



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



It's true! Sunland most definitely has something to crow about! The Center was abuzz during the month of September, with staff and residents gearing up for the Center's first-ever 'Scarecrow Row' Contest. As quickly as it was announced, the contest heated up and plans were well underway to construct the most unique scarecrows in north Florida.

The event was a huge hit, with a total of 20 creative entries in four categories: Funniest, Upcycled, Most Unusual, and Animated. A panel of impartial judges, all from the Marianna community, agreed the scarecrows were very creative and well-designed, which made judging quite difficult! An award ceremony was held on September 28 recognizing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners, as well as honorable mentions. Congratulations are in order to the following:

<i>Funniest 1st</i>	<i>Unit 1, 3rd Shift</i>	<i>Most Unusual</i>	<i>1st Maintenance</i>
<i>Funniest 2nd</i>	<i>Sunland Administration</i>	<i>Most Unusual</i>	<i>2nd Hub Art Class</i>
<i>Funniest 3rd</i>	<i>Suntown Mall</i>	<i>Most Unusual</i>	<i>3rd Sunland Ranch</i>
<i>Upcycled</i>	<i>1st PT, OT & Speech</i>	<i>Animated</i>	<i>1st Unit 2 Administration</i>
<i>Upcycled</i>	<i>2nd Unit 3 Monroe House</i>	<i>Animated</i>	<i>2nd Unit 3 Connally Manor</i>
<i>Upcycled</i>	<i>3rd Unit 1 Administration</i>	<i>Animated</i>	<i>3rd Pathways</i>

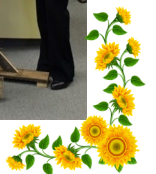
Honorable Mentions: Unit 1 Parkview House; Nursing; Unit 1 Harrison House; CSS Recycling, Horticulture & Manual Skills; Quality Management; Unit 1 Learning Center & Roosevelt Learning Center; Unit 3 East Washington House, CSS Recreation

Following the contest, staff and residents will also have an opportunity to choose their favorite scarecrow in the "People's Choice Award" division, casting votes at the Hub through October 13. The winning entry will be announced prior to Fall Festival.

As a new addition to Fall Festival, all of the scarecrows will be displayed throughout the Environmental Park grounds! What a way to show off the creative talents of our staff and residents! Be sure to mark your calendars! Sunland's annual Fall Festival is one of the greatest events at Sunland, and the Jackson County community. This year is sure to be one for the record books!



We've Got Something to Crow About!



What it's ALL About!

Sunland residents and staff gathered at the Suntown Mall on Friday, September 15 for a spectacular "Friday Social." Residents from all three Units and Pathways filled the chairs and lined the walls anxiously awaiting the live musical performances by their friends and house-mates. The standing room only crowd cheered, clapped and sang along with those performing, while several enjoyed swaying or dancing to the music. As the show began, resident Michael L. offered a prayer, followed by Lonnie F. who provided the welcome and a heart-warming dance to Michael Jackson's "Heal the World." The moment captured the hearts of all in attendance, many voices joining to sing along ... *"Heal the world, make it a better place, for you and for me and the entire human race. There are people dying, if you care enough for the living, make it a better place for you and for me."* Others who performed included Connie S., Judy O., Santa Maria D., Michael L., Arnaldo M., Robbie T, Faye W., and James C. who concluded the show with a hit by the country band Florida Georgia Line titled "Holy." The significance of the love song's lyrics *" You're holy, holy, holy, holy, I'm high on loving you, high on loving you"* were really in many ways reflective of the purity of heart we see in those we serve...truly, they are holy, and as we serve and love them, we are taken to a much higher plane. A place where love is boundless, where serving is truly a privilege, and we are the better for having lived and loved these pure hearts. And *that's what it's all about!*

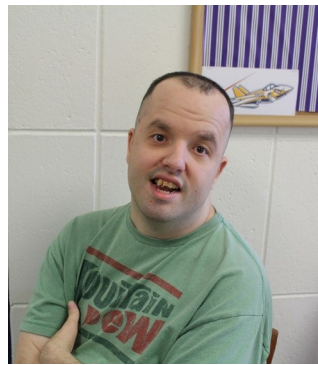


Lonnie F.'s interpretive dance to "Heal the World"



James C. sings along with Florida Georgia Line's "Holy"

What it's ALL About!



From the Superintendent...

It is reported that, "Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma are the only Category 4 Atlantic storms to ever hit the United States in the same year - let alone the same two weeks." The landfall of these two storms delivered a whirlwind of destruction of lives, property and so on. Thanks to all the first responders, linemen, medical/nursing professionals, human services workers, volunteers and others who worked tirelessly to provide relief to folks impacted by these events.

