



# The Sunland Beacon

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## 40th Annual Sunland Fall Festival a Great Success!

Despite a major set-back from Hurricane Michael in 2018 and the threat of rain on Saturday, October 26, 2019, the 40th Annual Sunland Fall Festival went off without a hitch! An estimated crowd of approximately 2,500 visitors from Jackson County and surrounding communities came out in a strong show of support for Sunland Center, proving that the Sunland Fall Festival continues to be one of the premier events for Jackson County!

In keeping with tradition, the event began with the opening parade, which sported more than 50 entries. It was quite entertaining to watch children (and lots of adults, too) scrambling to catch the candy being thrown. Leading off the parade and throwing enough candy to fill the pockets of everyone there were Sunland Superintendent Marguerite Morgan and her entourage to include APD Deputy Director Tom Rice, APD Assistant Program Director of Programs Kevin Bailey, Sunland Deputy Superintendent Adrian Abner, DDDP Superintendent Kim Barnes, and Tacachale Administrator Michael Mayfield, along with Sue Holland and Holli Rutledge from Tacachale.

This year's festival was held at the Center's sports complex which turned out to be the perfect location for pedestrians, wheelchairs, and strollers. A total of 85 vendors were set up around and inside the track, making it very accessible for everyone. As always, festival attendees enjoyed a wide assortment of craft vendors, festival foods, live entertainment, and children's activities.

Special thanks to event coordinator, James Godwin, the Fall Festival Committee and all others who had a hand in making this Fall Festival such a huge success! You did a wonderful job and it was worth the effort!

## Scenes from Fall Festival!



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## From the Superintendent...

When October returned, it brought the anniversary of Hurricane Michael. The Category 5 landfall forever changed our surroundings and many struggles continue as we rebuild our campus and nearby communities each day. With each week comes progress and new steps toward new beginnings.

Although we lost hundreds of trees throughout our Center, I have been appreciative of the gigantic spirit of Sunland staff and residents. Roofs are currently being repaired, and we anticipate the replacement of awnings soon. The ceremonial planting of pecan trees this month signified the rebirth of our Sunland community and all that it affords those who live and work here.

The spirit of Sunland is alive and well, as was evidenced by the restoration of the annual Fall Festival. The Festival planning group, led by James Godwin, Director of Central Support Services, spent countless hours planning and executing hundreds of tasks in preparation of, during, and following this spectacular event. It was a wonderful experience to share our Center with the local community. Fall is here and with it comes progress!

See you around campus!

*Marguerite*

Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent



## Hurricane Michael Recovery Celebration

On Thursday, October 10, residents and staff at Sunland assembled at the Center's pecan orchard for a Hurricane Michael recovery celebration and tree planting ceremony. It was a beautiful day for the Sunland family to gather outside and enjoy a few moments of reflection and gratitude for all the Center has overcome this past year. During the ceremony, it was noted Sunland had lost over 1000 trees due to storm damage. The planting of two new pecan trees was a beautiful, symbolic gesture to acknowledge the Center's resolve for continued growth and restoration.

On hand to assist Superintendent Marguerite Morgan during the ceremony were Maria Johnson, Volunteer Coordinator who read a poem and Greg Roberts, Social Services Manager who provided timely words of encouragement and inspiration. Greg also shared personal observations during and after the storm and talked about how faith played an important role in the recovery process for many people. Unit 1 resident David R. led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance and later joined residents Sherman T., Cheryl D., and Brian B. as they assisted Superintendent Morgan in planting the pecan trees. Following the planting of the trees, residents and staff took part in scattering seeds to feed the birds and squirrels that thrive in this beautiful landscape. As the community of Sunland witnessed on this special day, blessings and hope abound!



## Fun Times at the "Fall Fiesta Street Fair"

Sunland residents and staff enjoyed an afternoon of fun and games at the Center's first-ever "Fall Fiesta Street Fair." The event was held on Friday, October 4 and was a day that will not soon be forgotten. Special thanks to the staff of Centralized Support Services and the Maintenance Department for making this happen. Also, a special thanks to Friends of Sunland, Inc., who donated the plywood used to build new booths for resident events, such as the street fair. Pictured below are some of the many exciting activities that were held during the Fall Fiesta. Friends of Sunland President Judy Stanton poses by the "Go Fish" game booth, which is one of the resident's favorite games.



