



CHDC Athletes medal at the Special Olympics USA Games in Orlando, Florida

July

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

7/2 Civil Rights Act

7/4 Independence Day

7/30 World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

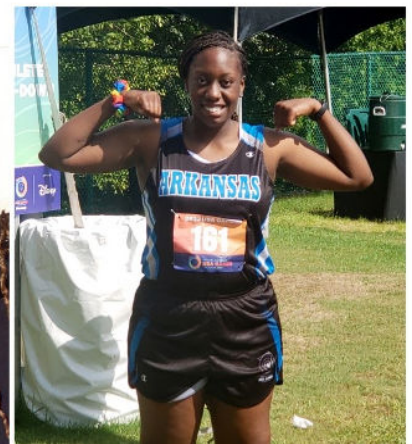
The first week of June, Athletes from the Conway Human Development Center joined others from Arkansas to compete in the Special Olympics USA Games in Orlando, Florida. CHDC resident, Isaiah Duvall, received a silver medal in the 200 meter run and a silver medal in the 4X4 relay. Briana Tate, daughter of CHDC Administrative Nursing Coordinator Shakenia Tate, brought home a bronze medal in the shot put and a silver medal in the 4X100 relay. Congratulations to all and especially our CHDC athletes, coaches, and staff!

Enjoy pictures from the games of the athletes, coaches, and families in Orlando. Send a congratulatory email to the Conway team via James at James.Winnen@dhs.arkansas.gov.

Great job all!



Isaiah pictured on the left.



Briana pictured on the right.

Special Olympics cont'd



Well-deserving Employee Highlight

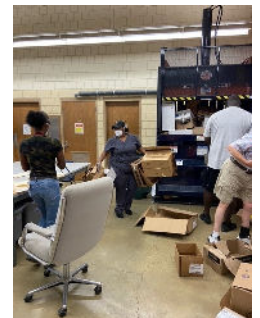
SHEMIKA MARSHALL

On SEAHDC campus, we run a recycling center, Pinewood Village. Our Supervisor who runs Pinewood, Shemika Marshall, works so hard to keep this going, employing many of our clients. She continued to do this even throughout the pandemic. She is an excellent employee and the work done here is fascinating!

Submitted by: Lauren Franklin



Great Job Shemika! Keep up the great work with our clients and inspiring your colleagues through your service! Go Team DDS!



Linda Wilson, DDS Program Manager Retires after 35 Years of Service

After 37 and ½ years, Ms. Linda G. Wilson, Program Manager for DDS CES Waiver, has officially retired with an effective date of June 30, 2022. We all recognize Ms. Wilson for her unconditional dedication, grace and genuine smile. She will be deeply missed. Under her leadership, the framework for design and implementation of the DDS Incident Management System was initiated. Although she will be missed by her staff, she has left them well prepared to carry on with their contributions to DDS. We wish Ms. Wilson well as she embarks on new journeys. *Submitted by: Regina Davenport, DDS Assistant Director*



DHS Inaugural Juneteenth Celebration

DHS celebrated its Inaugural Juneteenth Celebration on Friday, June 17th. So many helped to make this event happen starting with our DHS Secretary, Cindy Gillespie, who wanted DHS to celebrate Juneteenth. DDS Program Administrator, Yvette Swift, organized a planning committee by recruiting DHS staff volunteers. The vision for this inaugural event was to have something substantial, educational, and inspirational emphasizing the black culture history, contributions, and influence. The committee also wanted a give-back component to benefit our DHS partner school, Bale Elementary. The DHS Official T-shirt vendor donated \$5 back on every shirt sold for a total donation of \$130 to aid the back-to-school backpack program which provides school supplies for children in need.

