



# DDSPEAKS

## Sharing & Showing love

THE DDS HDCs got into the Thanksgiving spirit early by partnering with “We heart Houston” to collect and deliver donations to Houston and surrounding areas affected by the hurricane. Elizabeth Litton coordinated the Disaster relief drive among the HDCs. Great Job all!



### NOVEMBER

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

NATIONAL EPILEPSY MONTH

NATIONAL CAREGIVERS MONTH

NATIONAL ALZHEIMER’S MONTH

11/5 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

11/11 VETERANS DAY (OBSERVED 11/10)

11/23 THANKSGIVING DAY



OFFICIAL STEFFON AND TEAM OFFICIAL PRESENTS:

# We <sup>PART 2</sup> HOUSTON

We are proud to announce that we will be partnering with  
**CONWAY HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER**  
from Conway, Arkansas.

We are looking for volunteers for this **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th 2017**. Please be prepared to meet at 4200 San Jacinto blvd, Houston, TX 77004 and be willing to drive to a few locations around the city.

IF YOU KNOW PEOPLE IN NEED WE HAVE ALL OF THE ITEMS LISTED AND READY TO GIVE:  
women clothes, shoes, diapers, wipes, sanitary napkins, tampons, toothpaste, shampoo/conditioner, dog treats, hand sanitizer, purses, water, deodorant, comb sets, hair brushes.

Please Contact Mofe Lawrence (281) 235-6482 or Endia Johnson (501) 773-5167 for all questions or concerns.

### November Birthdays

- 11/3 Alisa O’Neal
- 11/9 Benjamin Davis
- 11/10 Cynthia Hoskison
- 11/11 Cindy McCord
- 11/11 Brandy Woods
- 11/12 Twyla Burnette
- 11/14 Phyllis Lenz
- 11/16 Tina Fremody
- 11/18 Jodi Woodberg
- 11/24 Dale Woodall
- 11/25 Crystal Triplett

# DHS Halloween Children's Event

DHS hosted the 2nd Halloween Children's Event. There were over 400 children in attendance, 200 from MLK Elementary, 100 from Bale Elementary, 14 from CDC, and many others from local child care centers, foster kids, and employee children and grandchildren. DDS themed booth was It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown. Raymond Donaldson and Terrlyn Scoggins sketched and painted the two backdrop scenes. Sheena Burton and Merinesa Morris helped paint. Portland Gilbert and Rhonda spiced up Snoopy's dog house (built by Melissa's dad). Ms. Avis handled set design or ran our table. Thanks to everyone who donated candy, treats, pencils, stickers, and glow bracelets. Special thanks to CHDC for the popcorn set up and serve... it was a hit! The children loved everything! Thank you for what you do for others! Go team DDS!



DDS Charlie Brown CAST:

Charlie Brown...	Buddy Rhodes
Linus...	Dale Woodall
Sally...	Rhonda Stewart
Snoopy...	Melissa Stone
Woodstock...	Yvette Swift
Patty...	Keesha Lucas
Lucy...	Portland Gilbert
Schroeder...	Tommy Tarpley
Frieda...	Kim Walker
Marci...	Elizabeth Pitman
Violet...	Tammy Benbrook
Peppermint Patty...	Linda Scales



## Meet Susan Dixon, DDS Program Coordinator

Susan is training to become a CASA (court appointed special advocate) advocate. She shares her story below informing of why she made the choice and the statewide need for volunteers.

We are the eyes and ears of the court system. We are assigned a foster care case by a judge and follow the case until the foster child or children either return home and the case is closed or they are adopted and the case is closed. We establish a rapport with the children and ensure the child is receiving all the services they need and follow the parents progress and report back to the courts.

My first love is the joy of giving and my second is to protect those who cannot protect themselves. I worked for almost 6 years with DCFS and over 3 years with APS. There is nothing more important to me than the safety of others. Having said all this, I have a lot of experience dealing with abuse, neglect, exploitation and sexual abuse having worked with this population through DHS and because of this experience, I also know how to quickly establish a rapport. Many times people will confide in me about their troubles. I think having those skills and being able to use them to protect others is a blessing and a gift. Now that I work in DDS, I don't go out into homes to remove children or adults but I can still give back to my community by helping to protect and try to save one child at a time. It may sound corny, but I love everyone and I just want to do whatever I can to help others in need.

The state is in need of volunteers . The goal of CASA is to have a volunteer for every case. Please consider getting involved. To find out how to become a CASA volunteer, contact the Arkansas State CASA Association at (501) 410-1952 or (866) 284-8111.



## DHS Gift Wrap Drive

Save the date!

We will be collecting wrapping paper, gift bags, ribbons & bows for Christmas gifts for clients living in the HDCs and DYS facilities and our clients in APS and DCFS custody. More information to come. Drive will run November 27– December 4th.





Come join us as we unveil the DHS Veteran's Wall on Thursday, November 9, 2017 to honor those veterans working for DHS! Thank you Veterans for your service to our country!



# Reminder




**New Solutions**

**DDS Job Swap Day**  
All employees invited to participate!

If you would like to participate, please complete the survey and return to either Tammy Benbrook (HDC staff) or Yvette Swift (all other staff).

**Friday November 17**

**Time: 1 full shift**

**CONGRATULATIONS PATRICIA WHITE**  
on receiving your 20 years of service plaque from ASHEA!  
Patricia is the Southwest Region Area Manager for Waiver Services.



## Comments, Suggestions, and Q&A

Let us know what you'd like to see featured. Please send all comments, suggestions, and Q&A to [yvette.swift@dhs.arkansas.gov](mailto:yvette.swift@dhs.arkansas.gov)