



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

Sunland Celebrates 4th Annual Art in the Park

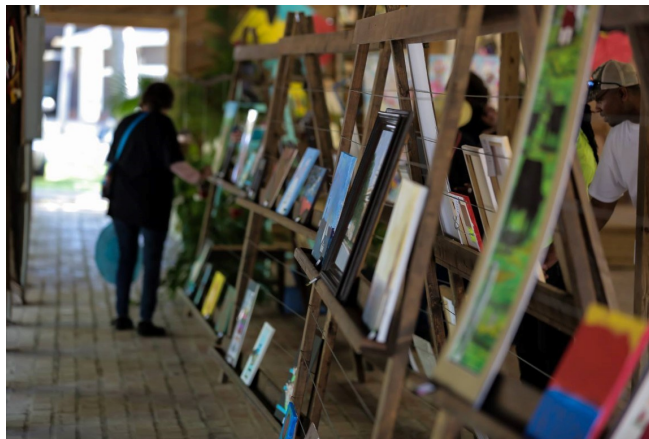
Sunland's 4th Annual Art in the Park was held on Saturday, May 7, and once again was a huge success. The event, held at the Sunland Environmental Park, began at 9 a.m. with an Artists Reception, and was opened to the public from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Several hundred visitors attended the show.

Putting on a show of this magnitude is no easy task. Preparations for Art in the Park begin months in advance, and includes art classes for residents, matting and framing of art, securing entertainment, publicity, and much more. Event Coordinators Maria Johnson and Jennie Ann Dean, work tireless hours in preparation of the big day. Of course, it takes many others to support an event of this magnitude. Annette Odom and Earl Mathews assist with art classes, which residents greatly enjoy. Residents are eager to learn new skills and thrilled to show off their talents the day of the event. Pat Collins can be counted on to come alongside the crew to assist wherever needed. And, many others are there to lend support in set up and clean up, and everything in between. Art in the Park is a strong example of a great team effort!

Sunland's Art in the Park has become a popular springtime event in Jackson County with increased community support each year. If you've not had the pleasure of attending, mark your calendars for next year. Art in the Park takes place the first Saturday of May!



Scenes from 4th Annual Art in the Park



From the Superintendent...

Summer Safety

Summer time creates a wonderful space and time for fun and relaxation. Whether you are indoors or outdoors safety should be paramount. Health Care Division Director Sandra Helms, Medical Executive Director Joseph Sherrel, M.D., and Surgeon General and Secretary of Health Celeste Philip, M.D., M.P.H., encourage everyone to be safe while enjoying the beautiful Florida summer.

According to the experts, here are some reminders to prepare for safe summer days:

Stay cool in the heat: Keep cool and hydrated and minimize time in the sun between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Drink plenty of water, find shade, visit cool buildings, slow down, bathe in cool water and wear light-colored clothing. Never leave children or pets inside a parked vehicle. When the outside air temperature is 23°C/73°F, the temperature inside a vehicle can be extremely dangerous – more than 50°C/122°F.

Wear the right helmet: Wear a helmet when bicycling and skateboarding. The additional cushioning in a helmet could save your life. In bicycle mishaps, the forehead usually makes first contact with the ground. With skateboarding, falls are more common and helmets are specifically designed to protect more of the back of the head. Unlike bicycle helmets, skateboard headgear is also designed to protect against multiple falls, whereas bicycle helmets should be replaced after one crash.

Sound of Thunder: When thunder roars, go indoors: Stay inside for at least 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder. If you can hear thunder, you can get hit by lightning. Take shelter immediately.

Stay safe while camping: If strong winds, hail or a tornado is developing while you are camping in a tent or tent-trailer, move to the closest building or a hard-topped vehicle. Make every effort to get to a shelter.

Avoid the bugs – and their bite: Avoid being outdoors at dawn or dusk, when mosquitoes are most active. Keep in mind that ticks are often found along trail edges, mostly in wooded areas or tall grass. Light-colored clothing is less attractive to mosquitoes and allows you to see ticks more easily. Registered insect repellents containing DEET can be used safely when applied as directed.

