



AHDC medals at Regional Special Olympics

May

Better Hearing and Speech Month

ALS Awareness Month

Military Appreciation Month

Jewish American Heritage Month

5/5-5/11 Public Employee Recognition Week

5/6- 5/12 National Nurses Week

5/5-5/6 Beyond the Borders

Conference

5/5 Cinco de Mayo

5/6 DHS 2nd Annual Employee Appreciation Event

5/8 Mother's Day

5/21 National Armed Forces Day

5/30 Memorial Day



The Arkadelphia Human Development Center participated in the Track and Field Special Olympic Games. The event was held at Lake Side High School. AHDC clients won a total of 13 Gold medals, 8 Silver medals, and 6 Bronze medals! Great job athletes!

Other regional games will be held within the upcoming months.

Beyond the Borders returns

The Conway Human Development Center, located in Conway, Arkansas, is hosting its twentieth **Beyond the Borders** Regional Conference on Developmental Disabilities May 5th and 6th, 2022. The Conference will be held in Conway, Arkansas, at Antioch Baptist Church, with attendance expected to exceed 350 participants from a seven-state area. The last Conference was hosted nearly ten years ago, on August 8th and 9th of 2012.

The two-day conference will offer over 30 presentations by state, private, and community-based service providers, and other professionals in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities. This year's focus is Trauma-Informed Care, with over a dozen presentations to enhance participants' awareness of the impact of trauma and how to develop trauma-informed responses.

Additionally, this conference will provide presentations that feature strategies/training methodologies in the areas of medical management, aging, recreation, supported employment, personal growth, and other topics of interest.

CONFERENCE GOALS

- ◆ To provide a place and time for service providers and other interested persons to share innovative programmatic ideas, to identify additional service needs, and to address needed supports.
- ◆ To ensure that service providers are knowledgeable of current developments in the field.
- ◆ To provide an opportunity for consumers to have direct input into service delivery systems.
- ◆ To foster relationships and understanding among those working for people with disabilities throughout the continuum of services.
- ◆ To facilitate networking and fellowship among those with common interests.
- ◆ To have everyone return home proud of their accomplishments, looking forward to positive change, and feeling refreshed with new ideas.

*Jefferson County DHS County staff wear **blue** in support of Child Abuse Prevention Month*



DDS staff: Patricia Jenkins and Sarah Freeman

JHDC wins the Race to 100



Congratulations to the Jonesboro Human Development Center for winning the Race to 100 COVID-19 vaccination drive! Earlier this year, our five Human Development Centers held a friendly competition with the Arkansas Health Center and Arkansas State Hospital to see who could reach the highest percent of fully vaccinated staff. While all seven centers saw significant increases in vaccinations rates, JHDC crossed the finish line with an outstanding 96 percent rate.



To celebrate their victory, all JHDC employees were treated to a cookout. It was a gorgeous day full of sunshine, laughter, and food. Since a DDS facility won, leadership from the Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services had to man the grill, cooking up hamburgers and hot dogs with the sides and trimmings.



In addition to the competition losers cooking for the winning facility, Director Weatherton and DAABHS Director Jay Hill had an agreement that the losing director would also take a pie in the face. Director Weatherton showed no mercy to Director Hill when throwing the pie in his face. Secretary Gillespie even got in on the fun.



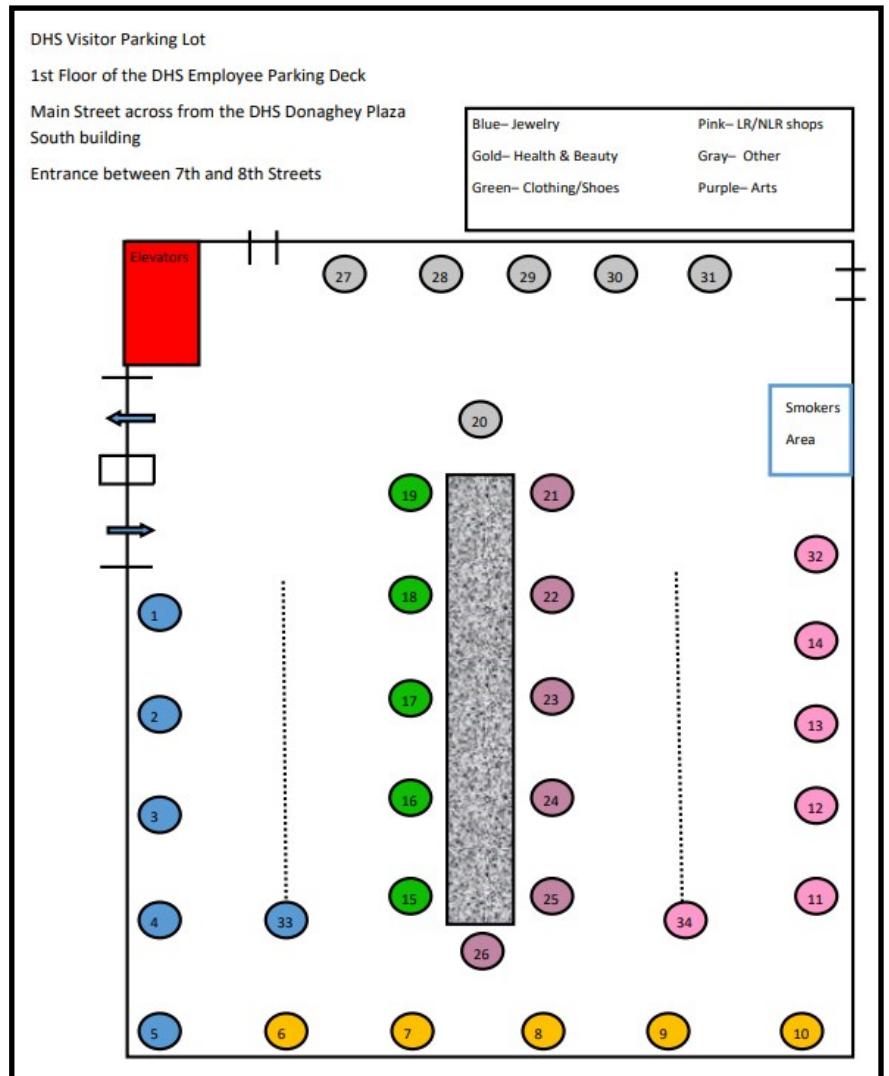
This competition was successful in helping the staff at all seven facilities take the steps needed to protect themselves and to comply with federal rules requiring workers to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Congratulations to all of our facilities for successfully achieving high vaccination rates!

