

The Sunland Beach

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

agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida



Celebrating Sunland's 37th Annual Fall Festival

Sunland Center celebrated its 37th Annual Fall Festival Saturday, October 31, and enjoyed a record crowd. One of the largest festivals on record, an estimated 6,000+ visitors from Jackson County and surrounding communities converged at the beautiful Sunland Environmental Park to enjoy the day's festivities. The weather could not have been more perfect with a brisk, cool morning, beautiful blue skies and the warmth of the afternoon sun. Superintendent Geri Williams and the Sunland staff were especially pleased at the turnout. Tom Rankin, Deputy Director of Operations for the Agency for Persons with Disabilities commented, "This crowd is larger than last years. This is fantastic!"

The origins of the festival began 37 years ago as an opportunity to bring Sunland's residents and their families and friends together for a time of fellowship and fun-filled activities. Over the years, the event began to grow, and with support from the local community it has become one of the largest festivals in Jackson County.



Photos courtesy of The Goulding Agency

Sunland Center - Marianna Campus
Developmental Disabilities Center
3700 Williams Drive, Marianna, FL 32446


agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida

Sunland Center - Chattahoochee Campus
Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program
100 N. Main Street, Chattahoochee, FL 32324

Fall Festival Memories



Photos courtesy of The Goulding Agency



Photos Courtesy of The Goulding Agency

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT...

Thanks to all who made Fall Festival 2015 a spectacular event. We certainly hope you enjoyed the festivities. From the art work to the performers to the vendors to parade participants to parents/guardians to visitors to staff to media coverage everything was beautiful. Seemingly, everyone had a great time. Our clients eagerly participated in events and created memorable experiences. This guy also made his debut:



He was everywhere!

Special thanks to Maria Johnson for gracing our t-shirts with this creative design. Ms. Johnson continues to gift Sunland with the most amazing creations. If you were lucky, you may have seen him on Center not just on the t-shirts.

Community events, such as this, have a way of connecting familiar faces with new ones and creating a joyful environment where people of all ages can pause to celebrate.

Much appreciation to all who worked to make this event another meaningful experience. I applaud your commitment to Sunland Center and the individuals we are privileged to serve. Fall Festival 2015 was great because of your contribution! Thank you!

Geri Williams
Until next time,

Geri Williams
Superintendent

Unit 1 Activities

Unit 1 is pleased to report that once again this year, smoked turkey legs were a huge hit at Fall Festival! Thanks to Franklin Williams and the Unit 1 Team for all your hard work to make this a huge success!

FALL FESTIVAL



Events: So far this year, Unit 1 residents have enjoyed six beach trips to Rish Park. The fellowship on these trips has created a wonderful and relaxing get-a-way for everyone. Congratulations to Unit 1 Recreation for doing such an outstanding job in coordinating these mini vacations for our residents.

Unit 1 residents were very excited to participate in the annual Halloween Carnival, Halloween Dance, and Fall Festival. Everyone looks forward to these annual festivities and all the great food and fellowship with friends and family.

A Big Shout Out to Sunland's Maintenance Department for their work in the following Unit 1 areas: Parkview, Johnson, Grant, Buchanan and the Roosevelt Day Program.

Article Contributed by: Unit 1 Recreation Department/ Clevelando Wedderburn, RTS

UNIT 2 ON THE MOVE...

Fall Festival Unit 2 Style!



The staff of Unit 2 enjoyed Fall Festival, celebrating in true fashion with Lenora Edwards leading the charge at the cake walk. Ms. Edwards' enthusiasm and love for people is a huge draw to the annual cake walk fundraiser. At the Unit 2 booth, staff were busy cooking chicken fingers and selling Fall Festival tee shirts.



Unit 2's East Truman family had an enjoyable month with a multitude of activities to include cook-outs, birthday parties, shopping, bowling, going out to see a movie and enjoyed an outing to pick scuppernongs.

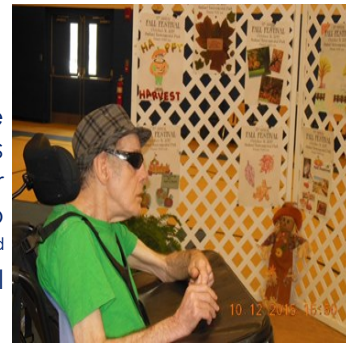
Residents from the Thiel Center enjoyed an outing to Alpin Farms where they enjoyed a wagon ride around the farm, petting the farm animals, picking sunflowers and visiting the pumpkin patch.



Article Contributed by: LaWanda Calhoun

UNIT 3 HAPPENINGS

During the month of October, Unit 3 was in preparation mode for fall festivities, especially Sunland's Fall Festival! Our residents enjoyed getting involved with the activity of decorating their posters for the annual poster contest. The participants who placed for Unit 3 were: 1st James. T, 2nd Richard G., and 3rd Paula H. Residents have been enjoying the beautiful fall weather while watching softball games at Howell Field.



October is known as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Unit 3 joined the band wagon to support the cause. On October 8, Unit 3 showed our support by having a "PINK OUT" for breast cancer day. Staff and residents participated by sporting their many shades of pink. It was a fantastic sight to see!



Unit 3 recently bid a fond farewell to Mrs. Frances Melvin who retired from Sunland after 32 years of service. She served as the Rehabilitation Therapist at East Washington. Ms. Melvin's co-workers hosted a Retirement Tea in her honor. The hors d'oeuvres, festive decorations, beautiful cake, and warm conversation was very much appreciated by Ms. Melvin. As noted author, Catherine Pulsifer once stated "Retirement may be an ending, a closing, but it is also a new beginning." We wish Ms. Melvin all the best upon her retirement!!



