



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

Sunland Theatre Presents

The WIZARD of OZ



Excitement and intrigue filled the air August 24 and 26 when the Sunland Auditorium was transformed somewhere over the rainbow, to the magical land of Oz! The 1939 musical fantasy came to life with an all star cast of Sunland residents and staff, who portrayed the beloved American Classic. To say the show was a huge hit would be an understatement!

Months of preparation did not disappoint! Members of the cast and crew poured their hearts and souls into this production, and it showed. All of the characters took their roles to heart, each making their lines their very own, incorporating slick dance moves and comical lines. For example, when the Wicked Witch of the West attempted to take Dorothy's ruby red slippers, Glinda the Good Witch replied "*There they are and there they'll stay, sucker!*" Of course, the audience erupted with laughter and cheers!

Residents, staff, former employees, and many people from the community were in attendance at both shows. Sunland retiree Linda Hatcher said of the show, "*I laughed and cried and loved it - I saw my sweet residents getting older but still enjoying life - it was so funny - in the play Dorothy kept saying she needed help and one of the residents in the audience yelled out 'she needs help, someone help her!' - priceless!*"

The antics of the Wicked Witch of the West, and the perilous journey to see the Great Oz certainly kept everyone on the edge of their seats. In the end, Dorothy found her way home and the entire cast broke out in a dance to Pharrell Williams' famous hit "Happy!" Needless to say, the audience was on their feet clapping and dancing too! *And...we were happy!*

Wizard of Oz...Behind the Scenes!

Production of a major show such as The Wizard of Oz is no small task. The tedious work began eight months in advance. Long, arduous hours were invested to meticulously plan every detail, right down to the ears of corn in the Scarecrow's cornfield scene. Most of the stage props and scenery were made from recycled materials. With a lot of creativity, the Sunland Auditorium was transformed into the mystical Land of Oz. Time and again, residents and staff rehearsed each scene, fine-tuning their lines while injecting their own personalities into their designated characters. The result was nothing short of genius! Congratulations, Wizard of Oz cast! You each did a wonderful job!

Cast: Dorothy Gale, Lynn Kern; The Great Wizard of Oz, DeRon Johnson; Tin Man, John T; Scarecrow, Frankie P.; Cowardly Lion, John B.; Auntie Em, Cheryl D.; Glinda the Good Witch, Samantha W.; Wicked Witch of the West, Johnnie Mae W.; Winged Monkeys James R. and Arnaldo M.; Winged Guards Tim B. and Peter P.; Munchkins Shannon Stewart, Brian B. and Billy A., and Toto - Henry Earl. Supporting staff were: James Godwin, Director of Centralized Support Services; Co-Directors and prop designers Nikki Spires, Annette Odom and Robin Snellgrove; Narrator and Emcee, Clint Cox; Poster and Program Design, Stephanie Parker; Set and Props Run Crew Nikki Spires, Annette Odom, Robin Snellgrove, Israel Davis, Ron Tissue, Tony Speights, Lori Burke, Jake Wood, Shannon Stewart; Maintenance, Manual Skills, Recreation and Horticulture Departments. Lighting and Background Tony Speights and Matt Dryden; Costume Designer Robin Snellgrove; Make-up Artist Maria Johnson; Wardrobe Crew Lori Burke, Ron Tissue, DeRon Johnson, Nikki Spires, Robin Snellgrove and Annette Odom. A special thanks is also in order to Paul W., who opened the show with a special recitation of The Lord's Prayer, and Lonnie F. and James C., who provided special entertainment.

Pictured below are some of the rehearsal scenes.



Wizard of Oz Cast



Wizard of Oz Cast Party

Wizard of Oz cast members were honored at a special cast party at Rivertown Community Church. Following a presentation of awards, each cast member received their own personalized star, framed photos and gifts. After receiving their awards, the group was delighted to watch the recorded play. They were thrilled to see themselves acting out their roles in an on-stage play as huge smiles and much laughter filled the room! Following the movie, the group was treated to a catered luncheon of fried/baked chicken, green beans, sweet potatoes, yellow rice, rolls, peach cobbler with ice cream, and water, iced tea and lemonade. The event was beautifully decorated, with table centerpieces showcasing memorabilia from the play, thanks to the creativity of Nikki Spires, Annette Odom and Robin Snellgrove.

