LIFE SAFETY
MAINTENANCE

July 17, 2025
Sunland Chapel
2:30 pm

SAFETY AWARD

Sunland Center

commends

- Admin./HR/Acct./Pchsg./IT
- Clinical Services
- Educational Services
- Grant
- Maintenance
- Medical/Nursing
- Quality Services
- Residential Administration/
Social Services
- Security

for observing safety procedures and for going

THREE MONTHS

without an employee accident or injury.
April 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025

Presented on Thursday, July 24, 2025



agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida



Kim Barnes
Sunland Center Administrator

The Employee Recognition Committee invites you to the

SUNLAND CENTER SERVICE AWARDS



DATE: JULY 17, 2025
TIME: 2:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.
LOCATION: SUNLAND CHAPEL

5 YEARS

CAMBRIDGE CHASON
MICHAEL CURRY
ALDRICH JOHNSON JR.
NIKKI VOGEL

10 YEARS

RICKY BLANKENSHIP
MONTEARICE MCLEROY
MELODY POWE

15 YEARS

SHERMIA GORDON
KEVIN LAWSON
JEFFERY WOOTON



20 YEARS

SHANTELL BARKLEY
ANDREW JOHNSON
KIMBERLY LINDAHL
BERNICE RHYMES
TOMMIE RIVERS JR
SAKINA WHITE
SHAWNEEN WOMBLE

25 YEARS

JAMES NEWSOME JR
STEVEN PRICE

30 YEARS

KAY BAXTER
MATTIE HAYES
PAUL MORGAN

In Loving Memory

Vivian C.
1943 - 2024
Connally

Kathleen K.
1953 - 2024
Connally

John C.
1961 - 2024
Westside

Terrence "Terry" S.
1955 - 2025
Harrison

William O.
1949 - 2025
Harrison

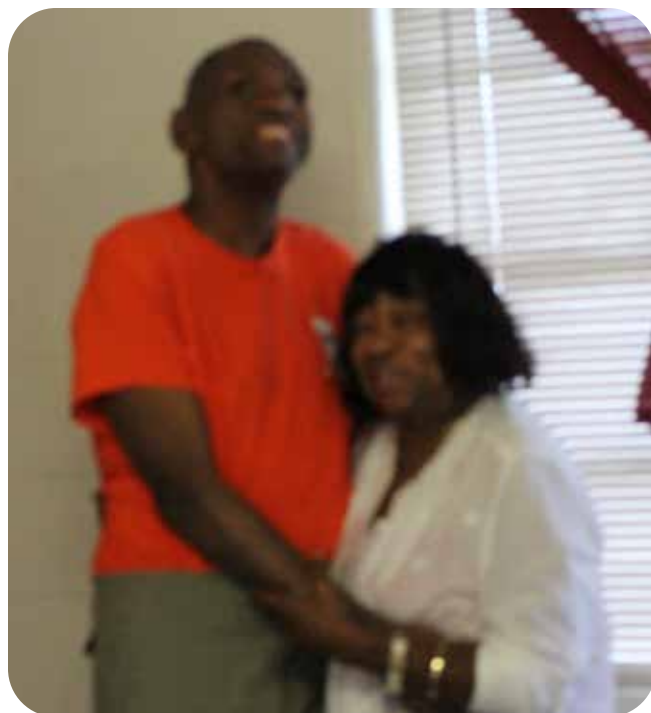
Unit 1 Social Services Highlights the Power of Family Connection

At Sunland, Unit 1 Social Services proudly encourages, welcomes, and supports meaningful family visits that enrich the lives of our residents.

A heartfelt example of this commitment is Ms. Idainer Bradley, the devoted mother of Mr. Donald Smith, a resident of Harrison House.

Every month, Ms. Bradley makes a solo trip from Century, Florida, to spend cherished time with her son. Her unwavering dedication is a true reflection of the love and support that makes a lasting difference.

