



The Sunland Beacon

March 2019

Celebrating our Resident Work Force

On March 13, Centralized Support Services celebrated the achievements of residents employed through the various vocational programs offered at Sunland. The 2nd Annual Residential Staff Appreciation Day was a huge success with a full house in attendance. The program began with Peter P., of Unit 2 who offered an opening prayer, followed by Johnnie Mae W. from Unit 2, who welcomed the crowd with her famous "You're Welcome" saying. Lonnie F., also from Unit 2 sang a special welcome song, with many in attendance joining in.

James Godwin, Director of CSS, along with Tonya Kelly, CSS Vocational Training Supervisor II/ Mall Supervisor, welcomed the honorees and others who had gathered to show their support. Certificates of Appreciation, along with special gifts were presented by vocational supervisors from the Suntown Mall which includes the Suntown Bank, Coffee Shop, Sunny's Corner Boutique, Clothing Store, Beauty Salon and Post Office, along with supervisors from Supported Employment, Recycling, Manual Skills, Print Shop, Recreation, Ranch, Horticulture, and Volunteer Services.

Congratulations to Tonya Kelly and her staff for creating this beautiful event for Sunland residents! Thank you for leading the way to demonstrate the joy that is found in celebrating the successes of others!

"Most importantly, we learned the satisfaction of our own success does not compare to the joy of making another person successful!" ~ Randy Lewis

2nd Annual Residential Staff Appreciation Day



Sunland Welcomes Superintendent Marguerite Morgan

On Friday, March 8, the staff and residents of Sunland Center extended a warm welcome to incoming Superintendent, Marguerite Morgan. Her day began with a morning meeting and reception, hosted by the Sunland Leadership Team. Later in the day, staff gathered for a Town Meeting where they had an opportunity to meet Ms. Morgan personally. Joining Ms. Morgan were APD Deputy Director of Operations, Tom Rankin, who served as Interim Superintendent prior to her arrival, along with APD Deputy Director of Programs, Tom Rice and APD Facility Liaison Kevin Bailey. On Monday, March 11, Ms. Morgan attended a resident town hall meeting where she greeted residents. Following the meeting, residents gathered to introduce themselves, shake hands or grab a hug. Several residents took time to renew their acquaintance with Ms. Morgan, whom they remembered from Florida State Hospital. Sunland is very pleased to have Ms. Morgan join the team. Her extensive experience in the field of human services, combined with 29 years of proven leadership will be an asset to the residents and staff of Sunland. With great optimism, we look forward to future opportunities and the continued successes Sunland Center has enjoyed for the past 56 years.



From the Superintendent...

Please accept my thanks for the warm welcome from each of you as I begin my new experience with the Sunland community. Your kindness is very much appreciated, and I am looking forward to learning more about our facility, our staff, and those whom we serve.

As we move forward together, I am excited to work side-by-side with our Leadership Team. What each of us does is so important to our residents and their families.

During my 31-year Mental Health career, I've had the pleasure of serving and growing as a senior management team member and am excited about the opportunities to share my experiences, listen and learn from yours, as well as nurturing the relationship with our community partners. See you around the campus, and thanks for all you do!

Much appreciation,

Marguerite

Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent



2019 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day

Each year, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day is held at the Florida Capitol. During this annual event, APD consumers and caregivers gather to bring awareness of developmental disabilities to their Legislators. Following the opening ceremony and lunch, attendees are given the opportunity to go to the House and Senate Office buildings to meet with elected officials and their staff to share information, experiences and personal life stories. At this year's event, Sunland was represented by Ruby P., who resides at Unit 2, Woodridge House. Ms. Ruby was accompanied by LaWanda Calhoun, Human Services Senior Supervisor at Woodridge; Maria Johnson, Sunland's Volunteer Coordinator and Art instructor, who works with Ms. Ruby; Jennie Ann Dean, Resident Advocate and Beth Basford, Communications/Public Relations Coordinator. The group enjoyed participating in the opening rally where they heard from APD Director Barbara Palmer and others from the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, ARC of Florida and the Florida Public Transportation Association. A special treat during lunch in the Capitol Courtyard was live entertainment by Pyramid Studios' rock band, The Electric People. Following lunch, the Sunland group enjoyed a tour of the Capitol and a visit with Senator George Gainer. Upon her arrival, Ms. Ruby was presented with a special pair of socks which she quickly put on and proudly posed for a photo with Senator Gainer. She enjoyed telling Senator Gainer about her exciting day at the Capitol and some of her favorite things about her home at Sunland. Overall, the 2019 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day was another great opportunity for people with developmental disabilities to make their voices heard at the Capitol. APD and Sunland were well represented!



