

The Sunland Beach

Volume 1/Issue 5

JULY 2015

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

agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida



Summer Fun!

While the temperatures continue to soar outside, the Sunland Recreation Department has been heating up indoors. The summer basketball league on Wednesday has been strong with four teams and almost 40 residents taking part in the league. This has been a fun addition to the usual summer programs that are enjoyed by residents such as wagon rides, arts & crafts, the swimming pool, the Leisure Center and the Gym, several new activities seemed to be very popular. To beat the heat on Friday afternoons, the Recreation Department has been hosting a pool party, complete with music and refreshments.

Another big hit this summer was the "Old Fashion Tent Revival" sponsored by Chaplaincy Services. The event was held June 30th at Sunland's Environmental Park. Featured was some fine music, eagerly performed by Sunland residents, live music by a band comprised of staff from Centralized Support Services and of course, some good "ole fashion preaching" by DeRon Johnson.

The Music Therapy Program has cranked it up even more this summer with the addition of two "Sunfest Programs" (musical talent shows put on by the residents) at the Auditorium and a music talent show at the Mall. The July Sunfest program, held July 23rd, was called Gospel Fest, as all music performed was gospel music. The program featured over 20 performers including several staff performances. The final program for the summer was held July 28th and was called "Summer Fun Time Program." It included a display of arts & craft projects completed by residents this summer, several musical performances and a performance by the Jackson County Omega Lamp Lighters. The Lamp Lighters are a community young men's mentoring program sponsored by local attorney, LaDray Gilbert. The program closed out with a special guest appearance by "Madea," who, as always, was a big hit with the residents.

And as hard as it is to believe, the summer recreation program is coming to a close on August 6th due to school starting back earlier this year (August 10th). It's been a great summer but now it is time to get back to the routine of work and school. A special thanks goes out to the Summer OPS workers and all the CSS staff that helped make this a great summer!



Andrew K. served as the Gospel Fest Emcee



Lonnie F. danced to a gospel tune



Johnnie Mae W. delighted the crowd with some old time gospel favorites!

Article & Photos Submitted by: Clint Cox

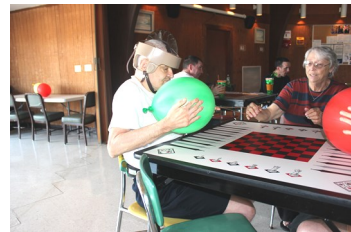
Keeping Cool on Hot Summer Days!

Summer is a season of long, hot sunshine filled days and time spent at the pool with good friends! To beat the heat on Friday afternoons, the Recreation Department has been hosting pool parties, complete with music and refreshments.



Thiel Center Enjoys Rish Park Getaway!

Residents and staff at the Thiel Center recently enjoyed a summer vacation with a three day getaway at Rish Park. This was the first time the entire house was able to make an overnight trip to the beach, so it was especially meaningful. Everyone really enjoyed time on the beach, splashing in the pool and a delicious cook out. Considering how well the trip went, this is sure to become an annual event for Thiel Center!



Article & Photo Contributed by: Jennie Ann Dean

From the Superintendent...

Sunland Celebrates the Birthday of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities State Office Team in Tallahassee, Florida.

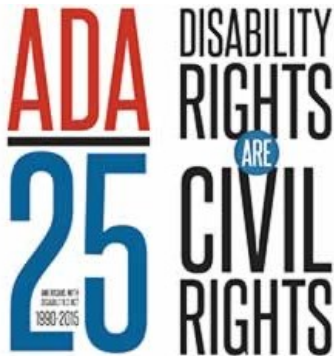
It is hard to imagine just a quarter of a century ago, individuals with disabilities could not navigate their way into certain buildings or participate in activities of their choosing. Thanks to the early work of Senator Ted Kennedy together with Senator Tom Harkin the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 was signed into law July 26 of that year by President George H.W. Bush.

Agency for Persons with Disabilities Director Barbara Palmer described the law's intent. She said it this way, "The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990, by President George H.W. Bush. The ADA is one of America's most comprehensive pieces of civil rights legislation that prohibits discrimination and guarantees that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else to participate in the mainstream of American life -- to enjoy employment opportunities, to purchase goods and services, and to participate in State and local government programs and services."