Likewise, my deepest appreciation to staff at Sunland, DDDP, and Rish Park for your commitment to the folks we are privileged to serve. Your presence around the clock made the difference in preparation and implementation of our emergency plan. Please know that your sacrifice did not go unnoticed. Director Palmer said routinely on our emergency preparedness calls, "Please let staff know how much I appreciate all that they are doing and stay safe!" Deputy Director Rankin echoed with, "We are so grateful to all of our staff!" And, Chief of Staff Hagan commented, "Everyone is doing a great job!"

Now that these back to back disasters are in our rearview, we will keep in our thoughts and prayers all others who are dealing with the remnants of these disasters. I was delighted to hear so many of the volunteer efforts from our staff members that are reaching beyond our counties and our state. Very proud to work with such thoughtful individuals. Thank you so very much for your kindness.

Also wanted to share that the 39th Annual Fall Festival is fastly approaching. It will be held on Saturday, October 28, 2017. Come join the fun. Lots of activities to help us relax and have fun.

Grateful,

Geri Williams
Superintendent



Sunland Art Students Participate in "Crafty Crows"

Congratulations to Robert C. and Ruby P., who won 2nd Place and a \$50 cash prize in the Adult Division of the "Crafty Crows" contest which is a part of the annual "Fall Arts & Crafts Festival" sponsored by the Chipley Garden Club. The prize money will benefit the Sunland Trust Fund - Hub Arts Program. The event took place at the Washington County History Museum located in downtown Chipley, Florida on September 23. Robert and Ruby worked together with other students in the Hub Art Class to create their own rendition of "Leonardo Da Vinci" putting into practice the art skills they have learned. In addition to the scarecrow contest, they enjoyed the afternoon visiting and shopping at the various vendor booths... especially the tasty festival foods!



Sunland Hub Recognized by Chipola Regional Arts Association

On September 19, Maria Johnson, Sunland Volunteer Coordinator and art instructor, shared with the Chipola Regional Arts Association (CRAA), a 501(c) 3, a brief presentation from The Hub. The CRAA awarded The Hub a mini-grant last November. Grant monies were used to purchase plaster cloth and face forms to create masks. Ms. Johnson displayed the art students' masks and explained the processes used to develop them. President Joan Stadskev, along with other members present, expressed their appreciation and desire to visit The Hub.

CRAA was founded in 1989 and consists of community leaders to develop the appreciation and enjoyment of all the cultural arts. CRAA supports the arts at Chipola College and the five-county area it serves.



Contributed by: Maria Johnson

Sunland Swingers Shine!

What a special time our "Sunland Swingers" dance group had going to Oxford, Alabama for the annual Alabama Square Dancing Convention. They enjoyed eating out, staying at a nice hotel and having lots of fun performing and watching other performers at the Oxford Civic Center.

On Friday evening, they enjoyed watching many of the participants dressed up in 1920's clothing, including the ladies in flapper dresses and the men in Zoot suits. Participants entertained the audience dancing to the music of this great fashionable era. On Saturday, the Swingers took part in a host of activities including joining everyone on the main floor to learn a new dance called the Contra!. Later that evening the Swingers, dressed to shine in orange, white and blue outfits, performed on the main floor in front of several hundred spectators.

A special highlight of the trip was that the Swingers got to make some new friends, a group from Mobile. These two groups shared a practice room together and the Swingers not only practiced with their regular caller, Mr. Bruce Williamson, but got to practice with two new callers as well. Both groups made new friends and were introduced to some new square dance routines. As providence would have it, we also met Joe and Susan Shearer who have a special connection to Sunland. Their niece Catherine C., resides at Sunland and they visit with her and her family often. The Shearers, accomplished square dancers themselves, spent time dancing with our Swingers and a great time was had by all.

A special thanks goes out to our caller, Mr. Bruce Williamson, and his wife, for making this trip as well. The Swingers would not be able to do what they do without Mr. and Mrs. Williamson. And thanks to everyone from Sunland who made this trip possible. The "Sunland Swingers" are Cheryl D., Vickie P., Lonnie F., David R., Richard R., and Kenny C. Also taking part in the trip were Recreation staff Donna Conrad, Johnny Hodges, Israel Davis and Nurse Mary Herring.



Contributed by: Donna Conrad

Residential Services

Unit 1 - There's nothing quite like a family reunion. The love of a family transcends space and time. Stephen A. had a special surprise after Labor Day weekend when his sister Jacqueline, from New Jersey came to visit. They enjoyed lunch and spending time together.



