



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

Sunland Enjoys "Fun Days!"

In observance of Public Service Recognition week, the Sunland Employee Recognition Committee sponsored "Staff Fun Days" May 10 - 12. The celebration included three fun-filled days offering sports activities and theme dress days. Many employees and residents stated they really enjoyed the friendly competition, and the fun opportunities to sport their favorite team apparel, favorite era "throwbacks" and show off their creative, yet crazy hats and crazy socks. To finish out the week, the volleyball tournament was quite a lively competition with CSS pulling off the victory. A big shout out also goes to CSS for their efforts to retain the "Spirit of Sunland" traveling trophy for a second year. Throughout the week, many departments also held appreciation luncheons for their employees, which added a personal touch, allowing staff to engage in quality fellowship with co-workers. All in all, it was a great week filled with a spirit of friendship and community!

2017 STAFF FUN DAYS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

TEAM SPIRIT DAY
Wear your favorite sports apparel or your Sunland T-Shirt



SUNLAND SHOOTOUT

HELD AT THE GYM
NOON UNITL 4:30PM

1ST PLACE WINNER - FREE THROWS
1ST PLACE WINNER - 3-POINT SHOTS
COMBINED 1ST PLACE OVERALL WINNER

FRIDAY, MAY 12



CRAZY HAT & SOCK DAY
WEAR YOUR WACKIEST HAT AND/OR SOCKS



GYM 1-3PM



THURSDAY, MAY 11

FAVORITE "ERA" DAY!

Time for a throwback!
Wear your favorite clothing from days gone by!!



TWO PERSON TEAMS AT THE GYMNASIUM 9-11AM & 1-3PM



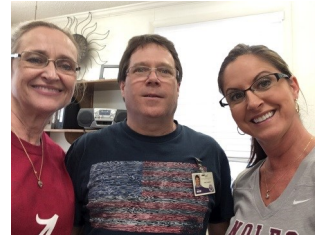
Spirit of Sunland Traveling Trophy 2PM AWARD PRESENTATION
JUDGING CRITERIA FOR SPIRIT AWARD

- Department with Highest Percentage of Participation
- Staff Week Team Spirit Days
- Staff Week Sports Activities
- Star Awards (FY16/17) YTD



"Staff Fun Days" are Sponsored by the Sunland Employee Recognition Program and Sunland Leadership Team, in observance of Public Service Recognition Week.
THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED & HARDWORKING EMPLOYEES!
WE APPRECIATE YOU!

Team Spirit Day!



Favorite Era Day!



Crazy Hats/Crazy Socks!



Basketball, Cornhole & Volleyball!



3rd Annual Art in the Park



Spring was certainly in the air at Sunland on May 6 as we celebrated our 3rd Annual 'Art in the Park' at the Environmental Park. Sunland residents and local artists submitted artwork for viewing at the event which provided the perfect background for a cool, sunny Spring morning. Featured were original artworks with various mediums to include paintings, photography, sculpture, wood, and fiber. The sound of live music filled the air, adding a charming ambiance for art lovers mingling through the displayed artwork. Students from the Sunland Culinary Arts program served brunch to contributing artists at the Artists' Reception which was held prior to the show. The event also provided children's art

activities and live demonstrations. As guests browsed the exhibits, they were afforded opportunities to cast their vote in the People's Choice Awards. Congratulations to the following winners: Maria Johnson and Bob Gamble, Best of Show; 1st Place Carol Williams, and 2nd Place Jonathan Comas and Bob Gamble. Event organizers were especially pleased at the variety and quality of artwork on display, and the large crowd which gathered to celebrate the artists and their creations. Event Chair Maria Johnson stated "We are so grateful to the community for visiting Art in the Park and supporting the work of our residents and artists from our local and surrounding communities. We especially appreciate Real Florida Magazine for covering the event, along with the Friends of Sunland, Inc., Artists Guild of Northwest Florida, Tori Willis, owner of "This, That & the Other," craft demonstrators Beverly Basford and Elijah Conrad, and so many others for giving of their time and talent to support this event. Save the Date...Art in the Park is always held the first Saturday of May. We look forward to seeing you there next year!"