Pictured to the right: Donald Smith with Ms. Idainer Bradley



Summertime Smiles in Unit 2

The excitement of getting out and enjoying activities is something our Unit 2 residents eagerly look forward to. It is truly a joy to work alongside these amazing individuals and to ensure their days are filled with fun, purpose, and connection.

As a special way to show our gratitude for all they contribute to life at Sunland Center, we celebrated with Resident Appreciation Day — and their smiles lit up the room! From sunshine-filled pool days to friendly outdoor games on the house lawns, the spirit of summer was alive and well. Laughter, teamwork, and good sportsmanship were the highlights, reminding us all of what makes Unit 2 so special.

Here's to more unforgettable moments under the sun!



Unit 3 – Westside Apartments Celebrates 76 Years of Joy: Brian Blazej's Birthday Bash!

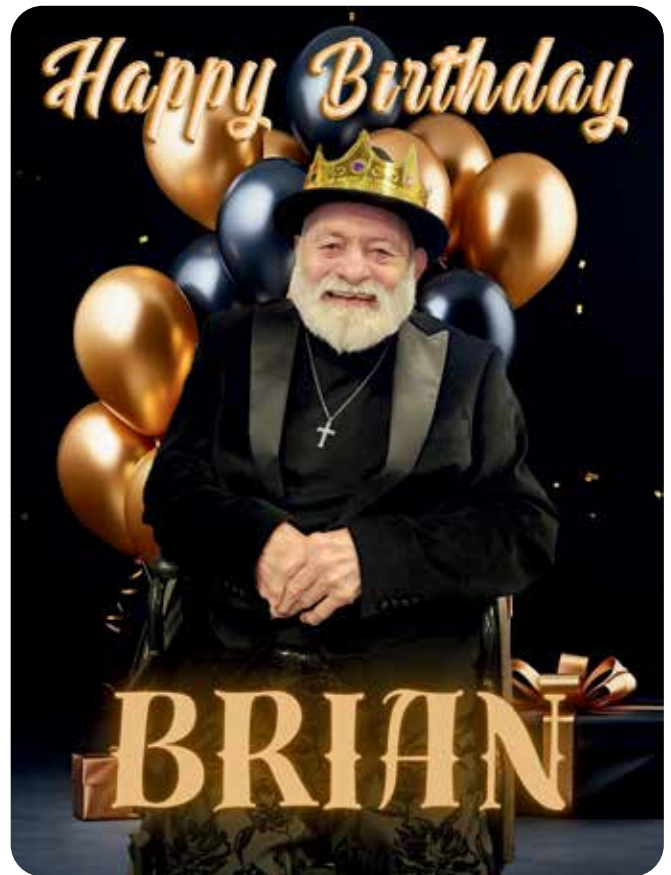
It was a day to remember at Westside Apartments as Brian Blazej celebrated an extraordinary milestone—his 76th birthday—surrounded by the people who matter most. Staff, friends, and devoted family came together to honor Brian, whose presence continues to brighten the Sunland community.

The celebration was made even more special by the arrival of Brian's brother and sister-in-law, Bruce and Terri Blazej, who traveled all the way from Clearwater, Florida, bringing not only Florida sunshine but also heartfelt joy that touched everyone in attendance.

Laughter echoed through the room as stories were shared, memories were revisited, and heartfelt connections were celebrated. The event was a shining example of what makes Sunland feel like home—a place where community, care, and celebration go hand-in-hand.

Team members from across the campus—Unit 3 Social Services, Speech Therapy, Physical and Occupational Therapy, Medical, Behavioral, and Learning Center staff—joined in the festivities, reflecting the deep sense of unity and support that defines our mission.

To Brian, we say: Happy 76th Birthday! May this year bring you continued health, happiness, and many more moments surrounded by those who love you. We are so lucky to have you as part of the Sunland family.



ERC Employee Appreciation Picnic a Success!

On June 19th, the Employee Recognition Committee (ERC) hosted a heartwarming Employee Appreciation Picnic in the Mixer. The event brought together staff from across Sunland, and approximately 420 meals were distributed to cover 1st, 2nd, and 3rd shifts—ensuring that every hardworking team member had a chance to enjoy a delicious bite and a well-deserved break.