Cast members were asked to share their thoughts about being in The Wizard of Oz. Here are several responses:

Johnnie Mae W (Wicked Witch of the West) - "I enjoyed the way I dressed and my face painted up. I loved the costume, and I like the way the stage was set up."

Brian B (Munchkin) - "I enjoyed being a Munchkin. It was fun!

Cheryl D (Auntie Em) - "Well, I like the play, Dorothy and the Witch! A lot of people were there. I loved it!"

John B (Cowardly Lion) - "I liked when I said put 'em up, put 'em up! I liked my costume, all of it!"

Tim B. (Guard) - "I liked being a police officer!"

Frankie P (Scarecrow) - "I enjoyed The Wizard of Oz. We all did a good job. All the staff helped us out."

Samantha W (Glinda the Good Witch) - "I enjoyed the bubbles and the poppies. The Munchkins were glad to see me. The house fell on the wicked witch. I like the little dog. I liked when I said about the red slippers "There they are and there they'll stay sucker!" I really enjoyed today's lunch and I took my precious time eating it!"

John T (Tin Man) - "I enjoyed interacting with my friends and the staff helping us...a lot like family."



From the Superintendent...

The Wizard of Oz cast and crew and Oh Henry!

Sunland's Summer Theatre 2018 Production of The Wizard of Oz brought a new and fresh spin to L. Frank Baum's (1939) original story of the Wonderful Wizard of Oz! Let's take a journey back down memory lane. Dorothy (Judy Garland) and her beloved Toto (Terry) were whirled into Emerald City by a tornado. There they encounter impressionable friends (Tin Man, Scarecrow, Lion, Glinda the Good Witch) and scary foes (Wicked Witch of the West and winged monkeys). All in a quest to meet the Wizard, who friends say can help Dorothy return home to Kansas, grant the Tin Man a heart, Scarecrow a brain, and Lion a heart. To get there, all they had to do was follow the yellow brick road.

Some 79 years later, members of the Centralized Support Services Team under the leadership of James Godwin, Jr. together with movers and shakers (Annette Odom, Nikki Spires, and Robin Snellgrove) brought the Wizard of Oz to life on the stage of the Sunland Auditorium. Audience of staff, family, and friends from Jackson, Gadsden, and surrounding counties praised the performance, set and props, lighting, background, music, costumes, sound, make-up, and wardrobe. This full complement of staff creativity made the whole event astoundingly magical, festive, and memorable.

Wow and Wow Again! Sunland's Dorothy (Lynn), Tin Man (Johnny T.), Scarecrow (Frankie P.), the Lion (John B.) and Toto (Henry) masterfully owned the stage as they preserved the history of the characters while adding generational sway. On the way to Oz, the harmonic Munchkin Villagers (Shannon, Brian B. and Billy A.) gave the audience a treat as they rhythmically sang, "Follow the yellow brick road." The warm encounter with Glinda the Good Witch (Samantha W.) prepared Dorothy for the Wicked Witch of the West (Johnnie Mae W.) The Wicked Witch of the West and the winged monkeys (James R. and Arnaldo M.) brought an audible gasp of glee with the witch's pitch and spell and the monkey's soul and swag as they swept the dance floor. It was smooth like butter! The audience loved the injection of moves to Bruno Mars' popular hit song. That, too, added to the generational sway, swag, and swish. If it were a basketball game, George, Kim, and Rima, would say it was, "Nothing but net!" We all agree. Go Team Sunland! The winged guards (Tim B. and Peter P.) held their posts on point and in style. Auntie Em (Cheryl D.) added the seasoning! Speaking of seasoning, here's what singers Salt and Peppa (En Vogue) have to say about the Wizard. "Whatta Man! Whatta Man! – Just a man?" Whoever wrote that line was genius. The Great Wizard (DeRon Johnson) executed it perfectly and the audience roared to the admission of the mask being removed from the wizard. Now there's a lesson! My takeaway for the Sunland/DDDP/Rish Park staff is: "Everything needed is within!" Great job, Team!