Contributed by: Maria Johnson, Photos Courtesy of Real Florida Magazine

From the Superintendent...

Greetings Wonderful Team!

Summer is in full swing. I am all but certain that kids are delighted to be out of school and ready for some summer fun. Many of you are planning vacations and down time with your families. I pray for your safety. I encourage you to embrace and bask in your experiences.

In the midst of the family vacations, sports schedules, vacation bible studies, summer tutorials, and all those things that make your regular rhythm personal and precious; add to your summertime moments of joy an opportunity to pause and experience: a beautiful sunrise, the bluest blue in the beach, fresh air to breathe, take in the faces of your loved ones, really taste the barbecue and stop and listen to a child's laughter. You may just find a deeper appreciation for those things that we so often chalk up to usual and customary. Every moment in life gives us a chance to experience anew the things that we so often take for granted. I urge you to seek the deeper meaning.

Enjoy your summer!

Geri Williams
Superintendent





Sunland Honors Our Nurses!

During Nurses Week, May 6 - 12, the Sunland Nursing Department took time to celebrate and honor what we do as healthcare professionals. Nurses Week is a special time to recognize our efforts and expressions of care. National Nurses Day is celebrated annually on May 6 to raise awareness of the important role nurses play in our society. This celebration marks the beginning of National Nurses Week, which ends on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale.



Dear Sunland Nurses,

You are the caregivers, communicators, patient advocates and decision makers. You are the hand-holders, the voice-of-reason, the 3 a.m. vitals-checkers. You become the around-the-clock best friend by the bedside, the calming voice, the familiar face full of compassion.

To many, you are guardian angels.

As a nurse at Sunland, you play a very important role. Oftentimes, you interpret and anticipate the needs of your residents who can't communicate them. This rapport is one that can only be established over time, one that greatly impacts the quality of life for our residents.

Nursing is a cognitively demanding profession where the task of caretaking is a rewarding challenge. Nurses go through some of the most intimate moments with people from all walks of life, and it is from these experiences that one develops an altruism towards humankind.

Nursing is a passion for those filled with compassion.

Two little words you may not hear every day are the appreciative and resounding words, "Thank you."

Michele Pettis, Executive Nursing Director, Sunland



Nurses are Worth Celebrating!

Thanks to all our hard-working nurses. We appreciate your dedication to our residents.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| ★ Dawn Alday | ★ Sue Frazier | ★ Michele Hopson | ★ Edith Phillips |
| ★ Kay Baxter | ★ Tammie Gentry | ★ Suzanne Laramore | ★ Jennifer Pumphrey |
| ★ Penny Berbert | ★ Stephine Groover | ★ Toni Layton | ★ Bobbi Rutko |
| ★ Karyn Bielski | ★ Janice Hargrave | ★ Sharron Lee | ★ Anne Sue Saunders |
| ★ Rose Crews | ★ Tonya Nicole Hatcher | ★ Kristina Lenderman | ★ Jennifer Sizemore |
| ★ Shelly Davis-Godwin | ★ Joanna Hatfield | ★ Sharon K Merkison | ★ Jessica Sorey |
| ★ Sandra Dilmore | ★ Sandy Helms, ARNP | ★ Danielle Moss | ★ Paul Speros |
| ★ Nicole Ellis | ★ Nicole Hendrix | ★ Karen Niedzwiec | ★ Michelle Thrasher |
| ★ Robbie Finch | ★ Marian Herring | ★ Harold Parker, ARNP | ★ Leilani Valle |
| ★ Cindy Fitzgerald | ★ Jackie Hilton | ★ Michele Pettis | ★ Kandi White |



