



# The Sunland Beacon

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## Sunland FUEL Team Food Drive

Sunland Center's FUEL (Faith Used in Everyday Life) Team resident outreach group recently sponsored a food drive where they began collecting non-perishable food during Sunland's 40th Annual Fall Festival, continuing into the first two weeks of November. Sunland Chaplain Ruth Moore, along with members of the FUEL Team, gathered with staff to deliver the food to the Chipola Family Ministries Center on November 21. Upon delivery the food was weighed. The group was thrilled to learn they had collected 548 pounds of food just in time for Thanksgiving! The FUEL Team appreciates the support of everyone who contributed to the food drive. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, your generous donations helped make this community outreach project a great success!

According to Chaplain Moore, the idea for this community service project was birthed out of appreciation for the strong show of support which the community poured upon Sunland in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael. The Sunland FUEL Team wanted to partner with the Sunland staff and people from the local community to support individuals and families in the greater community-at-large who may need assistance. A call for support was issued and people gave. They gave out of the kindness of their hearts and their personal abundance. Well done, Sunland family! Well done!

To learn more about the formation of the FUEL Team, continue on to Page 2 ...

# Sunland FUEL Team Food Drive



When asked about the origin of the FUEL Team, Chaplain Moore stated the group was formed in 2016. At the group's first meeting, she asked the residents three specific questions: "Is there anything that you have never done that you would like to do? Is there any place that you have never gone that you would like to go? Is there specifically anything you would like to learn?" From there the ideas came pouring in.

One resident stated they would like to visit Connally Manor at Sunland and socialize with the elderly individuals who live there. Chaplain Moore says, "there were many other wonderful statements that reflected the residents' compassion and how they wanted to serve and love others. She went on to share a special story. During the meeting, an individual named Mary was eagerly waving her hand and wanted to share what she thought the group could do. With tears in her eyes, Mary said *"I have lived on the streets. I have been hungry, and I know what it is like. I would like to do a food drive for the hungry people in our area!"* Chaplain Moore noted that several staff were moved to tears as they were overwhelmed by the compassion of Sunland's kind-hearted residents who just wanted to do something for others. Since that first meeting, the Sunland FUEL Team has hit the ground running. They have organized several community service projects to include the Jackson County BackPacks for Kids, Ronald McDonald House, Eastpoint Fire Donations, stuffed animals for Marianna Health and Rehab, Thanksgiving meal deliveries, and previous community food drives for the Chipola Ministry Center. To learn more about volunteer opportunities with the Sunland FUEL Team, call Sunland Chaplain Ruth Moore at 482-9371.



# From the Superintendent...

When the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620, there were mostly Indians and a vast forest. They had lived through a rough crossing of the ocean in a frail ship. The Pilgrims had a purpose...they wanted freedom. In appreciation for all the many benefits afforded to them, the Pilgrims decided to celebrate their coming of a new and strange land by giving thanks to the great Father of all.

Thus, we carry on the tradition of Thanksgiving. It is the spirit of Thanksgiving that has the meaning, not the mere preparation of a feast in which we enjoy. We should be thankful for the privilege of living in a free land and the many blessings that are bestowed upon us. How proud we should be to be able to think as we choose, to worship where we will, and to choose our own way of life as best suits our abilities. Not only should these thoughts come to us on Thanksgiving, but it should be something to inspire every one of our days throughout the entire year. What are you thankful for this year?

See you around campus!

*Marguerite*

Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent



# What Are You Thankful For?

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to reflect on our many blessings. This is also a time of year that we can seek opportunities to be a blessing to others. As you saw in the lead story, our FUEL Team seized the opportunity to bless others through their recent food drive. Also in this edition of the Beacon, Superintendent Morgan beautifully reminded us of the spirit of Thanksgiving, encouraging us to pause and reflect on our many blessings. In preparation of the November Beacon, staff and residents were asked this very question. The outpouring of response is amazing! Clearly, we are all blessed beyond measure!

When asked about Thanksgiving and what they are thankful for, a number of residents were eager to respond:

**Josh B., Unit 2 East Truman** - "I am thankful for my family and getting to go home to be with my family at Thanksgiving."

