

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

agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida



Annual Lynwood Baxter SOFTBALL Tournament



On Wednesday September 16, Sunland played host to the 19th Annual Lynwood Baxter Softball Tournament at Howell Field. This tournament is named in memory of longtime Sunland employee Lynwood Baxter who passed away in 1996. Lynwood loved Sunland, the residents who lived here and the game of softball, so the Recreation Department decided to honor his contributions to Sunland by naming this softball tournament after him. On hand Wednesday to be a part of the tournament were several of Lynwood's family including his wife Carolyn, son Jim Bob Baxter (former Sunland employee), grandson Caleb Carr, son-in-law Michael John Carr (Sunland employee) and Michael John's mother Margie Carr. Special guests, Marianna Chief of Police Hayes Baggett and Marianna Fire Chief Nicky Lovett were on hand to throw out a couple of pitches.

Four teams took part in the tournament with three of those teams (Sonics, Boom and Jets) being from Sunland. The fourth team was the Lions of Leon County. In the first game, the Lions edged the Sonics in a very close game. The Jets then defeated the Boom and after lunch, downed the Lions in another close contest. In the final game of the day the Sonics defeated the Boom.

All athletes were treated to a hamburger meal and the event also served as a fund raiser for the Special Olympics Jackson County program. Thanks to all the staff and residents who purchased a hamburger meal and a special thanks to all the staff that worked at the



Annual Lynwood Baxter Softball Tournament





"Family Matters" is designated as an editorial page which offers staff the unique perspective of looking through the eyes of our residents' loved ones.

This month, the Whener family joins us in sharing their thoughts about the Beacon and their sincere appreciation for the care given to their loved one, Nick.

This is important because...Family Matters!

A Family Member's Perspective on Nick Wehner and Sunland

Nick Wehner is one of the longtime residents of Sunland. He was about 17 when he first arrived and is now 64. Our Mother, Carolyn, had to go to the governor of Florida to get him admitted. He had been on the waiting list for about 4 years. Our Mother was relentless in her pursuit to get Nick into Sunland. Nick loves being at Sunland and enjoys his freedom to get around the beautiful property and all the friendships he has developed over the years. When I visit for Fall Festival every year, no matter where we go in Marianna we always run into someone he knows and there is always a resounding "Hello Nick!" He is always excited to see old friends. Nick and I are very grateful for the excellent care and concern that he receives at Sunland.

Helen Wehner Chumley
Sister



From the Superintendent...

“Going around the Bush a bit!” ~ Clint Cox

Recently, I was noticed of the passing of James Madison Bush. Recalling our first encounter, I distinctly remember him saying, “Hi. I am Jim! I work with the folks here at Sunland teaching square dancing and I want you to know how important it is for them to go to the Georgia State Convention. I am counting on your support. ” Quickly, he was whisked away to the stage and handed a microphone. There the magic began... the old style calling ...the western dancing... and the traditional twirling with every young lady in the Sunland Swingers. We sat on the bleachers facing the stage for what seemed like an hour watching this glorious interplay between our residents and their teacher. What fun they seemed to be having! Enjoying the thrill of the dance seemed pleasurable enough, but when Jim started inviting some of us to the stage Tacachale’s Center Administrator Michael Mayfield, Wendell and I passed on that offer and quickly faded into the crowd to watch from a distance. That was Fall Festival 2014.

Here we are at the dawn of Autumn 2015 bidding farewell to Sunland’s good friend Jim Bush. I called Clint Cox to express my appreciation to him, Donna Conrad, and Chaplain Ruthie Moore for attending with our residents the memorial service for Mr. Bush. Clint shared, “The family was so grateful that we came...and talked about how important this work was to Mr. Bush...and how he wanted to do so much more with our residents... but after the Gainesville hospitalization it was tough...And, the residents got to meet a number of the people that helped Mr. Bush and they enjoyed that.” Then he said, “I know I am going around the bush a bit, but it was good for our residents to say goodbye and meet Mr. Bush’s children and family.” How prophetic I thought. “*Going around the Bush a bit.*” Imagine: Mr. Bush now square dancing the final Promenade home by the light of the moon on the sunny side of eternity. Certainly, creating ways to teach new dancers and make new connections.