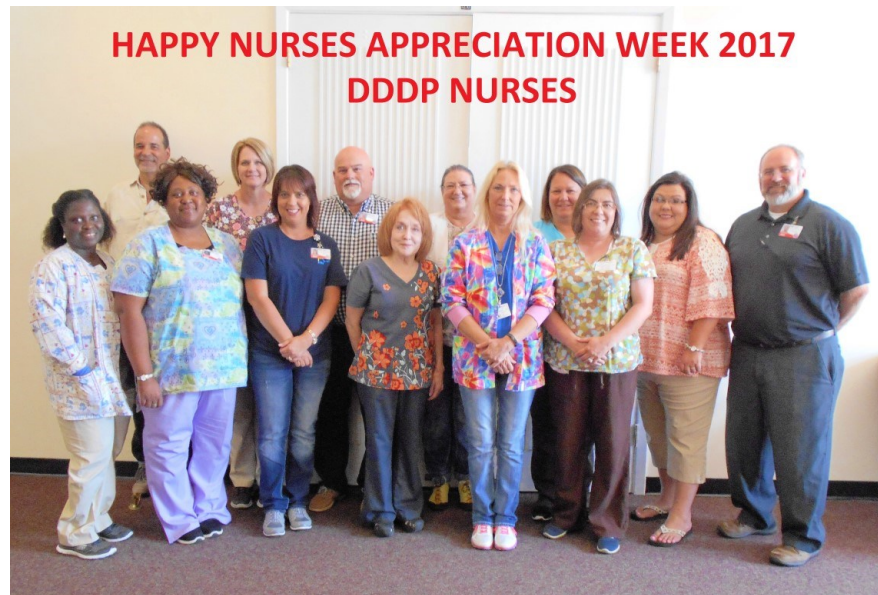
AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION

Nursing: The Balance of Mind, Body, and Spirit

DDDP Celebrates Nurses Week



On May 12, DDDP recognized our nursing staff in honor of National Nurses Week. Nurses were treated to a delicious luncheon in appreciation for all they do as part of the DDDP team. A special thank you to our nurses, the heart of healthcare at DDDP!



Contributed by: Richard Cook, Executive Nursing Director, DDDP

Sunland Excels at Special Olympics Summer Games

The Sunland contingency of the Jackson County Special Olympics team returned from the Special Olympics State Summer Games in Orlando with medals and smiles in tow. Clint Cox, Recreation Director, stated "everyone can be proud of how our 13 athletes represented Sunland and Jackson County." And proud, we are! Congratulations to the following athletes on their accomplishments!

- ◆ Track & Field – Vickie P. won a Gold Medal in the Tennis Ball Throw. She also placed fourth in the 50 meter walk.
- ◆ Cycling – Josh B., Gold Medal; Floyd N., Silver Medal; James B., Silver Medal; David R., 5th Place Ribbon
- ◆ Volleyball – Sonics won Gold, defeating Palm Beach County in the Championship match 3-0. Sonics members include: Eddie M., Chris D., Charles V., James C., Roosevelt E., Arnaldo M., John B., and Francoise P. (Community). Special thanks goes to Nikki Spires for taking on the coaching duties for the volleyball program. Her coaching efforts, along with the player's hard work, certainly paid off in the competition.

At the closing ceremony, Roosevelt E., was recognized as the Inspirational Athlete for Jackson County, and Nikki Spires as the Inspirational Coach for Jackson County.

Thanks to everyone who helps and provides support to our Special Olympics program here at Sunland and in Jackson County. We couldn't do it without you!

