SUPERINTENDENT’S CORNER.... Spring Is Coming

Goodbye Winter.....Welcome Spring!!!! Spring is almost here and will surely be a welcomed change from the cold, harsh days we endured this Winter! With the change of seasons, we anticipate the beautiful new growth that will emerge all across the Center. Soon we’ll see the trees budding and the dogwood and azaleas in full bloom. It’s an exciting time of year at Sunland. Likewise, we are seeing new growth across the Center as our vision of becoming a “World-Class Organization that Delivers Outstanding Services” is blossoming in so many areas. I want to commend our employees who are taking this vision and moving it forward. Certainly, we will press onward as we strive for excellence in making this Center the best it can be for the well-being of those we serve! We are fortunate to experience so many exciting events at Sunland, and the month of February was no exception! Sunland hosted the Sunshine Invitation Basketball Tournament and the Sunshine Shoot Out, with residents from both campuses participating in these events.

I am pleased to announce our Sunland Sonics won the Gold medal at the Special Olympics State Basketball Championship Games on February 22 in Gainesville. This team works so hard to achieve excellence and they proudly represent Sunland at every event they participate in. Please join me in congratulating all of our Sunland athletes for their accomplishments!

Congratulations are also in order to everyone involved in this year’s celebration of Black History Month at the Marianna and Chattahoochee campuses. Both programs were well organized and paid tribute to the many achievements made by African Americans throughout the course of American history. As we transition into Spring, I encourage you to embrace the unique qualities and contributions of one another, staff and residents alike, and demonstrate what it mean’s to be a part of this wonderful Sunland family!

Sincerely,

Merlin Roulhac,
CPM,Fl-CBA
Superintendent
Black History Month Program

Superintendent Merlin Roulhac welcomed everyone to the program.

Frank B. represented Unit I as Stevie Wonder and sang “I Just Called To Say I Love You”

Johnnie Mae W. represented Unit II as Clara Ward and sang “Precious Lord Take My Hand”

Shirley H. represented Unit III as Etta James and was assisted by Racquel Dunston.

The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Angela Godwin, who paid homage to Black History Month and its importance.

The program concluded with the unveiling of this artwork drawn by Robert C. of Pathways.
Everyone enjoys a line dance to the sounds of “The Master Blaster DJ” (see below)
On March 7th the Sunland auditorium sounded like the hills of Carolina, as the Hinson Girls were pickin’ and grinnin’ some mighty fine bluegrass. The group is based out of Lancaster, South Carolina and were in the area on tour. The concert at Sunland was set up with the assistance of Donna Conrad. The Hinson Girls said they loved the response they got from the audience and look forward to a return appearance. Pictured below from left to right are Allison (banjo), Kaitlyn (Mandolin), Kristen (Guitar) and Melissa (bass).

“The Conrads” opened the show with an old John Denver tune “Grandma’s Feather Bed.” They are Rachael, Elijah, Sunland’s own Donna Conrad (center) and Heidi.
State Basketball Games

The Super Sonics basketball squad from Jackson County traveled to Gainesville back in February to take part in the Special Olympics Florida State Basketball Games. The Sonics were matched up with the Marion County Comets in a best two out of three series that took place at Howard Bishop Middle School. And it was the Sonics winning the series, with a win on Friday and a win on Saturday. On Friday the Sonics won 46-33 as Marcus H. had the hot hand, scoring 24 points. Saturday’s game went to the Sonics by a score of 53-22 as Francoise P. and Marcus H. each hit 17 points in the win.

The Sonics are pictured below with their Gold Medals. They are front row Anthony P., Willie C. and Jonathan R. and Richard R. Back Row Marcus H., Elisha R., Andy J. and Francoise P. The Head Coach for the Sonics is Mike Miller. Also attending from Sunland were Clint Cox, Chuck Dickson, Johnny Hodges and Mary Herring (Nurse).

