

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

agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida



Sunland Celebrates Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month!

Chance meetings with Governor Rick Scott and Senator George Gainer were the highlight of the day for Sunland residents Michele B. and Ruby P. who attended Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day at the Florida Capitol on March 21. Michele and Ruby participate in the Sunland Resident Government Council; Michele as the President and Ruby as a member-at-large. Upon meeting Governor Scott and Senator Gainer, they eagerly expressed their appreciation for the State's ongoing support of Sunland Center and those who reside and work here. The annual Developmental Disabilities Day celebration is sponsored by the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council and The ARC of Florida, and helps heighten public awareness about the issues that affect people with disabilities. This year's event emphasized the importance of state funding to help support Floridians with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Participants were afforded opportunities to attend the press conference, enjoy lunch at the Senate Portico, visit exhibitors on the second floor rotunda in the Capitol and meet with their Legislators. Sunland Center applauds event organizers for their commitment and support of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities!



City of Marianna Proclaims March 23 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day



City of Marianna, Florida ~PROCLAMATION~

WHEREAS, the City is involved in advocating for programs that promote positive system changes and that allow persons with developmental disabilities to achieve optimum independence and to promote innovative programs and practices that improve the quality of life for these individuals; and

WHEREAS, the City, encourages all Florida citizens to actively participate in events that appropriately recognize and celebrate Florida's diverse population, including persons with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day" in Marianna, FL has been established to promote awareness and understanding of the opportunities, challenges and needs of persons with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day" also recognizes Florida's public policy accomplishments concerning persons with disabilities, as well as identifying the improvements to public policy that are needed to ensure that all of Florida's citizens with developmental disabilities have the capacity to lead full, productive and engaged lives; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate that local communities in Florida such as the City of Marianna support the mission and purpose of "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day" and encourage their citizens to recognize and respect this important commemoration;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the City of Marianna, Florida recognizes that March 23, 2017 be:

"DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS DAY"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Marianna to be affixed the 11th day of January in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Seventeen.

CITY OF MARIANNA, FLORIDA

ALLEN WARD, II., Mayor

ATTEST:

KIMBERLY J. APPLEWHITE, City Clerk

In honor of citizens with developmental disabilities, the City of Marianna proclaimed March 23 as "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day." City Mayor, Allen Ward presented Sunland with the signed proclamation and expressed the City's appreciation to the Center for its ongoing commitment to quality services and care. Pictured with Mayor Ward are Ruby P. and Henry P. who were happy to receive the proclamation on behalf of Sunland.



Spring Break Week Fishing Rodeo!

During Spring Break Week, Centralized Support Services hosted three days of fishing at the Environmental Park. Unit 3 fished on Tuesday while Unit 1 wet their hooks on Wednesday. On Thursday, Pathways took to the pond in the morning and Unit 2 fished after lunch. The weather was great and everyone seemed to have a great time enjoying the outdoors. Even the fish couldn't complain too much as they were fed well for three straight days in this "catch and release" activity. Thanks to all the CSS staff as well as the Unit staff for making this a great Spring Break activity.

Contributed by: Clint Cox



SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

O' Beautiful!



Ruby P. and Michele B. enjoyed visiting with APD Chief of Staff Karen Hagan, (left) and APD Director Barbara Palmer (center), during the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day event at the Florida Capitol.



All, Smiles!

A Snapshot: With a great supporting team, these beautiful ladies enthusiastically prepared for a great day at the Capitol. Like most of us carefully deciding what to wear, where to eat, what to say and to whom. Anticipated chance meetings met reality and these ladies were all smiles. They shared that they greeted Governor Scott, Senator Gainer, Legislative Assistant Rhonda Thomas, Director Barbara Palmer, APD Chief of Staff Karen Hagan, Disability Rights Florida Representative Patty Houghland, Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc. Member Dick Bradley, Family Care Council Representative Pauline Lipps, and so many new friends. Special thanks to: Unit 2 Staff, Resident Advocate Jennie Dean, Volunteer Services Coordinator Maria Johnson, and Communications Coordinator Beth Basford. Ruby and Michele – you represented us well! We are very proud of you!

Special thanks to The ARC of Florida and Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc. for sponsoring this important event.

Much Appreciation,
Geri Williams
Superintendent



Sunland Hosts Special Olympic County Games

On a very cold and a very windy Wednesday, Sunland Marianna played host to the 2017 Special Olympics County Summer Games. Held March 15 at Howell Field, the event included over 200 athletes from Sunland, Hope School and the Jackson County community. Opening ceremonies included the Parade of Athletes, the Torch Run as well as comments from Geri Williams, Sunland Superintendent, Tim Baggett, Jackson County School at Sunland Administrator and Cindy Blackmon, Special Olympics Jackson County Director. Also braving the wind to support the athletes were: Chief Hayes Baggett, Deputy Superintendent Reed and members of the local School Board.