Special thanks to: Lonnie F. (beautiful modern dance), James C. (beautiful song), Faith Baggett, Henry, Stephanie Parker (playbill and posters), Clint Cox (the Voice), James Godwin, Jr., Nikki Spires, Robin Snellgrove, Annette Odom, Ron Tissue, Tony Speights, Lori Buke, Jake Wood, Shannon Stewart, Israel Davis, Matt Dryden, Maria Johnson, DeRon Johnson, and extra special thanks to Maintenance Staff, Manual Skills Staff, Horticulture Staff, and the entire staff and community who supported this event. Finally, family members of the cast and crew, please know that your contribution of time, talent and sacrifice added to the success of this theatre production. Thank you! Cannot wait to see what's in store for next year!

Grateful,
Geri Williams
Superintendent



Summer Social at the Mall

Sunland residents and staff were treated to a "summer social" at the Suntown Mall on August 9. The crowd enjoyed an assortment of musical selections and dances performed by Arnaldo M., Faye W., Lonnie F., Connie S., Jonathan R., Shawn W., Wesley S., and Frankie P. Following the entertainment, attendees enjoyed ice cream and cookies. Resident Lonnie F. was all smiles as she had a special treat of her own. Her brother Robert Earl Ford, from Miami, was there to watch her perform!



Hub Art Students Attend Pyramid Art Show

On Saturday, August 11, students from "The Hub" embarked on a field trip to Tallahassee for a afternoon and evening of fun. First stop of the day, Bella Bella restaurant which offers authentic Italian cuisine and an unmatched experience. Next Stop, "The Moon!" The atmosphere was hopping as "The Pyramid Players" were performing their 17th annual summer performance, Abracadabra, on The Moon's stage. Co-written by Pyramid Studios' play writing class, this delightful musical not only features the top notch performances that theatre-goers love, but also a magnificent collection of awesome characters who will steal your heart and have you rolling in the aisles! The Tallahassee arts community anticipates this event so much that it has become an annual tradition to attend just to see what the players have in store for them, with more than 1000 flocking to the Moon each year! The performers are adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and on stage, their abilities shine through. The highlight of the evening was viewing the Pyramid-wide Art Show & Sale, a Silent Auction and a spread of delicious hors d'oeuvres. Entertainment was provided by Pyramid Studios' premier rock band "The Electric People." A BIG thanks to Superintendent Geri Williams for encouraging Sunland residents to attend such a meaningful community event. Special thanks to Jennie Ann Dean (Resident Advocate), Maria Johnson (Volunteer Coordinator) and Lee Cranford (Recreation Staff) for making this a wonderful trip!





Scarecrow Categories:

Funniest, Upcycled, Most Unusual

Winners in each category awarded as follows:

1st Place Trophy, 2nd Place Ribbon, 3rd Place Certificate

Overall Grand Champion Trophy

Entries: Any staff, resident, home, or department may enter. No Entry Fee

Rules: Entries should be *life-size* and can consist of one or more scarecrows. Scarecrows must be in good taste and family-friendly. Entries that reflect controversial issues are not appropriate. Sunland reserves the right to reject and/or remove any scarecrow deemed inappropriate or offensive. Scarecrows must be free-standing or sitting. You are responsible for providing all supports/seating for your entry. One (1) promotional/informational sign no larger than 16x20 must be included in each display. *Live, decorative plants are not permitted.*

Entries Due: Monday, September 24, 2018 at "The Hub" - Habile Building

Judging: Wednesday, September 26

Awards: Friday, September 28, 2:00 p.m. at "The Hub"

Display: All scarecrows will be displayed at the Hub during the month of October, and at the Environmental Park during Fall Festival on October 27.

For More Information, call Maria Johnson at 482-9373 or Beth Basford at 482-9210

Pathways Holds Staff Appreciation Event

Nothing beats a summertime BBQ! On August 10, Pathways administration hosted a Staff Appreciation luncheon honoring their employees with a delicious BBQ cookout in appreciation of their dedication and hard work. Employees enjoyed smoked chicken, ribs, turkey, pork steaks, along with potato salad, corn on the cob, green beans, pasta salad, and a huge assortment of homemade desserts.