2014 Sunshine Shootout

Sunland played host to the annual Sunshine Shootout back in February. The Sunshine Shootout is held to provide an opportunity for athletes that do not play on one of the basketball teams to take part in an organized competitive basketball event. Almost 40 individuals signed up to be a part of this event and they were divided into four groups. Each group took part in four different basketball skills and each group’s top three winners were awarded a Special Olympics Jackson County tote bag. All participants, which included individuals from the Marianna and Chattahoochee campus were awarded a commemorative 2014 Sunshine Shootout T-Shirt.

Group A Winners—Michael B., Michael W., John T.

Group B Winners—Ronald K., Frank B., Eddie T., Larry M.

Group C Winners—Connie S., Cheryl D., Johnnie Mae W.

Group D Winners—Latarsha G., James C., Gary P.
The Rehabilitation Therapy Department at DDDP played host recently to several basketball games at their gym. The day’s events included basketball games between the Sunland Sonics, Boom, Pathways Jets and DDDP Rush. In addition to the athletes being able to take part in some outstanding basketball, the Rehab Department, led by Dequan Brigham, coordinated an excellent lunch consisting of pizza and hot wings.

**Happy Trails**

**Recent Retirements**

*Brian Jacobson*—Senior Behavior Analyst. He is pictured here with Merlin Roulhac, (left) Superintendent and Darlene See (right) Assistant Superintendent.

*Janet McJunkin*—CSS—Vocational Instructor I

*Marion Allen*—Unit III HSW II East Washington—3rd shift

**DDDP Rehabilitation Therapy Department**


Two of the teams from the recent basketball games in action at the gym located on the Chattahoochee campus.
Williams Retires

Mr. Williams had a distinguished career of 38 years of service to the State of Florida. He began his career at Sunland in May of 1980. During his tenure, he contributed to the success of Sunland through various positions to include Social Services Director, Clinical Social Services Standards Specialist, HRS Standards Specialist, and Residential Services Director. For the past 17 years, he led Unit 1 as the Unit’s Program Operations Administrator, and was been a strong leader for the Unit 1 team. Mr. Williams was known as a subject matter expert when it comes to ICF regulations. He has been a great resource in ensuring that Unit 1 and Sunland as a whole adhered to the AHCA standard to maintain licensure for all its homes.

We celebrate this career milestone with Mr. Williams as he begins this new season of life; however, we know Sunland will miss him greatly. Please join us as we wish Lucious Williams the very best in his retirement. We wish him many years of good health, and enjoying time with his family and many friends.

Sunland Leadership Team

Kennedy Becomes Unit I Program Operations Administrator

We are pleased to announce Kimberly Kennedy as the new Program Operations Administrator for Unit 1. Ms. Kennedy has a wealth of knowledge in serving our intellectually disabled population. She began her career at Sunland 14 years ago as a Human Services Senior Supervisor. Her leadership skills were readily recognized and she was quickly promoted through the ranks to serve as a Rehabilitation Therapist, Human Services Counselor III, Human Services Counselor Administrator, Residential Services Supervisor, and Operations & Management Counselor I. Ms. Kennedy became the Residential Services Director in Unit 1 in July 2011 to serve as the second in command to Mr. Lucious Williams.

Ms. Kennedy received her AA degree from Chipola College and Master’s Degree in Social Work from FAMU. Ms. Kennedy is married and has one daughter.

Please join me in welcoming Ms. Kimberly Kennedy as the new Unit 1 Director and member of Sunland’s Leadership Team. We look forward to the energy and innovation she brings to her new position as she works to move Sunland to be recognized as World Class Organization that delivers Outstanding Services.
Tonya Kelly (2nd from right) — Tonya recently implemented a security system at the Coffee Shop where all over the counter medications are now maintained in a locked box. Staff now maintain a list of medications for customers to choose from and are provided those medications at the time of purchase. Her concern for the safety and well-being of our residents is commendable. She recognized a potential for danger and quickly took action to correct the situation. She is pictured with James Godwin, Jr. Centralized Support Services RSD, Darlene See, Assistant Superintendent and Merlin Roulhac, Superintendent.

