

# Rish Park Fun!

For many, spending time at the beach is one of life's greatest pleasures. It is a place where you can fully relax underneath the shade of a brightly colored beach umbrella, or bask in the warmth of the sun as the ocean breeze tousles your hair. Where you can't wait to walk barefoot in the sand, take a swim in the crystal blue water, and deeply inhale the fresh, salty air. It is here that on a clear day, you can't tell where the blue seas end and the blue skies begin. The beach is magical. It's a place where worries disappear as you listen to the happy songs of seagulls soaring overhead and the alluring sounds of the surf as waves crash along the shoreline.

Rish Park located at beautiful Cape San Blas, Florida, is all that, and more. Here, campers enjoy a laid back atmosphere, swimming in the cool waters of the Olympic-sized pool, walks along the beach, and a pool side cookout. Each Summer, many of Sunland's residents and staff enjoy visits to Rish Park. Most recently, the Thiel Center took a three day trip to Rish, which turned out to be a wonderful getaway for everyone. Much appreciation to the Thiel Center staff for making this a great experience for our residents!

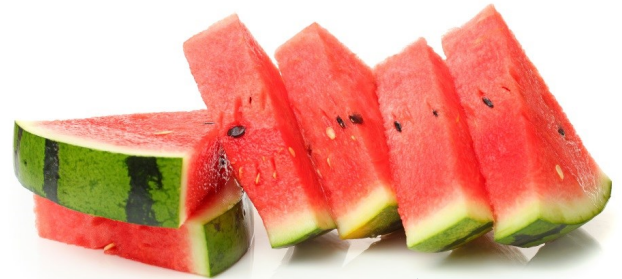


# Rish Park Fun!



# Sunland Celebrates July 4th!

Celebrating the 4th of July, Independence Day, is always an exciting time for Sunland. Everyone enjoys gathering for the annual “watermelon cutting.” The aroma of freshly cut watermelon and cantaloupe fills the air. This activity is such a part of the Sunland summer tradition, it would hardly be summertime without it. Thanks to the Sunland Ranch for providing the home grown melons!



Happy 4th Of July 



## Sneak Peak!

On August 24, the Sunland Theater will perform a beloved American classic, "The Wizard of Oz." The play features an all-star cast of residents and staff who are sure to delight and even tickle your funny bone! Much work has gone into the practice sessions and stage props. It is sure to be a magical production.

Mark your calendars and follow the yellow brick road to the Sunland Auditorium. It's going to be an adventure you do not want to miss!



August 24<sup>th</sup> • 1PM



Sunland • Marianna



## Summer Enrichment Activities

Each summer, area churches host Vacation Bible School activities for Sunland residents. VBS has become a very popular activity for our residents. They look forward to the fun interactions with their friends from the community. Over 100 residents participated this summer, which speaks volumes about the quality of the programs these volunteers provide. Chaplain Ruthie Moore stated "I am thankful for volunteers like these people from our community churches who give of their time, talents, money and efforts to provide such a great and profitable activity for our residents." Sunland appreciates St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church, First Baptist Church Greenwood, and Foundation Temple Apostolic Faith Church.



Recently, several Unit 1 residents enjoyed a therapeutic arts and crafts class with Maria Johnson at the Hub. Proudly showing off their art work are Ryan H., Brit W., Shaun W., Stanley D., and Sammy P.



## From the Superintendent...

Team,

Last month, you may recall, I wrote about inspiration and seeing and listening to everything in our environment. I used the visual of an Oak Tree adjacent to the Superintendent's Office. And, I asked the question: "What can we learn from listening to everything in nature?" Further along that nature trail is the realization that inspiration can be found in many places to include singing, dancing, reading, and listening to others. Here are some motivating and inspiring thoughts you might consider:

*Nothing is impossible, the word itself says "I'm possible!" ~ Audrey Hepburn*

*I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel. ~ Maya Angelou*

*Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're right. ~ Henry Ford*

*Life is 10% what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it. ~ Charles Swindoll*

*I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination. ~ Jimmy Dean*

*Believe you can and you're halfway there. ~ Theodore Roosevelt*

*Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do, so throw off the bowlines, sail away from safe harbor, catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, Dream, Discover. ~ Mark Twain*

*I am not a product of my circumstances. I am a product of my decisions. ~ Stephen Covey*

*The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any. ~ Alice Walker*

*Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant. ~ Robert Louis Stevenson*

*A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new. ~ Albert Einstein*

Wherever your creative energy lies, find new inspiration and gift your workspace with it. You will be amazed how you can make a difference! We're counting on you!

