

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

agency for persons with disabilities  
State of Florida



## Parkview's Wild Adventure!

"You don't have to travel far to experience hundreds of exotic animals from around the world. Just 50 miles south of Atlanta animals roam freely throughout Pine Mountain Animal Safari."

Pine Mountain Animal Safari...Here we come! The day started out as any other day, just at an earlier hour than usual. Wake, Personal hygiene, medication pass, breakfast and preparation for the day. However, everyone knows this day is not like any other day. There is an uncanny excitement in the air, felt by the Parkview residents and staff alike, because today is Safari Day! Everyone boards the charter bus, with an experienced driver, offering safe reliable transportation with luxury features for the long distance adventure. As the residents are seated, it is heart-warming to see the looks of pure glee on their faces. The journey begins and the lull of the bus has residents calmly looking out of the big picture windows, taking in the beauty of the cities and towns we were traveling through. Staff beamed with pride as the lovely ladies of Parkview listened to music, participated in various activities and enjoyed the ride. Once we arrived at the Pine Mountain Animal Safari in Pine Mountain, Georgia, the excitement and anticipation was undeniable, as residents unloaded the bus and assembled in the lunch area. The ladies from Parkview and staff enjoyed their meals.

After lunch, it was time to load the bus to begin the safari adventure. As the bus enters the park, various animals naturally run towards the moving vehicle. The look on our residents' and staff members' faces was absolutely priceless. Now is time to come face to face with exotic animals from around the world. "Here we come!" What an exciting adventure! Not just to see the animals, but also to feed them. Our residents were given cups of animal food to feed the Giraffes, Antelopes, North American Elks, Pigs, Deer, American Bison and many other animals. Our residents loved it. Lots of smiles, joyous sounds, and beautiful memories.

The tour bus winds through over 200 acres of natural environment on 3 ½ miles of paved road and it is apparent by the captivated looks on the residents' faces this is an adventure that will never be forgotten. The tour ends and we load the bus for the long journey home, which is quiet as we all reflect on the adventure we have just taken as a family....This is how we do it at the View....Parkview!!!



Article & Photos Provided by: Sheila LaRue & Franklin Williams



# Scenes from Parkview's Wild Adventure!



# Sunland Celebrates



## Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting

August 23 was a significant day at Sunland Center, Marianna. On this date, the Center hosted an open house and ribbon cutting at "The Mixer," a new vocational culinary arts program developed for residents at the Center. The program is designed to provide participants viable skills in the preparation of food, to include basic cooking methods, the essentials of food safety, hospitality, presentation and service. There are a total of 16 participants in the program. Several of these individuals anticipate an eventual transition to a community setting, such as their family home or a group home. While enrolled in this program, students will be afforded opportunities to cultivate practical skills and abilities, while developing important work ethics which they can put into practice in a workplace setting. Superintendent Geri Williams, along with Centralized Support Services Director James Godwin, and Culinary Arts Vocational Instructor Wayne Winkle welcomed attendees and provided a brief overview of the program. Program participants were eager to greet their visitors and readily shared some of their favorite things about the program, what it means to them and their dreams for future job opportunities. At the end of the day, Sunland administrators and program participants were very pleased that the event was a resounding success. Sunland appreciates the large turnout of support from the Chamber of Commerce, businesses and individuals from the community.





## "The Mixer" Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting



## SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

*"We are like islands in the sea, separate on the surface but connected in the deep."  
William James*

There's nothing like a hot piece of mullet fish to me. I enjoy eating it, but it also causes me to think about memories created when family and friends gather for the occasional fish fry. Everyone shows up! No invitations needed. You can expect Serious Suzie, Uncle Witty, Cousin to Everybody, Harriet History, and Grandma Faith. What cherished conversations take place: Do you remember the time we use to pick black berries and eat them without washing them off? Or, do you remember the time we took Uncle Junior's car and raced it on the back road? Or, do you remember the first time getting a perm or a relaxer and feeling like someone needed to call the Fire Department. Oh, yes! I am sure someone remembers. After everyone has had his or her say, somehow the words of Grandma Faith resonate well beyond the gathering. "Always treat people with kindness!"