Jennifer Edwards—(2nd from right) In January 2014, a Unit 1 resident on Harrison House sustained an injury requiring dermabond which resulted in a written APD Incident Report. Jennifer conducted an extremely comprehensive and in depth review into the cause of the incident and provided detailed documentation of all discussions, reviews and follow-up actions taken to prevent future occurrences. She also conducted a series of at least three separate active treatment/interdisciplinary team meetings to review, discuss and develop preventative measures. She was able to “think outside the box” and developed specific interventions that resulted in a “calming” of the resident. She made a noteworthy contribution to Sunland Center, showed commitment to quality and a positive attitude towards your work. Her work in this situation has been acknowledged as setting a “best practice” standard for all of Sunland. She is pictured above with Franklin Williams, Unit I OMC I, Kim Kennedy, Unit I POA, Darlene See, Assistant Superintendent and Merlin Roulhac, Superintendent.

Donna Franklin, DDDP EDN (far left) On February 13, 2014, upon learning that the Sunland psychiatrist had resigned, Donna immediately responded and successfully negotiated an interim contract with Dr. Sara (Sarawathi Tirumalsalasetty), who provides psychiatry services to residents at DDDP. She also made provisions for the psychiatric nurse to assist Dr. Sara during her visits to Sunland to ensure consistency in services across both campuses. She will ensure the data base currently used at the DDDP campus is available at the Sunland campus to support streamlined processes and relieve duties on the Sunland nursing staff which exist under the current system. Donna is also working collaboratively with Milo Jordan, EDN at the Sunland campus to offer nursing support to the Sunland psychiatrist in the psychiatric clinics as he works out his 30 day resignation.

Milo Jordan—(3rd from right) On January 13, 2014, Milo learned that the lab was in danger of losing its AHCA license. She immediately began to research the situation by contacting the AHCA office to determine what needed to be done to avoid interruption of the licensure and learned that the license that was in effect at the time would expire on January 21, 2014. At that point, she took full ownership to see the process through even though it was not the scope of her duties. She worked with various departments at Sunland and communicated with AHCA representatives daily until the license was secured to avoid any interruption in services to the Sunland residents.

They are pictured above with Darlene See, Assistant Superintendent and Merlin Roulhac, Superintendent.
More Star Awards

Star Team — Keith Jarrett, Jimmy Brooks, Steve Barwick, Roger Cosson

Recently, a 3 phase electrical surge incident occurred, burning up three motors around the Center. This team located a phase protector that was available as surplus property, wired it into the electrical system to ensure that the motors are phase monitored and protected in the future. Through their diligence this team effectively resolved a potentially serious problem and at no additional expense to the center.

Not pictured is Roger Cosson

Emma Benbow—Emma displays a strong ethic and commitment to creating an environment when everyone feels united and valued. She is known for her mentoring skills and the ability to foster trust. She generates productivity and harmony among staff, is approachable, listens attentively to the needs of others and take everyone’s contributions into account. Pictured with Emma are Darlene See, Assistant Superintendent (left) and Kim Kennedy, Unit I POA (right)

Nelson Myrick Jr.—On February 9, Nelson observed a resident who was choking and appearing to be unable to breathe during lunch. He quickly realized a potentially life-threatening situation was occurring and successfully performed the Heimlich maneuver, dislodging the obstructed food.
Katey Hobbs (2nd from left) — On Monday, February 3, 2014, there was a break-in at the Recycling Office resulting in the theft of a safe and other employee personal items. Through her diligence, Katey identified the items taken and developed leads and was able to identify the individuals involved. What made this case extraordinary was the fact that Katey remained in contact with Sunland while off duty, late into the night and was unwavering in her efforts to bring successful closure to this case.

