



March

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

National Women's History Month

Red Cross Month

Social Worker's Month

Multiple Sclerosis Month

DHS Blue & You Fitness Challenge begins 3/1

3/1- 3/31 Governor's Hutchinson's Individuals with Developmental Disabilities Employment Support Days— state wide events

3/11 DDS Awareness Month Proclamation at the Arkansas State Capitol

3/17 St. Patrick's Day

Blue Umbrella 1st Birthday Celebration

On Friday, February 7th, 2020, the Blue Umbrella turned ONE with a birthday bash. Clients from our human development centers enjoyed being among the first guests to shop and to take advantage of the “selfie” photo booth in the lobby. Julie, from Southeast Arkansas Human Development Center, led store shoppers at least twice to a joyful rendition of “Happy Birthday”! Store Clerk, Mederick Davis, gave a touching speech about how all of the festivities would not be possible, if not for all the dedicated artists and store team members who contribute to the store.

To date, the Blue Umbrella has over 130 clients who contribute art to the store shelves. This list includes individuals at the HDCs and those from independent providers. In the coming year, the store hopes to add art from many more artists across the state.

Thanks to everyone in the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services for their support during the store's first year of operations. Here's to many more!!

Erin Skrodenis, Blue Umbrella Store Manager

March Birthdays

3/7 Erin Skrodenis

3/9 Karen McDaniel

3/9 Zabrina Swift

3/11 Martha Gordon

3/12 Tommy Tarpley

3/13 Kimberly Green

3/15 Lynetta Lumpkin

3/18 Heather Preston

3/19 Chanda Young-Olive

3/20 Tammy Rose

3/27 Tamika Floyd

3/30 Victor Eackles

3/31 Anna McIlroy



Erin Skrodenis and Mederick Davis



Booneville HDC joins Special Olympics to do the Polar Plunge



Pictured from left to right: Vanessa Wyrick, Jennifer Berry, Andra Johnson, Thomas Black, Shaydee Erkkinen (Polar Bear), Chad Bokker, Kerrie Erikken, and Bille Jo Hix.

BHDC participated in the Logan County Polar Plunge. For several years, the event has taken place at Cove Lake, Mt. Magazine. Vanessa Wyrick shared, "The water was very cold!" The team, led by Leslie Oliver (Plunge Coordinator), won for team raising the most money and also had the individual raising the most, Billie Jo Hix! The total raised for the event was \$3,023.00! Great Job BHDC! We are proud of you!



Mark your calendars! Our annual **Blue and You Fitness Challenge Kickoff** will be Thursday, February 27th from 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM.

We hope you will join us in person or online as we gear up for another awesome challenge. You can expect lots of energy, exciting guests, fantastic vendors, and important announcements on how we are equipping YOU to help make this year's challenge the best yet! You won't want to miss it.

This event will be live-streamed for those unable to attend in person.

You're invited
to attend the

2020

Developmental Disabilities

Awareness Month

Proclamation

March 11, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.
with Governor Asa Hutchinson

Arkansas State Capitol
2nd Floor Rotunda

If you will be attending please RSVP by Feb. 21
to Yvette at yvette.swift@dhs.arkansas.gov.

WE
AR
COMMUNITY

CHDC 3rd Annual Prom themed Under the Sea

On Thursday, February 13th CHDC held its third annual Valentine's Prom in the CHDC Gymnasium. CHDC's prom is truly one of our residents and employees favorite activities. Our prom has gotten bigger every year. We had several parents and family members join in on the fun as well. This year our theme was "Under The Sea". The residents, staff, and other guests danced the afternoon away. We are always blown away at the talents of our staff in coordinating a big event like our Prom. The decorations were beautiful and staff put a lot of time into the detail touches like a photo booth where pictures could be taken. Residents started shopping early for their gowns and menswear and they all looks fabulous.

There were 5 female and male residents running for CHDC Prom King and Queen 2020. The crowned King was Jimmy Bocksnick and Prom Queen was Macy Saunders.

Sarah Murphy, CHDC Superintendent



Upcoming Events

March

Blue & You Fitness Challenge starts 3/1

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Governor Proclamation at the Capitol 3/11

Individuals with Developmental Disabilities Support
Days– statewide 3/1-3/31

Social Worker’s Month

April

Child Abuse Prevention Month Rally at the Capitol 4/1
10:30am

May

Public Service Recognition Week 5/3- 5/9

Nurses Week 5/6– 5/12



Comments, Suggestions, 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.gov by the 15th of the month.