Square dancers often say, “Square dancing is friendship set to music.” Jim Bush made a lot of friends at Sunland and his influence will live on.

Fare Thee Well,

Geri Williams
Superintendent



Pictured are the 2012 Sunland Swingers at the Georgia State Square Dance Convention with their beloved “Caller” and very special friend Mr. Jim Bush (2nd Row, third from left)

2012 Sunland Swingers

The Thiel Experience



Open Letter ... Submitted by John & Elizabeth Greer

On Friday, September 25, Sunland hosted the "Thiel Experience" a wonderful event designed to enhance communications and sharing of information between families and staff. There is no way we can provide a complete description of the day as we were together part of the time and following what was pertinent to our particular loved one part of the time. A continental breakfast was beautifully presented during the welcome. When it was time to serve lunch to the residents, we were allowed to observe/participate. An unexpected guest was Representative Brad Drake. He couldn't stay the entire time but his appearance was a nice surprise and we enjoyed his visit. Tambra Cabrera shared the completed resident bios with us. She did a tremendous job and we believe they will satisfactorily serve as a necessary information source for the folks who work with our loved ones. At 1 p.m. we were invited to go to the site where the residents afternoon activities were scheduled. For our son, Jeremy that was his job in recycling. We were amazed at his ability to do such a great job! Next came the wrap-up where we discussed the day. The discussion was very positive. After this wonderful day we were fed one of the most delicious meals and presented with a pretty remembrance to bring home created by our Resident Advocate, Jennie Dean. We would like to thank everyone who participated and we look forward to more participation next year. We are so grateful to all the parents, family members, and guardians who made this day a success.

Like any great experience, good things continue to come up for next time. You will love this! Tom Moody won a gift certificate for naming this new group ...*"Thiel's Reliable Unstoppable Support Team"* or TRUST. Congratulations, Tom! Tom, John and I are also excited about a new project at the Sunland Environmental Park. Parents, families, guardians, friends, please email me your interest in this project and we will include you in the upcoming meeting.

We would also like to thank Lucious Williams, Syntha Alvarez, Lenora Edwards and all the Thiel Staff. It was an AWESOME Day at Sunland!



Unit 1 Activities...

Good work cannot go unnoticed even when one tries not to make it obvious. It recently happened to Unit 1 Social Worker, Mr. Greg Roberts. Mr. Roberts worked on a bicycle which was in need of repairs, owned by Unit 1 resident, Bingle G. Mr. Roberts scraped down the bike's three layers of old paint, and also placed two new rear tires on it. Thanks, again to Mr. Roberts for the love and dedication he exhibits for the residents in Unit 1. Mr. Bingle has now given his new bike the name "Silver Bullet."



New Additions:

Unit 1 Learning Programs congratulates the following individuals for becoming a part of the Unit 1 Learning Programs: Ms. Stacy Croft Holden and Mr. Roderek Gainer. Along with our Supervisor, we wish them all the best in their new roles.

Special Events: Unit 1 residents continue to enjoy themselves at Rish Park. September 16 - 18, Unit 1 residents returned to the park for an exciting beach trip. Fall is in the air!

Shout Out: A big shout out for Mr. Joe. N. from Johnson's house. On Saturday 5, Joe took five of his friends to Chipley to Bailey's Restaurant to enjoy a special meal with them.

Also a Big, Big Shout Out to Mrs. Mazie Mount who works on Harrison House, 2ND shift. Ms. Mount recently celebrated 30 years of service to the State of Florida. She was honored by her co-workers for her hard work and dedication to duty. We wish you many blessings for the days and years to come.

Article Contributed by; Clevlando Wedderburn

Unit 2 ~ On the Move...