The ERC extends a sincere thank you to everyone who helped coordinate, served food, and participated in making this event a memorable one. Your support and smiles made all the difference!

Below are a few snapshots from the day!



Meet Sunland's Staff Dining Shining Star: *Ms. LaShundra Dale!*

Originally from Lowndes County, Alabama, Ms. LaShundra Dale has called this area home for the past six years. She joined the Sunland foodservice team in June 2022, bringing with her a lifelong passion for cooking, entertaining, and making people laugh.

Before coming to Sunland, Ms. LaShundra spent 20 years working in government manufacturing. While she found success in that role, she missed the joy that comes from feeding and serving others—something she has rediscovered here. A strong and independent spirit, she draws her strength from her parents and her three beautiful daughters, especially during their younger years.

This December, Ms. LaShundra will proudly embrace a new title—"Lala"—as she joyfully welcomes her first grandchild into the world. Her dedication to service extends far beyond the kitchen. For four years, she served her community as a volunteer firefighter, during which she was honored as *Female Firefighter of the Year* for two consecutive years—a testament to her courage, commitment, and heart for others.

Driven by the smiles of those around her, Ms. LaShundra thrives on challenge, and she's taken on a big one



Some feedback from happy customers:

We want to take a moment to recognize Lashundra for her outstanding service—we are so pleased with her performance!

From Nursing, we want to express our appreciation for the consistently great food you've been serving. Staff-side dining has been both convenient and delicious, and we truly value the effort you put in every day.

The daily menus, the quality of the meals, and the excellent service have not gone unnoticed. My breakfast this morning was fantastic—thank you!

And a big thank you to the entire Food Service Staff for the excellent lunch today. Your hard work makes a big difference!

Lashundra is a ray of sunshine!

with Staff Dining. Her signature dishes—baked chicken with her secret seasoning, macaroni and cheese, omelets, and baked beans—have quickly become favorites.

One day, she hopes to open her own restaurant or food truck to share her food and spirit beyond the gates of Sunland. What makes her most proud? The feedback from residents moving into community housing who seek her out to say goodbye. They thank her not just for the meals, but for the dignity, respect, and joy she brings to their days.



Jackson County Adults with Disabilities (JAWD) at Sunland had an exciting and productive 2024–2025 school year, filled with accomplishments, memorable moments, and meaningful community involvement.

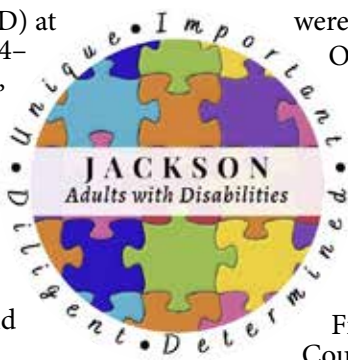
The school year kicked off on August 13, 2024, in a brand-new classroom location on the Sunland campus. Throughout the year, both teachers and students actively participated in various events and activities that showcased their creativity, compassion, and dedication.

In October, we joined the fight against cancer by observing Breast Cancer Awareness Day on October 23. Shortly after, our students took part in the Sunland Fall Festival Poster Contest, proudly presenting the theme “Bloom Where You Are Planted.” Congratulations to Ms. Sandra R. for winning 1st place and Marie D. for securing 2nd place!

Ms. Grantham’s class brought holiday cheer by contributing to the Christmas City decorations on December 13–14, featuring their festive theme, “Elf on the Shelf.”

The New Year began with winter fun as students embraced the theme “Let it Snow” from January 22–25. Recognition soon followed: on February 7, the Jackson County School Board honored Mr. Jeff Reniham as “Teacher of the Year” and Ms. Clarice Broyette as “School Support Personnel of the Year.”

One of the year’s highlights was the glamorous Night to Shine Spa and Salon on February 21, where our students



were pampered and prepared for their special night.

