



DD SPEAKS

March

NATIONAL WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH

RED CROSS MONTH

SOCIAL WORKER'S
MONTH

3/3 CAREGIVER APPRE-
CIATION DAY

3/3 EMPLOYEE APPRECI-
ATION DAY

3/17 ST. PATRICK'S
DAY

Governor Hutchinson signs House Bill 1033



January 27, 2017, Governor Asa Hutchinson signed House Bill 1033 which will fund 500 to 900 more slots for the ACS Home and Community Based Waiver!

Introducing Your HDC Volunteer Council Members



March Birthdays

3/9 Karen McDaniel

3/9 Zabrina Swift

3/11 Martha Gordon

3/12 Tommy Tarpley

3/13 Jana Hampton

3/13 Tracey Salley

3/15 Lynetta Lumpkin

3/18 Cheryl Lindley

3/30 Victor Eackles

3/31 Anna McIlroy

Volunteer Council Coordinators from the Human Development Centers and DHS Communications/Community Engagement met at DDS Central Office to discuss upcoming events, recruitment strategies and partnering with AmeriCorps on special pro-

jects this year. Those present were Ezell Breedlove, DHS Volunteer Program Coordinator; Deb Wilson, AHDC Volunteer Council Coordinator; Tammy Benbrook, DDS Program Administrator; Cynthia Wilson, JHDC Volunteer Council Coordinator;

Jackie Stubblefield, DHS Volunteer Program Coordinator; Elizabeth Litton, CHDC Volunteer Council Coordinator and Vanessa Wyrick, BHDC Asst. Superintendent/Volunteer Council Coordinator.

Handwriting Without Tears by Shenna May



The implementation of the Handwriting Without Tears (HWOT) pilot program began in September 2016 at the Arkadelphia Human Development Center. Handwriting Without Tears is an upbeat curriculum that introduces activities to teach letters, numbers, social-emotional skills, recognition, sensory motor skills, and position concepts for pre-writing skills. The program uses a step-by-step approach, modeling activities, music, bright color materials, hands on projects, cards, paper activities, pencil and crayon writing.

Peggy Edwards and Jamia Walker (AHDC Rehabilitation Instructors) were chosen as teachers for the pilot program and attended program training in Little Rock. Ms. Edwards and Ms. Walker observed the actual use of the program in the Little Rock/Pulaski County School District. Five residents were selected to participate in the pilot program. Classes are held Monday – Thursday from 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. with 2 residents attending on Mondays and Wednesdays and 3 residents attending on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The HWT curriculum is typically for children in Pre-K through the 5th grade and provides developmentally appropriate, multisensory tools and strategies for the general education classroom to address all styles of learning. For the purpose of this pilot, the program was adapted for adults with developmental disabilities with the guidance of an HWT Specialist. It is our understanding that this is the first time that the program has been used with adults with developmental disabilities. (From Dr. Elizabeth DeWitt, HWOT Representative)

The Mission Statement of the Arkadelphia Human Development Center is to enable the people we serve to continuously advance the independence and quality of their lives. Handwriting Without Tears is proving to be another stepping stone in this direction. At the beginning of the program some of our residents had no knowledge of the alphabet or how to write them correctly. Handwriting Without Tears focuses on helping the residents get the right mindset for the program, the proper way to grip a pencil, what is an uppercase and lowercase letter, recognizing and saying the alphabet, how to stay focused on writing their name in all uppercase letters within the appropriate lines, how to listen and follow instructions, how to sit correctly, and how to position their paper correctly for writing. Handwriting Without Tears has given our residents a knowledge of what the alphabet is and how the alphabet can be used as a source of communication.

On February 15, 2017 Ms. Edwards and Ms. Walker were surprised and delighted when Butch Jennings (72 year old resident) wrote his name for the first time in his life without any assistance. Upon realizing his accomplishment, Butch became overwhelmed emotionally which brought Ms. Edwards and Ms. Walker to tears. The other 4 residents are progressing and becoming more communicative.

Never Can Say Goodbye...

Ms. Dorothy Davis (11/28/1948—2/17/2017) served the state of Arkansas for over 35 years. She truly loved working with individuals with disabilities and their families. She personified Colossians 3:23-24 in that she gave whatever her assignment her all—working not to please man but for a much higher calling. Ms. Dorothy will be greatly missed by many. Joe Winford, your DDS family stands with you today and in the days to come.



Retirement On The Horizon



Forrest Steele served the state of Arkansas for over 32 years and will officially retire from state government, February 28, 2017. Your guidance, encouragement, and treats will be missed and we will all remember to always “keep a good thought.”



Workplace Etiquette Top Tips from Gwendolyn Thrower, DDS Program Manager (Southeast)

Professional Etiquette allows others to see that you are polite, respectful, and a civilized coworker who knows how to conduct yourself and represent the company in a positive way. If you don't show good manners, you could run the risk of ruining your reputation. This can prevent you from being promoted and in some cases cause termination from employment.

DHS Policies:

DHS 1081, Ethical Standards for DHS Employees

DHS 1084, Employee Conduct and Performance



- ⇒ **Respect someone else's personal space**
- ⇒ **Listen carefully when someone is talking, don't interrupt each other**
- ⇒ **If you make a mistake, apologize and try to avoid doing it again**
- ⇒ **Always try to arrive on time for meetings**
- ⇒ **Be careful of what you say... Respect others feelings**
- ⇒ **Be friendly to clients, visitors, and guests at all times**
- ⇒ **Never take credit for other people's work**
- ⇒ **Don't display hostile or negative behaviors to your coworkers**
- ⇒ **Don't gossip or keep up confusion in the workplace**
- ⇒ **Never say or do things you do not want repeated**
- ⇒ **Call to inform someone if you are going to be late**

Comments, Suggestions, Q&A



Let us know what you'd like to see featured in upcoming editions and also, if you'd like to be a guest writer! Send all comments, suggestions, and Q&A to: yvette.swift@dhs.arkansas.gov