



Merry Christmas Sunland

The Sunland Beacon

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The Christmas season is without a doubt the most wonderful time of the year at Sunland Center! During the holidays, the campus transforms into a magical community filled with twinkling lights, beautiful holiday decorations and the observation of many holiday traditions that warm the hearts of residents and staff alike. As you browse through this holiday edition of the Beacon, you'll see that Sunland residents and staff were blessed with many opportunities to share the joy of the holidays. It was a month filled with fun, fellowship, happiness, joy and much laughter. In the midst of these celebrations, we were reminded once again that the spirit of Christmas is love.

The Christmas season reminds us that we are truly privileged to serve those who call Sunland home. It is within the practice of this service that we often experience the surprising gift of love. We realize that Christmas is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas. The joy and wonder of Christmas is not found under a Christmas tree; it is found in the hearts of those we love and those we serve. May the warmth of special holiday memories brighten your spirits and continue to fill your hearts in the New Year!

*Christmas is love in action.
Every time we love,
every time we give,
it's Christmas*



From the Superintendent...

Each year as the holiday approaches, I always look forward to seeing Christmas decorations on display. It provides a different perspective and a fresh and new way of looking at the same homes and businesses in our area. Throughout the month of December, I noticed beautiful lights and Christmas trees in many different areas of our Sunland campus and in the windows of many homes and businesses in our community. I'm thankful for the lights that shine.

How can you shine your light in 2020? I challenge you to look for ways to be part of Sunland Center endeavors that benefit our residents and employees. There are many different committees in which you may consider serving such as the Employee Recognition committee or Safety committee.

As we begin a new year, may we all bring a renewed energy to the efforts we give each day providing care for our residents. 2020 offers each of us the opportunity to be energy givers who look for ways to contribute to our mission at Sunland. I truly believe that all of us find what we look for – so look for what's good and choose to engage! Happy New Year!

See you around campus!

Marguerite

Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent



**Let Your
Light Shine**

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

On the heels of Thanksgiving, December's arrival is a much anticipated time at Sunland. Many would agree this is the most wonderful time of the year at Sunland! As the month begins, everyone knows the Christmas spirit is quickly approaching and is in the air, which means that Christmas activities, parties and celebrations are a priority at the Center. There is always something for everyone. Beginning in early December and continuing throughout the month, residents and staff enjoy many exciting opportunities for celebration and fellowship. The annual "Christmas Tree Lighting" ceremony was held December 3 and ushered in the Christmas season in a meaningful way. Residents gathered at the Mall for a chance to visit with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus, eager to share their wishes for gifts and goodies. Ornaments, provided by the various departments throughout the Center, were presented and hung on the tree by many of our residents. The "Awaken" band from Trinity Baptist Church was on hand again this year to sing Christmas carols, which added to the beauty of the evening.

On December 5, employees on all three shifts were treated to a "Christmas Tea" at the Mixer, hosted by the Employee Recognition Committee and the Sunland Leadership Team. Everyone enjoyed holiday goodies, a hot cocoa bar, coffee bar, photo booth and an "Ugly Christmas Sweater" contest. The event was beautifully decorated and offered everyone time to gather with their co-workers for a time of good food, great fun and warm fellowship.

Beautiful decorations were on display all across the campus, making the annual decoration judging contest held on December 10 quite a competitive event this year. It was great to see all of the creativity and beautiful décor. This year, Administration got into the spirit with their own "Christmas Door Decorating" contest. Judges for the event were Ruby P. and Cheryl D., from Woodridge House. Congratulations to LaWanda Holden who took top honors!

On December 10, Sunland's first ever "Christmas Carnival" was held at the Gym. Residents enjoyed games, face painting, balloons, prizes and entertainment.

A much anticipated part of Christmas at Sunland is the Center's Christmas Parade. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate this year and the parade had to be cancelled. However, the rain did not dampen the spirit of Christmas! Residents and staff were treated to a special concert by the Marianna High School and Marianna Middle School bands on December 12. The event, held in the Gym, was a hit with everyone.

Festivities continued on December 19 with a morning performance of Christmas carols by the 39ers from First Baptist Church in Chattahoochee, followed by an afternoon Christmas Dance at the Gym with DJ Cedric Bellamy.

The annual Sunland Christmas Program took place on December 20 and was very entertaining. Residents and staff alike shared in laughter and applause at the variety of comedy acts, music and dancing. During the program, winners of the Christmas Decorating contest and Ugly Christmas Sweater contest were announced with certificates presented to the winners.