On May 1, JAWD proudly participated in the National Day of Prayer Service, and just a few days later, on May 6, students enjoyed a trip to the Chipola Theater to see the delightful play, Junie B. Jones.

During National Teacher Appreciation Week (May 5–9), our dedicated educators received heartfelt recognition from Sunshine Travel, HBN 1st Bank, PTD Farms, Candy Peeler, First Federal Bank, Sunland CSS, and Jackson County 1st Credit Union—a true testament to their invaluable impact.

On May 13, special guests Mrs. Carol Dewitt, Mrs. Sierra Roscoe, Mrs. Phyllis Daniels, and the Honorable Ana Maria Garcia visited to share their favorite books with the class—a joyful and inspiring day for everyone.

We were especially proud of four incredible students—Sherman T., Rachael M., Stanley D., and Eddie T.—who represented JAWD at the 2025 Special Olympics State Games in Orlando on May 16–17. Their achievements included a 1st place gold medal in Bocce, 2nd place silver and 3rd place bronze in Track & Field, and 2nd place silver in Cycling.

Finally, we celebrated a remarkable milestone on May 21, as Mrs. Karla Crosby was honored for her 36 years of dedicated service.

It was truly a fantastic year, and we are deeply grateful for the opportunity to impact the lives of our students and community. Here’s to another year of growth, joy, and success!

WHAT IS A RESIDENT ADVOCATE?

A Resident Advocate serves as an advocate for the residents concerning their quality of life, treatment, and legal rights.



WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

Supporting or arguing for a cause relating to the residents we serve, especially a social cause, and its important because it allows individuals and groups to have their voices heard, promote their rights, and influence decisions that affect their lives.

Other agencies that provide advocacy services to Persons with Disabilities

Florida Abuse Hotline
1-800-96 ABUSE

Americans with Disabilities Act
1-800-514-0301

Disability Rights Florida
1-800-342-0823

YESSICA BETANCUR

Resident Advocate

Office: 850-372-6594

FILING A GRIEVANCE

Residents at Sunland have the right to file a complaint (grievance).

These forms are called Resident Issue Resolutions (RIR).

The forms are used to create a system that allows Sunland residents and their advocates to express and address concerns and complaints regarding their quality of life, treatment, or rights, along with making sure these issues are resolved in a timely manner. Anyone could assist with filling out the form for the residents.





Get Ready to Ride a Summer Wave!

Exciting Updates from Behavior Services & Unit Two

Big things are happening! Training is in full swing as we roll out the newly finalized SOAR Manual, with summer sessions scheduled in preparation for fall implementation of the updated SOAR Program.

These major updates aim to bring greater consistency across all SOAR homes and the Sunland campus. To support this, we are offering three focused training sessions that walk you through the revised manual—highlighting all essential components and changes.

Training Sessions Overview:

SESSION ONE

- Token Economy
- The Token Store
- SOAR Meals

SESSION TWO

- SOAR Level System
- SOAR Passes
- Community Readiness & Safety Assessment

SESSION THREE

- Significant Behavior Reports
- Maladaptive Behavior Definitions

LOCATION:

Unit Two Conference Room

DAYS: Tuesday through Friday

TIMES: 11:15 AM & 1:30 PM

To reserve your spot, contact Tambra Cabrera, RBT, HSPA at 718-0054.

Behavioral Services Department By Kendra Weeks



Mark Bell, Javon Lawson, Jerry Mixon, Clayton Wright, Cristina Blandenburgh, and Wiley Pittman

The Behavioral Services Department kicked off the summer by recognizing the second shift staff from Hayes house. This group of staff were recognized by the Local Review Committee for their outstanding teamwork and dedication to our residents. They were provided with a catered meal from Sonny's BBQ along with certificates for their dedication. The meal was funded without any expense to Sunland. Amity Sanders and Chris Weeks did an amazing job of assisting the behavior team host the dinner and ensured that the residents had a special meal to enjoy. Special thanks to Traci Rainbolt, Kathy Thomason, and the dining hall staff for assisting with the event and cleaning up.