The meal was hosted by Pathways Director George Rivers along with Pathways staff Charles Wright, Gavin Tucker, Juanita Alford, Tracy Nixon, Lorraine Dean, Janet McDonald, Paige Pittman, Mike Miller, Mike Young, James Rhynes, and Marcus Mallett.



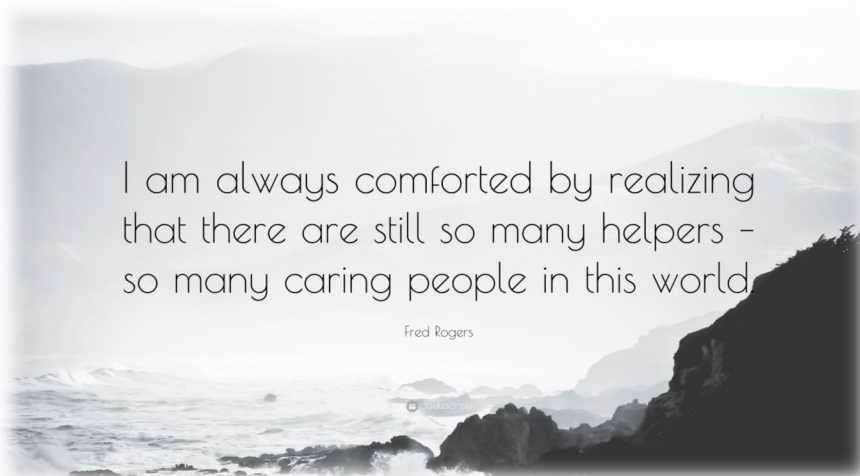


Greg Roberts, Unit 1 Social Services sends an "I See You" Shout-Out to Steven Price in the Maintenance Department. He states "The chain on Sherman T's bike was just about completely broken and beyond my capability to repair. I took it over to the Sunland Shop and asked Steve Price if he could take a look at it. By the next day, not only did he repair it, he took the time to deliver it to Sherman at his work site. What a kind act done so quietly but with such an impact."

Brandon Maphis, BPS Unit 2 Whispering Oaks is sending an "I See You" Shout-Out to Barbara Calhoun, Brandon Maphis, Bernice Rhynes and Ophelia Pittman for their hard work and dedication. These individuals go above and beyond for the residents that they serve. They split their days off to help provide coverage for Whispering Oaks and they have also come in on their off days if needed to help out with medical trips. Couldn't ask for a better team, than this!

Mary McKinnie 3rd shift BPS for Monroe sends an "I See You" Shout-Out to Pearlie Hearn, whom she states is a hidden gem. Since joining 3rd shift Ms. Hearn has been getting residents dressed while doing last rounds, because she knows 1st shift is short of staff. Ms. Hearn, you are valued and appreciated!

Ms. McKinnie also sends an "I See You" Shout-Out to Susan Jarmon, who is someone she's had the pleasure of both working with and supervising. Ms. Jarmon ensures Monroe's level of cleanliness has been maintained. On occasions, she has dressed residents while doing last rounds, when she knew 1st shift would be short of staff. Ms. McKinnie stated, "She recently left my staff so I want to remind her that I see her and appreciate her efforts. I see you Susan Jarmon!"



I am always comforted by realizing
that there are still so many helpers -
so many caring people in this world

Fred Rogers





Shandrell Mount, BSN/RN shares this special "I See You" Shout-Out to the Nursing Department.

In her words... "This encounter happened on Friday, 08/17/2018." Nursing started doing a small "Caught in the Act" Award for our employees. This award is a small scratch off game with inspirational words on the back where you can win a prize, when you receive three like prizes.

I had to work the floor on Westside Apartments/Monroe House for the last medication pass of the day (I have never worked the assignment). While still on the medication pass at Westside, Shelly-Davis Godwin SLPN shows up and says: "Allow me to get your medpass started on Monroe." (This cart had not been accessed).