Contributed by: Renee Perry

Unit 3 - What's Happening in Unit 3, you might ask? Well, this month we truly have been having a great time while participating in bowling for special Olympics! Our individuals truly enjoy going to Kindel Lanes, as evidenced by the smiles on their faces when they bowl and knock down the pins. Even if we roll a gutter ball every now and then, they enjoy the outing! We have also had the opportunity to attend the softball games, and are also excited to be starting back with the dance classes. A special shout out goes to the CSS department for all of the activities they organize for us to take a part in!! Oh, and we cannot forget about the scarecrow contest! The Unit 3 staff and residents were all hands in and had some great ideas for the contest! It was really cool to see all of the creativity of everyone who entered a scarecrow in the contest. Upcoming events: Unit 3 will be preparing for Fall Festival 2017, and participating in the poster board and pumpkin decorating contest.

We would also like to send our condolences to the family of Ms. Dorothy H. who recently passed away. Her beautiful smile and kind spirit will be missed by everyone in Unit 3, and anyone who knew her at Sunland or in the community.

Contributed by: Allison Jones

Sunland Bowlers Roll a Strike!

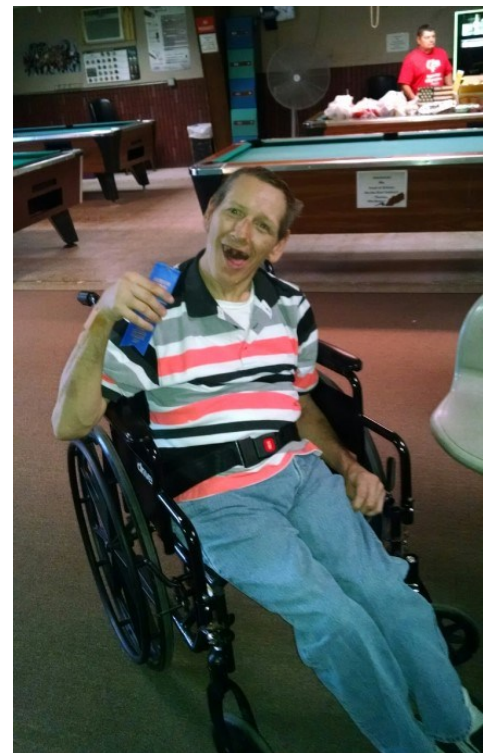


Over 50 individuals from Sunland recently took part in the Special Olympics Florida Jackson County Bowling Games. The event took place at Kindel Lanes in Marianna on September 27 and a big time was had by all involved. Everyone enjoyed lunch provided by the Marianna Woman's Club which consisted of freshly made sandwiches, chips, cookies and a drink.

Over the course of August and September individuals from Sunland have been bowling on Wednesdays to prepare for the County and Area Games. Based on their scores over those two months, individuals are grouped into divisions consisting of other individuals with similar scores. There were a total of twelve divisions and each division was awarded ribbons for 1st – 5th place. Area Games, which help determine which bowlers advance to the State Games in Orlando, will be held October 19 at Kindel Lanes.

All the folks from Sunland would like to express their appreciation to the staff at Kindel Lanes and the volunteers from the Marianna Woman's Club for making this a special day.

Contributed by: Clint Cox



Pathways Hosts Staff Appreciation Picnic

The staff of Pathways were treated to a Fall picnic at the Environmental Park on Thursday, September 28. Members of the Pathways Administration team hosted the event. Staff were treated to a delicious meal consisting of smoked pork chops, smoked chicken and smoked sausage dogs, along with a low country boil, baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw, homemade desserts, iced tea, lemonade, soft drinks and bottled water. Door prizes were also given away throughout the day.

Congratulations to George Rivers and team for working hard to demonstrate that Pathways appreciates their dedicated staff!



Making a Difference at Pathways!

David Douglas has served as a Behavioral Specialist F/C at Pathways since August 2013. David is known as a very compassionate individual who is always willing to share his many talents, as you can see by the pictures below. They say a picture is worth a thousand words. Certainly, these pictures tell the story of a dedicated employee! When any project arises, David is quick to step up to the plate without being asked. His talents are most definitely an asset to our program, residents and staff.

One of David's many talents are his artistic skills that he gladly shares with others. In the first picture below, David is seen at his annual face painting table at Pathways Residential Fall Festival. He is teaching residents in an art program in the second picture. And in the last two pictures he is working on a Pathways Beautification project with residents. Whether it's an employee/resident event, or you just need someone to help with a project, you can count on David. David doesn't do anything for praise or attention; when you thank him, he will always say "I'm just doing my job". In reality, he is doing so much more!

Hat's off to David Douglas...he's making a difference at Pathways!

Contributed by: Juanita Alford, Pathways



September Star Awards!

Star Awards for the month of September were presented on Wednesday, September 27. Award presentations were made by Deputy Superintendent Adrian Abner, along with: Lucious Williams, Unit 2 POA; George Rivers, Pathways Director; Elizabeth Mitchell, Unit 3 POA; Doug Stone, Sunland Security Chief; and Robert Ham, Food Service.