Pack an emergency kit: You may have some kit items already, such as a flashlight, a wind-up radio, food, water and a manual can opener. Make sure they are organized and easy to find in case you need to evacuate your home. Make a kit to go in a backpack. Whatever you do, don't wait until a disaster is happening to make a kit. Check out how to put together an emergency kit.

Keep food fresh: Chilling food properly is one of the most effective ways to reduce the risk of food-borne illness. Leftovers should be chilled promptly. Be sure to throw them away if they have been out at room temperature for more than two (2) hours. Keep the fridge at 4°C (40°F) or below and use an appliance thermometer to check the temperature.

Swimming: Never leave a child unattended in water, not even for a second. Pick the best time of the day to swim and avoid swimming at night and in stormy weather.

Stay safe on the roads: Drive carefully and follow the law.

Summer is here! Enjoy and be safe!

Grateful,
Geri Williams
Superintendent

Summer  Safety

Sunland Celebrates Public Service Employee Week!

In observance of national Public Service Employee Week, Sunland Staff Appreciation & Fun Days were celebrated May 9-11. The three-day event kicked off with "Team Spirit Day" on May 9, with staff wearing their favorite Sunland tee shirts, or sports team apparel. In the afternoon hours, staff gathered for the annual basketball shoot-out. Congratulations to Jeffrey Bowers from Unit 1 who took 1st Place in the combined Free Throw and 3-Point categories. Coming in 2nd Place was Bruce Jackson from Pathways, and 3rd Place was tied with Israel Davis from CSS and George Rivers from Pathways. On May 10, the Center looked as though the hands of time had been turned back. Staff enjoyed showing off their favorite threads from days gone by in what was dubbed as "Favorite Era Day." A number of people participated in the Cornhole Tournament, with the following emerging as winners: 1st Place - Nikki Spires and Jake Woods (CSS) who won both games in the Championship Round to finish the tournament 4-0! Landing at 2nd Place were Tracy Swint and Gloria Jackson (Unit 2/Unit 3). This team went 1-1 in the Championship Round to finish the tournament 3-1. Coming in at 3rd Place were James Rhynes and Larry Gray (Pathways). They went 0-2 in the Championship Round to finish the tournament 2-2. May 11 was "Crazy Hat & Crazy Socks Day" and the much anticipated annual Volleyball Tournament. Congratulations to Pathways who took 1st Place, followed by CSS (Centralized Support Services) coming in at 2nd Place, and Unit 3 who came in 3rd Place.

To round out the week, the "Spirit of Sunland" traveling trophy was awarded to the department with the highest percentage of participation in Sunland Fun Days activities, as well as participation in Sunland's Star Award Program during FY 17/18. It was a close race this year! Emerging as the winner for 2018 was Centralized Support Services who proudly held on to the trophy again this year. Coming in a very close 2nd Place was Unit 2, with Unit 3 placing 3rd. Congratulations to our winners, and thank you all for displaying amazing team spirit! Much appreciation to everyone who participated in our 2018 Fun Days activities. It was a great time to enjoy the company of one another and to build our team spirit. There is a well known acronym for **TEAM** ~ **T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore! That is certainly true at Sunland. We are many, but most importantly, we are **ONE Amazing Team!**

together everyone
TEAM
achieves more



2018 **STAFF FUNDAYS** Team Spirit Day!



2018 STAFF FUNDAYS Favorite Era Day!



STAFF FUNDAYS Crazy Hat & Socks Day!