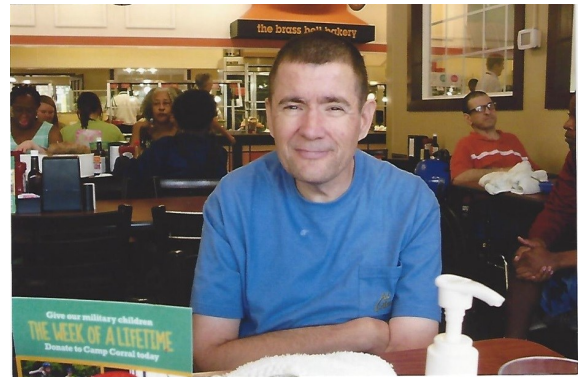


Contributed by: Clint Cox & Donna Conrad

Residential Services

UNIT 2 - The men from Whispering Oaks are continuing to “leave “footprints,” enjoying field trips and community outings. This month the men had an opportunity to visit with a former peer, DW, at the group home where he now resides. DW was elated to see his buddies and friends, giving us all hugs upon our arrival. He was wearing an FSU shirt (Go Noles!), but confessed to being an avid Gator when living at Sunland. To celebrate his recent birthday, everyone chimed in to sing “Happy Birthday” followed with pictures and lots of laughter. While we miss DW, it was rewarding to see that he is doing well and has made a successful transition to a community setting. Following our visit, we enjoyed lunch at the Golden Corral. Words can’t begin to describe how much everyone enjoyed the variety of food choices on the buffet! It was interesting to see the different food preferences the guys have! Earlier in the month, Whispering Oaks also enjoyed watermelons, donated by the 1st Shift HSSS. She brings the guys watermelons every year and they have become a much anticipated treat!

Contributed by: Barbara Calhoun



UNIT 3 - May has been a fun-filled month! At the beginning of month, we had a birthday celebration where staff received birthday cupcakes. We especially enjoyed the festivities that were provided during the “Staff Fun Days.” Many of our staff dressed up for the theme days and showed their Sunland spirit. We also had staff participate in the various sporting events. On behalf of Unit 3 we would like to express our gratitude to the Sunland Employee Recognition Committee and Leadership Team for sponsoring the “Staff Fun Days” and a special thanks to CSS! It really seemed like everyone enjoyed themselves. On May 10, Unit 3 Administration provided a meal to show their appreciation to the wonderful and dedicated staff who work in our unit and care for the individuals we are privileged to serve. Staff were served a spaghetti meal, complete with a tossed salad, garlic bread, and sweet tea. Oh, and we cannot forget about the variety of fresh baked cookies that Mrs. Julie Jackson provided for us to indulge in! Mrs. Julie, a Sunland retiree, continues to volunteer of her time to give back to the residents and staff of Unit 3. Thanks Mrs. Julie for all you do!

On behalf of Unit 3, we would like to congratulate Ms. Treasure Dixon who graduated in May with her Pharmacy Technician certification. We wish you success in your future endeavors!

Contributed by: Allison Jones



Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program

DDDP's annual Family Day was held on Saturday, May 6. This year's theme was "Fun at the Beach." Sixty-seven visitors attended this year's event and, once again, gave extremely positive reviews of the event and beautiful decorations. Much thanks to Latina Germany-Godfrey, HSPA, for coordinating this year's event, and all who worked to make this a meaningful day for the families.

Contributed by: Corey Chafin

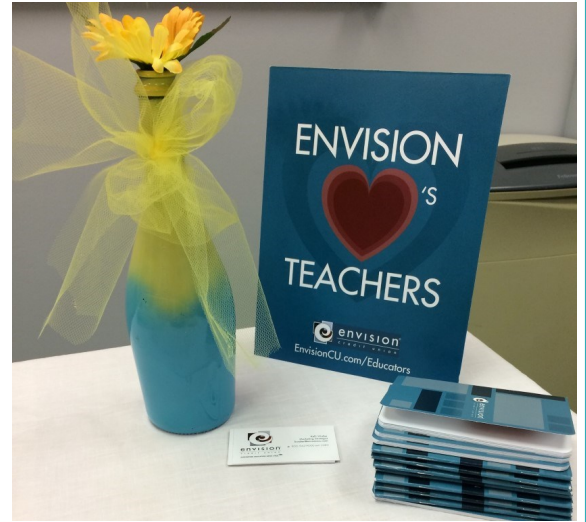




Jackson County School at Sunland

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

The teachers at JCS Sunland were treated to a delicious BBQ lunch from Dickies BBQ on Wednesday, May 4, by the Envision Credit Union of Tallahassee FL. The JCS program was selected as the school to be recognized in honor of teacher appreciation week, thanks to JCS teacher Jennifer Grantham who entered a contest sponsored by Envision. In addition to the lunch, the Cookie Dough Patrol, sponsored by Rahal-Miller and The Jackson County Times, delivered freshly baked chocolate chips cookies. Mr. Baggett honored his teachers with a tube of lip balm stating "Thanks for bee-ing such a great teacher! You are the BALM!". It was a great day at JCS Sunland.



Contributed by: Tim Baggett, JCS Administrator

Congratulations May Olympic Medal Star Award Winners!