## Pumpkins on Parade

This year's annual "Pumpkins on Parade" decorating contest was held on Tuesday October 22, at the Suntown Mall. Residents put a lot of effort and creativity into decorating their pumpkins. A total of 60 decorated pumpkins were entered into the contest. The beautifully decorated pumpkins were displayed at the Suntown Mall from October 22 through October 25 for all to see. The pumpkins were then displayed as decoration at the Sunland Front Entrance and at the Fall Festival.

A big thank you and congratulations goes out to all participants, and a very special thank you to this year's judges; Velena Alexander, CEO Jackson County Teachers Credit Union, Chephus Granberry – Business Owner and Christy Blochel – Jackson County Teachers Credit Union. Congratulations to all of our WINNERS! Unit 1: 1st Place Marie M.; 2nd Place Cheryl T.; 3rd Place William O.; Unit 2: 1st Place Adam B.; 2nd Place David F.; 3rd Place Albert Y.; Unit 3: 1st Place Claire W; 2nd Place Eddie C.; 3rd Place Tevin H.; and Pathways: 1st Place Gary T.; 2nd Place Marcus H.; 3rd Place Brian L. The "Best of Show" award went to the "A & W Rootbeer" pumpkin created by Jeffrey B. from Unit 1.

Contributed by: Beverly Cobb







**GRAND CHAMPION!**  
Delilah L. - East Washington

# Fall Festival Poster Contest

The annual Fall Festival Poster Contest, coordinated by Education Supervisor Christy Hatcher was a fun and very successful activity for the residents at Sunland. A total of 51 posters were entered from all three residential units and Pathways. Congratulations to the **Grand Champion Winner, Delilah L., of Unit 3 East Washington!** Also, a huge shout out to the following residents who won 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place honors:

## 1st Place

- George J. - Unit 1 Adams House
- Tommy M. - Unit 2 Thiel Center
- Eugene F. - Unit 3 Connally Manor
- Bryan L. - Pathways

## 2nd Place

- Keith B. - Unit 1 Harrison House
- Adam B. - Unit 1 Lincoln House
- Joyce K. - Unit 3 East Washington
- Gary T. - Pathways

## 3rd Place

- Roland G. - Unit 1 Grant House
- Linda R. - Unit 2 Thiel Center
- Laura D. - Unit 3 East Washington
- Kent B. - Pathways



Unit 1 Posters



Unit 2 Posters



Unit 3 Posters



Pathways Posters

## Annual Scarecrow Row Contest a Hit!

Sunland's annual "Scarecrow Row" contest was a hit once again this year with plenty of scarecrows competing for the new and much coveted "Grand Champion" traveling trophy! A total of 16 scarecrows were entered this year and the competition was tough. Thanks to everyone who participated and much appreciation for the time and effort placed into building your scarecrows. They were all fabulous! Top honors for the Grand Champion went to the Maintenance/Operations department for their "tin man" scarecrow. The neat thing about this scarecrow, built by Chris Searcy, is that it was fashioned from recyclable materials which will later be utilized for maintenance projects around the campus! Honors for 1st Place went to Unit 3 East Washington. Winning 2nd Place was Administration and coming in at 3rd Place was CSS/The Hub. All others received Honorable Mention certificates. A special thanks to the judges for this year's event: Amber Baggett, Florida State Court System; Jennifer Griffin, Covenant Hospice; and Jeanne Davis, Jackson County Fire Chief's Office.

Scarecrows were utilized at the Front Entrance and at the festival grounds so the public could enjoy them during Fall Festival. If you missed seeing them, be on the lookout around campus...you'll see them decorating the grounds during the month of November!



Pictured above left and center: Judges Amber Baggett, Jennifer Griffin, and Jeanne Davis carefully observed all the scarecrows before making their final decisions on the winners. They took a moment to pose with the Maintenance Department's Grand Champion Scarecrow.