On December 23, residents and staff gathered at the Sunland United Chapel for a live nativity Christmas play. It was a beautiful celebration reminding us all of the reason for the season, the birth of Jesus Christ.

A special thank you to everyone who assisted with all of these special events, to include our volunteers who sponsor annual resident Christmas parties with the St. Anne's Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus and Sons of Italy. The gifts of your talent and time are much appreciated.

Take a moment to study the many photos in this edition of the Beacon. You'll see that all of these festivities brought many smiles across the Center. And we think that you just might agree...Christmas at Sunland is certainly the most wonderful time of the year!

Christmas Tree Lighting Kicks off the Holiday Season!

At Sunland, the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and visit from Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus begin the month long holiday celebration! Residents and staff gathered for this occasion to ring in the Christmas season. Following this year's festivities, everyone enjoyed hot dogs, funnel cakes and hot chocolate.



Staff Christmas Tea Tradition Returns!

Sunland staff were happy to see the return of the annual Christmas Tea tradition this year. The event was hosted by the Employee Recognition Committee and Sunland Leadership Team on December 10 at the Mixer and was held for all three shifts. Everyone enjoyed delicious holiday goodies and treats, coffee and hot chocolate bars, photo booth with props, and participating in the “Ugly Christmas Sweater” contest. Special thanks to everyone who served on the planning committee, and to those who assisted with bringing delicious goodies, set up and decorations, serving, manning the kitchen, hosting the coffee and hot chocolate bars and photo booth, and those who assisted with the clean up! Your support is very much appreciated! It was a wonderful event!



2019 UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER CONTEST

1st & 2nd Shift Winners



LaRhonda Barnes, 1st Place



Lynn Kern & Kendra Weeks, 2nd Place



Racquel Dunston, 3rd Place

3rd Shift Winners



Pauline Robinson, 1st Place



Shawanda Garrett, 2nd Place



Lillie Johnson, 3rd Place

Christmas Concert by MHS/MMS Bands

Although the Christmas parade was cancelled due to rain, the day was not a wash! The Marianna High School and Marianna Middle School bands performed several musical selections for Sunland residents and staff at the Gym. A special treat was on hand for the bands when two Sunland residents provided electrifying dance performances of their own. Needless to say, the audience and band students were thrilled! Assorted refreshments were provided to attendees at the conclusion of the program.



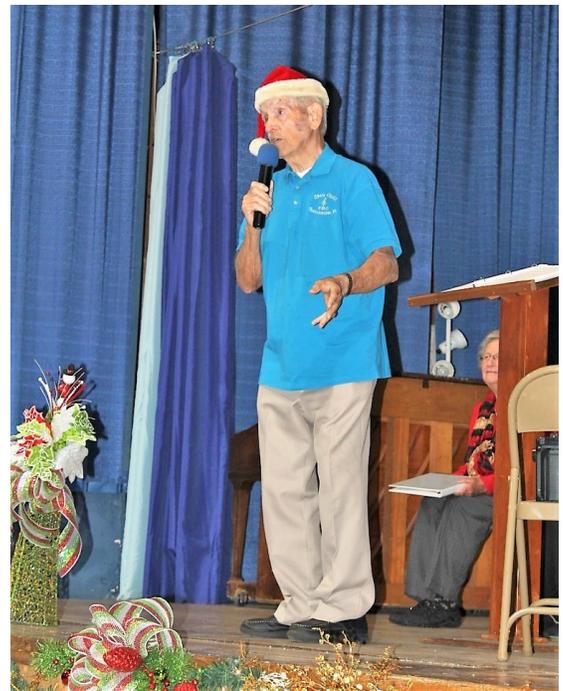
Residents Enjoy Christmas Carnival

The Centralized Support Services department hosted Sunland's first ever "Christmas Carnival" for residents on December 10. Everyone enjoyed a variety of games and activities, prizes, face painting and goodies. Thanks to everyone in CSS. This event was a huge hit!



Annual "39'ers" Christmas Carol Concert Brings Holiday Cheer

A favorite holiday tradition at Sunland is the annual Christmas carol sing-along with the "39'ers" from First Baptist Church, Chattahoochee. The group has visited Sunland to perform for residents for well over 20 years. Residents and staff always look forward to singing along with all the familiar Christmas carols. Many of the "39'ers" members have been a part of this group for a very long time. We appreciate that they make it a priority to visit Sunland every Christmas season. Thank you to our faithful friends for your love, support and dedication to Sunland Center!



