



The Sunland Beach

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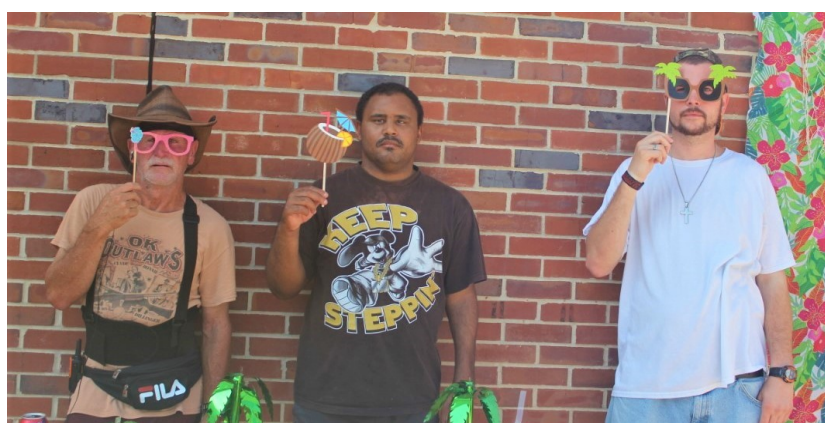
Summer Winds Down with "Back to School Bash"

Sunland residents were treated to a "Back to School Bash" on Friday, August 9. The luau-themed event was held at the Sunland Pool and was coordinated by Education Supervisor Christy Hatcher and Sunland Recreation staff. It was an absolute blast! Everyone enjoyed gathering for relaxing down time while leisurely swimming, floating and splashing around the pool. As always, the refreshments were a big hit and were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Ms. Hatcher expressed appreciation for the support given for the event, stating "We are truly a TEAM here at Sunland. Henry Ford once said, 'Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.' We did just this at the luau for the residents. There have been many responses mentioning how much the residents enjoyed themselves."

She went on to say "I just can't THANK YOU enough for all the helping hands to make this a successful event. So many people had a hand in to make it great but due to fear of leaving someone off I want everybody to know that it was great, and it took everybody. It wouldn't have been as successful without all of your assistance. Looking forward to many more successful events for our residents!"

Scenes from "Back to School Bash"



From the Superintendent...

One of the first signs of Fall is the blooming Golden Rod on the roadside and the start of a new school year. To show my age, school began for me after the Labor Day holiday! Here on campus, Sunland students were eager for classes to resume, although they enjoyed many outings and on-site recreational and leisure events throughout the summer including bowling, swimming, talent shows, luau parties, dances and much more.

Yes, the season will soon bring change. As we enter the Fall season, we think of falling leaves, harvesting crops, and the weather getting cooler (wouldn't we love to feel a nip in the air on some of our 95+ degree days!) Fall is a favorite season for many who love the cooler weather, college football and Halloween. It is the perfect time to reflect and embrace the change and transformation, leaving the summer heat behind and replacing blooming flowers with crisp leaves in beautiful shades of yellow, orange and red. I encourage each of us to find time to enjoy all that the approaching season brings. See you around Sunland!

Much appreciation,

Marguerite

Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent



Welcome Back JCS Teachers & Staff!

Sunland Administration hosted a "Welcome Back to School" breakfast on August 6 for the teachers and staff at the Jackson County School program. We are so pleased to have them back on campus, and most definitely, so are our residents. Although the teachers and staff are a part of the Jackson County School Board, we consider them all a part of our Sunland family!

Thanks JCS teachers and staff for your dedicated service at Sunland. We are looking forward to a wonderful 2019/20 school year with you.



JCS School Welcomes Students Back to School

August 12 was a happy day for residents enrolled in the Jackson County School Program at Sunland. After a long summer break, Phyllis Daniels, JCS Administrator, along with faculty and staff warmly welcomed Sunland students back to their classrooms. The students at the JCS program were anxious to return to school and get back into their daily routines! Needless to say, everyone quickly adapted to their new schedules and promptly got to work.

The JCS program is always a hub of activity. Recently, Janet Baxley's class has been working on a skirt, putting in a lot of practice to make it perfect. According to Ms. Daniels, the students are so excited about their play!

Sunland appreciates the Jackson County School program and the dedicated teachers and staff who work tirelessly to ensure quality educational services are provided for their students!



Back to School Dance

There's just something about music that makes you want to dance like nobody's watching! That is certainly true whenever Royce Reagan & the Original Bama Jam Band is in the house! You just know it's going to be a fun dance! On August 15, residents gathered at the Gym for an afternoon of dancing and socializing with friends. No doubt about it, a great time was had by all!