I completed the medication pass, treatments, and cleaning on Westside and headed to Monroe. When I arrived at Monroe, there was Leilani Valle SLPN coming to assist me as well. At this moment Shelly-Davis Godwin SLPN had completed over half of the medication pass/treatments. Leilani Valle, SLPN stayed with me and assisted with the rest of the medication pass, identification of residents, and cleaning. I thanked these employees for all that they do as nurses. I also let them know how appreciated they were for going above and beyond their duties. I told them I was giving them a "Caught in the Act Award" for going above and beyond, being team players, and orientating me to two new homes.

These scratch off awards were not physically given to the employees on Friday because the prizes are kept by Rose Crews, END. Even though Ms. Crews had the prizes in her possession, not giving the scratch offs to the employees at the actual moment that they were "Caught in the Act" reminded me to never put off things that you can do today for tomorrow; tomorrow is not promised. Sadly, Leilani Valle, SLPN is now the late Leilani Valle. She never was able to actually scratch off and receive her prize, but it will be given to her daughter as a token of our love. Janice and I have scratched off Leilani's prize: It is a journal. I'm sure her precious daughter will be happy to write her feelings and thoughts in this journal.

These nurses Love/ Loved our residents. They ensure these residents get the care they deserve. They were willing to help with medication administration and treat extra residents after they completed their own assignments."

And for these reasons, from the heart of Shandrell Mount, to the Nursing staff at Sunland... *I See You!*



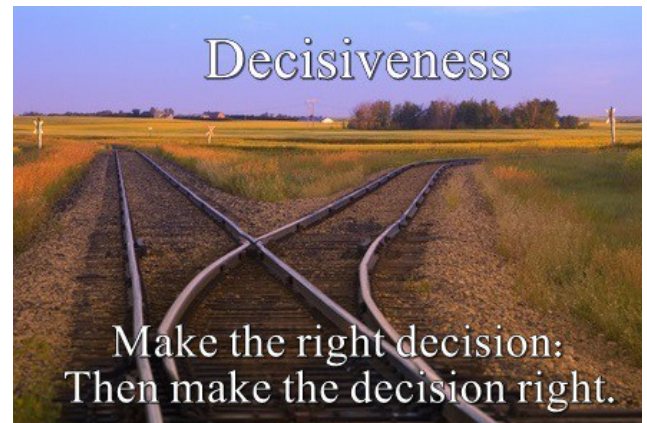
Character Matters...



Decisiveness

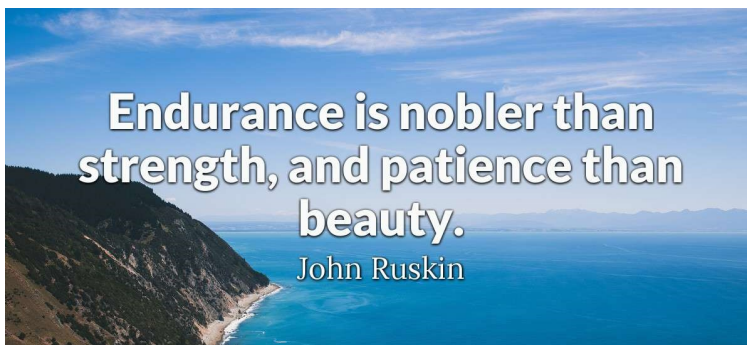
The ability to recognize key factors and finalize difficult decisions.

Decisiveness ~ A character trait that demonstrates one's ability to sort through information and make an informed choice effectively. You must make sound decisions and be prepared to take responsibility for their outcomes, both good and bad. Decisiveness requires thinking through the possible outcomes and trusting yourself to make the right decision.



Endurance

The inward strength to withstand stress and to do your best.



Endurance ~ defined by Merriam-Webster as the ability to withstand hardship or adversity, especially the ability to sustain a prolonged stressful effort or activity. Mental endurance does not mean passivity or suffering; it means mental strength. It is the ability to exercise inner strength in everyday life, and the ability to deal effectively with all challenges. We must learn to keep our mind focused upon what we are doing, and not let it get distracted. We must learn to stay on the road that leads to our goals, no matter how tough the going is. When we build mental endurance, we teach ourselves never to quit what we are doing.

Decisiveness and Endurance - two important character traits. Let's aspire to attain them!

August Star Awards!