Summer season is at its peak. By the time September creeps up on you, you begin to wonder where the summer went. Residents of Unit 2 had the opportunity to participate in many activities this summer such as Family Day, picnics/cook-outs, ice cream parties, bike rides, fishing in the park, dances, beach trips and many field trips. The list goes on and on but one thing is for sure...*EVERYONE HAD A FUN FILLED SUMMER!!!!!!!!!!*



Cheryl D. listens patiently as her swim coach, Matt Dryden instructs her on the correct position to dive into the water. Swimming, one of the most physically challenging sports, is adaptable for all individuals regardless of physical ability, age or talent.

Cheryl is certainly no stranger to the water as she's one of Sunland's finest swimmers!

HEY BATTER...BATTER!

Softball is a very intense but exciting game. It's frustrating sometimes when you are not fielding the ball, making errors or you're in a ball slump and can't get a base hit when your team needs it. But Jessie D. recently made his team proud as he hit the ball out field. He smiled from ear to ear as his fans cheered him on.



Mr. Ronald B. of Unit 2/East Truman passed away on August 28,2015. Ronald was loved by all who knew him. His energy and laughter alone could light up a room.

Heaven gained another ANGEL!

*In Loving
Memory*



Article & Photos Contributed by: LaWanda Calhoun

Unit 3 Happenings...

End of Summer Celebrations!!

On August 25, Connally's Learning Center had a Fun in the Sun Day! The Day consisted of a water balloon toss, relay games, music, and great social interaction! The staff and residents truly enjoyed the festivities! Later on, Connally staff had a farewell luncheon for Cheryl Jones. For nearly three years, Cheryl was the devoted and enthusiastic RSS at Connally Manor. We are sad to see her go. However, we all wish her nothing but the best with her future endeavors.



On September 4, Monroe Activity Center threw a Summer Bash that had an under the sea theme. The bash was definitely a great time! The island music, the mermaid cake, and Laura Brunson's delicious seafood Alfredo recipe added nice touches to the party. To top it off, Stacy Reed and Rima Kalonda hand painted a beautiful ocean mural which was the backdrop for photos. Monroe House residents, seahorses, oysters, fish, and sea turtles were stunning additions to the artwork. Our residents, along with the staff, were all smiles that day. Great team work to Rima Kalonda and Laura Brunson for organizing a successful event!



Saving Lives!!

On September 3, Roxice Choice from Westside recently saved the life of one of our residents by performing the Heimlich maneuver. Unit 3 would like to shine a spotlight on Roxice for her swift response in performing life saving measures to save the life of one of our own. Great job and special thanks to Roxice Choice! You are a WOW employee!!



Upcoming Events

Connally's Annual Patio Sale - October 19-23.



September Birthday Stars:

Residents: Irby B., & Nancy P.

Staff: Latia Bellamy & LaRhonda Barnes

Article Contributed by: Allison Jones



Pathways

RESIDENT WORK PROJECTS

The staff and residents of the Vocational Program at Pathways are always on the move with daily routine work and new projects such as maintaining the grounds at Pathways, on Center and at the Vocational worksite. Whether working in their gardens or caring for their chickens, there are always plenty of work opportunities for everyone.



Article & Photos Contributed by: Juanita Alford

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES DEFENDANT PROGRAM

On August 27, 28, 31, and September 1, 2015, the Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program held mandatory training sessions for all staff within the Program. Areas covered during each 8-hour session included: Professional Boundaries and Statutory Issues, presented by Dr. Priscilla Thorn; Community Handbook by Dr. Walter Prather; and Abuse Neglect and Exploitation by Ms. Stacy Gibson, Resident Advocate.

Ms. Debbie Cone, Human Resources, gave each group the official FSECC Kick-Off address. The DDDP Management Team provided each group with an ice cream social on the afternoon break of each session as a way of saying "thanks" for their many contributions. The training was held in the Arsenal on the grounds of Florida State Hospital. A special thanks goes out to our presenters for the time and effort they put into making this training a resounding success!