Hayes House Residents Shine at Social Skills Training Luncheon

On June 4th, five residents from Hayes House had the opportunity to participate in a special skills training luncheon held at the Harvest Cafeteria. Hosted by the Sunland Dietitians and the Behavioral Services Department, this event offered a hands-on opportunity for residents to practice their social and dining skills in a welcoming and structured environment.



treated to a refreshing and healthy parfait—prepared especially for them by the Sunland kitchen staff and topped with fresh berries.

The luncheon was not only a fun and memorable experience, but also a valuable learning opportunity. Residents proudly demonstrated the social skills they've been working on, while behavioral staff gained insight into areas where additional support may be helpful.



Each participant received a personalized invitation to attend the luncheon. In preparation for the event, a behavioral specialist met with the residents beforehand to review expectations and support their success. On the day of the luncheon, the residents arrived on time, dressed to impress, and ready to put their best foot forward.

Upon arrival, they were warmly greeted by staff and escorted to a beautifully decorated table. Each resident was presented with their own menu, and orders were taken just like in a real restaurant setting. After enjoying a delicious meal, residents were



Due to the success of this event, the Sunland Dietitians and the Behavioral Services Department plan to continue offering similar training opportunities throughout the year.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to Brenda Patterson for the beautiful decorations, and to our incredible “restaurant staff” who helped create an authentic and supportive dining experience:

Chris Weeks, Brenda Patterson, Kendra Weeks, Jerry Mixon, Crystal Spurlock, Tammy Rangel, Dianna Bryant, and Sunland volunteer Ann Marie Shelton.



RESIDENT SUCCESSES AT PATHWAYS.

We want to extend our heartfelt congratulations to two residents who have been discharged to SOARs since January: residents FH and ZG. While at Pathways, both residents participated in rehabilitation groups and were part of the PROBEs program. Resident ZG was also part of the vocational housekeeping crew while at Pathways, where he learned how to work effectively as a housekeeper with the assistance of our vocational instructors. We are very proud to have assisted them to the next step in their journey.

We also want to congratulate 2 additional residents for receiving non-secure orders, residents EC and LB. LB is taking part in the housekeeping crew and the rehabilitation groups. EC is taking part in the groundskeeping crew and the PROBEs program. Both residents are eagerly awaiting placement in a group home closer to their families. We are happy to provide the services they needed to reach this step in their journey and will continue to support them on their path to success.

A Day of Laughter and Theater

Our Sunland residents, Educational Services, and Jackson County Schools enjoyed a delightful outing to the Chipola Theater to see the lively and humorous play, Junie B. Jones: The Toothless Wonder.

The performance was filled with laughter, colorful characters and unforgettable moments that had everyone smiling from ear to ear. It was a joy to watch the residents engage with the playful energy of the show and share in the fun together. A big thank you to Chipola Theater for putting on such a vibrant production- we can't wait for our next visit!



Rachel and Glenda keeping the energy with JCS.



Sunland Educational Service staff Jessica and Norma, with Michelle and Connie, enjoying the music before the play begins.



David and Cedrick having a good time.



Julianna, Connie and Vickie dancing to the music.

Gift Shop Wreaths and Swags Order Yours Today!!!



UNIT I HIGHLIGHTS

Buchanan House

The first half of the year has been filled with joy and meaningful connections for residents of Buchanan House. Several individuals enjoyed memorable home and family visits. One of the most cherished moments was attending Night to Shine, where residents were pampered and celebrated by the dedicated team from Jackson County Adults with Disabilities. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Centralized Support Services for providing beautiful evening wear that made the night even more special. Residents also participated in activities such as the Special Olympics, Easter Egg Drop, National Day of Prayer, and many other center-wide events.



Grant House

Residents of Grant House have had an active and fulfilling start to the year. Mr. Thompson, Mr. Turnipseed, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Register particularly enjoy their weekly bowling outings. In addition to several home visits, residents also took part in Special Olympics, Easter Egg Drop, National Day of Prayer, and various on-campus activities, which brought smiles and a strong sense of community.