Chris Searcy poses with his tin man Grand Champion Scarecrow!



1st Place Winner, Unit 3 East Washington, represented by Shelby Morris, Laura D., Shelina Bryant and Dollette Everett

2nd Place Winner: Administration, represented by Kendra Weeks, Peggy Baker and Lynn Kern

3rd Place Winner: CSS/Hub Represented by Maria Johnson

## Halloween Fun at Sunland!

One of the most anticipated and fun months at Sunland is October. In addition to Fall Festival and all of the contests and activities, there's Halloween. Residents and staff look forward to dressing up, eating way too much candy, and socializing at the annual Halloween Dance. It's a "frightfully fun" time of year! Pictured below are some scenes from Halloween 2019 at Sunland. Do you recognize any of these goblins, hooligans and tricksters?



## Unit 2 Hosts Annual Cancer Awareness Program

Unit 2 hosted their annual Cancer Awareness program on October 22. The program was beautifully presented and highlighted the importance of cancer screenings. Current and former employees and residents were honored, paying tribute to those who have fought, or are fighting their battle against this horrible disease. Program organizer, Tammi Garrett, Unit 2 Social Services Manager stated *"I just want to take the time to thank every resident and every staff who supported this year's program. Whether by participation in the program or behind the scenes, or just coming and watching and sending your well wishes. Your time was greatly appreciated and did not go unnoticed. The turnout was great and the pink was overflowing from all areas of Sunland! I hope everyone was able to take something away from the program. We wanted it to be educational and heartfelt. We wanted residents and staff to know that we stand with them in their fight, as some fight silently."*

Ms. Garrett extends special thanks to Superintendent Marguerite Morgan, Unit 2 POA Lucious Williams and the Sunland Executive Leadership Team for supporting this event and encouraging support from their areas as well.

Special thanks to program participants (residents and staff) who bravely blessed the stage with their talents: Residents - Lincoln ML, Woodridge JMW, Pierce SMD and East Truman AM; Staff - Kim Johnson, Kimberly Peterson, DeRon Johnson, Whitney Merritt, Kendrick Gardner, James Rhynes, Sandra Helms, Jasma Black, Lucious Williams; Parent - JoAnn Davis (ML's mom). Also, much appreciation to residents and staff who assisted behind the scenes: Residents - Unit 2 Resident Government HJ, JT, KC; Staff - Stacey Reed, Lincoln Therrien, Tammy Beavers, Teresa Burden, Marilyn Pierce, John Coady, Rosalind Horne, Eddie Snell, Rick T, Tambra Cabrera, Shanita Lewis, Deaundra Jackson, Nikki Spires, Allyson Staley, Alesia Holland, Stephanie Parker, Beth Basford, Michelle Dickson, James Godwin, Mattie Hayes, Phil Anderson, Kit Reagan and LaTonya Libert. Thanks again, everyone!



*Strength  
Courage  
Hope*

## CSS Staff Appreciation Picnic

The staff of Centralized Support Services were treated to a special picnic luncheon on Friday, October 25. Everyone enjoyed a meal of fried/barbeque wings, baked beans, potato salad and assorted desserts. Prior to the meal, James Godwin, Jr., Director of CSS expressed his appreciation to the staff for their dedication and service to CSS and the residents of Sunland Center.



## News from the JCS Program



There is always something exciting happening at the Jackson County School (JCS) Program at Sunland. Students enjoy extra attention, special outings, classroom projects and special visitors. One thing is certain, there is never a dull moment at JCS!



# Character Matters...



## Hospitality at Work?

Have you ever considered the character trait of "Hospitality?" You may ask...what exactly is hospitality and what does that look like in the workplace? Good questions! Merriam Webster's Dictionary defines hospitality as, "*generous and friendly treatment of visitors and guests or hospitable treatment.*" Dictionary.com goes further to define it as "*the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers.*"

That is something Sunland does very well! The annual Sunland Fall Festival is a great example of hospitality at its very finest! Sunland staff know what it takes to welcome the public into this wonderful community. Months and months of preparation go into planning *every.single.detail.* and the end result is perfect team work! Planning for an event of this magnitude is no small task, yet Sunland staff are eager to step up, show up and show out! The day of Fall Festival, it is automatic...staff engage their customer service skills, communication skills, multi-tasking skills, team work skills, professionalism and strong work ethic. It's just who we are!