Dance
Like 
NOBODY'S
watching



Summer's Final SunFest is a Hit!

Several years ago, the "SunFest" talent show was formed to give residents who love to sing, dance and perform an opportunity to be an entertainer. The popularity of the show has grown to the point that two SunFest programs are now held each summer. Residents and staff really look forward to cheering on the brave performers. It's a show like no other!

The summer's final SunFest was held on August 1 with a large group of residents participating. If you missed either show this summer, not to worry. The talent show has become so popular we have now added "ChristmasFest" where the fun will surely continue!



Therapeutic Equestrian Program

This summer the Sunland Ranch re-introduced Thiel Center residents to the Therapeutic Equestrian Program (TEP). Several residents had previously participated in TEP some years back, so its return was a much anticipated event. The program includes equine activities in a relaxed, outdoors environment in order to promote physical, occupational, and emotional growth in persons with developmental and intellectual disabilities, such as Autism. The Sunland Ranch is perfect for this program. Participation in TEP can help residents build confidence, enhance communication, develop trust, gain social skills, monitor impulse control, and learn boundaries. Residents at the Thiel Center certainly enjoy visiting the ranch, especially horseback riding with their buddy, Peppy! Thanks to Matt Dryden, Glenda Winkle and the ranch staff for making this a wonderful opportunity for our residents!



Thiel Center Enjoys BEAM Class!

Residents at the Thiel Center recently enjoyed participating in a "Be Everything and More" (BEAM) class. This was a first-time event for the individuals who reside at the Thiel Center, and it went very well. Tara Dent, BEAM instructor is very gifted in providing interactive, one-to-one time with participants, helping them to engage in a way that is very personal to them. Watching faces light up with the happiest of smiles really is something quite extraordinary.

Tara says "BEAM reaches the whole person in body, mind and spirit and gives people an opportunity to express themselves freely in a safe, fun and empowering way. With strong roots in dance/movement therapy, BEAM combines a world of movement, dance and fitness along with stress management techniques, humor and play to lighten people up and to help them live more freely and peacefully in their bodies." Thank you Tara for the light you bring to Sunland! We appreciate your positive energy and the happiness you have blessed us with!



Let's Play Pickleball!

Some say it's the latest rage! No doubt about it, Pickleball is one of the fastest growing court sports, combining techniques used in ping-pong, tennis and badminton. According to Recreation Director Clint Cox, the game is easy to learn and can be played by people of all ages and abilities. The only equipment you need is a racquet that is similar to a ping-pong paddle, but larger, and ball that is similar to a whiffle ball. It's a fast-paced sport that provides a great workout. And, most of all, it's also just plain ole' fun!



Soon, Pickleball will be a Special Olympics sport and Sunland athletes will be ready! Game on!



Unit 1 Enjoys Special Olympics Bowling

Over the course of the summer, residents of Unit 1 have enjoyed trips to Patricia Lanes in Dothan, Alabama to participate in Special Olympics and enjoy a fun outing at the bowling alley. Honestly, who doesn't love to have fun, right? But did you know that bowling is so much more than fun? It's really a great alternative to traditional exercise! According to "The Bowling Universe" website, we are reminded that the best part about bowling is "There is no limit on who can bowl. It's a low impact, easy-to-learn sport, making it great for all ages. Some of the health benefits from bowling include: burning calories, strengthened muscles, improved flexibility and balance, better hand-eye coordination and improved social life!" So, if you're looking for a fun-filled activity that boosts your health and social life, give bowling a try. It's certainly a hit with our Special Olympics athletes!



Unit 1 Enjoys End of Summer Outings!



Unit 1 residents and staff enjoyed end of summer activities during the month of August. On one of these special occasions Christy Hatcher, Renee Perry, Angela Jackson and Teresa Ellis, joined Faye W., Britt W. and Sammy P. when they took a road trip to Red Lobster in Dothan, Alabama. Following dinner, the group enjoyed ice cream and a movie.



i (see) you

In previous editions of the Beacon, random acts of kindness or good deeds performed by staff and residents were highlighted in a section we called "I See You!" We would like to continue this form of recognition and welcome your nominations. Informal nominations may be submitted via email, to beth.basford@apdcare.org, or to the Sunland Communications Office via on-center mail. Simply submit a 2-4 sentence acknowledgement with your name, the name of the staff or resident, and what they did that captured your attention. We look forward to hearing about all the good things going on at Sunland and giving some well-deserved "I See You" shout-outs to our awesome staff and residents!