Grateful,

*Geri Williams*  
Superintendent



## APD Director Visits Sunland/DDDP

On Thursday, July 12, APD Director Barbara Palmer visited Sunland Center and the Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program (DDDP). Joining Ms. Palmer were Karen Hagan, APD Chief of Staff; Tom Rankin, Deputy Director of Operations; and Doria Moody, Operations & Management Consultant. During meetings with the leadership teams at each facility, Ms. Palmer and her team emphasized the Agency's commitment to our dedicated staff and the individuals we are privileged to serve. Following the meetings, tours of each campus afforded the team opportunities to personally greet residents and staff.



## Sunland Supports Eastpoint Fire Survivors

The call to lend support to those in need often brings out the best in humanity. That is certainly true of the residents and staff of Sunland Center. Residents who participate in the Sunland Swingers square dance team and the FUEL (Faith Used in Everyday Living) program recently learned of the devastating fires at Eastpoint, Florida. They wanted to find a way to help those who lost so much, so they organized a drive to gather much needed supplies for our neighbors in Franklin County. Over the course of several days, an abundance of supplies was gathered. They were delivered to Franklin County on July 9 by a group of Sunland residents and staff.

While there, the group enjoyed a stop by the Franklin County Sheriff's Department where they met Major Cliff Carroll and Lt. Renee Brannan. The group presented three (3) pairs of Air Jordan tennis shoes which were generously donated by resident Robert C., who had asked that they be given to someone in need. Robert stated that it meant a lot to him to know he had helped someone. To round out their trip, the group also enjoyed a visit to "Lulu's Café" for lunch, which was provided by Friends of Sunland, Inc.

Sunland extends much appreciation to everyone who contributed to the donations. The folks in Franklin County in charge of collecting the donations were truly grateful for the items donated by the Sunland residents and staff. It once again demonstrates that even in difficult times, good things can be accomplished.

Contributed by: Jennie Ann Dean





## Summer Sign Language Class

There is an old saying that “a picture is worth a thousand words.” That could not be truer for hearing impaired persons who often use sign language to “draw” a picture, so to speak, as they utilize hand gestures that correspond to the spoken word, facial expressions, and movement to communicate. American Sign Language is considered the most commonly used sign language, yet many “hearing” people have never had the opportunity to learn it. This summer, Sunland was blessed to offer sign language classes for staff. Jenny Johnson, who teaches at the Jackson County School at Sunland and is proficient in ASL, taught a 14-series sign language class for 16 Sunland and DDDP staff. At the end of the classes, participants enjoyed a sign language focused “silent lunch,” which was held on July 18, at the Oaks Restaurant. The group put their newly learned skills to the test as there was no verbal communication allowed during lunch. The interactive luncheon was quite fun and went very well, as everyone enjoyed signing with one another. On July 26, a formal celebration and award ceremony was held to honor the achievements of the participants. Superintendent Geri Williams and Deputy Superintendent Adrian Abner presented participants with certificates of achievement, and Ms. Johnson was presented with a certificate of appreciation. Congratulations to Ms. Jenny Johnson and the following staff who completed the class: Pat Collins, CSS Sunland; Ruthie Moore, CSS Sunland; Stacy Collins, Sunland Staff Development; Daseana Bass, Pathways; Cynthia Huff, Sunland Unit 1 Learning Center; Stacey Holden, Sunland Unit 1 Learning Center; Tiffany LaCount, Sunland Unit 1 Learning Center; April Clayton, DDDP/Paraprofessional at Jackson County School at Sunland; Sandy Wallace, DDDP; Tallulah Thomas, DDDP; Tacara Long, DDDP; Ebony McKinnie, DDDP; Shawndena Horne, Sunland Westside Apartments; Tracy Nixon, Pathways; Ladarius Lee, Pathways; and Monica Clayton, Pathways.