Harrison House

The first six months of the year have been bustling with activities for Harrison House. Residents visited Panama City, relaxed at Saint Andrews Park, and dined at Golden Corral. They also ventured to Falling Waters, where a scenic picnic was enjoyed. The guys participated in both on- and off-campus Special Olympics events and attended worship services at local churches. Harrison House residents took part in community outings, including Night to Shine, the Easter Egg Drop, and the National Day of Prayer. Amidst the fun and fellowship, the house also faced moments of sorrow with the loss of beloved residents Terrance Sullivan and William Outlaw. They will be deeply missed and forever remembered.



Johnson House

Residents of Johnson House embraced the outdoors with trips to Panama City's Saint Andrews Park and Sneads Park, enjoying treats like ice cream and popsicles along the way. The house was well represented at Night to Shine, the Easter Egg Drop, and the National Day of Prayer, where residents enjoyed fellowship and celebration with their peers and the community.



UNIT II – RECREATIONAL TIME



There's nothing like getting outdoors and enjoying each other's company—and Unit II has certainly made the most of it! Residents have participated in a variety of recreational activities that foster friendship, fun, and fresh air. Whether it's a simple walk, engaging in games, or relaxing together under the sun, the shared laughter

and smiles speak volumes. These moments not only bring joy but also strengthen the sense of community within the unit. The staff continues to encourage participation and create opportunities that promote wellness and togetherness for everyone involved.

A Night to Shine: Sunland Hosts Masquerade Ball for Residents

On Friday, February 21st, Sunland Center proudly hosted its annual Tim Tebow Night to Shine event—an unforgettable evening dedicated to celebrating the uniqueness and worth of every resident.

Residents received the full red-carpet treatment upon arrival, complete with a crown or tiara, a staff or volunteer escort, and a personalized announcement. Each individual was greeted like royalty as they made their grand entrance.

The gymnasium was transformed into an elegant Masquerade Ball, decked out in red, black, and gold décor, with a stunning oversized masquerade mask serving as the centerpiece of the room.

Attendees enjoyed a lively night filled with dancing, photo ops at the 360-degree photo booth, and a delicious meal shared among friends and supporters. The evening ended with a full dance floor and smiles all around—a clear sign of a night well spent.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to all who contributed to this magical event and to the Tim Tebow Foundation for their continued partnership in making this extraordinary night possible.



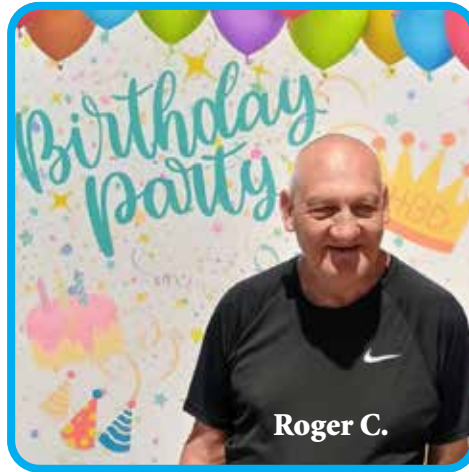
"Team! I want to take a moment to acknowledge the tremendous effort you've all put in. Your hard work and dedication have truly shone through. Great job, everyone!" ~ Michael S. Mayfield Tacachale Center Administrator



Celebrating Life, One Birthday at a Time

At Sunland, we believe every life milestone deserves recognition. The Recreation Department ensures our residents are celebrated as they age with grace and dignity.

Each month, residents are honored with a special birthday celebration—a time to gather with friends, enjoy refreshments, and feel the joy of being recognized. These heartfelt moments, shared among peers and staff, help create a sense of belonging and remind our residents how valued they truly are.



Roger C.



Vickie P.



Sandra R.