**Rachel M., Unit 1 Buchanan** - "I am thankful for Ruth, Shirley, Lou and Maw Maw."

**Billy M., Unit 1 Harrison** - "I am thankful for coffee and snacks."

**John M., Unit 2 Thiel** - "I am thankful for Mary Ann Hatcher."

**John G., Unit 2 Thiel** - "I am thankful for my family."

**Josephine L., Unit 1 Buchanan** - "I am thankful for my recliner."

**Edie W., Unit 1 Parkview** - "I am thankful for Faye and Mont."

**George J., Unit 1 Adams** - I am thankful for music and pretty ladies!"

**Frank B., Unit 1 Adams** - "I am thankful that God gave me a good day."

**Calvin B., Unit 2 Whispering Oaks** - "I am thankful that God put me on this earth and put a roof over my head and food on the table."

**John B., Unit 2 East Truman** - "I am thankful for living."

## What Are You Thankful For?

Sunland staff were also very happy to share the many blessings in which they are thankful:

**Melinda Bishop, CSS/Mall Beauty Shop** - "I am thankful for a new home."

**Tonya Kelly, CSS/Mall** - "I am thankful for life, my health, my strength, my family. I am thankful for the love that everyone can share for one another."

**Susan Himes, Superintendent's Office/Administration** - "I am thankful for many things in my life that I have been blessed with through the years. God has blessed me so many times by placing people and things in my life even when I least expected it. I'm thankful for my family, especially my beautiful grandsons that mean the world to me. I am thankful for my many co-workers that I have had the pleasure to call family and for the residents we serve. I may not have as much as others, but God has blessed me with what he feels I need and most of what I want and for that I'm thankful. Happy Thanksgiving to my Sunland Family."

**Sue Lee, Accounting** - "I am thankful for the lessons that Hurricane Michael taught me. God is my Protector. Neighbors still know how to be neighbors. Things aren't as important as they used to be. When the going gets tough, the tough stand tall. Food cooked outside with family and neighbors who have no way to cook for themselves or any food left to cook has the best flavor, is far more satisfying, and fills the stomach as well as the soul."

**Latasha Bellamy, Unit 2 East Truman** - "I am so blessed to be chosen to serve the residents here at Sunland. My residents are so thoughtful and caring to their peers and their staff. So I am thankful for the love that has been shown on East Truman. My residents rock."

**Beth Basford, Administration** - "I find that the season of life that I am in now has become a time of reflection of all that God has blessed me with. When I look back over the years, I am just so incredibly thankful for God's grace, love and mercy. I appreciate the blessing of a wonderful family that I love with all of my heart and I am so thankful for them. I am very grateful for a job that I find such joy, meaning and purpose in. I love our residents and look forward to seeing them each day. They make my heart smile and I realize what a special privilege it is to serve them. For these and many other blessings, I am grateful."



# What Are You Thankful For?

**Lynn Kern, Accounting** - "I am so very thankful for my faith that I have, having a family that I love dearly, and the friendships that I have made working at Sunland, and my job. I am blessed in so many ways. Thankful for the beauty that the Lord has given us, looking at sunsets, the trees changing colors. You don't really have to look hard to find something in everyday life to be thankful for. Actually there is not enough room to put everything that I am thankful for, but have to include my husband, as he is such a wonderful match for me. Very thankful for the smiles that anyone gives me and the kindness. Thank you!!"

**Cathy McWaters, Quality Management** - "I am thankful for my family, my Sunland family, and the privilege of working with the residents here at Sunland. I am truly blessed!"

**Penny Berbert, Sunland Nursing** - "The many blessings the good Lord has given our family."

**Terri Banahan, Accounting** - "I am thankful for the great life God has blessed me with."

**Faye Johnson, Unit 3 Social Services** - "I am so thankful for the opportunity to serve here at Sunland Center, Marianna. I am thankful for wonderful co-workers and I am thankful to God for sparing my son's life last Christmas."

**Shandrell Mount, Sunland Nursing** - "I am thankful for life itself. I have another day and chance to conquer life and this Christian journey. Thankful for my 3 year old son that gives me the courage to be a better person. He gives me a reason not to give up. He brings sunshine to my rainy days. I am thankful and blessed to see another holiday season."

