



The Blue Umbrella

DDS's The Blue Umbrella held a soft opening December 12– December 21 for DHS employees from 10am– 2pm. On the first day, the store made an amazing amount, almost \$700! Festivities surrounding the soft opening included a choir concert by the DHS Singers, led by Ms. Vanessa Parker, and the lighting of the Restore Hope Christmas Tree. Pictured to the right is Mederick Davis, The Blue Umbrella store clerk manager with Linda Scales, DDS Program Administrator, the store's general manager. Pictured below is Mederick Davis with his job coach Cassandra Adams.

Linda enjoys working with Mederick and says, "he is wonderful to work with!" Come shop at The Blue Umbrella!



January

1/1 New Year's Day

1/21 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Day

1/6 Epiphany

January Birthdays

1/1 Priscilla Jefferson

1/3 Sheena Burton

1/10 Annemarie Barnes

1/11 Raymond Donaldson

1/12 Yvonne Buford

1/15 Ashley Maier

1/16 Sheila Warnick

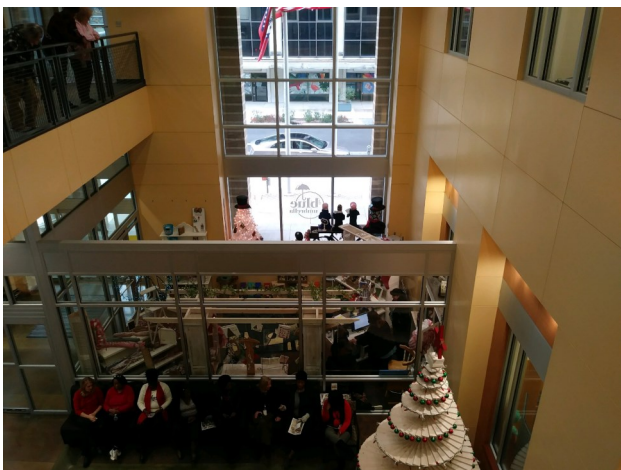
1/18 Dorothy Vance

1/27 Vonnesia Taylor

1/29 Crystal Lewis



The Blue Umbrella, cont.



DDS Christmas Lunch



Charades winning team in DDS Director's Office Winners Circle



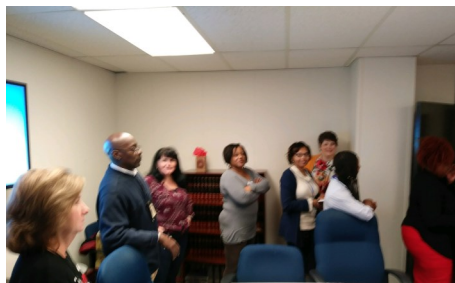
NOT the charades winning team in **not** the Winners Circle



DDS held it's annual Christmas Lunch on Friday, December 7th in the DDS Director's conference room. Staff ate, played games, and fellowshiped. A delicious, festive, and competitive time was had by all! This year's meal was catered by On the Border.



Patricia White initiating our newest DDS employee, Tammy Rose, to the competitive spirit of DDS! You had to be there! Glad you're still here, Tammy!



Booneville HDC's Christmas Lighting



Santa, Jeff Gonyea, BHDC Superintendent, Booneville Mayor Jerry Wilkins throwing the switch

Vanessa Wyrick, BHDC Assistant Superintendent, shares Booneville HDC Christmas Lighting. "We had a great crowd and the Mayor came up to help Jeff throw the switch to light the display. Our Volunteer Council purchased the lights, the High School Show Choir and Jazz Band performed and we had hot chocolate and cookies donated by Wal-Mart. It is an amazing light display and it really was a team effort at BHDC to get it all together. Very proud!!"



Conway HDC's Polar Express





DDS Director Melissa Stone with Program Administrator Yvette Swift

Looking forward to see what 2019 brings! I heard a saying not too long ago that made quite an impression on me. "People who swim together don't tend to drown." As we are all learning new roles and facing new challenges, let's look out for each other. If you need help, reach out. If you see someone who needs help, reach out. Team DDS as we start a new year together, let's continue to strengthen each other, consequently strengthening the team. There is a wealth of knowledge, skill, and talent at DDS. Tap into what you need and share what you have. We are better together! Here's to 2019... bring it!

Save the Date

DHS New Year Celebration

Friday, January 11

DPS, Conference Rooms A&B

The Regular Session of the 92nd General Assembly will convene on Monday, January 14, 2019. (Bill filing began Thursday, November 15, 2018.)

The Blue Umbrella Store Official Opening

January 2019

Comments, suggestions, Q&A



What would you like to see or learn about in 2019? Want to submit a story? Please send all to Yvette Swift at yvette.swift@dhs.arkansas.gov by the 17th of each month.