Gold Star Award - Matt Dryden
Pictured L-R: Clint Cox, Matt Dryden & Adrian Abner



Gold Star Award - Tammie Gentry
Pictured L-R: Rose Crews, Janice Hargrave, Tammie Gentry & Adrian Abner



Gold Star Award ~ Cody Coley
Pictured L-R: Adrian Abner, Cody Coley & Bart Harrell



Silver Star Award ~ Daniel Price
Pictured L-R: Adrian Abner, Danielle Moss, Daniel Price & Kenneth Baker



Bronze Star Awards ~ Amy Nelson and Tiffany Pollock
Pictured L-R: LaRhonda Barnes, Amy Nelson, Tiffany Pollock & Leslie Hall

The Four "A's" of Stress Management

Avoid

Where possible, take control of your environment to avoid stress. Plan. Complete the most important task first.

If not possible to control the environment to avoid unnecessary stress, you may need to re-consider options for a different environment.

Alter

During times of stress, attempt to make changes that impact your stress level for the better. Communicate by using "I" statements when asking others to change their behavior - for example, "I feel frustrated by this heavy workload. Can you help me balance this?"

To manage time better, group work activities together and enlist help from co-workers.

Accept

There are times when the only response is to accept things as they are.

Talk about the stressors with a person you trust to relieve the pressure.

If experiencing anger at someone, free yourself from it by forgiving the individual and moving on. Avoid negative self-talk and focus on the positive. Learn from past mistakes and accept them as "teachable moments."

Adapt

Redefine the need to achieve perfection to function with less frustration.

Stop gloomy thoughts when they occur. Try to reframe the situation by looking at it through another person's eyes. Adopt a saying to use in tough situations, such as "I can handle this" or "This will pass." Look at the big picture to put things in perspective. Ask, "Will this matter in a year? In five years?" Viewing stressors from this angle can make situations feel less overwhelming.



Merger - Sunland & Jackson County Teachers Credit Union

Effective August 1, the Sunland Credit Union was merged with the Jackson County Teachers Credit Union. Membership is open to any one living and working in Jackson County, as well as any of their family members, no matter where they live. The Jackson County Teacher's Credit Union is a full service credit union, offering loans, CD's , savings accounts, full service checking accounts, Visa credit card, mobile apps and online banking. Sunland staff will be happy to know that plans are underway to place an ATM at the Suntown Mall, with a tentative date mid-October!

For more information regarding credit union membership, please visit them at 4466 Clinton Street, Marianna, or call 526-4470.



On August 28, Christy Bloechl, marketing director at the Jackson County Teachers Credit Union delivered an assortment of fresh bakery donuts to several departments at Sunland that were instrumental in the transition process. Pictured are Deputy Superintendent Adrian Abner, Christy Bloechl, Pam Mayo, Nicole Sims, Katey Hobbs, Charles Stephens, LaWonda Holden, Robin Morris and Superintendent Geri Williams.

HUMAN RESOURCES

For any personnel needs, please contact Veronica Mullinax, Katey Hobbs, Lizzie Holland, Nicole Sims and Robin Morris at Sunland, and Debra Cone, Faith Bentley and Jodi Nesmith at DDDP. The HR Team is always happy to serve you!

For more information regarding personnel matters, the Sunland Human Resources Department can be reached at 482-9230 or *04. The DDDP Human Resource Team may be reached at 663-7738.

Information regarding vacancies can be obtained at the People First website at:

<https://peoplefirst.myflorida.com>

NEW EMPLOYEES


Welcome Aboard!

Tsara Peace	Arariran Russ
Latoya Bouie	Keon Snell
Jermel Williams	Rylie Bachelier
Danerrius Hendeson	Michael Cummings
Lisa Rabon	Christina Murff
Adriane Adams	Christian Williams
Ellison Rambo	

Farewell Retirees!

Tondelayo Clemons
Dr. Nikon Arunakul
Shirley Baker



agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida

Project Sunland PRIDE



Beautification Program!

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN A DESIRABLE ENVIRONMENT

"Community Spotlight of the Month"



Sunland United Chapel

"The Sunland Beacon" - Newsletter Committee

Suggestions and/or news article submissions are welcome; 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; Suzanne Laramore, RN/Nursing-Medical