



OCTOBER

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Down Syndrome Awareness Month

National Spina Bifida Awareness Month

National Crime Prevention Month

10/7 DDS Fall Food & Craft Fair

10/16 National Boss's Day

10/28 DHS Halloween Children's Event

Sixth Annual
FALL
Food & Craft Fair

Hosted by the DHS Division of
Developmental Disabilities Services

SUPPORT *crafters*
with developmental & intellectual disabilities.

ITEMS *include*
handmade rugs, magnets, artwork, wreaths, & more! All proceeds go to the artisans who made the items.

OCTOBER
7TH
10 A.M.-2 P.M.
DOWNTOWN LITTLE ROCK - 7TH & MAIN

FOOD TRUCKS | FUN | SHOPPING

For more information, please contact Yvette Swift at
501-682-4286 or yvette.swift@dhs.arkansas.gov



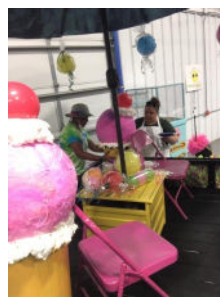
There will be shirts available for sale at the event.. They are navy blue. The vendor, Meme's Designz, will have a booth set up on Main Street. The cost of the shirts are \$25 with \$5 of each shirt sold benefitting the HDC (Human Developmental Center) clients Christmas fund. Please support! We want our clients to have a wonderful holiday!

Two HDCs participate in their county Fairs



The Arkadelphia HDC entered a float in the Clark County Fair Parade on Wednesday, September 14, 2022. The theme for the Clark County Fair this year was “You Grow It, We Show It”. AHDC won Overall Best Float, with their Farmer’s Market Stand. Staff and clients enjoyed working on the float and then participating in the parade.

On September 20, 2022, Conway HDC won First Place for their float in the Faulkner County Parade! This year’s theme was “Life Is Sweet”.



DDS Central Office staff attends the 2022 AR APSE Conference



DDS partnered with Arkansas Rehabilitation Services at the 2022 AR APSE (Association of People Supporting Employment) Conference. First Connections had a vendor table set up and staff from DDS Waiver Services were also in attendance. Pictured above are: Yolanda McDonald, Rebbie Gardner, Tammy Rose, and April Nichols.

Conference organizer Ms. Dale Turrentine said, “I do not have adequate words to express how thankful I am that DDS was a partner for the 2022 AR APSE Conference. Thank you to DDS for printing the booklet and for the staff who were able to participate.” There were over 100 in attendance. The next conference is slated for 2024. Here’s more on the conference and its mission.

The AR APSE conference is building momentum in Arkansas to promote person-centered planning and professional training as a means to improve employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities in Arkansas. In August of 2021 Summit Community Care gathered a cross-agency group of employment providers, disability advocates, and educators to discuss improving employment outcomes. This meeting was facilitated by Charting the Life Course and served as the "kick-off" to a year's worth of capacity building. Summit Community Care and the Charting the Life Course Nexus are once again gathering a broad group of stakeholders to continue this crucial conversation. We brainstorm potential strategies and partnerships that seized on the momentum and move the needle on improved competitive employment outcomes for Arkansans with disabilities. Key topics include:

- Raising expectations of systems, families, and individuals that real work is the preferred option for individuals with disabilities.
- How do we build system capacity to deliver quality employment services?
- How do we embed Charting the Life Course into all the systems that influence employment opportunities?
- What group should logically lead the charge for improved access to competitive employment?
- How do we expand and sustain a coalition of partners that will focus on eliminating the barriers to competitive employment?

DDS Director Melissa Weatherton hosts 1st ‘Let’s Talk DDS’

On September 14th, Director Weatherton held the first in a series of “Let’s Talk DDS” zoom meetings. If you were unable to attend this zoom, it will be available for view soon. For information contact; Avis Lane 501-682-8665.



DDS First Connections in the Community



DDS First Connections will have a booth at the Arkansas State Fair again this year.