The event kicked off with the Black National Anthem sung by Ms. Kellaneese Porter followed by two groups of speakers who shared heartfelt, inspirational messages with the crowd. The first group consisted of Secretary Gillespie, Senator Joyce Elliott, Jacksonville School District North VP Ava Coleman, and Arkansas's first Black comedy club owner comedian/actor Nate Williams of the Nut House Comedy Club. The second group consisted of DHS Deputy Director Keesha Smith, Judge-elect LaTonya Austin Honorable, Power 92.3 radio personality and community leader Broadway Joe Booker, Stop the Violence Founder and President Rev. Benny Johnson, and Judge-elect Cara Connors. There was also a poetry slam with DDS's own Sabrena Harris reciting an original poem along with a solo vocal performance. Renowned poet, LeRon McAdoo, also served as a special guest.

The food truck vendors serving deliciousness were: Frizios Exotic Eatery, Backyard Fish Fry, Khicken Koop, Kool's BBQ, FryFry Crazy, The Breezy Scoop, and Sweets in a Jar. The arts and crafts vendors featured paintings, home décor, and accessories in addition to a 360 booth which was available for spinning pictures. DHS's Rachel Spencer designed the Juneteenth flyer and T-shirt logo. Ms. Paula Boone, our T-Shirt vendor, did an excellent job with the logo. Our absolutely awesome community partners included: Cassandra Kidd of US Bank, LRPD Officers Brandon Middleton and Eric Barnes, Wal-Mart, UAMS, and the Minority Health Commission who provided financial education, safety with community building, and free health screenings. The Divine Nine showed up in record numbers and showed out! Last but not least, a special thanks to the most amazing planning committee ever: Sabrena Harris, Felicia Reynolds-Johnson, Jamal Williams, **Omega Psi Phi**: Joe Winford, Ceasar Johnson, Robert Young, Ricky Gaston; **Alpha Phi Alpha**: Terion Clark, Lee Honorable, Alfred Fisher; **Kappa Alpha Psi**: Troy Jordan; **Phi Beta Sigma**: Stacy Watson; **Delta Sigma Theta**: April Nichols, Laniya Jackson, Riconda Johnson, Angel Smith, Rosalind Reams, Kimberly Cogshell; **Alpha Kappa Alpha**: Stacy Curtis, Tammy Rose, Rhonda Perkins, Baronica Craig; **Sigma Gamma Rho**: Chanda Young-Olive, Khadeja Jones; **Zeta Phi Beta**: Latosha Simmons, Janell Wright, Latrenda McPeace. The event exceeded all of my expectations and I am looking forward to seeing it get bigger and better! *Submitted by: Yvette Swift*



DHS Inaugural Juneteenth Celebration cont'd



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

Save the Date

CHDC Fireworks Display

For residents, staff, and their families

7/1

Beginning at 9pm

DHS 4th of July bake off

Central Office with food trucks

7/8

11am

Sibling Sunday Fun Day

CHDC Park

Refreshments and activities to promote residents' sibling relationships

7/17

1-3pm



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.



Meet Palmer from JHDC!



Funny, hardworking, and dedicated are just a few words that can be used to describe Palmer, a resident at Jonesboro HDC. Palmer has been through many challenges in his life, so keeping his hands busy making pottery, magnets, and rock photo holders for The Blue Umbrella helps calm his anxiety. Outside of art, he enjoys enjoying playing video games, watching Will Smith movies and eating "big ol' glazed honey buns." Remember that when you shop at The Blue Umbrella, you are putting money into hands of artists, just like Palmer.



New Décor!

FROM ARTISTS AT CHDC

Artists at CHDC have been busy designing new door hangers for summer!



MADE IN THE USA!
BETTER YET. HANDMADE IN ARKANSAS!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!

Home décor, coffee mugs, t-shirts, and door hangers are just a few items our artists have created for you to celebrate the 4th of July this year.



DOOR HANGERS

made by artists at Civitan Services



\$29.25

T-SHIRTS

two designs made by artists at AHDC



\$23.40

MORE DECOR

made by artists at Civitan Services



\$29.25

WWW.BLUEUMBRELLAAR.ORG

501-320-6410
@blueumbrellaar



700 Main Street
Little Rock AR 72203