



June

Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month

Men's Health Month

PTSD Awareness Month

Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week (last week of June)

6/4 National Cancer Survivors Day

6/8 World Brain Tumor Day

6/15 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)

6/18 Father's Day

6/18 Autistic Pride Day

6/19 World Sickle Cell Day

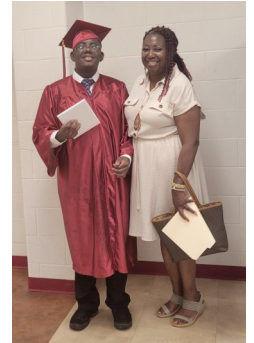
Graduation Spotlight

Isaiah Amen'Ra and his mom, Bertha White, moved from Phoenix, Arizona to Hope, Arkansas in 2006 to care for his ailing grandmother. Being diagnosed with Autism by Dr. Maya Lopez at the James L. Dennis Development Center outreach clinic in Hope, Isaiah began attending an Early Intervention program in Magnolia. After 2 years, he was able to start public school and learned many new things. His mom, a full time employed single mom, advocated for his education.

Disability services in Arkansas were limited compared to Arizona, but with the assistance of Pam Hearnberger, RN/CHC Care Coordinator and Tina Smith, RN/CHC South Arkansas Area Manager, Isaiah was able to benefit from Medicaid, SSI, TEFRA, PASSE, and the CES Waiver. They have participated in numerous programs including the most recent annual Family Bistro in April.

Graduating high school is a huge accomplishment for Isaiah who is Autistic and non-verbal but with an extremely outgoing personality. As per Ms. White, "graduating was a blessing."

CHC (Children with Chronic Health Conditions) appreciates the opportunity to work with Isaiah and his mom. We wish him the very best. Congratulations Isaiah!



Isaiah and his mom, Bertha White



Bertha White and Rodney Farley, CHC Parent Consultant/Parent Advisory Counsel



Isaiah at the Family Bistro



Isaiah and Mr. Pack, his paraprofessional from school

Booneville HDC celebrates 50 years!

The Booneville Human Development Center (BHDC) celebrated their 50th Anniversary on May 12, 2023 in their newly renovated Recreation Building. BHDC's very own Carroll Kennedy was crowned Grand Marshall for this milestone celebration. Carroll was admitted to BHDC in January 1973, being a part of every change BHDC has gone through in the last 50 years. What made it more special for Carroll was his family coming to celebrate him on this day.

The event was well attended with representation from Senator Boozman's Office, DDS Board, DDS Central Office, other HDC's, current employees, former employees, client's family members and guardians, Logan County Judge, Logan County Sheriff and his Deputies, Booneville Police Chief and his officers as well as Booneville and Logan County Community Leaders, Chamber of Commerce, local banks and businesses.

This celebration was a time to highlight BHDC's history, present day and future; from the switch to the Arkansas Children's Colony after the Arkansas Tuberculous Sanatorium closed its doors in 1973 to the new living areas recently out of construction and those currently in construction. During the festivities, a time capsule was buried with tokens and words of wisdom to be opened 50 years from now. BHDC's current and former employees set the tone for what makes this facility great. We all have worked together to better the lives of the clients we serve.

BHDC's future is bright!

Jennifer Berry, BHDC Assistant Superintendent



Booneville HDC celebrates 50 years!



Arkadelphia HDC resident, Charles Nash, wins the 2023 Wellness Award in Arkansas at Special Olympics.

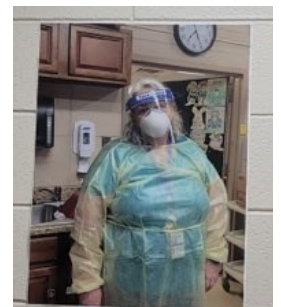
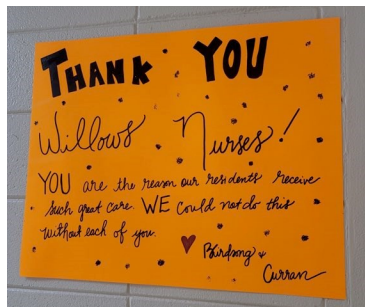
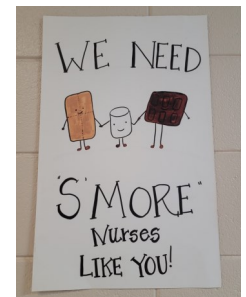


Charles with his award



Charles with his friend, Timothy Bryles

Conway HDC Nurses Week Celebration



HDCs Farmer's Market
June 23, 2023
11am– 2pm
108 East 7th Street
Donaghey Plaza North



Comments, Suggestions, Q&A

Let us know what you'd like to see featured in upcoming editions and also, if you'd like to be a guest writer! Send all comments, suggestions, and Q&A to: yvette.swift@dhs.arkansas.gov by the 15th of the month.

The Blue Umbrella NEWSLETTER



June 2023



IT'S BALLFIELD SEASON!

June means baseball and softball are in full swing and The Blue Umbrella is stocked with some super cute items for your slugger. Stop by today to pick up one of a kind gifts and home décor!

Save the Date

Saturday, June 18th
Father's Day

Friday, June 23rd
Farmer's Market
10 AM - 1 PM

Store Hours

Monday-Friday 10 AM - 2 PM

Shop Online → www.blueumbrellaar.org

Restocked Items



Some customer favorites are back on the shelves! Candles from 2ScentzWorth, fused glass hearts from Magnolia Specialized Services, and goat milk soap from AHDC have recently arrived back in the store!

As always, supplies are limited, so hurry in today!

Recent Activities



Thank you to everyone who participated in The Blue Umbrella's Egg-An-Office event.

Twenty Nine Central Office employees were egged, including DHS Secretary, Kristi Putnam and DDS Director, Melissa Weatherton. Some employees were even egged twice!

Events like these generate funding for The Blue Umbrella and help support our mission of celebrating individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities, providing them a sense of pride, and source of income.