- ✓ Lisa Sexton, Security Officer sends an "I See You" Shout-Out to *Jason Huckaby, Alex Broxton, Douglas Stone, Andrew Johnson, and Phillip Anderson* for their hard work and dedication to crisis prevention pre/post behavioral issues. Recently, an individual residing at Hayes House was having a difficult day, requiring staff to make several attempts to redirect and deescalate the behavior. This was not an easy task, yet these individuals stepped up to lend much needed support, which has not gone unnoticed! Ms. Sexton gives another "I See You" Shout-Out to resident Michael T. of East Truman for bringing a set of car keys to her attention. She stated that he pointed the keys out as she was walking through Unit 2's parking area. Great job Michael!
- ✓ Chaplain Ruthie Moore sends an "I See You" Shout-Out to the *Unit 1 Administration Team: Felicia Smith, Franklin Williams, Susan Himes and Cassandra Lipford*, and the *Unit 2 Administration Team: Phil Anderson, Marilyn Pierce, Tracy Miller, Kit Reagan, Heather Poythress, Melanie McCroan and Tammi Garrett*. She expresses much appreciation to these staff for assisting with her field trip requests for community church trips and dinner.
- ✓ Chaplain Ruthie also sends an "I See You" Shout-Out to *Donald Rehberg and Joe Amison*, in the *Horticulture Department* for the work they do around the campus grounds, maintaining flower beds and other landscaping projects.
- ✓ Shelly Owens, Quality Management sends an "I See You" Shout-Out to *Melody Green, Unit 2 Pierce House and Michelle White, Unit 2 Lincoln House*, for their positive attitudes and assistance during the Quality Management "walk through" at Pierce and Lincoln. Both of these ladies displayed the kind of attitude and teamwork that is essential to the success of the services we provide at Sunland! Great job ladies!
- ✓ Beth Basford sends an "I See You" Shout-Out to resident *John T.*, who was observed picking up a trash bag someone had dropped in front of the Suntown Mall. Instead of watching it blow across the road, or lie in the grass, John took time to stop and pick it up and throw it away. Way to go John!

Remember, anyone may nominate a staff or resident for an "I See You" Shout-Out. Simply submit a 2-4 sentence acknowledgement with your name, the name of the staff or resident, and what they did that captured your attention. Nominations may be submitted via email, to [beth.basford@apdcare.org](mailto:beth.basford@apdcare.org), or to the Sunland Communications Office via on-center mail.

We look forward to hearing about all the good things going on at Sunland and giving some well deserved "I See You" Shout-Outs to our awesome staff and residents!



# Character Matters...



## Honesty

Being truthful in what you say and do.

**Honesty** ~ Being truthful in what you say and do. This requires a lot of courage, respect, responsibility, and good judgment. Honesty is the cornerstone to building a legacy of integrity. Honesty is an optimal example of integrity in the workplace. Honesty encourages open communication between employers, employees and co-workers. It leads to effective relationships in an organization.



## Integrity

What you do when no one else is watching you.

**Integrity** ~ C.S. Lewis said that Integrity is what you do when no one else is watching you. Okay, that's a good place to start. But what does it mean? There is more to integrity than just being you even when no one is watching. It's about doing the right thing, even when people don't support you. It's about being the better person. It's about becoming a better person even if there is no one else in the equation. Integrity is one of those moral code kind of things that shape you as a person.

This is what all people with real integrity have in common:

They give credit, where credit is due. They recognize that everyone's time and attention has value. They know that humbling themselves and apologizing sincerely doesn't make anyone weaker. They have awareness and forgiveness for other people's mistakes. They never generalize people and give them the benefit of a doubt, at least once. They trust other people to keep their word. They volunteer for good causes and become a part of something bigger than themselves. They are able to disagree without the need to argue. They don't want to manipulate. Integrity may seem like hard word, but it is a quality worth working hard for. With time, it just becomes part of who you are.

**Honesty & Integrity - two important character traits. Let's aspire to attain them!**

# Sunland Service Awards

Sunland's semi-annual Service Awards Ceremony was held on Tuesday, July 31 at the Mixer. A total of 52 staff having attained 5-45 years of service with the State of Florida were honored during the event. Honorees were presented with an engraved award, certificate of achievement and a service pin. Following the ceremony, a reception was held for the honorees and their guests, co-workers and supervisors. Congratulations to the following employees on their career milestones:

**5 Years** - Terrance Anderson, Casie Carroll-Mitchell, Rima Kolanda, Belinda Kirkland, Edward Perry, James Pybus, Freddie Staley, Jr., Charles Wright, Gerald Wright

