



May

- Lupus Awareness Month
- Mental Health Awareness Month
- National Foster Care Month
- National Mobility Month
- National Stroke Awareness Month

- 5/3 National Day of Prayer
- 5/5 Cinco de Mayo
- 5/6 National Nurses Day
- 5/6-5/12 Public Service Recognition Week
- 5/13 Mother's Day
- 5/25 National Missing Children's Day

May Birthdays

- 5/2 Tammy Benbrook
- 5/4 Georgia McNabb
- 5/6 Gwendolyn Thrower
- 5/7 Pamela Hearnberger
- 5/11 Diana Dobbins
- 5/17 Carolyn Sattiewhite
- 5/20 Donna Williams
- 5/23 Janie Raschke
- 5/25 Susan Baker
- 5/30 Danyella White

Public Service Recognition Week, 5/6- 5/12



Celebrated the first week of May since 1985 (beginning on the first Sunday of the month), Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) is organized annually by the Public Employees Roundtable (PER) and its member organizations to honor the men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county and local government employees.

Thank you for all you do to serve our DDS family. Thank you for choosing public service and choosing to serve within the community of developmental disabilities. Together may we continue to provide the best quality services for the people we serve. Know that you are appreciated and recognized especially during this week!

DDS Shower to welcome baby boy Tarpley



Shelby Tarpley



Shelby and Tommy Tarpley

Upcoming events in Little Rock

Planning a trip to the capital city in May? Check out a few events while you're here.



MAY 5TH
HEIFER INTERNATIONAL
CAMPUS

Heifer Village & Urban Farm
 1 World Avenue, Little Rock
 5/5
 4PM-7PM
 \$25-\$40
 501-265-0537



Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
 1100 Napa Valley Drive, Little Rock
 5/18- 5/20
 11am-6pm
 \$3 or 3 canned food items for the Arkansas Foodbank
 501-221-5300



Saturday
May 19th **Arkansas**
9am-5pm **State Fair**

Sunday
May 20th **Little Rock,**
11am-4pm **Arkansas**

Featuring
 Boutiques,
 Home Decor &
 Hand Crafted
 items.

rufflesandrustexpo.com

AR State Fairgrounds Hall of Industry
 2600 Howard Street, Little Rock
 5/19 9AM- 5PM 5/20 11AM-4PM
 \$5 good both days
 806-231-9822



Riverfront Park
 400 President Clinton Avenue, Little Rock
 5/25-5/27 12PM- 11:59PM

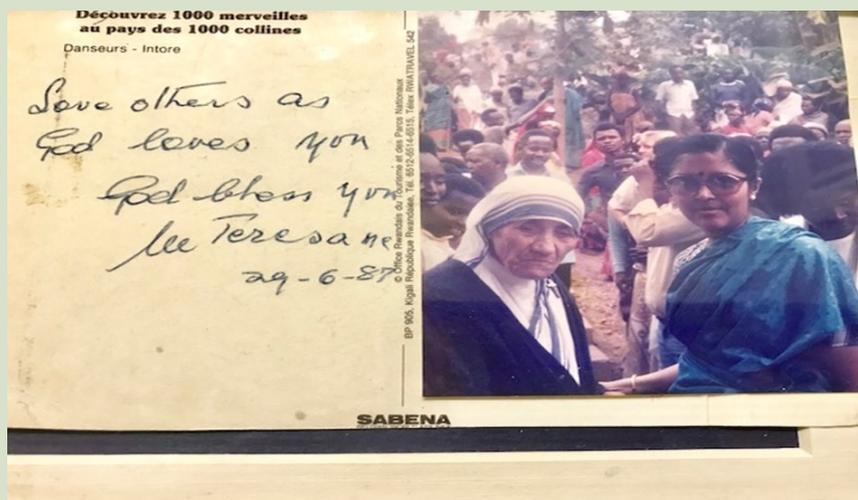


Africa Day Fest

SOMA
 1401 South Main Street
 Little Rock
 5/26 11AM-6PM
 Free
 501-712-0997

DDS Waiver Specialist, Amala Sista, meets and serves with Mother Teresa

Divine experience of meeting and serving with Mother Teresa:



It was the year 1987 my husband accepted a project in Rwanda a small country with 3.5 million people in Central Africa. I followed him, and we relocated to Kigali the capital of Rwanda, also known as “Switzerland” of Africa because of the beautiful hills and lush green nature. One fine day my husband got information from his leadership that some Christian missionaries are visiting from India. They would spend a week in Kigali and he was asked to take care of them.

It was such a divine experience when we went to airport to receive the guests. It was MOTHER with her tenure of sisters. They landed to visit the Orphanage she was sponsoring.

We both greeted her as she descended the aircraft Welcome to Kigali Mother. She put her hand on our head and blessed us “God Bless you my child.” We were blessed by a saint and the feeling was exceptional.

The next 7 days we stayed with her in the same guest house and followed the schedules she had. We took her to the orphanage where she worked with the staff to take care of the children. The tribal conflict caused so much destruction and loss of lives for so many children and parents. Some of the babies were 2 days old and some are few months and years.

We practically saw Mother healing babies who were suffering from various illnesses and suffering with her touch and prayers which changed our lives too.

Few of her sayings she used to say to all I am quoting here:

Love others as God Loves you

Love must be Unconditional

Peace begins with a smile.

Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

Gwendolyn Thrower, Waiver Program Administrator



Last month Administrative Professionals Day was celebrated on Wednesday, April 25th. Gwendolyn Thrower acknowledged the DDS Waiver Administrative Professionals. See below.

Happy Administrative Professionals Day!

Dear DDS Waiver Administrative Professionals:

On behalf of the DDS Waiver Unit I would like to personally Thank You for all your hard work within the division. We sincerely appreciate all your dedication and teamwork that you provide daily to the work unit. I appreciate your positive attitudes and your devotion to the work we do every day advocating for the individuals we serve. Administrative Staff are usually the first point of contact for the families, consumers, staff, and the providers. It is important that you display a positive attitude daily. I would like to reiterate that I appreciate your dedication and diligence to keeping the DDS Waiver unit operating successfully. I hope you enjoy your day!



Sincerely,

Gwendolyn Thrower

DDS Waiver Program Administrator

Comments, Suggestions, Q&A



Please send all comments, suggestions, and Q&A to yvette.swift@dhs.arkansas.gov. If you'd like to be a guest writer, please send submissions by the 20th of the month. Highlight a co-worker or give yourself a shout out. Share your hidden talents and gems! As always, please let us know what you'd like to see featured in upcoming editions.