After Opening Ceremonies concluded, events were held in Track and 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." Proceeds from the meals purchased from "The Mixer" will help support the newly created Culinary Arts program at Sunland.

A great time was had by all and the folks from Jackson County Special Olympics expressed their sincere appreciation for all the assistance provided by the administration and staff from Sunland.



Contributed by: Clint Cox

Sunland Recreational Horse Show a Hit!

March 17 was a beautiful spring morning for the annual Sunland Recreational Horse Show held at Howell Field. A special thanks to Sunland's Ranch staff and Rex Chambliss, Sunland retiree who continues to volunteer with the equestrian program, for coordinating and hosting the event. The large crowd of spectators thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful weather, great horsemanship and plenty of popcorn. Opening ceremonies included the flag presentation by Lynn L. who rode his bike onto the field, complete with two American flags in tow. There was also a fly over during the national anthem by a helicopter from the U.S. Army (*rumored to have been pre-arranged by James Godwin*). At the conclusion of the event, participants and Ranch staff were presented with a \$600 check from the Alabama Junior Rodeo. This generous donation will greatly benefit Sunland's Equestrian Program and is much appreciated.

The annual event serves as a warm up for the upcoming Special Olympics State Equestrian Games and athletes compete in three different events. Results from those events are as follows:

Halter – Group 1: 1st Cheryl D.; 2nd James G.; 3rd Herman J.

Halter – Group 2: 1st Henry P.; 2nd Eddie M.; 3rd Josh B.

Barrels – 1st Benny R., 2nd John H., 3rd Eddie M., 4th Henry P., 5th Floyd N.

Pole Bending – 1st Benny R., 2nd John H., 3rd Eddie M.



Contributed by: Clint Cox

Residential Services

Unit 1 - In the month of March, Unit 1 Administration celebrated Social Worker's Month by treating their social workers to lunch at the Panda Buffet. A special thanks to Greg Roberts, Teresa Ellis and Renee Perry for all you do to support the residents of Unit 1!



Unit 2 - Members of the Unit 2 Resident Government were excited to visit residents in Unit 3, serenading them with popular songs. On March 13, the staff of East Truman House honored one of their employees, Ms. Breeanna Ballard on her birthday. According to staff, Breeanna is a super team player with a positive attitude and kind spirit!



Unit 3 - It's March Madness in Unit 3! March has sure been an eventful month filled with activities ranging from birthday celebrations, to on and off-center outings, St. Patrick's Day parties, and Spring Break activities. During spring break we had plenty of activities for our residents to enjoy such as: glamour day, fishing, arts and crafts, kite flying, storytelling, an ice cream social, and a luau party. We also enjoyed the on center activities provided by CSS. We are already looking forward to April! Our annual Spring Fling will be held on Tuesday, April 18 and is sure to be an exciting event. We look forward to seeing everyone there! Happy Spring from Unit 3!

Article & Photo Contributions by: Renee Perry, Unit 1; Lawanda Calhoun, Unit 2 & Allison Jones, Unit 3

Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program

Residents and staff of DDDP made the trip to the Museum of Florida History in Tallahassee on Wednesday, March 22. This was DDDP's first trip to the museum and the residents thoroughly enjoyed the day. Residents had the unique opportunity to learn about Florida's rich history while touring exhibits featuring information and artifacts related to Florida's role in the Civil War, World War II, early colonization in the 16th Century, Native American artifacts, and even antique automobiles. Residents and staff are already looking forward to future field trips to educational sites.



Contributed by: Corey Chafin

April is NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH



Did you know?

Every 20 minutes someone is diagnosed with autism

Autistic individuals (speaking and non-speaking) may use a variety of different and unique ways to communicate

Many individuals on the spectrum stay in school until they are 21.

People with autism have very special gifts and talents!

The Autism Society has a resource for support called Autism Source.
To reach us call: 800-3Autism

#AutismFriendly #NAAM16

AUTISM SOCIETY



The autism awareness ribbon is multicolored, with a puzzle pattern in different shades of red, blue and yellow. The puzzle pattern is meant to reflect the diversity of people and families affected by autism and related disorders.