Tambra Cabrera — On January 29, 2014, the surrounding area was severely affected by low temperatures from an exceptionally powerful winter storm. Unit 2/SoAR residents were unable to attend normal programming due to the extreme conditions. Tambra made sure residents continued to receive their token store privileges by organizing a “mobile” token store that she personally took to all of the homes. She went above and beyond in providing these services to our residents, even though there were difficult circumstances that were clearly uncomfortable to work through. She is pictured with Darlene See, Assistant Superintendent, Merlin Roulhac, Superintendent and Bobby Heinemann, Unit II POA.
Sunland is blessed with a healthy population of fox squirrels. For more than a year I have been on a mission to get a photo of one of these beautiful creatures. One I have seen one though I never seemed to have a camera on hand. And of course, when I had a camera with me, I’d never see one. But recently I had a camera and saw a fox squirrel near the Hospitality House. The squirrel gave me a picture perfect pose while on the ground (on his hind legs, standing up and looking at me). Just as I was about to snap the shot a van pulled up beside me. It was Roland Sweet from Unit II, and he hollered “What ch’a doing?” Upon hearing Roland the squirrel broke and ran for a nearby tree. Roland quickly noticed that I was not a happy camper with him, as I feared that Roland had ruined my long awaited chance to get a fox squirrel photo. But alas, the squirrel paused just long enough for me to get a few shots. Hope you enjoy.

Sunland Center recently partnered with Habitat for Humanity to provide snacks and drinks for college students spending their spring break building two houses in the Marianna area. For the past six weeks Sunland staff have donated a variety of snacks and drinks at collection sites located around the center. The items were then gathered up and delivered to the local chapter of Habitat For Humanity.

Pictured below are James Godwin, Jr. and Karen Henrickson of Sunland as they present the items collected to Janet Harns and Helen Calloway of Habitat For Humanity.

Springtime is upon us and Sunland’s Horticulture Department has got what you need to spruce up your yard or house. They also have vegetable plants that are just waiting to be planted in your garden or in your pots. So stop by Horticulture to check out what they’ve got and their reasonable prices.

- Collards, Cabbage, Tomatoes, Zucchini, Cantaloupe, a variety of peppers and a variety of house plants.

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**Plant Sale**

Monday—Friday
8 am—2 pm
Ph #482-9309
HUMAN RESOURCES
ANNOUNCEMENTS....

Current Sunland Vacancies
Marianna
• Registered Nurse—multiple positions on multiple shifts—Closes 4/1/14
• Senior Licensed Practical Nurse—evening & night shift Closes 6/1/14
• Institutional Security Officer—Night Shift Closes 4/1/14
• Dietician—Closes 5/1/14

DDDP—Chattahoochee
• Human Services Worker II F/C—multiple positions & multiple shifts —Closes 4/30/14
• Institutional Security Specialist I—Closes 3/21/14

****REMINDER****
All Special Comp – Holiday – code 0091 is subject to forfeit if not used by April 30th. Effective March 11, 2013, People First activated the substitution requirement for all employees. Before any annual leave may be used, the People First system will apply special comp leave credits pursuant to the following order:
Special Comp – Holiday - code 0091
Special Comp- pre 7/2012 – code 0055, this time is available for use until it is exhausted.
After all special comp leave time has been exhausted; you will only then be allowed to enter annual leave.

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 can be obtained at the People First website at: https://peoplefirst.myflorida.com

In Loving Memory

Corrine M.—Unit I
Carrie W.—Unit I
Stephen A.—Unit III
Willie S.—Unit III
Jacky H.—Unit III
Harold Hewett—DDDP—Institutional Security Specialist

To get your news, events and photos in “Sunny News” contact
Clint Cox —Sunland Marianna Recreation Phone #: 482-9387 E-mail: Clinton.Cox@apdcares.org
Kim Finch—DDDP Chattahoochee Phone# 663-7138/7567 E-mail: Kimberly.Finch@apdcares.org

On The Horizon

St. Patrick’s Day Dance March 17
Special Olympics Area Two Games March 21
Jackson County Spring Break March 24-28
Unit I Field Day March 25
Palm Sunday April 13
Good Friday April 18
Special Olympics Equestrian Games April 18
Easter April 20
Administrative Professionals Day April 23