**Ruth Moore, Chaplain** - "I am trying to be thankful ALWAYS for ALL things as we are instructed in Ephesians 5:20. Good times and blessings are great but I want to be thankful for hard times and trials. God is with us during these times and builds and strengthens us. I am thankful for my work here at Sunland, my family, my church, my friends, and my ministries. I am thankful for my Bible, God's word. There are so many people in this world that do not even have a portion of the Bible."

**DeRon Johnson, Food Service** - "I'm so thankful for life and to have it so abundantly! I'm thankful the many blessings God has blessed me with family, friends, job, home, and many other things! After thinking about it I'm just thankful for everything!"

**Daniel Price, Staff Development** - "What am I thankful for?" Sometimes that seems like such a tough question to answer. There are many blessings all of us have in our lives if we take time to reflect on God's grace and mercy and the goodness he extends to each of us. For me, I believe the thing I am thankful for most this year, is acceptance and inclusiveness. Personally, I've had many changes the past 6 years. Six years ago, I moved from Washington State to the great State of Florida. About 3 years ago I came to work at Sunland, and after losing my wife this past February to Friedreichs Ataxia, I left Sunland for about a month but came back because of the residents and employees I have come to know and respect. The great thing about Sunland is the welcoming atmosphere I have felt by being here and the inclusiveness extended by colleagues and residents alike. Sunland, for the most part, is a role model for diversity and culture and acceptance of others. I am very proud of the privilege of being a part of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities here at Sunland Center in Marianna, Florida and being able to serve both our residents and employees thru my present role as a Staff Development Training Specialist II.

# Peanut Festival Fun!

Attending the National Peanut Festival in Dothan, Alabama is a fun tradition for the residents and staff of Sunland. Each year residents from all three units look forward to the opportunity to visit the Peanut Festival where they enjoy live entertainment, attractions and rides, bright lights, boiled peanuts and plenty of carnival food. This is a great opportunity for the folks that live at Sunland to have a great time and enjoy interacting with the community. It is also another example of Sunland teamwork to pull off these outings with input and assistance from many different departments and areas center wide. Without everyone pulling together in the same direction, these activities just don't occur. Thanks to everyone who had a hand in making these trips possible. This year, a total of 105 residents and staff visited the Peanut Festival. Pictured below are some of the photos from Special Citizens Day. As you can see by all the smiles, it was a lot of fun!

Contributed by: Clint Cox



Contributed by: Clint Cox

# Special Olympics Basketball County Games

Sunland hosted the "2019 Special Olympics Jackson County Basketball Games" on Wednesday, November 20. We had a great crowd on hand from both Sunland and Hope School. We also had the Hope School Cheerleaders who kept the crowd cheering. Thanks to all who had a hand in making this event enjoyable for all the athletes. We also want to thank Damien McNeil and Nancy Simpler (Special Olympics Florida Northwest Region staff) for their attendance and support. A total of 4 games were held with final results as noted below:

Game 1 – Sunland Sonics defeated Hope School Falcons 66-50

Game 2 – Hope 3 on 3 team tied Sunland 3 on 3 team 2-2 (one quarter)

Game 3 – Hope School Thunderbirds defeated Sunland Sonics B-Team 30-23

Game 4 – Pathways Jets defeated Sunland Sonics 43-32

Contributed by: Clint Cox



# Horticulture Greenhouse Now Open

In October 2018, Sunland's horticulture program suffered great loss with the destruction of the greenhouse, office building and other structures. Not to be deterred, the vocational program continued operations on a smaller scale over the past year ensuring residents had the opportunity for continued training and employment. Hopes for a restored greenhouse were realized on November 18, when the horticulture program officially re-opened at the horticulture work site. While the greenhouse is much smaller it does offer residents an area where they can work and care for a wide variety of plants. Over time, Horticulture staff anticipate continued growth and expansion of the program.

On hand to welcome visitors to the grand opening were Tony Speights, Vocational Training Supervisor II, along with Matt Dryden, Vocational Training Supervisor/Sunland Ranch, Donald Rehberg, Horticulture Vocational Instructor and Glenda Winkle, Ranch Vocational Instructor. Joining their supervisors were Frankie P., Prentis M., James B., Glenda W. and George C. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed this long anticipated day!