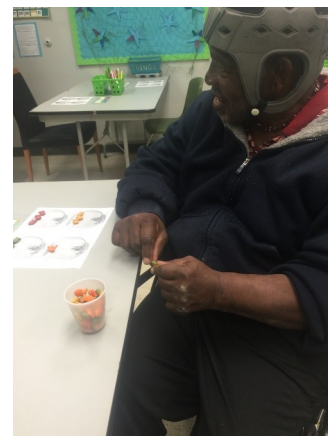
Jackson County School at Sunland

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

The Jackson County School staff congratulate Sunland athletes who participated in the county games on March 15. Although the wind was blustery and the air was crisp, spirits were not dampened and our athletes soared! It was a pleasure to see Sunland residents, Hope School students and others from the community participating with such excitement and enthusiasm. We were also pleased to have four members of the Jackson County School Board in attendance at the opening ceremony. Hats off to Tony Pumphrey, District 2; Stacey Goodson, District 3; Chris Johnson, District 4 and Charlotte Gardner, District 5 for coming out to support the games!



I was recently reminded of some old sayings we were all raised with as spring approaches. "March Winds Blow," and "April Showers Bring May Flowers." The winds certainly blew in March and as I write this at the end of the month, it appears as though the showers are about to begin. Most important to us here at the school, however, is to encourage everyone to "Put a Spring in Your Step!" We have certainly enjoyed the beautiful weather and bright smiles that pass us every day here at Sunland. Remember that one kind word or smile can make some ones day.



Contributed by: Tim Baggett, JCS Administrator

Students in Jennifer Grantham's class enjoyed "Dr. Seuss Day" math/color activities "One Fish, Two Fish, Red" Fish, Blue Fish."

Congratulations March Olympic Medal Star Award Winners!



GOLD Unit 1 Harrison Tracy Swint

GOLD Unit 1 Administration Robin Morris

GOLD Unit 2 Team Hayes Kit Reagan, Jason Huckaby, Rebecca Snyder, Jerry Yon, Terrell Brown, Xavier Perry, Bryan Johnson, Elaine Keen, Joann Williams, Lisa Wilson, Renee Baxter, William Pollock, Keisha Williams, Bobby Lamar, Derit Godwin, Susan Powell, Sharon Dudley, Etta Speights, Delois Holloway, Demontray Edwards

BRONZE Unit 2 Whispering Oaks Barbara Calhoun

SILVER Unit 2 Team Whispering Oaks Jasma Black, Vickie Chambliss, Clarence Coleman, Tammie Garrett, Whitney Merritt, Pam McCuen, James Chaney, Barbara Barnes, Shawn Everett, Taneelia Green, Alyson Staley, Janis Williams, Freddie Staley

SILVER Unit 2 Whispering Oaks Jasma Black

SILVER Unit 3 Administration Tynetta Gainer

SILVER Unit 3 East Washington Dollette Everett

SILVER Unit 3 East Washington Alice Jennings

SILVER Unit 3 Connally Vershawn Perry

SILVER Unit 3 Connally Kelvin Lawson

SILVER Unit 3 East Washington Annie Gammons

SILVER Unit 3 East Washington Eva Brown

SILVER Pathways Lee Florence

SILVER Pathways Aairan Batson

Sunland Center

Olympic Medal Star Awards



Job Fair a Huge Success...Highlights to Follow in April Beacon!

JOB FAIR

IS THIS THE CAREER FOR YOU?

**Department Informational Booths
Tour the campus**

BE PREPARED! Application booths available to apply for open positions. Bring your Work History, Resume, Job Skills and Driver's License.



**Sunland Center Marianna
3700 Williams Drive
Marianna, FL 32446**

Must be an adult 18 years old or older.
If you have issues completing the application please call Sunland H.R. at 482-9230

**THURSDAY
APRIL 6TH
9-2 PM**

CAREERS • BENEFITS • COMMUNITY

HUMAN RESOURCES

Amanda Johnson, HR Manager and her staff, Veronica Mullinax, Lizzie Holland, Nicole Sims and Regina Decker are always happy to serve you!

For more information regarding career opportunities, deferred compensation, retirement or other personnel issues, the 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>



NEW EMPLOYEES

Heather Poythress
Regina Martin
Tracy Nixon
Cora Baker
Latheisha Watts
Rachael Garcia
Cornel Britt
Dr. Krishnakamal Mehta
Tevin Speights
Kadeija Murrell

Latrisha McNealy
Felicia Verdin
Traylon McElvin
Precious Manning
Kandi White
Zina Coleman
Iris Coleman
Elizabeth Atkinson
Latarra Garrett





agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida

Project Sunland PRIDE



Beautification Program!

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN A DESIRABLE ENVIRONMENT

"Community Spotlight of the Month"



"The Sunland Beacon" - Newsletter Committee

Suggestions and/or news article submissions are welcomed; 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