Photo credits: Stephen Thornton



2nd Annual DHS Employee Appreciation Event

The 2nd Annual DHS Employees Appreciation Vendor Fair will be Friday, May 6th from 11:00am to 2:00pm. This vendor fair is a way to recognize and celebrate the creativity and drive of DHS employees and their families and friends. We'll have over 30 booths full of unique gifts, jewelry, crafts, home décor, and more. We'll have food trucks on site for lunch. Come out to support your colleagues and you can also grab lunch.



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| 1. Pretty and Posh- R. Williams | 18. Shi Slay Shoetique- K. Jones |
| 2. Southern Gold and Gem- R. Ikard | 19. BeYOUUnique with Kahla Nichole- K. Robinson |
| 3. Dorsey Creative Company- D. Dorsey | 20. Lanyards- L. Graves |
| 4. Tiki & Chief Collection- L. McKinney-Walker | 21. Wreaths- L. Sabb |
| 5. Jewelz by Traci Lynn- C. Brooks | 22. Resin Creations by Clowers- S. Clowers |
| 6. Life is Lit- D. Houston | 23. Mae Dove Designs- K. Richey |
| 7. Ida Girls Candles & More- T. Eackles | 24. Alicia Gorden- A. Gorden |
| 8. 3KE Essentials- E.O | 25. True Serenity Accessories- D. Patterson |
| 9. Handmade Organics- H. Pursell | 26. Total Life Changes- K. Easter-Willis |
| 10. Glossed by Aria- S. Horton | 27. Generations- A. Lane |
| 11. Esse Purse Museum | 28. Glam Studiozz- A. Smith |
| 12. Bella Vita Jewelry | 29. Basket Buffett- S. Campbell |
| 13. Not Your Basic Bling- J. Carter | 30. TnT- T. Blackman |
| 14. Bang Up Betty | 31. Kristie's MK Gifts- K. Farr |
| 15. Melanin Kustom Designs- K. Jones | 32. Literary Freedom Publishing- K. Walker |
| 16. KeeKee Michelle- K. Bryson | 33. Partake Fifteen- B. Summerville |
| 17. Mark's Hidden Treasures- D. Marks | 34. Little Miss Muffet- K. Henry |

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

Save the Date

May

Public Employee Recognition Week 5/5-5/11

Nurses Week 5/6-5/12

DHS Employee Appreciation Event 5/6

June

HDCs Farmers Market 6/3

DHS Juneteenth Celebration 6/17



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 the month.



THE BLUE UMBRELLA
MAY 2022



*We've got a gift
for every type of Mom!*



FOR THE NOTE-TAKING MOM:

THESE BEAUTIFUL HANDMADE PENS ARE MADE FROM OAK, CHERRY AND MAHOGANY WOOD BY STUDENTS AT THE ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

FOR THE FOODIE MOM:

TREAT MOM TO HOT PANCAKES AND YOUR CHOICE OF BLUEBERRY OR BUTTER PECAN SYRUP FROM ARKADELPHIA HDC.



FOR THE DOG MOM:

PERSONALIZE JEREMIAH 29:11'S DOG BONE MAGNET WITH THE NAME OF HER DOG, ADOPT ONE OF MEL MEL'S DOG PAINTINGS OR WARN OTHERS THAT WIGGLEBUTTS ABOUND (MADE BY SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS HDC)..



** DON'T FORGET A CARD FOR MOM! WE HAVE SEVERAL DIFFERENT DESIGNS AVAILABLE!*

SHOP WITH US MON-FRI 10 AM - 2 PM.
CURBSIDE PICKUP AVAILABLE. TO SCHEDULE, CALL US AT **501-320-6410**
OR VISIT US ONLINE AT **WWW.BLUEUMBRELLAAR.ORG**





FOR THE GAME NIGHT MOM:

TAKE YAHTZEE OUTSIDE WITH "YARDZEE" FROM CIVITAN SERVICES.



FOR THE COOKING MOM:

THESE BEAUTIFUL STATE OF ARKANSAS CUTTING BOARDS ARE AVAILABLE IN 3 SIZES: 5", 8" AND 10" AND HANDMADE HERE IN ARKANSAS.



FOR THE SELF-CARE MOM:

PAMPER MOM WITH AN ASSORTMENT OF BATH PRODUCTS FROM ARKADELPHIA HDC. NEW SCENTS INCLUDE PEACH NECTOR, LEMON POUND CAKE AND LAVENDER.



FOR THE BLESSED MOM:

THESE CUTE TEES AND MUGS MADE BY ARKADELPHIA HDC ARE SURE TO BRING A SMILE TO HER FACE.
*LIMITED STOCK AVAILABLE



SHOP WITH US MON-FRI 10 AM - 2 PM.
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