Security- Gold Star Team Award
Lisa Sexton, Samuel Hodges, Charles Yon
Pictured with Doug Stone and Adrian Abner



Unit 2 Gold Star Team Award - Thiel Center
Pictured: Lucious Williams, Lenora Edwards, Susan Byers,
Roger Smith, Lisa Dixon, Tyrone Davis, Adrian Abner



Unit 2 - Gold Star Team Award Thiel Center
Lenora Edwards & Voncille Williams
Pictured with Lucious Williams and Adrian Abner



Gold Star Award
David Douglas, Pathways



Unit 2 Gold Star Team Award
Shanita Lewis & Xavier Perry (Not Pictured)
Pictured with George Rivers and Adrian Abner



Pathways Silver Team Award
Gavin Tucker accepts award on behalf of
Antowin Hooks & Michelle Wynn
Pictured with George Rivers and Adrian Abner



Gold Star Award
Fredrick Speights, Food Service
Pictured with Robert Ham and Adrian Abner



Gold Star Team Award - Unit 3/Medical
Ruby Nealy, Kristina Lenderman and Kelvin Lawson
Pictured with Elizabeth Mitchell, Michele Pettis (for
Kristina Lenderman) and Adrian Abner



Silver Star Award - Patricia Newsome, Dietitians
Pictured with Elizabeth Mitchell, Jeanette Adams and
Adrian Abner



Gold Star Award - Unit 1, Nursing, Maintenance,
CSS, Unit 3, Medical & Sunland Administration
Pictured: Adrian Abner, Felicia Smith, Elizabeth
Mitchell, Michele Pettis, James Godwin and Allen Ward

Information Technology

Beware! Equifax Isn't Calling!

Ring, ring. "This is Equifax calling to verify your account." Stop. Don't tell them anything. They're not from Equifax. It's a scam. Equifax will not call you out of the blue.

That's just one scam you might see after Equifax's recent data breach. Other calls might try to trick you into giving your personal information. Here are some tips for recognizing and preventing phone scams and imposter scams:

- ◆ Don't give personal information. Don't provide any personal or financial information unless you've initiated the call and it's to a phone number you know is correct.
- ◆ Don't trust caller ID. Scammers can spoof their numbers so it looks like they are calling from a company, even when they're not.
- ◆ If you get a robocall, hang up. Don't press 1 to speak to a live operator or any other key. If you respond by pressing any number, it will probably just lead to more robocalls.
- ◆ If you've already received a call that you think is fake, report it to the FTC at ftc.gov/complaint.

If you gave your personal information to an imposter, change any compromised passwords, account numbers or security questions. And if you're concerned about identity theft, visit IdentityTheft.gov to learn how you can protect yourself.



Contributed by: Randall Wynn, Sunland IT Manager

HUMAN RESOURCES



Human Resources bids a fond farewell to Amanda Johnson, HR Manager as she begins a new career path with the Florida Department of Corrections.



****Open Enrollment** begins at 8 a.m. EST, October 15 and runs through November 3, 6 p.m. EST. Watch for your open enrollment package which will be sent to your home mailing address. Also, you may visit mybenefits.myflorida.com for 2018 plan year information.

For any personnel needs, please contact Veronica Mullinax, Lizzie Holland, Nicole Sims and Regina Decker 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>

Invest Your Pay Raise!

Consider the many benefits of the Deferred Compensation Plan, a before tax savings plan that will supplement your FRS pension and Social Security. Do you want to keep all of your pay raise or give approximately 20% in taxes to Uncle Sam? **Use all or some of your pay raise to increase your contributions or enroll today.** Smart people begin saving early in their careers to give themselves financial freedom in retirement.

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- Mutual funds including index funds, Target Date funds, and fixed rate funds guaranteeing up to a 3.5% annual return
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- Flexibility - EZ account changes
- No administrative fees or penalties
- The best perk for State employees ever!

FLORIDA
DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN
PLAN. SAVE. RETIRE.



NEW EMPLOYEES


Welcome Aboard!

Steve Benton, Jr.
Erica Johnson
Tabitha Worthington
Georgianna Ingram
Christina Fletcher
Anthony Lay
Daniel Jackson

William Pierce
Marty Moulton
Deborah Hess
Emma Bellamy
Shamika Bonds
Tyler Colson

Retirees

Bon Voyage!

Susie Neel
Vanessa Shelley



agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida

Project Sunland PRIDE



Beautification Program!

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN A DESIRABLE ENVIRONMENT

"Community Spotlight of the Month"

Old Log Cabin Homestead - Environmental Park



"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; Mary Gallagher, Quality Management; Suzanne Laramore, RN/Nursing-Medical