Recently, I had a taste for mullet fish and I visited a local restaurant. There sitting near the exit door were two employees from Sunland. Yes. You guessed it. I walked over to their table and asked if I could join them. I was so sure they would say yes and they did. We had the usual small talk and laughed a while. Both shared great stories about their love for Jackson County and their upbringing. We had a lot in common; growing up poor – which seemed normal, understanding the value of hard work, and knowing how to treat people. Then one of the staff members asked me, "Did you go to finishing school?" I responded with a hearty, "Yes!" My mom told me to "Finish my homework!" "Finish cleaning the dishes!" and "Finish hanging the clothes on the line!" We laughed until one of us had tears streaming down her face. In that moment of comedic truth, I felt I had perfectly executed a line that was true, but funny and my staff members were laughing with me and not at me because I am usually unable to deliver a line of humor with perfect timing.

All I am trying to share is that there are few things more powerful and sustaining than human connections. Connections give us peace, strength, comfort, calm, love, confidence, and assurance when we need it the most. I see in the eyes of employees at Sunland, DDDP, and Rish Park a richness of heart that demonstrates humanity and gives perspective and meaning to this important work. These connections are immeasurable and very rewarding.

What an incredible journey we are on together. We have the privilege to work with and lend support to individuals who give us so much in return. I encourage you to share your experiences one with the other with notes of gratitude or expressions of appreciation. You will be amazed how you can make someone's day. Whether you are attending the family gathering, stopping by a local restaurant, walking in the park, or worshipping at your local church, always treat people with kindness and offer a word of encouragement. You just might find "We are like islands in the sea, separate on the surface but connected in the deep" (William James).

Grateful,

*Geri Williams*  
Superintendent



# CSS Sponsors "Backpack Give Back"

Sunland's Centralized Support Services Department recently participated in the city of Marianna's National Night Out celebrations which brought over 1,000 people to the city's Madison Street Park. Law Enforcement from different agencies in and around Jackson County, along with other charity groups were there to demonstrate their support.

Staff from Sunland, Jackson Hospital, Healthy Start, and Pilot International had tables set up under the pavilion to show their support for National Night Out.

Sunland's CSS department was excited to partner with this event in an effort to demonstrate our support for children and families from our local and surrounding communities. Sunland's "Backpack Give Back" gave away 100 donated book bags filled with paper and pencils. CSS staff stated they were proud to participate in National Night Out as a way to give back to the community. The initiative would not have been possible without the generosity of CSS and other Sunland employees who were excited to donate to this worthwhile cause. Congratulations and Go Team CSS!



# End of Summer Basketball Shoot-out

The end of the 2016 Summer Basketball League came to a close on Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> with a Shoot Out contest held at the Sunland gym. A total of 27 residents from Sunland, Pathways and the community took part in the event. Contestants had a total of 30 shots from three different locations on the court and were scored for shots made. Francoise P. from the community took home the top spot with 35 points. The Summer League started back in June as four staff from Sunland (Michael Young, Chris Truette, Marcus Mallet and Bo Hughes) were selected as team captains and then "drafted" their players from a list of residents who signed up for the summer league. During the regular basketball season (November – February) these players suit up for the Sonics, Boom and Jets. But for the Summer League they were drafted for four "new" teams, which allowed residents from these players the chance to play with new teammates and be coached by one of our top notch summer coaches. Each team played a total of nine games over the course of the summer and it was Michael Young's team that came in first place, going unbeaten in their nine games. Players on that squad included Calvin B. Pierre V. Marcus H. Adrian H., Greg D., Carlos C., Eddie M., Herman J., Jason T., and Jeffery E.

Thanks to all the residents and staff who helped make the 2016 Summer Basketball League such a huge success.



# Unit 3 Happenings...

Unit 3 recently celebrated the retirement of two of their employees, Ms. Beverly Croft and Ms. Janice Barnes. We will definitely miss the presence of Ms. Croft at East Washington and Ms. Barnes at Connally Manor. Both are known as very kind ladies who could make you smile just by saying hello. They were both extremely helpful and more than willing to lend a hand when needed. We are grateful for the years we spent working alongside them, and we wish them nothing but joy and happiness in this new season of life.