By definition, Sunland Center really should pop up when you "google" the word hospitality. We welcome people here. We are committed to being a welcoming community. With this welcoming mentality, we demonstrate attentiveness, courtesy, helpfulness, graciousness and friendliness. That's just what we do here...it's what Sunland is all about.

Following this year's Fall Festival, Sunland received many, many expressions of appreciation for the genuine kindness and helpfulness of our staff. And you know what? We were not surprised! That's who you are, Sunland Family! You are good people! You are kind, courteous, gracious to our visitors and all around, just plain hospitable! So hat's off to you! You deserve a round of applause and you are greatly appreciated!



# October Star Awards

Congratulations to the recipients of Star Awards for the month of October! The following areas received Star Team Awards:

AWARD	EMPLOYEE NAME/TEAM NAMES	CHARACTER QUALITIES
GOLD	Outpatient Clinic – Kay Baxter, Priscilla Shivers, Tamie Gentry, Suzanne Laramore, Kayla Gay, Jessica Carter	Availability, Creativity, Determination
GOLD	CSS & Maintenance Departments	Availability, Creativity, Enthusiasm
GOLD	Maria Johnson, CSS/Volunteer Services	Attentiveness, Creativity, Joyfulness
GOLD	Olly Quick, Unit 2 Woodridge	Attentiveness, Availability, Dependability
SILVER	Angela Goldwire, Unit 1 Administration	Availability, Dependability, Flexibility



**GOLD STAR TEAM AWARD  
OUTPATIENT CLINIC**

Pictured L-R: Priscilla Shivers, Tammie Gentry, Kay Baxter, Jessica Carter and Teresa Landau for Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent



**GOLD STAR TEAM AWARD  
CSS/ MAINTENANCE / OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT**

Pictured L-R: Clint Cox, Allen Ward, Clay Mitchell, Chris Searcy, Teresa Landau for Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent, Donald Rehberg, Kandis Smith, Robin Snellgrove, Tony Speights, Ron Tissue, Darius Raines, Raquel Dunston, Kim Lindahl, Melinda Bishop, Tonya Kelly and Beverly Cobb



**GOLD STAR AWARD  
MARIA JOHNSON - CSS/VOLUNTEER SVCS**

Pictured L-R: Clint Cox, Ruthie Moore for Maria Johnson, Teresa Landau for Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent



**GOLD STAR AWARD  
OLLY QUICK - UNIT 2/WOODRIDGE**

Pictured L-R: Phil Anderson, Heather Poythress for Olly Quick, Teresa Landau for Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent



**SILVER STAR AWARD  
ANGELIA GOLDWIRE - UNIT 1 ADMINISTRATION**

Pictured L-R: Sharon Elmore, Angelia Goldwire and Teresa Landau for Superintendent Marguerite Morgan



## Sunland Food Drive Extended for Chipola Family Ministries

Due to a great response, Chaplain Ruthie Moore and the FUEL Team are extending their food drive! Chaplain Ruthie reports the team is receiving a good amount of non-perishable food that will be presented to Chipola Family Ministries. This organization provides food to individuals and families in need.

You may bring your food donations to the Chaplain's Office at the Habile Building through Monday, November 18. On Tuesday, November 19, Chaplain Ruthie and the FUEL Team will proudly present Sunland's generous gift of food to Director Fred Cook and the staff at Chipola Family Ministries.

## 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

Susan Miller  
Landre Powell  
Arionna Johnson  
Whitney Cooper  
Robert Chambliss  
Tara Hanley  
Jacqueline Hunter  
Carolyn Smith-Simpson  
Brittany Chapman  
Raegan Gay

Welcome  
Aboard!