This month, Lisa Sexton in Security nominated **Ms. Dianne Blount** of Unit 1 Administration for an act of kindness. Ms. Blount found a set of keys and turned them in to Security. The keys have since been reunited with the owner, which was a pretty big deal to that individual! Thanks to Dianne for being so conscientious and taking time to make sure the keys were turned in. We appreciate you!



Remember, it's the seemingly little things that make a difference in very big ways. Let's celebrate the people that make those things happen!

Character Matters...



Creativity is an important character quality, both on the job and in our personal lives. Simply put, creativity means being able to come up with something new; approaching a need, task or idea from a new perspective. Creativity encourages people to work together, motivating amazing teamwork. Being creative is actually fun and creates a much more enjoyable experience for employees where they can work in an environment that inspires them to think outside of the box.

At Sunland, we are fortunate to see daily instances of creativity and teamwork. Should challenges arise, and they do, staff are quick to rise to the occasion. Finding new ways to accomplish a task brings new energy and excitement to the workplace. A great example of creativity in action is Sunland's upcoming 40th Annual Fall Festival. While we were unable to host the event last year due to Hurricane Michael, we were not down for the count! Thanks to the creativity of the Centralized Support Services team and Fall Festival Committee members, the festival is back on the schedule for October 26, and plans are full steam ahead! The team considered the challenges involved in relocating such a large event. The prospects were daunting, yet the team was not deterred. Resolved to carry on the tradition, the team put their heads together and developed a plan of action that is absolutely remarkable, filled with creativity and new inspiration! This year, the Fall Festival will be held at Sunland's Sports Complex, located behind the Gymnasium at the softball and track and field area. It's going to be awesome! We are so pleased staff remain committed to ensuring that the Sunland Fall Festival will continue to be the premier Fall event in Jackson County. Mark your calendars, this will be an event you do not want to miss!



August Star Awards

Ten employees were honored with Star Awards during the month of August. Congratulations to the following staff: Gold Star Award - Sharon Williams, Unit 1 Adams House; Gold Star Award - Mikel Patterson, Unit 1 Harrison House; Gold Star Award - Rodell Pete, Unit 1 Grant House; Gold Star Award - Martin Pierce, Unit 1 Roosevelt Learning Center; Gold Star Award - Tiffany LaCount, Unit 1 Learning Center; Gold Star Award - Angela Brown, Unit 3 East Washington; Silver Star Award - Charles Harris, Unit 2 Hayes; Gold Star Award - Caleb Sherman, Unit 3 Connally Manor; Bronze Star Award - Vershawn Perry, Unit 3 Connally Manor and Gold Star Award - Alice Jennings, Unit 3 East Washington.

Character qualities recognized in August were: Attentiveness, Availability, Benevolence, Compassion, Dependability, Determination, Diligence, Flexibility, Initiative, Joyfulness, and Responsibility.



**GOLD STAR AWARD
SHARON WILLIAMS - UNIT 1**

Pictured: Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent; Sharon Williams, Franklin Williams, Unit 1 RSD



**GOLD STAR AWARD
RODELL PETE - UNIT 1**

Pictured: Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent; Rodell Pete, Franklin Williams, Unit 1 RSD



**GOLD STAR AWARD
MARTIN PIERCE - UNIT 1**

Pictured: Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent; Martin Pierce, Franklin Williams, Unit 1 RSD



**GOLD STAR AWARD
TIFFANY LACOUNT - UNIT 1**

Pictured: Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent; Tiffany LaCount; Franklin Williams, Unit 1 RSD



**GOLD STAR AWARD
ALICE JENNINGS - UNIT 3**

Pictured: Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent; Alice Jennings; Geraldine Messer, HSSS; Bart Harrell, Unit 3 POA



**GOLD STAR AWARD
ANGELA BROWN - UNIT 3**

Pictured: Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent; Angela Brown; Bart Harrell, Unit 3 POA

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Looking Ahead...Gearing Up for Fall Events!

It's almost that time of year! Fall is just around the corner y'all!

The annual "Scarecrow Row" contest will kick off in mid-September. There will be some changes to the format this year, to include a traveling trophy that will be up for grabs for the Grand Champion Scarecrow! Be on the look-out for publicity flyers and email detailing entry criteria. We are looking forward to some awesome entries!

Also, the annual "Pumpkins on Parade" contest will soon be underway. Details will be forthcoming. This event is open for any resident who wishes to participate. We have had some very creative entries in previous years and look forward to a great turn out again this year.



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

Teresa Landau

Austin Finuff

Shanon Josey

Shaquandra Tucker

Shareka Hallmon

Maurice Jones

Shakendra Harris

Tinario Zigler

**Welcome
Aboard!**