Residents Enjoy Christmas Dance

Without a doubt, Sunland residents enjoy dancing! Every season, every holiday and for practically any reason, we at Sunland dance! We are blessed with many occasions to spread joy year-round, and what better time to appreciate the gift of dance than Christmas? Think about it...the art of dance is a gift that brings people together with music. In this realm, we witness acceptance, fellowship, individual creativity, happiness, joy and personal expression. At this year's Christmas Dance, even the Grinch got in on the action! *Despite all of his antics, yes it's true as they say...we saw his heart grow 3 sizes that day!*



Well in Whoville they say,
the Grinch's heart
grew three sizes that day



Annual Christmas Program Delights the Crowd!

A fun tradition at Sunland is the Annual Christmas Program where staff take to the stage to show off their talents! The audience can expect an assortment of talented performances and funny skits that draw huge rounds of cheer and lots of laughter. This year's program was certainly one to remember, showcasing the creative talent of our staff which delighted the audience and even sprinkled in a few surprises. The showstopper was a black light dance performance by the crew from Centralized Support Services. Spectacular!! As the program ended, Santa, the real star of the show, made his way into the Auditorium where he was greeted by residents who were eager to grab a hug and a handful of candy. A special thanks to everyone who participated and helped spread a little holiday cheer at Sunland!



Residents Perform Live Nativity Play

Each year Sunland residents look forward to participating in a live nativity play sponsored by Chaplaincy Services at the Sunland United Chapel. The live nativity is an event where resident actors portray the birth of Jesus Christ as described in the Bible. This is always a beautiful event reminding all of the “true reason for the season.” Congratulations to Chaplain Ruthie Moore and everyone who took part in the program for a wonderful performance!



Christmas Around the Center

As you've seen, December was a month filled with lots of activities and holiday celebrations. The grounds, residential homes, departments and various areas were beautifully decorated. The Christmas spirit was certainly alive and well at Sunland!



News from Sunland Recreation

Bowlers Bring Home Silver and Gold

Two athletes from Sunland recently took part in the 2019 Special Olympics Florida State Bowling Championships in Orlando. Both athletes represented Jackson County well and brought home the hardware. Cheryl D. captured a Gold medal with an overall score of 243 in two games, and this was among the top three highest scores of the entire championships. Samantha W. won a Silver medal. This was Samantha's first Statewide competition, and her overall score was 141. She narrowly missed out on a Gold medal by two points. Congratulations to Cheryl and Samantha on your outstanding performance! Sunland proudly celebrates your accomplishments!



Sunland Takes In The Harlem Globetrotters

The world-renowned Harlem Globetrotters came to the Milton H. Johnson Center at Chipola College in December and Sunland had front row seats for this amazing show. A group of 33 residents and staff from all three Units were treated to amazing athletic feats by the Globetrotters. But even more so, the packed house at Chipola were entertained as only the Globetrotters can entertain. For all who attended, it was surely an event to be remembered for a lifetime.

Contributed by: Clint Cox

Congratulations December Star Award Recipients!



GOLD STAR AWARD
Johnny Hodges, Recreation
 Pictured with: Marguerite Morgan & Adrian Abner



GOLD STAR AWARD
LaWonda Holden, Accounting
 Pictured with: Marguerite Morgan & Debra Johnson



GOLD STAR AWARD
Angela Jackson, Unit 1
 Pictured with: Marguerite Morgan & Derreck Thrash



GOLD STAR AWARD
Tambra Cabrera, Unit 2
 Pictured with: Marguerite Morgan & Lucious Williams



SILVER STAR AWARD
Kendra Weeks, Accounting
 Pictured with: Marguerite Morgan & Debra Johnson



SILVER STAR AWARD
Christian Williams, Warehouse
 Pictured with: Marguerite Morgan & Mitch Yeomans

**GOLD STAR TEAM
 AWARD
 Unit 3**

Kimberly Peterson,
 Tiffany Pollock,
 Pamela Laster &
 Latoya Baker

Pictured with:
 Marguerite Morgan
 Tracy Swint
 LaRhonda Barnes



**GOLD STAR TEAM
 AWARD
 Sunland
 Administration &
 Unit 1**

Administration
 Adrian Abner
 Felicia Smith
 Corliss McGriff

Pictured with:
 Marguerite Morgan
 Franklin Williams





HUMAN RESOURCES

For any personnel needs, please contact Veronica Mullinax, Katey Hobbs, Lizzie Holland, Nicole Sims, Robin Morris or Lisa Rabon. 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.

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

<https://peoplefirst.myflorida.com>

「WE ARE
HERE
TO HELP」

NEW EMPLOYEES

Brandon Ross
Jamarcus Williams
Nicole Newson
Kiara Johnson
Stacie Clemmons
LaPorsha Pittman

Welcome
Aboard!