She then opened the celebration in Tallahassee with warm greetings to everyone present and highlighted strong support systems for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Residents and staff from Sunland actively engaged in the festivities. Donna Conrad and Michelle B. sang "Our Voice Matters." It was great to see Sunland staff and residents socializing with other participants, enjoying the games and the food in the courtyard. Many of the residents and staff expressed that they were happy and delighted to have the experience. Deputy Director Tom Rankin expressed gratitude and appreciation for Sunland's participation.

It was a wonderful day in Tallahassee and a grand 25 year celebration for the Americans with Disabilities Act. Sunland salutes, "ADA!"

Geri Williams
Geri Williams, Superintendent



Unit 1 Activities...



The summer months are an exciting time of year for Sunland, and especially in Unit 1...

Unit 1 participated in the center wide pool parties which have been a lot of fun for residents and staff. Residents dressed in beautiful and colorful beach attire added a special flair to the festivities. Everyone enjoys the refreshing water and activities.

We also participated in the "old fashioned" revival meeting sponsored by Centralized Support Services Chaplain Ruth Moore. The event had a great show of support with an estimated 80 residents and staff in attendance. Unit 1 was very proud of Mr. Tim B. from Harrison House who enjoyed singing two of his old gospel favorites, "Amazing Grace" and "Do Lord."

We are looking forward to the remaining summer being filled with fun and exciting activities for our residents' enjoyment.



Article Contributed by; Clevelando Wedderburn

Unit 2 ~ We Are Family!

Unit 2 Administration would like to convey our heart felt appreciation for all the wonderful work and participation during our 2015 Family Day event. Family members and residents were delighted with the warm welcome, speeches, entertainment, prizes and the fabulous picnic luncheon.

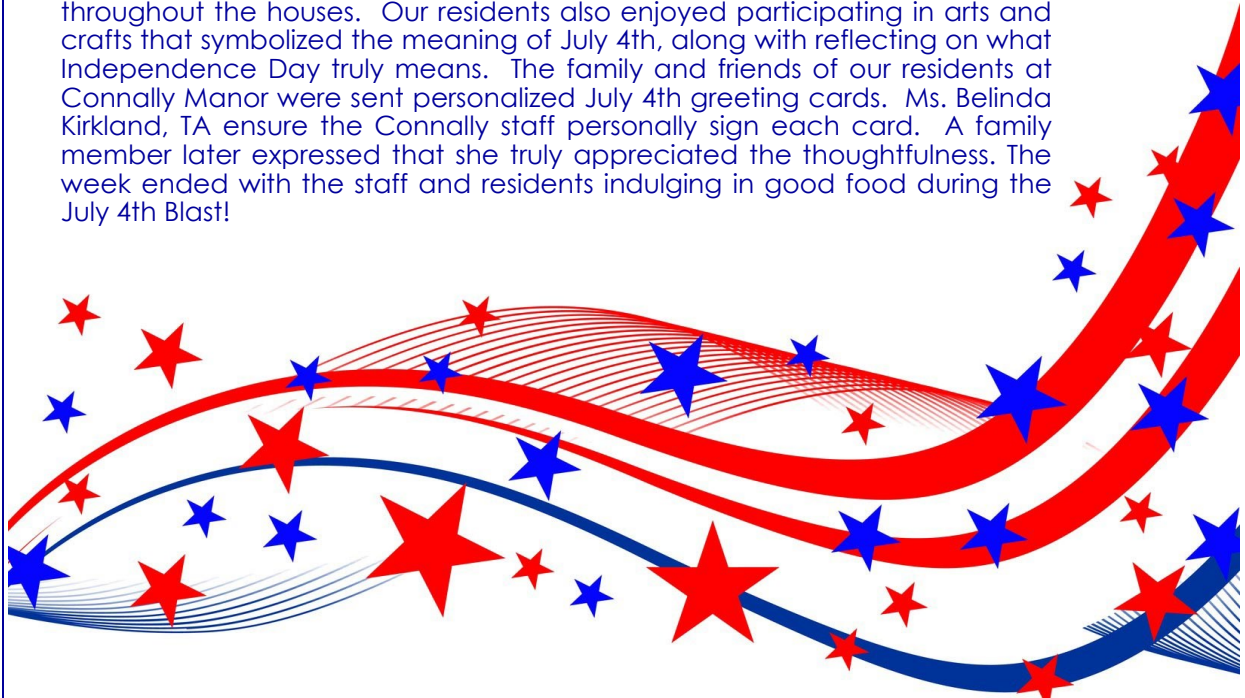
The event was perfectly family oriented. It was a delight to see loving family members interact and enjoy each other's company. This demonstrates how a family can remain close in spite of everyday pressures. The event impacted us all in a positive way. The 2015 Family Day event quickly moved us from a "nice to have" to an "ought to have" to today's "absolutely must have again next year!!!!"