# Jackson County School at Sunland



Students at the Jackson County School program have been busy during the month of November with a variety of educational and fun activities. Students in Chuck Nolen's class ventured outdoors to rake leaves and enjoy treasure hunting with a metal detector. Jenny Johnson's class continues working on their fine motor skills by being creative and putting things together. The students in Jennifer Grantham's class were very excited about their turkey tee shirts and decorating fall leaves. No doubt about it, students enjoy their classes and always look forward to a great day at JCS Sunland!



# November Star Awards

Congratulations Star Award recipients for the month of November!

| Award  | Employee Name/Team Names                           | Character Qualities                                     |
|--------|--|---|
| Gold   | Print Shop – Ashley Hill & Stephanie Parker        | Creativity, Determination, Enthusiasm                   |
| Gold   | Sunland Nursing – Danielle Moss & Shandrell Mount  | Creativity, Determination, Enthusiasm                   |
| Gold   | Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent                  | Visionary Leader, Determination, Enthusiasm, Initiative |
| Gold   | Heather Walker, Food Service                       | Availability, Dependability, Initiative                 |
| Gold   | Deborah Hess, Food Service                         | Availability, Dependability, Initiative                 |
| Silver | Jacqueline Dudley, Unit 1 (Outpatient Clinic Temp) | Attentiveness, Dependability, Enthusiasm                |



**GOLD STAR TEAM AWARD**  
**NURSING - DANIELLE MOSS & SHANDRELL MOUNT**  
 Pictured L-R: Superintendent Marguerite Morgan, Shandrell Mount, Beth Basford, Communications/Public Relations Coordinator (Nominator)



**GOLD STAR TEAM AWARD**  
**CSS PRINT SHOP - ASHLEY HILL & STEPHANIE PARKER**  
 Pictured L-R: Superintendent Marguerite Morgan, Ashley Hill, Stephanie Parker, Tonya Kelly, Vocational Supervisor (Nominator)



**GOLD STAR AWARD**  
**SUPERINTENDENT MARGUERITE MORGAN**  
 Pictured L-R: Superintendent Marguerite Morgan and Sue Lee, Accountant II (Nominator)



**GOLD STAR AWARD**  
**HEATHER WALKER - FOOD SERVICE**  
 Pictured L-R: Superintendent Marguerite Morgan, Heather Walker, DeRon Johnson, OMC I, Food Service (Nominator)



**SILVER STAR AWARD**  
**JACQUELINE DUDLEY - UNIT 1 (CLINIC TEMP)**  
 Pictured L-R: Superintendent Marguerite Morgan, Jacqueline Dudley, Shandrell Mount, SRNS (Nominator)

## Sunland Participates in Career Fair

Thousands of area high school and private school students attended the Annual Regional Career Fair on Wednesday, November 13. On hand to greet them were Danielle Moss and Shandrell Mount, Sunland Senior Registered Nurse Specialist Supervisors. While this was not a recruitment event, it was an excellent opportunity for the students to gain knowledge about the Agency for Persons with Disabilities and future career opportunities at Sunland. Ms. Moss and Ms. Mount provided the students with valuable information and talked with them about the various career paths that Sunland offers. Hats off to Ms. Moss and Ms. Mount who represented APD and Sunland Center very well!



## HUMAN RESOURCES

For any personnel needs, please contact Veronica Mullinax, Katey Hobbs, Lizzie Holland, Nicole Sims, Robin Morris or Lisa Rabon. 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.

Information regarding vacancies can be obtained at the People First website at:

<https://peoplefirst.myflorida.com>

WE ARE  
HERE  
TO HELP

## NEW EMPLOYEES

Jeffrey Basford  
Terri Spooner  
Samiyah Powell  
Camiyah Rhynes  
Jimmy Mitchell II  
Jodi Alford  
Stephanie Herring  
Latarsha Gibson  
Candace Tompkins

Lindsey Bugg  
Robert Hertensen  
Alexcia Scott  
Kay Lynn Turner  
Casey Winfree  
Madison Mayeaux  
Crystal Spires

Welcome Aboard!