Special Olympics Area Games

After rain put a damper on the County Games in late February, Sunland rolled out a picture perfect day for the 2019 Special Olympics Area Two Summer Games on March 20. Held at Howell Field, the event included approximately 200 athletes from Sunland, Hope School and the Jackson County community.

Opening ceremonies included the Parade of Athletes and the Torch Run, followed by the official welcome and introduction of guests. Sunland Superintendent, Marguerite Morgan greeted the athletes and those in attendance. The ceremonies also included a couple of new twists, including a balloon release in memory of Sunland residents that have passed away during the past year and the late Donna Conrad (Sunland Recreation employee). Each resident's name was read, as well as Mrs. Conrad's name, as the balloons were released into the beautiful blue sky. The other new addition was a cheer for all athletes led by the Hope School Falcon Cheerleaders.

After Opening Ceremonies concluded, events were held in Track & Field, Cycling and Volleyball. Athletes were treated to a hamburger meal for lunch while spectators and many Sunland staff purchased a hamburger meal from "The Mixer" food truck. Proceeds from the meals purchased help to support the culinary arts program at Sunland. A great time was had by all and the folks from Special Olympics expressed their sincere appreciation for all the assistance provided by the administration and staff from Sunland.

Contributed by: Clint Cox



Special Olympics Area Games



Spring Break Fun!

Spring Break at Sunland is always a fun-filled week for residents and staff. Sunland recreation staff do a tremendous job planning exciting activities throughout the week. There is literally something for everyone. This year, residents enjoyed wagon rides, bike rides, leisure center activities, BEAM exercise classes, kite flying, volleyball, arts and crafts, a movie, a concert by "Heyword" a local band, led by former Sunland employee Chris Truette, and an afternoon dance featuring well known local celebrity and beloved friend of Sunland, Mr. Royce Reagan and the Bama Jam Band. What a fun week it was! Special thanks to Clint Cox, Recreation Director and his staff for making the 2019 Spring Break another great event for the community of Sunland!



News from Residential Services

Residents in Unit 1 have enjoyed several celebrations this month. Several were proud to show off their Mardi Gras Masks, which they made themselves!



On March 4, Joe N. of Unit 1, Grant House celebrated his 69th birthday with his family, peers, and several Unit 1 team members at Beef O Brady's in Marianna (pictured right) Everyone would agree, the celebration was a blast. Happy Birthday Joe!



IN LOVING MEMORY

Sunland bids a sad farewell to our beloved Tommy Lee W., who passed away on March 31, 2019. Tommy Lee lived at Sunland since 1967. He was known for his kind heart and friendly disposition. To know him was to love him. He will be deeply missed by our Sunland family.



Teresa Ellis and Renee Perry of Unit 1 Social Services were all smiles when they were surprised with a bouquet of balloons and special goodies for Social Workers Month!

Character Matters...



This month we are exploring the character quality of **Responsibility** and what that looks like in the workplace. People with solid work ethic and character take responsibility for the work they do. They demonstrate a willingness to not only ensure the job is done, but also accept responsibility for the results -- good or bad. They take their assigned duties seriously and go the extra mile to make sure their work is the best that it can be. When you have character and are accountable, you recognize that the quality of your work is also a representation of you. This understanding compels you to be a responsible employee. A responsible employee completes the tasks they are assigned, performs the duties required by their job, and is present for their shift in order to fulfill or further the goals of their employer.

Examples of responsibility on the job include:

- Being present for your entire required shift
- Completing tasks that have been designated to you
- Being consistent in doing the right thing in all aspects pertaining to your job
- Working together with your co-workers towards a common goal for the entire organization

Responsibility at work is important to the success of any organization. Every employee, no matter their position, is equally responsible for contributing to the overall success of the workplace. In order to achieve the goals and mission of the organization, long and short term, it is important that all employees work together and share accountability. Employees who work together towards the same overall goal help their workplace to become more accountable, in turn make the organization more productive and efficient.

Lastly, responsible employees are more engaged and productive. They willingly accept accountability for producing results and continually look for ways in which they can improve their job performance, and the overall success of their organization. When you demonstrate responsibility, you can be assured that you will be a valued employee.