Article & Photos Contributed by: LaWanda Calhoun

Unit 3 Happenings...

Unit 3 showed our Patriotic spirit by displaying red, white, and blue all throughout the houses. Our residents also enjoyed participating in arts and crafts that symbolized the meaning of July 4th, along with reflecting on what Independence Day truly means. The family and friends of our residents at Connally Manor were sent personalized July 4th greeting cards. Ms. Belinda Kirkland, TA ensure the Connally staff personally sign each card. A family member later expressed that she truly appreciated the thoughtfulness. The week ended with the staff and residents indulging in good food during the July 4th Blast!



Celebration of Life

Ms. Jan J. of Unit 3/Connally Manor passed away on June 17, 2015. Ms. Jan was a gentle soul and loved by all who knew her. Her smile alone could light up a room and make your day. Ms. Jan's memorial service was held on June 30, 2015, and it was rightly a celebration of her life.

On July 1, 2015, Ms. Matilda C. of Unit 3/Monroe House passed away. Anyone who was blessed to know Ms. Matilda knew she could always put a smile on your face. Her sweet presence will surely be missed by all of us.

July Birthday Stars

Residents: Catherine C., Charles B., Helen B., Burl T., James T., & Colvey B.

Staff: Racquel Dunston, Cynthia Williams, Heather Williamson, Kathy Dalhoff, Shantel Barkley, Gloria Jackson, Patricia Dickson, Janice Barnes, & Letha Henry.



Article Contributed by: Allison Jones

From the Sunland Safety Committee...



Bicycle Safety

Safety Tips for Bicyclists and Car Drivers!

- **Respect each other:** Both bicyclists and car drivers must share the road and each is responsible for safety.
- **Protect Your Head:** - Wear a helmet!
- **Stay Visible:** If drivers can see you, they are less likely to hit you. Use lights at night and wear reflective or bright clothing.
- **Look, Signal, and Look Again:** Use hand signals to let drivers and other bicyclists know where you want to go. This goes for car drivers as well!
- **Stay Alert:** Keep an eye out for obstacles in your path.
- **Go With the Flow:** Always bike in the direction of traffic.
- **Don't Be A Daredevil:** Don't weave from side to side of the road, don't do trick riding on the streets or roads.

SAFETY AWARDS

Life Savers Awards

During the quarterly Town Hall Meeting, the Safety Committee recognized several staff for implementing life-saving measures to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents. Hats off to the following employees who were recipients of these awards:

Unit 3 - Judy Cambre, Joe Grimsley, Mary McKinnie, Danielle Moss, Kris Lenderman, and Debbie Shaw; Unit 1 - Chris Kelly



Pictured: Unit 3 staff Judy Cambre and Mary McKinnie proudly accept their Life Saver Awards alongside supervisors Elizabeth Mitchell, Unit 3 POA and Cheryl Jones