October Birthday Stars



Residents: Vickie A., Shirley H., Dorothy H., William L., Barbara R., Ernest G., Elton M., Bert S.

Staff: Allyson Traylor, Nickie Gay Chambliss, Elizabeth Mitchell, Mary Parsons, Scotty Hewitt, Eva Brown

Article Contributed by: Allison Jones

Pathways



The Rehab Department at Pathways recently held their annual Talent Show. Participants sang their favorite songs while Pathways staff and other residents enjoyed the program. After the program, refreshments were served. A special thanks to the Rehab staff for all their hard work to ensure the success of the event.



Pathways Rehab Staff: (Back Row L-R) Marcus Mallett, Michael Young, Chris Truette, (Front Row L-R) Stephanie Russ, Felicia Varner and Daseana Bass

Articles & photo

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES DEFENDANT PROGRAM

Jodi Nesmith was recognized as a STAR Award recipient for the month of October. Ms. Nesmith was nominated for her exemplary work ethic in the processing of recruitment packages for DDDP. She has developed great rapport with her customers and works tirelessly through the entire recruitment process to ensure that vacant positions are filled timely and efficiently. We are glad that she is a part of Team DDDP. Great job to Ms. Nesmith and thanks for your hard work and dedication!



DDDP's Star Award Employee of the Month for October is Bedford Jones, RNS F/C. Mr. Jones was selected after being nominated for his extraordinary work ethic during a time of staffing shortage in the Nursing Department. He voluntarily adjusted his work schedule to provide coverage on alternate shifts and also on his scheduled off duty days. He has done so while maintaining a positive attitude and is quoted as saying, "I love my job." He demonstrates professionalism in his work, is loyal in his service of the Nursing Department, and serves as an example for others to follow. Thank you Mr. Jones for your dedication to DDDP!



Article & Photos provided by Tony Reed

Early Detection is the Key!

The month of October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. I submit this in hopes that someone out there can be touched and ultimately saved through early detection. In October 2014, I was diagnosed with Breast Cancer. As I began to look at my calendar trying to figure out the best day and time to fit my schedule I scrolled through the days and it seemed that October just wasn't good for me, I was too busy! However, I did schedule that appointment.

As a result of the mammogram I received a call, the call no one wants to get, "You have breast cancer." I really don't remember exactly what was said on the phone that day, all I could hear was the "C" word. So after days of appointments, body scans, lab work and meeting with my treatment team, the surgery was scheduled to remove the tumor, to be followed by chemotherapy and radiation.

You see, we are all different, each cancer diagnosis is specific to each individual, there is no treatment plan identical for everyone, everyone's outcome is not the same nor is our body's response to treatment the same.

Life is precious, each day a blessing. We never know what tomorrow holds, or even the next hour. I'm a firm believer in being organized, having a calendar, with well planned schedules. We can still make time for our wellness check-ups for any reason. I'm here today, back at work with really short hair and so thankful to have my life back! So keep your calendar, schedule your wellness checkups and don't wait!

Early detection is the key! Remember, both men and women can have breast cancer, so talk with your mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, friends, tell them that early detection is the key! Again, keep your calendar, schedule your appointments and live happy and healthy!

I appreciate the opportunity to share my story and hope that anyone who reads it will be touched and move forward to living a healthy life through positive thoughts, healthy lifestyles, and good nutrition.

One last thought, educate yourself about nutrition, I was amazed at what a healthy diet can do! It may save your life!

In courage and strength,

Shellie Owens
Quality Management
Sunland Center



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION PROGRAM



October Star Team

Maintenance Department - David Byrd & Wesley Chance

HUMAN RESOURCES

New Employees:



Welcome Aboard!!

Larry Wyatt
Marie Storm
Carol Brown
Dawn Alday
Eric Hart
Treshay Patterson
Ablakely Sorey
Candace Carnley

Kitana Hill-Rosario
David Wilson
Zearwanna Johnson
Joshua Harris
Dekaylah Jones
Delois Holloway
Shenicka Pittman
Natarisha Smith
Kristina Greene
Omechra Granger
Miranda Lanier
Sharla Burrell
Rashonda Quarterman



Mary Nelson
Virginia Melvin

Contributed by: Joni Laramore



For information regarding vacancies, deferred compensation or other personnel issues, the Human Resources Department may be reached at 482-9230 or *04.

In addition, information regarding vacancies can be obtained at the People First website at: <https://peoplefirst.myflorida.com>



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State of Florida

Project Sunland PRIDE



Beautification Program!

PERSONAL **R**ESPONSIBILITY **I**N A **D**ESIRABLE **E**NVIRONMENT
"Community Spotlight of the Month"



CSS ~ Environmental Park Entrance

"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; Ashley Hill, CSS/Print Shop; Maria Johnson, CSS/Print Shop; Ethan Smith, IT; Cleve Wedderburn, Unit 1; LaWanda Calhoun, Unit 2; Allison Jones, Unit 3; Juanita Alford, Pathways; Lynn Baxley, Maintenance/Operations; Joni Laramore, Administration; Mary Gallagher, Quality Management; Suzanne Laramore, RN/Nursing-Medical; Sandra Helms, ARNP - Wellness Committee