**10 Years** - Vickie Chambliss, John Chance, Doniell Clay, Semona Donaldson, Katie Granberry, Christopher Kelly, Patrick Tipton, Ronald Tissue, Dewey Wells, Tony Wesley, Deshawn Wooden

**15 Years** - Adam Chambliss, Douglas Colson, Carolyn Gatlin, Larry Gray, Myra Sue Lee, Barbara Mobbs

**20 Years** - Juanita Alford, Evelyn Boyd, Patricia Donalson-Clark, William Gilbert, James Godwin, Jr., Arthur Gray, Gerald Howard, Charlene Isaac, Robert Peeler, Olly Quick, Kindra Roulhac, Felicia Smith, Valerie Spates, Antonia Speights, Heather Traylor, Martha Williams, Michelle Wynn

**25 Years** - Dr. Tom Sherrel, Velma Tensley

**30 Years** - Robert Ham, Mozell Jackson, Jerry Neel, Charles Stephens, Rita York

**35 Years** - Lori Burke

**45 Years** - Mary Elizabeth See

## 5 Years of Service



Pictured L-R: Edward Perry, Charles Wright, Rima Kolanda, Casie Carroll-Mitchell  
Not Pictured: Terrance Anderson, Belinda Kirkland, James Pybus, Freddie Staley, Jr., Gerald Wright

## 10 Years of Service



Pictured L-R: Dewey Wells, Ronald Tissue, Christopher Kelly, Vickie Chambliss  
Not Pictured: John Chance, Doniell Clay, Semona Donaldson, Katie Granberry, Patrick Tipton, Tony Wesley, Deshawn Wooden

# Sunland Service Awards

## 15 Years of Service



Pictured L-R: Sue Lee, Larry Gray, Adam Chambliss  
Not Pictured: Douglas Colson, Carolyn Gatlin, Barbara Mobbs

## 20 Years of Service



Pictured L-R Front: Kindra Roulhac, Juanita Alford, Evelyn Boyd, Heather Traylor, Martha Williams, Michelle Wynn L-R Back: Felicia Smith, James Godwin, Jr., Bobby Peeler, Antonia Speights, William Gilbert. Not Pictured: Arthur Gay, Gerald Howard, Charlene Isaac, Oly Quick, Valerie Spates

## 25 Years of Service



Pictured: Velma Tensley; Not Pictured: Dr. Tom Sherrel

## 30 Years of Service



Pictured L-R: Charles Stephens, Robert Ham, Jerry Neel  
Not Pictured: Mozell Jackson, Rita York

## 35 Years of Service



Pictured: Lori Burke

## 45 Years of Service



Pictured: Elizabeth See



## July Star Awards!



### Gold Star Team ~ Unit 3 Nursing

Pictured: L-R Stephanie Groover, Danielle Moss, Penny Berbert, Tiffany Shoun, Brigette Jordan, Christina Fletcher & Adrian Abner  
Not Pictured: Robbie Finch, Shelly Davis-Godwin, Stephanie and Kandi White



### Gold Star Award ~ Stephanie Groover

Pictured L-R: Danielle Moss, Stephanie Groover & Adrian Abner



### Gold Star Award ~ Danielle Moss

Pictured: Rose Crews, Danielle Moss & Adrian Abner

## Welcome Shayla Pittman!

Now and again the stars align and something wonderful happens! Sunland, in partnership with Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center, has been blessed with the addition of Shayla Pittman who joins the staff at the Suntown Mall Bank. Shayla earned her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration/Accounting from Chipola College. Her educational background, coupled with her kind personality, makes her a perfect fit at the bank. James Godwin, Jr., Director of Centralized Support Service states "Shayla has been a great addition at the Suntown Bank. We are very happy to have her on our team!"

Although new to the team, Shayla is quite familiar with Sunland. She is the daughter of Tex Pittman, a long time career employee at Unit 3, Monroe House. She has grown up hearing about Sunland all her life, so fitting right in came very easy for her. We welcome Shayla to the Sunland family!



## 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!*

Danielle Holden  
Cheryl Wilson  
Sjaquiwn Small  
Jesse Shoun  
Vanessa Guilford  
Marquita Bonner  
Donald Slack

## Retirees

*Bon Voyage!*

Tim Benton, Unit 2  
Robert Ham, Food Service  
Sandra Dilmore, Nursing  
Ronnie Spears, Unit 2



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