Article Contributed by: Mary Gallagher, Safety Committee Chair

★ HOMETOWN ★ HERO

On July 23, 2015, Sunland employees Bruce White and Tameka Jones along with several residents were traveling along Highway 90 on a field trip to Chipley. Mr. White noticed a vehicle in a yard with the hood up and said something caught his eye. An elderly gentleman, later identified as Timothy Smith 85 years of age, was under the truck trying to flag down assistance. Mr. White turned the van around to assess the scene further. When Mr. White got out of the van, he observed the victim, Mr. Smith pinned under the cranked vehicle. Mr. Smith was positioned in the direct sunlight, where the heat index was in excess of 100 degrees. The truck engine was running which made it even hotter for the elderly Smith. Mr. White carefully removed Mr. Smith's entrapped legs. Mr. White then moved him to safety, calling 911 for assistance. Mr. Smith stated he had been pinned under the vehicle for well over an hour. He said at times he wanted to give up, instead he just kept praying God would send someone to help him. That individual was Bruce White.

Hats off to Sunland's own "home-town hero" ~ we are proud of you!



Pictured: Sunland's Bruce White's heroic efforts saved Mr. Timothy Smith's life. The two have formed a friendship and share a smile during a recent visit at Mr. Smith's home.

Article & Photo contributed by: Jennie Ann Dean

Pathways



CELEBRATION

On July 2nd the Pathways staff and residents held their annual "Fourth of July" celebration. It was a day of summer fun filled with music, outdoor games, waterslides, watermelon and BBQ. A big "thank you" goes out to Gilbert Farms of Malone Florida for donating a case of watermelons and the Rehab Staff for hosting the event.



Scotty T. enjoyed the fresh, sweet watermelon



Staff and residents team up in a friendly game of volleyball



Residents end the day with a delicious BBQ lunch from Sonny's BBQ

Article & Photos Contributed by:
Juanita Alford

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES DEFENDANT PROGRAM

DDDP is proud to announce that Mr. Kenneth Sanders, Behavioral Program Supervisor F/C, Community II, has been chosen as the inaugural “Star Employee of the Month” for the month of August. Mr. Sanders was nominated for modeling leadership to his staff by showing care and compassion to the residents of Community II. He is noted by co-workers to go above and beyond what is required of him and assists others where need. Most notably, Sanders recently assisted Dr. Thorn with several residents on Community II with competency training through the evaluation process. In addition to a great work ethic, Mr. Sanders has a great personality and works well with both residents and co-workers. Quote received, “Mr. Sanders is a pleasure to be around.” Mr. Sanders' photo will be displayed at the front entrance of the Main Building and the Annex for all to see and to serve as a reminder that great work does not go unnoticed. Many thanks to Mr. Sanders for his contributions to DDDP!



On July 13, 2015, DDDP hosted the Sunland Management Team meeting on the grounds of Florida State Hospital in the historic Apalachicola Arsenal. The Arsenal's construction began in 1832 by the United States Army and was completed in 1839. The bricks were made locally by using clay from the Mosquito Creek swamp. Interestingly, the original structure was built as a gunpowder storage and was utilized during the Civil War. There is a lot of history in the Arsenal which has now been restored. The Arsenal was the perfect meeting place for the Sunland Management team to kick-off the new fiscal year!



Contributed by: Tony Reed, Assistant Superintendent/DDDP

HEALTH & WELLNESS CORNER

World Hepatitis Day – July 28, 2015

Viral hepatitis can be prevented. It's up to all of us to act

That is why in 2010 the World Health Organization made World Hepatitis Day one of only 4 official disease-specific world health days, to be celebrated each year on the 28th July. Millions of people across the world now take part in World Hepatitis Day, to raise awareness about viral hepatitis, and to call for access to treatment, better prevention programs and government action.

For every death a voice.

The World Hepatitis Alliance is asking 4,000 people to stand up and be counted in the quest to raise awareness of viral hepatitis. You can provide a voice for the 4,000 lives that will be lost on World Hepatitis Day this year. Together your voices become a powerful symbol for the need for action to prevent future deaths.

Simply tweet using the hashtag **#4000voices** or visit the website listed below to sign up to contribute your Twitter avatar or photo to our mosaic and use your voice to call for action

<http://www.worldhepatitisday.info/en/4000-voices>



Article Contributed by: Sandy Helms



NURSING NEWS

The nursing department offers a fond farewell to Lisa Menchion, SRNS, as she expands her horizons. We wish her the best! Rose Crews, SRNS Unit 1 is acting as the SRNS for Unit 3.