Julianna J.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Charles R.	July 2	Grant
Connie S.	July 5	Johnson
Paul W.	July 7	Harrison
William(Billy) M.	July 7	Harrison
Adam B.	July 11	Lincoln
Carolyn L.	July 11	Buchanan
Shelby B., Jr.	July 16	Grant
Billy C.	July 16	Grant
Jeremiah B.	July 17	Hayes
Cedric M.	July 17	Harrison
Cynthia A.	July 20	Buchanan
Thomas M. Jr.	July 22	Thiel Center
Rachael M.	July 30	Buchanan
Ronald H.	July 31	Connally

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Sherman T.	August 3	Grant
Frank P.	August 5	Hayes
Patti H.	August 9	Thiel Center
Melanie S.	August 14	Parkview
Scottie T.	August 22	Lincoln
Cheryl T.	August 25	Buchanan
John M.	August 29	Thiel Center
George G.	August 31	Westside



SUNLAND HORTICULTURE

The Sunland Horticulture area is blooming with both beauty and purpose. This vibrant worksite is home to a variety of plants available for sale, lovingly nurtured by dedicated residents. From cheerful hanging baskets to colorful flower beds scattered across the campus, much of the landscaping you see is the result of their hard work and care.

Residents take great pride in their work—finding the horticulture setting both relaxing and fulfilling. Seeing the plants they've grown displayed around the grounds gives them a deep sense of accomplishment and joy. It's more than just planting and watering—it's about growth, creativity, and contributing to the beauty of the community.



Spotlight on the Sunland Recycling Center

The Sunland Recycling Center is more than just a place for sorting materials—it's a thriving vocational training worksite that plays a vital role in supporting individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities.

At the heart of the program is a commitment to growth, independence, and dignity. Through structured activities and hands-on training, participants learn valuable job skills while earning a therapeutic wage. These experiences not only build confidence but also foster a strong sense of purpose and self-worth.

The center is a shining example of how meaningful work can create lasting impact—empowering individuals while contributing to the broader goals of sustainability and community inclusion.



Striking Goals:

Special Olympics Fall Classic Bowling Prep

Excitement is building as our residents actively prepare for the Special Olympics Fall Classic Bowling Event! On July 26, 2025, they will proudly represent Sunland in the Regional Games, showcasing their skills, determination, and team spirit.

These athletes have been training with focus and heart, embodying the true spirit of the Special Olympics. As they gear up for the big day, we encourage everyone to offer a word of support and cheer them on in their journey toward excellence.

Let's wish them the very best as they aim high and bowl with pride!



Special Olympics
SUNLAND



Residents Kick Off Summer with Week of Celebration and Fun

Sunland residents launched their summer break in style with a vibrant week of activities designed to entertain, engage, and celebrate community spirit.

The week's lineup included fishing trips, a softball game, a lively dance, and a creative fashion show—all fostering fun, friendship, and lasting memories. A highlight of the festivities was the Resident-Staff Appreciation Event, a heartfelt celebration honoring the hard work, dedication, and commitment of residents to their vocational worksites.

This special recognition event emphasized the value each individual brings to the Sunland community, reinforcing a shared sense of pride and appreciation between staff and residents alike.



Sunland Honors Dedicated Volunteers at Annual Appreciation Luncheon



Pictured is the Marianna High School Marching Band, recognized for their ongoing support and involvement through pep rallies, concerts, parades, and various special events. Their performances have brought music, joy, and a vibrant sense of community to Sunland time and time again.

Sunland recently hosted its Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, recognizing the remarkable individuals and groups who have generously served throughout the 2024–2025 year. The event was organized by Event Planner Ashton Wester, under the supervision of James E. Godwin, Jr., and aimed to celebrate the invaluable contributions of Sunland’s volunteers.

Volunteers play a critical role in enhancing the quality of life for residents, fostering deeper community involvement and creating meaningful experiences across campus.

During the luncheon, Wester presented special honors to both the Most Active Volunteer Group of the Year and the Most Active Individual Volunteer of the Year.