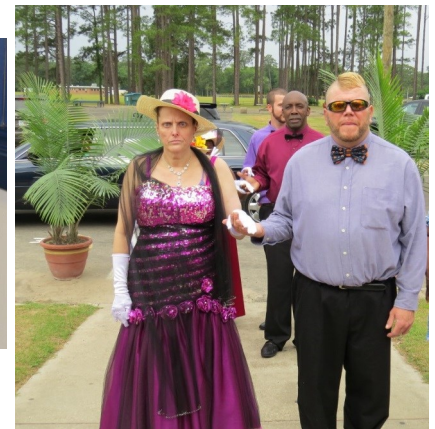


2018 STAFF FUNDAYS Sports & Activities!



A Royal Affair Ladies Tea

On May 16, several ladies from Sunland Center were treated to a special afternoon tea hosted by the Suntown Mall. The ladies, dressed in lovely gowns, hats and gloves, enjoyed limousine rides to the Mall where they were greeted by handsome ushers clad in bow ties waiting to escort them in. Beautifully appointed tables, an assortment of delectable cookies and hot tea awaited the guests of honor. As the event concluded, Superintendent Geri Williams offered closing remarks, and led those in attendance in a serenade of "You Are So Beautiful." It was a touching moment for all and most certainly, it was indeed a royal affair to remember.



Residential Services



Unit 1 - Mr. Frank B. and Mr. Shawn W. celebrated their birthday's during the month of May with peers from their Group Therapy Session. The seven member group enjoyed a birthday party with pizza, garden salad, apple juice and sherbet for dessert. Everyone had a great time at the party, which was held pool side at the Gym.

Contributed by: Renee Perry

Unit 2 - The month of May was filled with activities for our residents. On May 7, Unit 2 Social Workers Erica McKinney, Aleshia Holland, and Tracy Swint coordinated a special project for residents wishing to craft a personalized Mother's Day card for their mothers. Each resident created a flower on the front of the card utilizing ink and their own fingerprints. We are certain the cards brought great joy on Mother's Day for their loved ones.

Residents also had a wonderful time preparing our project for Sunland's annual "Art in the Park." We held several classes in order to craft our upcycled wooden ladder plant holders. We painted ladders, terracotta pots, birdhouses, and potted plants to create two beautiful botanical exhibits for the show. Also, in a separate project, the Thiel Center created a Blooming Basket of Flowers from pinecones that took "Best of Show" top honors. We are proud of the creative handiwork of all our residents!

Lenora Edwards, HSSS at Thiel Center, recently took on a landscape project to improve aesthetics around the home. Great job Lenora! The grounds are beautiful!



Contributed by: Tambra Cabrera

Spring Concert Rocks the House!

The Unit 3 Monroe Activity Center hosted their annual Spring Concert on May 16 at Sunland's Culinary Mixer. Beautiful spring decorations created a welcoming atmosphere for those in attendance. The theme "More than Music, It's an Experience" rang true as the variety of performers delighted the crowd with music and dance. Mr. James Godwin served as Master of Ceremonies, with Kit Reagan as DJ. Featured performers included: Ralph Barwick, Leola Ming, Latia Bass, Shirley H., and Rima Kalonda. Special guest performers were Arnaldo M., and Ronny B., followed by the Sunland Swingers Square Dance Team. Refreshments were served by the Culinary Mixer students. Following the entertainment, guests enjoyed a time of fellowship and dancing. A special thanks to everyone who provided support for this event. It was quite an experience!



Jackson County School at Sunland

In observance of National Teacher Appreciation Week, the teachers and paraprofessional staff of the JCS Program at Sunland were honored with an ice cream social on Thursday, May 10. The event was hosted by James Godwin, Director of Centralized Support Services and his staff, on behalf of Superintendent Geri Williams and Deputy Superintendent Adrian Abner. Mr. Godwin stated "I know teachers care about their students, but I truly believe the bond that the teachers have formed in our student's lives over the years is special. Week after week we hear encouraging comments, and I hear many sharing humorous anecdotes. A big thanks to each of you for the role that you have played in every achievement they've made. Teaching the students to have confidence and to believe in themselves has proven to be invaluable. Thanks again for all that each of you do for our students!"