We welcome Karyn Bielski, RNS, in her new role as the Psych Clinic nurse. Her experience, knowledge and understanding are a big asset for our department. Thank you for making her feel welcome and lending her support!

We are all very excited to have Nicole Sims join us! She has been a huge stress reliever for our department. Not only is she keeping the filing up, helping us with getting our charts organized, answering the phones and anything else we ask, she does it with a smile. She is a very welcome addition to the team.

We have had the privilege of having Chipola Nursing Students complete volunteer hours in our department in recent months. We enjoy working with Chipola College and look forward to future recruitment opportunities.

Everyone in the Nursing and Medical Department wishes Dr. Chinh Nong a fond farewell. Dr. Nong recently retired with 27 years of service. We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Nikorn Arunakul to Sunland. Dr. Arunakul brings many years of experience serving the Marianna and Jackson County communities. He will be a strong member of our team!

The Nursing and Medical departments remind everyone that we must all keep in mind the effects of heat on our residents. Oftentimes, medications can interfere with the body's ability to regulate temperatures which can lead to overheating. In addition, many of our residents are not able to communicate their discomfort. It is up to us to ensure their safety. Make sure they are well hydrated and are not in the heat for extended periods of time. If they are outside, you may notice them looking lethargic, confused, pale, complain of nausea, vomiting or just seems to not be themselves, get them to a cooler area, have them lie down, and notify nursing immediately.

Enjoy your summer!



Article Contributed by: Suzanne Laramore, RN

SERVICE AWARDS

The Employee Recognition Program hosted Sunland's semi-annual Service Awards ceremony Wednesday, July 29th at 1:30 PM in the Auditorium. Employees having attained 20 - 40 years of service were honored during this festive occasion.



20 Years of Service: Shirley Keys, Lorrie Aaron, Vickie Spurlock, Leila Payne, Chris Stewart, Renee Baxter

Not Pictured: Kay Baxter, Lynette Scott, Mattie Hayes



25 Years of Service: Pat Collins, Terry Franklin & Valoris Richardson

Not Pictured: Arletha Williams



30 Years of Service: Alice Bandele, Barbara Calhoun, Robert Davis & Eva Brown

Not Pictured: Mary Gallagher, Wesley Sims, Mazie Mount & Charles Long



35 Years of Service: Juanita Register & Susan Byers

Thank You
for your service



40 Years of Service: Lucious Williams

Article & Photos Contributed by:
Beth Basford & Ethan Smith

Employee Recognition Program

JUNE STAR AWARDS

STAR TEAMS

Team CSS - Lenora Edwards, Marva Wooden, Beverly Cobb, Tonya Kelly & James Godwin

Team CSS - Earl Mathews & Tonya Kelly

Team Maintenance - Bill Himes, David Byrd, Wesley Chance & Ronnie Applewhite

Team Johnson House/Unit 1 - Mike Miller, Michelle Williams, Kevin Jones, Tracy Swint, Jonathan Money & Lloyd Mills

STAR EMPLOYEES

Tambra Cabrera - Unit 2

Maria Johnson - CSS

Jimmy Brooks - Maintenance

Gloria Roulhac - Unit 1



STARS OF THE QUARTER!!

Maria Johnson
"Star Employee of the Quarter"

Team CSS & Team Johnson
"Star Teams of the Quarter"

HUMAN RESOURCES



June 2015

Claude Therrien
Daysia Smith
Jaquavious Royster
Nicole Sims
Shauna McGuire
Juquacion Hall
Erica Smith
Deothron Clay
Barbara Culver
John Simpson
Shirley Miller
Stacy Williams

July 2015

Willie White
Janice Baker-Williams
Shawn Everett
Brandi Mills
Delacy Hill
Kegera Matthews-Lawrence



Retirees:

Dianne Powell
Sally Chambliss

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”



~ Pathways ~



“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