



DDSPeAKS

- April
- Autism Awareness Month
- National Child Abuse Prevention Month
- National Volunteer Month
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- Stress Awareness Month

- 4/21 Easter
- 4/22 Earth Day
- 4/24 Administrative Professionals' Day

Individuals with Disabilities Employment Support Day ~ March 21

Governor Hutchinson proclaimed Thursday, March 21st as Individuals with Disabilities Employment Support Day. Many businesses opened their doors to give opportunities for job shadows or tours of their facilities. Thank you to: Kroger (Morrilton location); Tazikis (Little Rock, North Little Rock, and Conway locations); The Little Gym (Little Rock location); The Wonder Place (Little Rock location); THINK Coffee (Conway location); UAMS (Little Rock location); Pinnacle Hearing (Little Rock location); PRIMERICA (North Little Rock location); Manpower (North Little Rock location); Flavours (Maumelle location); a7Test (North Little Rock location); and Access Health Services (North Little Rock location). Special thanks to parent and advocacy group board member, Cindy Fong, and Assiah Lewellen of the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities State of Arkansas for the connections to make this a successful event!



April Birthdays

- 4/2 Charlotte Dixon
- 4/6 Kim Goh Walker
- 4/7 Riconda Johnson
- 4/7 Martha Nease
- 4/9 Marcia Davis
- 4/9 LaToya Sims
- 4/11 Charlene Price
- 4/11 Nita Reed
- 4/12 LaSonya Davis
- 4/12 Susan Jackson
- 4/19 Keely Moore
- 4/26 April Nichols
- 4/26 Ashley Williams

Individuals with Disabilities Employment Support Day ~ March 21



Pictured Left to Right: LeAnne Robertson, UAMS Project SEARCH® Instructor/Coordinator; Odette Woods, UAMS Business Liaison; Alan McClain, ARS Commissioner; Andrew Aston, UAMS Patient Transport Manager (Andrew is the 2014 UAMS Project SEARCH graduate, the 1st graduate to serve as a Mentor for new interns in his department and a consistent Top 10 Performer in his department); Dr. Stephanie Gardner, UAMS Provost and Chief Academic Officer; Judy Smith, ARS Transition Director & Project SEARCH State Coordinator; and Laura Collins, ACCESS Group, Inc. leadership team.



Pictured Left to Right are: Alan McClain, Andrew Aston, and Dr. Stephanie Gardner

Celebrating Autism Awareness Month by Highlighting the EPSDT Autism Program~ Elizabeth Cleveland

This month, the Arkansas Division of Developmental Disability Services (DDS) is celebrating Autism Awareness Month by highlighting the Arkansas EPSDT (Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment) Autism Program. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) affects 1 in 59 children. In Arkansas, 1.3% of children have been identified as having ASD. In light of these statistics, DDS is implementing a new program to provide children with ASD in Arkansas an opportunity to receive Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services through the state EPSDT program. ABA therapy is an evidence-based practice that has been proven to assist children with ASD by supporting and strengthening their abilities to thrive in their daily lives. This program will allow children with ASD to access resources that will support and empower them and their caregivers throughout every season of their lives. The DDS EPSDT Autism Program Team is working hard to be able to provide the best services to all Arkansans with ASD. Please join the DDS in "Lighting it up Blue" for Autism Awareness Month.

Elizabeth Cleveland, MS, CCC-SLP
Clinical Speech-Language Pathologist
Division of Developmental Disability Services



Elizabeth is a speech-language pathologist in the Division of Developmental Disability Services. She works on the EPSDT Autism Program team and is also pursuing her PhD in Communication Sciences and Disorders.

"I love spending time with my husband and my two children, ages 2 and 5! I also have a brother that has Autism Spectrum Disorder (since it's Autism Awareness month!)."

PASSE Command Center Go Live Date 2/19/19

A Message from Melissa Stone, DDS Director

If you get questions about the PASSE, please be sure to refer them to the correct support line.

The specific PASSE's are:

Arkansas Total Care: 1-866-282-6280

Empower Health Solutions: 1-855-429-1028

Summit Community Care: 1-844-462-0022

Please send questions about specific PASSE's to them.

For Beneficiaries who have questions about what PASSE they are enrolled in or how to change PASSE's send them to **AFMC's Beneficiary Support Line** at :

1-844-843-7351

For Providers who have questions, send them to the **PASSE Provider Support Line** at:

1-888-889-6451

Jonesboro Human Development Center's "Be Your Own Beautiful" Gala

Jonesboro Human Development Center Volunteer Council "Be Your Own Beautiful" Gala

On Friday, March 08, 2019 at 6 p.m. the Jonesboro Human Development Center (JHDC) Volunteer Council sponsored the 2nd Annual "Be Your Own Beautiful" Gala at St. Bernard's Auditorium, 505 Washington Ave. in Jonesboro. It was an evening of art, music, and fashion. Residents of the center modeled fashion attire. The event included a silent auction featuring art work designed and created by persons with disabilities. A delicious meal prepared by Beverly's Downtown Catering of Pocahontas was served. Approximately 275 persons were in attendance. The Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening was Ashley Ehrhart, the reigning Miss Historic Batesville.

Throughout the evening, adults with disabilities were given an opportunity to express their talents and develop self-confidence and positive self-esteem. This event was a wonderful chance for local community members to share the vision of promoting disability awareness.

For additional information about volunteer opportunities, you may log onto www.VolunteerAR.org. JHDC is a residential center, located at 4701 Colony Drive in Jonesboro that serves adults who have disabilities. They provide training and supports to assist persons to live more independently. The Volunteer Council is a 501 (c) (3) organization that utilizes its resources to benefit the residents of the JHDC.

For more information please contact:

Cynthia Wilson, JHDC Volunteer Coordinator

Email: Cynthia.wilson@dhs.arkansas.gov

Phone: 870-932-4043 extension 283



There is a lot coming up at DHS. Stay tuned!

Save the Date

April

Child Abuse Prevention Month Rally 4/17/19

May

Public Employee Recognition Week 5/5/19- 5/11/19

Nurses Week 5/6/19- 5/12/19



Kim, April, Sheena, Yvette

Don't forget to log your activities for the Blue & You Fitness Challenge! Team DDS– Drop It Like a Squat members **rocking the deck!** The rain kept us from **rocking the block** but we got it in! See you next Wednesday at 3:30 pm. Don't forget to let Chanda Young-Olive know if you want to join the Saturday Pinnacle Mountain hikes! What are your areas doing to reach your goals? Send pics!

Encourage | Inspire | Accountability



Comments, Suggestions, and Q&A

What would you like to learn more about or see featured? Please send all comments, suggestions, and Q&A to Yvette.swift@dhs.arkansas.gov by the 15th of each month.