The valuable work the JCS team does each day at Sunland cannot be measured. They go the extra mile to connect with and meet the needs of their students. Most importantly, they always create a warm and welcoming environment which encourages students' opportunities to learn and grow. Sunland honors JCS Principal Laurie Hamilton, the teachers and paraprofessionals for their dedication and commitment to providing quality educational programming



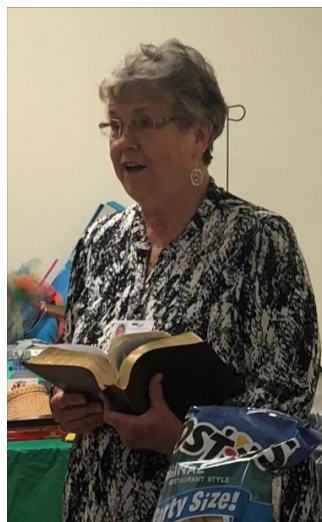
The last day of school was a special day for Jennifer Grantham's class. They enjoyed an outdoor education day making bird feeders constructed with cardboard tubes, peanut butter and bird seed. If you look closely, you can see the feeders hanging in the tree in the photo above. Taking the classroom outdoors was a fun experience for everyone ~ especially the birds!



Nurse's Week Celebration!

Nurse's Week 2018 was a week of great surprises and much appreciation. Nursing leadership sponsored a nurse's week celebration full of fun and fellowship. Back by popular demand was our Taco Tuesday lunch. The nurses enjoyed a taco bar, margaritas (*non-alcoholic, of course*), prizes, and laughter. There are so many staff to thank for their kind words and acts of kindness throughout the week: Chaplin Ruthie Moore performed a touching and emotional blessing of the hands. Superintendent Geri Williams and Deputy Superintendent Adrian Abner came by to wish us a Happy Nurses Week. Danielle Moss, SRNS sponsored a "breakfast basket" for third shift which was thoroughly enjoyed. Unit 2 administration provided a "yummy dessert treat" to celebrate nurses week. Harold Parker and Greg Poythress gave the gift of a lovely sheet cake. Randall Wynn baked us an awesome lemon pound cake, which was delicious. Unit 1 Administration, led by Felicia Smith, dropped by with Krispy Kreme donuts in appreciation of our Unit 1 nurses. Dr. Arunakul sponsored a catered lunch on Thursday, followed by door prizes sponsored by Sandy Helms, Health Care Division Director. And, Grant House gifted us with a beautiful and delicious cake for the nurses to enjoy.

The Sunland Nursing Department strives daily to provide quality nursing care to our residents and we are so grateful to be a part of the Sunland family.



Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program

DDDP celebrated National Nurses week May 6 through May 12. The national theme for Nurses Week was "Nurses: Inspire, Innovate, Influence." The DDDP nursing team was rewarded throughout the week with various healthy, and not so healthy, treats and snacks to show recognition and appreciation for their outstanding dedication and work performance. On May 10, a special luncheon was hosted for the nursing team. During lunch, each nurse was individually recognized and presented with a certificate of appreciation. A special thanks to Christina Elliott, Kim Finch, and Tammy Cloud for their assistance!

Pictured below are: Back row - Carlos Ardila, Terri Hatton, Brian Eldridge, Bob Owings

Front row – Bonnie Hall, Doris Speights, Jackie Raines, Michelle Sapp, Tiffany Porter
Sitting – Pam Cook

Not Pictured – Stephanie Sikes, Vanessa Perkins, Marlon Williams, Julie Kressman, Sheri Hall, Lynda Clenney, Brenda Lawson, Julie McKinney, Vickie Parris, James Poole, Gloria Grooms, Jessie Smith, Chris Burch, and Richard Cook



Contributed by: Richard Cook

Pathways

After several weeks of hard work, the dining hall at Pathways has been transformed into “The Gathering Place,” a bright, clean, restaurant style atmosphere where residents can come together and enjoy meals. Much appreciation to everyone that helped make this happen. Special thanks to the Pathways Vocational staff and all the residents for waxing the floors and painting; Manual Skills for making the pallet pictures; and Maintenance for installing tables and pictures. Pictured below are the before and after photos of the newly renovated residential dining space. We are very proud of our new dining area!