The event served as a heartfelt thank-you to all who have helped make a difference, underscoring Sunland’s commitment to recognizing those who go above and beyond for the benefit of others.



Also pictured is Clint Cox, a retired Sunland employee who continues to volunteer his time generously. Mr. Cox’s consistent support, willingness to help wherever needed, and steadfast dedication exemplify the true spirit of service.



EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP MEETING SUMMARY

Dates: June 4, 11, 18, and 25, 2025

Format: TEAMS Virtual Call

Key Theme: Continued focus on staffing, training, fiscal year wrap-up, and operational readiness for summer and hurricane season.

◆ BUDGET & PURCHASING

- Blanket purchase orders initiated; final submission deadline by June 26.
- Fiscal year-end closing is underway.
- Staff reminded to respond to golf cart email (6/25).
- Golf cart upgrades and new purchasing cycle highlighted (6/4, 6/25).

◆ HUMAN RESOURCES

- Vacancies ranged from 80–88 during the month; ongoing efforts to hire and retain.
- Performance evaluations for 2024–2025 must be completed by July 21, including second-level reviews and acknowledgment. Scores below “3” require HR pre-approval or will be reset (6/25).
- Personal holiday must be used before June 30 or will be forfeited (6/11–6/18).
- Reminders about evaluation policies, PCPs, and timesheet approvals (6/4–6/11).
- Employee attestation forms due June 20 (6/11).

◆ STAFFING & NEW HIRES

- New employee orientations scheduled throughout June and early July.
- Staff separations decreased slightly from 11 (6/4) to 7 (6/25).

◆ RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

- Units 1–3 continued resident updates and interviews for RUS/HSSS roles.
- SOAR training began June 13 and is progressing well (Unit 2).
- Resident government meetings held or scheduled for all three units (6/18–6/25).

◆ BEHAVIORAL & PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

- Recognition event hosted for second shift Hayes staff (6/4).
- SOAR training and Local Review Committee (LRC) meeting progress noted (6/25).
- Resident evaluations and court involvement ongoing (6/4, 6/18).
- No major changes or concerns in behavioral or psychological updates.

◆ QUALITY SERVICES

- Census remained steady at 136 residents throughout June.
- Worker’s Compensation claims ranged from 31 to 36.

- Weekly Critical/Reportable Incident Review meetings consistently held Thursdays at 9:00 AM.
- Finalization of Emergency Operations Plan and LMS training (6/4).

◆ CENTRALIZED SUPPORT SERVICES (CSS)

- Summer activities, pool days, karaoke, softball, and bowling outings held.
- Special Olympics bowling trip successful (6/18).
- Planning began for Fall Festival and Christmas City (6/11–6/18).
- CCIR training schedule posted (6/25).
- Resident Work Program ceremony held (6/11).

◆ GENERAL SERVICES & MAINTENANCE

- 23 hospital beds received from FL Emergency Management (6/4).
- Staff dining AC issue prompted temporary relocation to the resident side (6/25).
- Quotes being obtained for air handler replacement; working on Capital Improvement Plan (6/25).
- Portable AC rented for staff-side dining (6/11).
- Roof repair and generator installation progress reported (6/4).

◆ SECURITY & SAFETY

- Evacuation drills completed for June (6/25).
- Reminder: no lawn equipment or gas cans allowed on Center (6/4).
- Lighting issues at entrances resolved (6/25).
- EMS activated for an on-site auto incident (6/11).

◆ ADMINISTRATION

- Emphasis on professionalism, consistency, and policy adherence (6/4, 6/25).
- Encouraged early hurricane preparedness planning (6/4).
- Celebration of Staff Appreciation Day and kudos to ERC for event support (6/11–6/25).
- Announcement of the new Sunland Gazette publication (6/25).

✓ Overall Themes

- Strong emphasis on fiscal year closeout and compliance.
- Ongoing hiring and training with focus on resident support services.
- Events and activities promoted to enhance resident and staff engagement.
- Leadership praised for teamwork and efficiency, particularly in budgeting and event planning.