



Message from the Director

October gives us many opportunities to recognize the people, partnerships and accomplishments that make APD's mission possible. From celebrating employment opportunities for Floridians with developmental disabilities to honoring the history and veterans of Sunland Center, this month reflects the strength of the communities we serve. I am especially grateful to our employees, providers, families and partners across Florida whose dedication continues to create opportunities and support greater independence for the individuals we serve.

– Bob Asztalos

Celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month with APD

APD is proud to celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month and the 20th anniversary of our Exceptional Employer Awards. Join us Tuesday, October 20, at 10 a.m. on the 22nd Floor of the Florida Capitol as we recognize Florida employers that champion meaningful employment opportunities and employees with disabilities who are making valuable contributions in workplaces across the state. We look forward to celebrating two decades of achievement, partnership and opportunity.

OBSERVANCES

- National Disability Employment Awareness Month
- Down Syndrome Awareness Month
- Spina Bifida Awareness Month
- October 6 – World Cerebral Palsy Day
- October 21 – National Disability Mentoring Day
- Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Awareness Day October 22

SUNLAND CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF HISTORY ROOM



Sunland Center recently celebrated the grand opening of its **Marianna Army Air Field and Graham Air Base History Room**, honoring the rich military history of the property and the veterans who have served our country. The celebration brought together Sunland residents and staff, veterans, community partners and special guests for a meaningful program featuring a Color Guard, veteran recognition, historical displays and remarks from APD and Sunland leadership. Thank you to everyone who helped make the event a success and preserve this important piece of history for generations to come!



WSC

STAKEHOLDER MEETING – OCTOBER 6



APD will host its next **statewide virtual stakeholder meeting** on **Tuesday, October 6, from 5:30–6:30 p.m. ET** as part of ongoing efforts to enhance Waiver Support Coordination services. Individuals, families, providers and other stakeholders are encouraged to participate, hear the latest updates and share feedback as APD continues this important work.

Webinar Number: 2530 552 8796
Password: 7McJpQePT42
Phone/Video Password: 76257737

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: AMANDA INGRASSIA

Congratulations to Amanda Ingrassia, APD's Employee of the Month! Amanda has served with APD for nearly three years and currently works as a Program Administrator overseeing application, intake and eligibility determination processes. A Licensed Clinical Social Worker, she is committed to improving outcomes for individuals with disabilities. She is a two-time graduate of Florida State University, earning bachelor's and master's degrees in social work, and recently earned a master's degree in administration from the University of West Florida. Amanda is currently pursuing a Doctor of Education in Instructional and Performance Technology and also remains engaged in the Tallahassee nonprofit community through her involvement with Recovery Opportunity Collective.



BEYOND LIMITS ADVENTURE 5K & FUN RUN

Join Independence Landing on Saturday, October 17, for the Beyond Limits Adventure 5K & Fun Run in Tallahassee! The event kicks off with a Fun Run/Walk/Roll at 8 a.m., followed by the Adventure 5K at 8:30 a.m. The 5K features a series of fun challenges along the course, while the shorter Fun Run/Walk/Roll is designed for all ages and abilities. Proceeds support Independence Landing and its mission to provide affordable, supportive housing and opportunities for greater independence.



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