Pictured: Stacy Gibson, Dr. Walter Prather and Dr. Priscilla Thorn

Contributed by: Tony Reed, Assistant Superintendent/DDDP



MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program proudly announces the implementation of a Mentorship Program, effective September 1, 2015. The Program is designed to provide a forum for all levels of staff to work in partnership with other areas as well as selected individuals, to provide an opportunity for professional growth and development. The Program will assist with recruitment and retention of staff, enhance employee development, and encourage cross departmental training. The mentoring program requires a 12-month commitment and progress is noted through an Individual Development Plan that will be crafted after an application is completed after reviews by the Mentoring Program committee and a Mentoring Agreement signed.

DDDP is excited about this opportunity for staff. Division Director Donna Franklin and Assistant Superintendent Tony Reed invested a great deal of time in thinking out a quality Mentoring Program. Sunland/DDDP communities applaud this effort.

Staff interested in mentoring or being mentored should contact their immediate supervisor, Division Director or the Assistant Superintendent.



Article & Photos Contributed by: Tony Reed



From the Sunland Safety Committee...

Falls Prevention Awareness

Many falls are preventable. Stay safe and “fall-free” by following these six steps:

- 1** **Find a good balance and exercise program** - Look to build balance, strength, and flexibility.
- 2** **Assess risk of falls** - A good assessment is key to preventing falls. Everyone should have a current assessment.
- 3** **Review medications** - Make sure side effects aren't increasing risk of falling.
- 4** **Check vision and hearing** - Eyes and ears are key to keeping balance and awareness of environments where falls can occur.
- 5** **Keep homes and work areas safe** - Remove tripping hazards, increase lighting, make sidewalks and walkways safe, remove clutter.
- 6** **Teamwork!** - Use team support to prevent falls. Safety is everyone's job! Let's work together to make Sunland safe for everyone!

Information from the National Council on Aging: www.ncoa.org/FallsPrevention

Article Contributed by: Mary Gallagher, Safety Committee Chair & Director of Quality Management



NURSING NEWS

It is with great pleasure we announce that Ms. Dawn Alday has been selected as the new SRNS for Unit 3. Many of you may recall Ms. Alday when she worked at Sunland as a RNS from 1999 to 2008, and also as a RSS on Harrison House from 2008 to 2013. She has close to 18 years of experience working with developmentally disabled individuals and multiple years in geriatric, medical/surgical nursing. We are excited to have her join our Nursing Leadership Team!

We are also pleased to announce that Ms. Marie Storm, RNS will begin in Unit 3 Nursing on evening shift. She is originally from New Jersey and has relocated to Sneads. She received her RN License in 1998. Ms. Storm has experience working in medical surgical, emergency room, telemetry, dialysis, and has worked at FSH and DDDP. We are excited to have her a part of our team!

Ms. Karyn Bielski, RN has been selected for the Infection Control Nursing Program Specialist. She is replacing Ms. Mary Jane Nelson who is retiring. Ms. Bielski has vast experience in the infection control field as a Public Health Nurse, County School Nurse as well as Supervisory experience. She has a phenomenal background from serving in the US Army as a LPN Sergeant and received an Achievement Metal for exceptional care of critical patients to Emergency Room, Hospital and specialties such as FSH and Sunland. We are excited to have her in this role!



Article Contributed by: Suzanne Laramore, RN



**Florida State Employees'
Charitable Campaign**

Point. Click. Pledge.

Campaign Year
2015-2016

The Florida State Employees' Charitable Campaign (FSECC) for 2015-2016 runs from September 1, 2015 through November 6, 2015. The FSECC is the single authorized solicitation of State employees to voluntarily benefit charities providing programs that meet human or environmental needs in our community, across the nation and abroad.

To make an online pledge, visit the www.FSECC.com website. Instructions and tools for pledging can be found under "For Employees." Payroll deductions will begin with the first regular paycheck in January 2016 and will be discontinued automatically after the last regular paycheck in December 2016. The minimum allotment is \$1.00 per deduction if paid every two weeks and \$2.00 per deduction if paid monthly. There are over 700 charity organizations to choose to make a donation some include Special Olympics Florida Big Bend Area, Make-A – Wish Foundation, Shriners Hospitals for Children, Big Bend Hospice and the United Way.