April Nichols, Family Engagement and Outreach Coordinator, initially started this partnership last year with the state fair. It was so well received that they are back again this year! April shares, “We are excited to meet Arkansas families and talk about our program and the services that we offer!”

While you and your family are enjoying the fair, be sure to stop by and say hello to our colleagues!

Early intervention seeks to build functional, foundational skills to help infants/toddlers with a developmental delay or disability to be full, active participants in home and community life. The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has established the following outcomes (or goals) for early intervention under IDEA Part C:

- Children have positive social relationships
- Children acquire and use knowledge and skills
- Children take appropriate action to meet their needs

In Arkansas, First Connections (FC) Early intervention is under the direction of the Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities Services. FC is a federally funded program for families whose child is under the age of three and has a developmental delay or disability. Early intervention may begin at any time between birth and age three; however, when early intervention is needed, the earlier it is provided, the better the outcome for the child and family. Supports provided under First Connections are aligned with each family’s unique situation, culture, language, resources, and priorities.

Specific early intervention services provided are determined based on the goals and objectives of the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) developed with the family. Below is the list of the 17 federally-identified early intervention services outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA, Part C).

- Assistive Technology/Adaptive Equipment (and AT Services)
- Audiology
- Family training, counseling, and home visits
- Health services
- Medical services
- Nursing services
- Nutrition services
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Psychological services
- Service coordination services
- Sign language and cued language services
- Social work services
- Special instruction (developmental therapy)
- Speech-language pathology services
- Transportation and related costs
- Vision Services

Background provided by First Connections Program Administrator, Zabrina Swift

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

Save the Date

October

DDS Fall Food & Craft Fair

10/7

10 am– 2 pm

DHS Children's Halloween Event

10/28

2 pm- 4 pm

December

DHS Christmas Event

Downtown Little Rock

TBA



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 NEWSLETTER



October 2022



IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- 29:11 Jeremiah visits The Blue Umbrella
- Fall Preview
- New Website/Online Store Launches
- SEAHDC's book launch and author signing event



A VISIT FROM JEREMIAH 29:11

One of The Blue Umbrella's most recognizable artists, Jeremiah, visited The Blue Umbrella last month with a basket full of new magnets, including one special edition bat figurine.

www.blueumbrellaar.org

SNEAK
PEEK

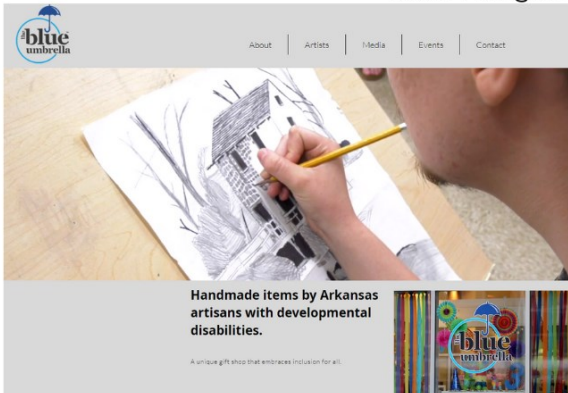
NEW WEBSITE &
ONLINE STORE

SEAHDC BOOK
SIGNING

fall preview



Fall is in the air and that means new products are arriving at The Blue Umbrella. Artists at the Human Development Centers across the state have been busy at work crafting fall décor such as wreaths, porch signs, mugs, door hangers, and much more!



NEW website & online store

The Blue Umbrella is just about ready to launch our brand new website, including the opportunity to now shop online and have unique items delivered to your door. Check it out at www.blueumbrellaar.org.

SEAHDC launches book titled "Snowflakes"

An official launch of "Snowflakes," a book written by residents at the Southeast Arkansas Human Development Center (SEAHDC) was held on Friday, August 26. Each page features a different resident's handprint, a few interesting facts about them, and what makes them unique. The event was a huge success and several residents were even on hand to autograph copies of the book purchased.