As summer comes to a close, the residents of Unit 3 enjoyed celebrating end of summer festivities at the dance and a luau themed poolside party!



Article & Photos Contributed by Allison Jones

# Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program

Recently, the Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program re-instituted the Hortitherapy Program. Hortitherapy offers physical, mental, and social benefits to participants. In particular, fine motor skills, range of motion, independence, observations skills, problem solving skills, creativity, cooperation, team work, stress management, and self-esteem are all increased. Residents have the opportunity to enjoy the recently refurbished greenhouse and garden beds. Hortitherapy participants recently assisted in adding to DDDP's "Beautification Program" by re-potting new plants and flowers to be placed in lobbies, offices, and common areas in both the East and West Buildings. Residents will maintain and help care for these plants as part of the Hortitherapy Program.



Article & Photos Contributed by: Corey Chafin



## national IMMUNIZATION awareness month

All adults should get vaccines to protect their health. Even healthy adults can become seriously ill, and can pass certain illnesses to others. Everyone should have their vaccination needs assessed at their doctor's office, pharmacy, or by other qualified healthcare providers. Vaccination is important because it not only protects the person receiving the vaccine, but also helps prevent the spread of disease, especially to those that are most vulnerable to serious complications such as infants and young children, elderly, and those with chronic conditions and weakened immune systems.

Adult vaccines include:

**Flu vaccine-** All adults, including pregnant women, should get the influenza (flu) vaccine each year to protect against seasonal flu.

**Tdap-** Every adult should have one dose of Tdap vaccine (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis or whooping cough) if they did not get Tdap as a teen, and then get the Td (tetanus and diphtheria) booster vaccine every 10 years. In addition, pregnant women are recommended to get the Tdap vaccine each time they are pregnant, preferably at 27 through 36 weeks.

**Shingles vaccine-** Adults 60 year and older are recommended to receive the shingles vaccine.

**Pneumonia vaccine-** Adults 65 and older are recommended to receive one or more pneumococcal vaccines. Some adults younger than 65 years with certain high risk conditions are also recommended to receive one or more pneumococcal vaccinations.

Adults may need other vaccines – such as **Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B and HPV** – depending on their age, occupation, travel, medical conditions, vaccinations they have already received or other considerations. Certain vaccines are recommended based on a person's age, occupation, and health conditions such as: asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), diabetes, or heart disease.

Article & Photos Contributed by : Karyn Bielski, RN ~ Infection Control



# VACCINES

# HUMAN RESOURCES

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Effective August 21, 2016, the Agency has a new Employee Assistance Program provider, E4.

You can access the service by calling the toll-free number or by logging on to the website. When you call **1-844-208-7067**, you will be assisted by a qualified consultant, no matter what time or day you call.

When you log on to [www.sofeap.com](http://www.sofeap.com), you have access to a range of valuable resources to help you navigate work and life issues.



Amanda Johnson, HR Manager and her staff, Veronica Mullinax, Lizzie Holland and Stacey Goodwin 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>



# August Congratulations! Star Employees

- ★ Edgar Smith - Unit 1
- ★ Angela Jackson - Unit 1
- ★ Dollette Everett - Unit 3
- ★ Heather Traylor - Quality Management
- ★ Nicole Sims - Nursing
- ★ Bill Himes - Maintenance
- ★ Dewey Wells - Food Service

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW EMPLOYEES

Trina Collins  
 Jonothan Norris  
 Marvetta Bellamy  
 Krissi Satterfield  
 Kadeijah Holmes  
 Milayjah Grooms  
 Alayah Smith  
 William Gilbert



## FAREWELL TO OUR RETIREES



Janice Barnes  
 Beverly Croft  
 Laura Ham



agency for persons with disabilities  
State of Florida

# Project Sunland PRIDE



Beautification Program!

**P**ERSONAL **R**ESPONSIBILITY **I**N A **D**ESIRABLE **E**NVIRONMENT

## "Community Spotlight of the Month"



### "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; Suzanne Laramore, RN/Nursing-Medical