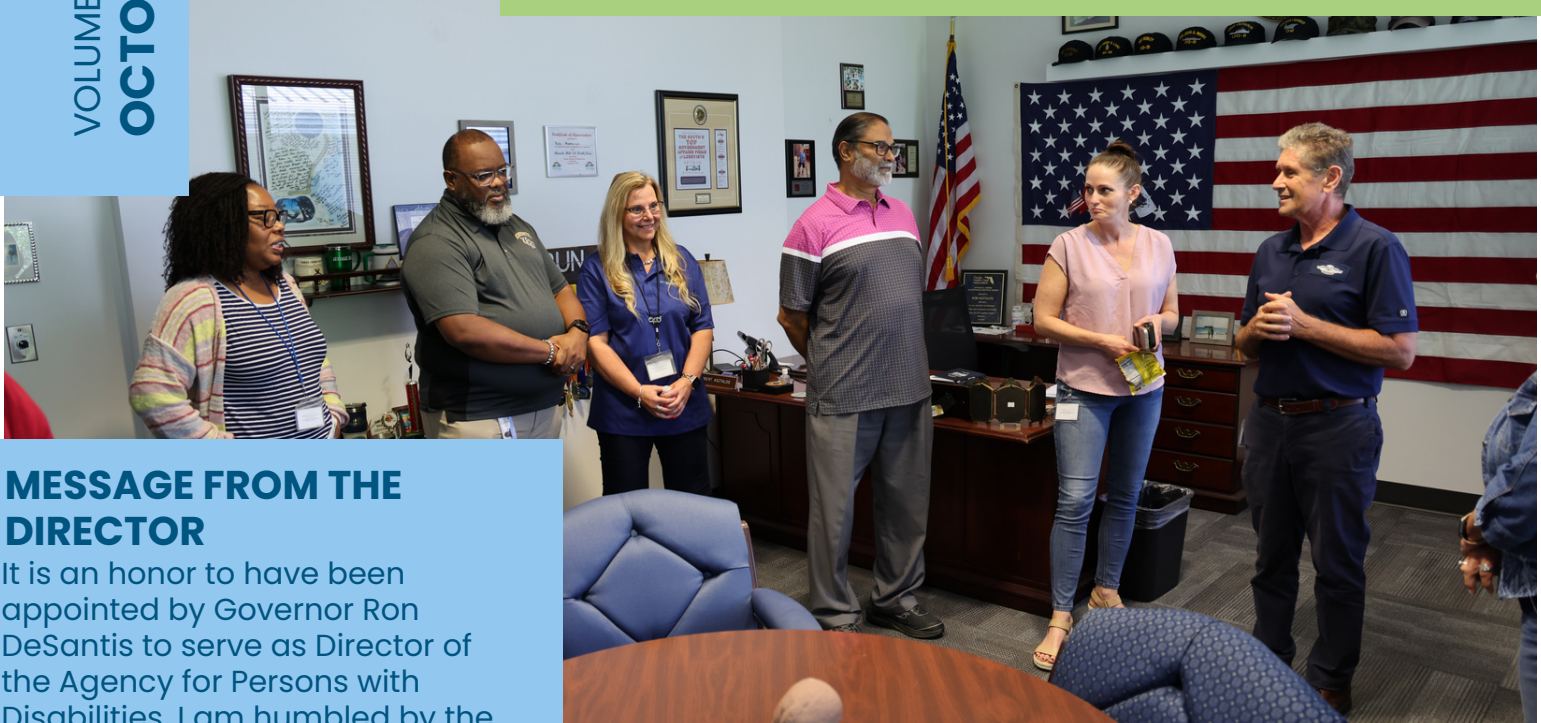


AGENCY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES THE RUNDOWN



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is an honor to have been appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis to serve as Director of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. I am humbled by the opportunity to join such a dedicated team of professionals who work tirelessly to support Floridians with disabilities. Together, we will continue to build on the agency's strong foundation and ensure that those we serve have the resources, opportunities, and support they need to thrive in their communities. Throughout my career—in the Navy, in health care advocacy, and most recently at the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs—I have been guided by a commitment to service. I bring that same dedication to APD. I look forward to working side by side with our staff, providers, and partners to strengthen programs and create meaningful outcomes for the individuals and families who depend on us. I am excited about the road ahead and grateful for the chance to serve.



DIRECTOR ASZTALOS HOSTS FIRST STAFF MEET-AND-GREET

Director Robert "Bob" Asztalos welcomed staff to a meet-and-greet in his office. With snacks, refreshments, and great conversation, the event gave employees across the agency an opportunity to stop by, introduce themselves, and connect with our new Director. Director Asztalos shared his open-door philosophy and his enthusiasm for working alongside the APD team. The strong turnout and welcoming atmosphere made it a wonderful start to his leadership!



OCTOBER OBSERVANCES

Awareness Months

- Down Syndrome Awareness Month – Celebrating the achievements and contributions of individuals with Down syndrome.
- Disability Employment Awareness Month – Promoting opportunities and recognizing the skills and talents of workers with disabilities.

Awareness Days

- Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day – October 6
- Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Awareness Day – October 22
- Spina Bifida Awareness Day – October 25

WAIVER & PRE-ENROLLMENT STAFF GAIN FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE WITH PROVIDER SERVICES

New Waiver and Pre-Enrollment staff visited two Shalimare provider locations—Tice Home and Tice ADT—to see firsthand how services impact the lives of those we serve. Staff learned about community living, recreational activities like fishing and shopping, and daily schedules driven by consumer choice. At Tice ADT, activities ranged from exercise and salon visits to life skills and monthly themed projects, most recently exploring wildlife. The visit offered valuable perspective on the creativity and opportunities providers bring to individuals every day!



CLIENT HIGHLIGHT: DE AVON

APD client De Avon and his mother, Mei, recently received critical support to improve their daily life and home environment. With help from the Disability Achievement Center and Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay, De Avon now has a new wheelchair and regular supply deliveries, and their home is being repaired with new flooring and windows. Mei shared her gratitude, saying she was “so excited and grateful” for the assistance.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



APD was honored to present at 2025 Florida Children and Families Summit. Thank you to our partners at Florida Department of Children and Families for the opportunity to share how we are working together to support individuals with disabilities and their families. This year’s theme, Building a Better Future, reflects our shared commitment to creating lasting opportunities and support.

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