



November

- National Adoption Month
- National Epilepsy Month
- National Caregivers Month
- National Alzheimer's Month

- 11/6 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 11/11 Veterans Day
- 11/24 Thanksgiving Day

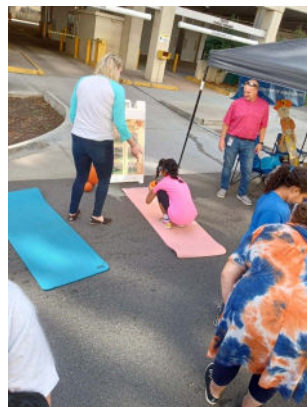
6th Annual DDS Fall Food & Craft Fair

DDS held its 6th Annual Fall Food & Craft Fair on Friday, October 7th. Crafters living in both the community and the five Human Development Centers came from across the state to sell their items. It was a successful day with both beautiful weather and sales. The 30+ vendors and food trucks either sold out or came close to selling out. The Human Development Centers made \$5,858.10.

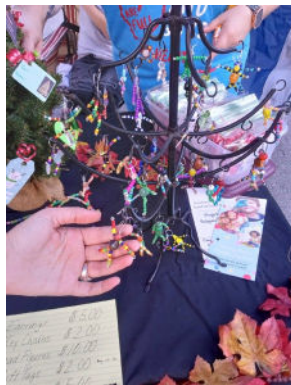
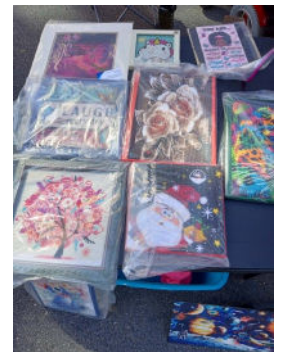
Additionally, it was also DHS Secretary Cindy Gillespie's last day in the office. A farewell ceremony was held earlier with appearances from Governor Asa Hutchinson, First Lady Hutchinson, and other cabinet Secretaries and legislators to thank Secretary Gillespie for her service to DHS and to wish her well. At the end of the ceremony, those gathered came out and shopped. Some even grabbed lunch before heading back to their offices.



DDS Fall Food & Craft Fair

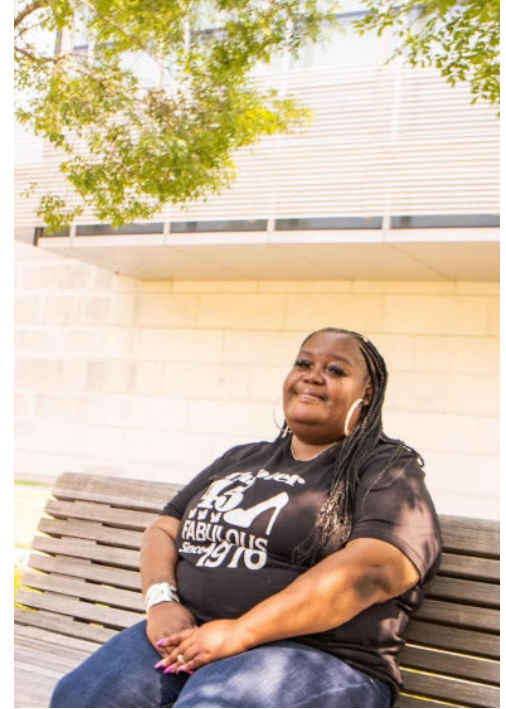


DDS Fall Food & Craft Fair



Meet Keesha Lucas from DDS central office

I was born and raised in Helena, Arkansas. I am a mother two girls and two boys: Shandel (31), Torrez (24), Teianta (22), and Juntaveia (19). I have been married to my husband, James, who is also my high school sweetheart, for 23 years. I am the oldest sibling of three, I have a sister and a brother. I have been working with DDS for seven years. During this time, I have gained knowledge both professionally and on how public service works. DDS also afforded me the opportunity to provide for my family stress free— was able to put three kids through high school, was able to spend holidays with my children, and the hours allowed me to be home with them at nights and on weekends. I started as extra help under the leadership of Mrs. Regina Davenport. She took a chance on me and gave me a permanent position as her Administrative Assistant III for which I am forever grateful. I remained in that position from 2015 until the end of 2021. In January 2022, I was promoted to an Administrative Analyst for the Monitoring and Assurance Unit under the leadership of Linda Wilson (who retired this year). Currently, I am under the leadership of Tammy Rose. My assigned duties are to monitor the Central mailbox for the incident reports and assign them to the designated specialist. I still work parts of the old position including creating the Interim Plans of Care and helping with the Automated Plans of Care with waiver slots. My hobbies are crafting and cooking. I have an Associate Degree in Paralegal Technology and a Certificate for Legal Secretary. My future goal is to pursue my Bachelors in Business and Administration at the Philander Smith Institute Program.