Responsibility

*being dependable in carrying out commitments and duties, and
being accountable for one's words, behavior and actions.*

"Think before you act. Finish what you begin. Take responsibility for yourself."

March Star Awards

Congratulations to Sunland's March Star Award recipients! Honored at the March 26 Star Awards Ceremony were: Bill Gentry of Food Service, Katrena Chaney of Unit 1 Grant House, the 3rd Shift Staff of Unit 1, Security staff Shanta Richardson and Joseph Byler, Tonya Kelly of CSS and the CSS Vocational Trainers. Also recognized was Gerald Howard of Unit 2 Thiel Center for a Lifesavers Award. These employees were recognized for demonstrating a host of positive character qualities, to include: Alertness, Benevolence, Cautiousness, Compassion, Creativity, Decisiveness, Dependability, Enthusiasm, Gratefulness, Initiative, Punctuality, and Responsibility.



GOLD STAR AWARD - BILL GENTRY
 Pictured L-R: Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent, Bill Gentry, Food Service, and DeRon Johnson, Food Service Supervisor



GOLD STAR TEAM AWARD - UNIT 1 3RD SHIFT
 Pictured L-R: Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent, Felicia Smith Unit 1 POA, Sharon Pollock, and Lillie Johnson, HSSS



GOLD STAR AWARD - TONYA KELLY
 Pictured L-R: Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent, Kim Lindahl accepting on behalf of Tonya Kelly, and James Godwin, CSS Director



GOLD STAR TEAM AWARD - SECURITY
 Pictured L-R: Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent, Lisa Sexton presenting on behalf of Security Chief Doug Stone, Joseph Byler and Adrian Abner, Deputy Superintendent.
 Not Pictured: Shanta Richardson



GOLD STAR TEAM AWARD - CSS VOCATIONAL TRAINERS
 Pictured L-R: English Gilbert, Lenny Lindahl, Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent, Kim Lindahl, Beverly Cobb, Melinda Bishop, Tony Speights, Ruthie Moore, Clint Cox and James Godwin, CSS Director

Not Pictured: Tonya Kelly, Paul Gilley, Marilyn McCalister, Earl Mathews, Darius Raines, Chris Kelly, Deron Pittman, Brandon Sims, Michael John Carr, Michele Dickson, Lori Burke, Shannon Stewart, Nikki Spires, Robin Snellgrove, Annette Odom, Jimmy Conrad, Matt Dryden, Jake Wood, Johnny Hodges, Lee Cranford, Chuck Dickson, Maria Johnson



LIFESAVERS AWARD - GERALD HOWARD
 Pictured L-R: Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent, Gerald Howard and Lucious Williams, Unit 2 POA

****Unavailable to attend:** Katrena Chaney, Unit 1 Grant House ~ Gold Star Award Recipient

Florida Commission on the Status of Women

The Florida Commission on the Status of Women hosted the annual LEAD Summit at the Florida Capitol March 20 - 21. The forum, dedicated to educating women about leadership and the legislative process, is filled with networking opportunities and learning about how the real-life legislative process works. This event is one of education and inspiration, providing a unique opportunity to observe the legislative process in action. Representing Sunland Center at this year's summit were Jennie Ann Dean, Resident Advocate and Beth Basford, Communications & Public Relations Coordinator. They were excited about the opportunity to participate in the forum where they met key leaders in Florida government including Lt. Governor Jeanette Nunez, Attorney General Ashley Moody and Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried. They also visited the Supreme Court where they met Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles Canady and toured the Supreme Court. In addition, they met with several legislators and legislative staff, and made many important connections with women from across the State of Florida.



Pictured: Beth Basford and Jennie Ann Dean with Lt. Governor Jeanette Nunez

Looking Ahead...

April Activities

- 4/10 Sunland Volunteer Celebration
- 4/10 Volleyball, 9:00 AM at the Gym
Sonics, Jets, Hope School Falcons
- 4/16 Spring Revival, 6:30 PM at the Sunland Auditorium
- 4/18 Easter Celebration, 3 - 4:00 PM, Kennedy Leisure Center
- 4/26 Thrifty Flea Market, 9:00 AM, Suntown Mall Courtyard

"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; Joni Laramore, Administration; Suzanne Laramore, RN/Nursing-Medical