Contributed by: Juanita Alford

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity's National "Women Build Week" is an annual, week-long event created by Habitat's Women Build program in partnership with Lowe's. The program invites women to devote at least one day to help families build strength, stability and independence through housing. The week is meant to spotlight the homeownership challenges faced by women. Jackson County is blessed with women who love to volunteer and give back to this community; several of them are part of our Sunland family!

This year, the Jackson County Habitat for Humanity selected Sunland 's own Shanita Lewis, as the recipient of a new home. During this build, Shanita put in a lot of "sweat equity," working countless hours alongside volunteers, and during Women Build week. Congratulations Shanita! We are so proud for you!



Character Matters...



Creativity ~ the practice of approaching a need, task or idea from a new perspective. When staff are empowered to explore creativity, the result is often better teamwork and team bonding, along with increased workplace problem solving and productivity. Creativity produces inspiration, vision, ideas, brainstorming, mindfulness, imagination, innovation, motivation, and knowledge.

CREATIVITY

Approaching a need, task or idea from a new perspective.

ENTHUSIASM

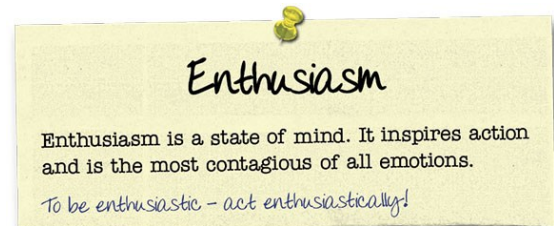
Expressing joy in each task while giving your best effort.

Enthusiasm ~ the practice of expressing joy in each task while giving your best effort. Overall, an employee with enthusiasm is recognized as someone who wants to be at work and who is willing to do what it takes to get the job done. Surround yourself with enthusiastic people because enthusiasm really is contagious. When you feed off other people's positive energy, great things will happen. Enthusiastic people work with passion. They are far more willing to give their best at work than those who just work to get things done. They feel good and proud about going the extra mile, and work wholeheartedly whatever their task may be.

Practice enthusiasm by:

- ✓ Being excited about life
- ✓ Doing things wholeheartedly
- ✓ Being inspired by simple things
- ✓ Putting love and joy into what you do
- ✓ Smiling, laughing and having a good sense of humor
- ✓ Having a positive spirit.

"You can do anything if you have enthusiasm!"
~ Henry Ford



Creativity & Enthusiasm - two important character traits. Let's aspire to attain them!

May Star Awards



Gold Star Employee - Sharon Spear, Food Service
 Pictured: Amy Mincy on behalf of Sharon Spear, with Adrian Abner



Gold Star Team - CSS Mixer Express Team
 Pictured: Adrian Abner, Lori Burke, Kim Lindhal, Nikki Spires, Tonya Kelly, Michael John Carr, Donald Rehburg, James Godwin
 Not Pictured: DeRon Johnson, Tony Speights, Beverly Cobb



Gold Star Team - "Art in the Park" Team
 Pictured: Annette Odom, Maria Johnson, Jennie Ann Dean, Earl Mathews, Adrian Abner

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month, a time to raise awareness about communication disorders and available treatment options that can improve the quality of life for those who experience problems with speaking, understanding, or hearing. At Sunland, we are blessed with two wonderful Speech Pathologists, Kim Atkinson and Jessica Callahan. We appreciate your hard work and dedication to Sunland and the individuals we are privileged to serve!



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



Janet McDonald
Jonathan Tibeau
James Rahill
Ian Donaldson

Tiffany Shoun
William Pierce
Patrick Parker
Hannah Pearson
Robert Summers

Welcome Aboard!



agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida

Project Sunland PRIDE



Beautification Program!

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN A DESIRABLE ENVIRONMENT

"Community Spotlight of the Month"



Oaks at the Chapel

"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