DDS First Connections at the Arkansas state fair



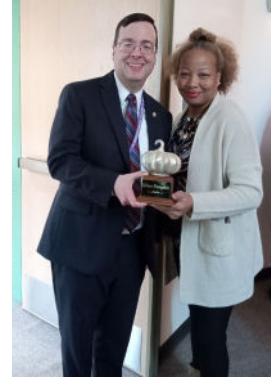
Celebrating the retirement of an exceptional colleague

On September 30th, family and friends celebrated the retirement of Charlene Price after 37 years, 7 months, and 21 days of service. She served her entire tenure with Children with Chronic Health Conditions (CHC). Her longevity is yet another testament to the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services as an awesome career choice. Charlene is among many colleagues with the similar longevity.

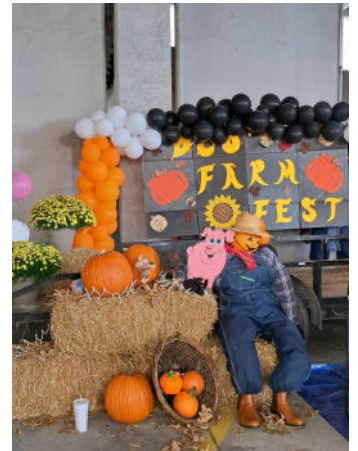
Thank you Charlene for the light you brought daily to CHC and DDS. You will be missed but you deserve this time for you now. Happy Retirement!



DDS + Secretary's Office + OLIGA + OCCE takes Silver in the DHS 6th Annual Children's Halloween Event



DHS 6th Annual Children's Halloween Event cont'd



2022 DDS Employee of the Year, Tanyaka Conway



On October 26th during the annual AHSEA banquet, Residential Services Program Administrator Tanyaka Conway received the DDS Employee of the Year award!

Tanyaka is supervisor of the Residential Services and Vocational Training Services at the Arkadelphia Human Development Center. Superintendent Kerry Gambill states: *"This employee is an extraordinary human being! She is a pleasure to supervise, due to her spectacular attitude, her servant's heart, her love for our clients, and her drive to build a better home for our clients. She exceeds in all her job duties. She lives the DHS Mission by 'improving the quality of life of her clients and staff by protecting the vulnerable, fostering independence and promoting better health.' She ensures her staff are well trained and well equipped to meet the needs of all clients. She has worked every weekend and holiday since Covid-19 pandemic struck our facility two years ago. Yes, this includes Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, MLK holiday, Presidents Day, as well as her scheduled days off, which are Saturday and Sunday. She recognized that her presence on campus 24 hours a day and 7 days per week was vital to protecting our clients and training a very young staff to not only meet the needs of Arkansas' most vulnerable citizens but to continue building a team of staff for the pandemic and the future."*

Superintendent Gambill further states: *"She does not just do her job extremely well; she lives and breathes public service. This is not an 8-5 job to her. It is the very soul of who she is as a person and supervisor. She cares deeply for the individuals we serve and proves that by caring and providing for them consistently, with kindness, compassion, humility, and knowledge. And she cares for her staff in the exact same manner."*

Congratulations Tanyaka!!!

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



Save the Date

November

Christmas Drive kick-off

11/4– 12/2

DHS Veteran’s Day Ceremony

11/9

1pm

December

Restore Hope Christmas tree lighting

12/2

DHS Chili Contest

*12/9 *tentative**

DDS Christmas Party

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



November 2022



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Handmade items by Arkansas artisans with developmental disabilities.



IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- New Website & Online Store Launch
- New Fall Items
- New Employees
- The Blue Umbrella's Christmas Open House

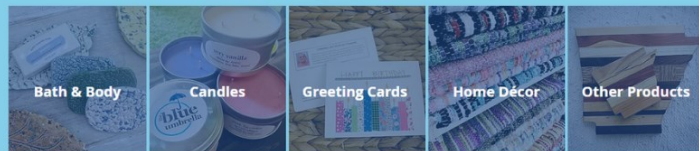
OUR NEW WEBSITE & ONLINE STORE

Shopping at The Blue Umbrella is now more convenient than ever with the launch of our online store! You'll find new items along with best sellers and seasonal items. Choose to pickup items in store or have them shipped to you or a loved one.

Visit us at www.blueumbrellaar.org today!

Welcome to our online store!

Shop By Collection



www.blueumbrellaar.org

FESTIVE
DECOR

NEW EMPLOYEES + BU
TRAINING PROGRAM

SAVE THE
DATE

new items in store



Fall Fest has come and gone, but there is still time to shop our artists' beautiful fall décor. The Blue Umbrella is re-stocked with customer favorites and fresh new items, but they won't last long!

New Employees

You will be seeing some new faces in The Blue Umbrella the next few months. Johnny and Gabe are the first two employees to participate in The Blue Umbrella's training program. This program offers hands-on training to individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, plus provides the support and assistance they need before transitioning into competitive, integrated employment. Stop by any day of the week to meet one of the guys!



Christmas Open House

Don't Forget! The Blue Umbrella's Christmas Open House will be Friday, December 2. Mark your calendar and plan to come do some early Christmas shopping with us! You won't want to miss it!