SILVER - Unit 1 – Lillie Johnson

GOLD – Unit 1 – Franklin Williams

GOLD - Unit 2 – Pierce House: LaTonya Libert, Patricia Wilson, Janice Baker-Williams, Cecilia Wilson, Kandis Smith, Virginia Lewis, Eleanor Murphy, Cathy McWaters, Bernice Rhynes, Becky Traylor, Semona Donaldson, Shanita Lewis, Callie Boyd, Laretta Bush, Erica Cook, Voncille Williams, Carol Clemmons, Regina Erving, ShaChristmas Lloyd, Rashanda Quarterman, Betsy Newman, Quintavious Horne, Tammy Beavers, Tambra Cabrera

GOLD - Unit 2 – East Truman: Alice Bandele, Breon Bell, Latasha Bellamy

SILVER - Unit 3 – Henry Sherrod

SILVER - Pathways – James Miller, Mike Young

GOLD – Maintenance – Steven King, Aaron Pittman

SILVER - Medical/Nursing – Kay Baxter, Robbie Finch, Tammie Gentry, Kris Lenderman, Sharon Merkison, Shelly Davis-Godwin, Joanna Hatfield, Sharron Lee, Danielle Moss

SILVER - Medical Nursing – Kay Baxter, Joanna Hatfield, Toni Layton, Sharron Lee, Mary Herring

SILVER - Medical/Nursing – Karyn Bielski, Dr. Nikorn Arunakul, Harold Parker, Sandra Helms, Kay Baxter, Kris Lenderman, Jennifer Pumphrey

SILVER - Medical/Nursing – Danielle Moss

GOLD - CSS – Maria Johnson

GOLD – CSS/Recreation – Clint Cox, Matt Dryden, Sabrina Johnson, Johnny Hodges, Donna Conrad, Lee Cranford

SILVER - Accounting – Lawonda Holden, Lynn Kern, Sue Lee

SILVER – Purchasing – Joni Laramore, Gail Snelgrove

Florida Licensing on Wheels Visits Sunland

On Monday May 1, the Florida Licensing on Wheels (FLOW) mobile visited Sunland, providing the following services for our residents free of charge:

- ✓ I.D. Card Renewals
- ✓ Duplicates for lost or stolen I. D. Cards
- ✓ Address/name changes for I.D. Cards
- ✓ New I.D. cards
- ✓ I.D. Reinstatements
- ✓ Emergency Contact Information registration



The Office of Quality Management, along with Sunland residents, extends our appreciation to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) staff members, Mr. R. Dusty Smith and Ms. Evalina Fields for their exceptional services. We look forward to their next visit scheduled for Tuesday, July 11. Please continue to extend a warm Sunland welcome to the FLOW mobile team.

Contributed by: Teresa Burden

HUMAN RESOURCES

Amanda Johnson, HR Manager and her staff, Veronica Mullinax, Lizzie Holland, Nicole Sims and Regina Decker are always happy to serve you!

For more information regarding career opportunities, deferred compensation, retirement or other personnel issues, the Human Resources Department can be reached at 482-9230 or *04.

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

<https://peoplefirst.myflorida.com>



NEW EMPLOYEES

Krisyunna Baker
Leslie Hall
Wanda Melton
Chelsea Dalton
Sherry Norris
Lauren Fears
Crystal Wedderburn
Christina Berrieum
Neva Wooden
Kayla Gay
Na'Stacia Sims
Kourtney Chambliss



Alexis Clayton
Niya Beavers
Latia Bass
Derricka Fitzpatrick
Joseph Sharpe
Celeste Schrieber
Israel Davis

Retirees



Tynetta Gainer



agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida

Project Sunland PRIDE



Beautification Program!

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN A DESIRABLE ENVIRONMENT

"Community Spotlight of the Month" Environmental Park Pavilion



"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; Stephanie Parker, CSS/Print Shop; Renee Perry, Unit 1; LaWanda Calhoun, Unit 2; Allison Jones, Unit 3; Juanita Alford, Pathways; Joni Laramore, Administration; Mary Gallagher, Quality Management; Suzanne Laramore, RN/Nursing-Medical