Sunland and DDDP Planned events will include:

- ◆ Dunking Booth (Throw and Dunk your favorite Supervisor)
- ◆ If you have any names we will try to have that supervisor in the booth (*and tell us in private*).



Bake Off (Enter your best dessert to be judged)

- ◆ Winner will receive a cash prize
- ◆ Winner will be allowed to take all the baked good back to their Unit/Department to share with all their co-workers



FSECC Bake Off

All you will need to do to enter to participate in these events is make your on-line pledge and bring a printed copy of your confirmation to any staff in Human Resources. We will mark your name on a list and you will be able to participate in all events.

As time draws near we will be forwarding the dates and times for each of the events.

Article Contributed by: Amanda Johnson, HR Manager



Employee Recognition Program



AUGUST STAR AWARDS

STAR TEAMS

Quality Management Computer Lab Team

Heather Traylor, Kira Sharp, Randall Wynn, Ethan Smith, Bruce Gambill, Allen Ward, Mike Peacock, Roger Cosson, Adam Chambliss, Steven King, Clay Mitchell

Unit 3 Team

LaRhonda Barnes, Roderick Gainer, Allison Jones

Unit 3 Team

Alice Jennings, Monica Clayton, Merry Warren, Geraldine Messer, Annie Gammons

STAR EMPLOYEES

Lisa Sexton, Security
 Antwain Hooks, Pathways
 Tondelayo Clemons, Unit 1 Grant
 Anthony Calloway, Unit 1 Westside
 Joe Grimsley, Unit 3 Connally Manor
 Tarrance Ellis, Unit 3 East Washington

SEPTEMBER STAR AWARDS

STAR TEAM

Unit 2 Whispering Oaks Team

Debra Baker, Pam McCuen, Beth Gilmore
 Vickie Chambliss, Lee Cranford
 Voncille Williams, Barbara Barnes, Mary Herring

STAR EMPLOYEES

Greg Roberts, Unit 1
 LaTonya Libert, Unit 2
 Phil Anderson, Unit 2



HUMAN RESOURCES

August 2015

Tammi Garrett
 Robin Hill
 Karey Hewett
 JoAnn Manship
 Lillian Hayes
 Taneelia Green
 Waverly Jones
 Shelly McCormick
 China Williams
 Mark Creamer
 Marvin Jones
 Cornelius Snell
 Raashan Kirkland
 Ruby Nealy
 Justin Lester
 Candace Carnley
 Xavier King



Retirees:

Judy Reed
 Lonnie Milton

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>



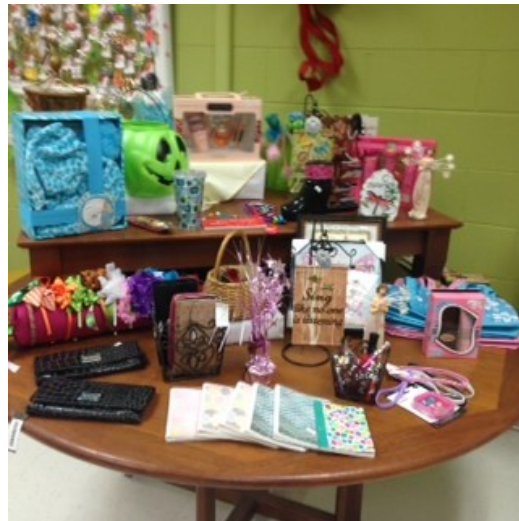
agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida

Project Sunland PRIDE



Beautification Program!

PERSONAL **R**ESPONSIBILITY **I**N A **D**ESIRABLE **E**NVIRONMENT



“Community Spotlight of the Month”



~ CSS Sunny's Corner Boutique ~



“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; Sandy Helms, ARNP - Wellness Committee; Suzanne Laramore, RN - Safety Committee