



- July
- Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month
- National Minority Mental Health Month
- National Parks Month
- UV Safety Month
- 7/4 Independence Day
- 7/30 World Day against Trafficking in Persons

DDS ties to Germany World Games

Everyone please join me in congratulating Mary Jo Vallie’s son, Josh, on being chosen as one of our USA Representatives at the 2023 World Special Olympics in Berlin. Josh will participate in the deadlift, squat and bench press. Josh is one of only two from Arkansas to be chosen for this honor. I know Mary Jo is more than proud of this young man.

There is a lot involved in this selection. First, Josh had to be recommended by someone. Then, he had to travel to San Antonio, TX to try out. So you know he and mom have put a lot of work and stress into getting Josh to this point.

Let’s root him on to another gold medal.

We are proud of you Josh. BRING HOME THE GOLD!!!
~ John O. Taylor, CHC NW Arkansas Area Manager



**#Berlin 2023
Special Olympics**



Representative

Conway HDC Employee awarded

Karen Byers, CHDC Psychiatric APRN, was awarded the Outstanding Professional in the Healthcare Industry award by the Conway Area Chamber of Commerce. The official Chamber banquet was held on June 27th where she was awarded. Congratulations, Karen!!

~ Sarah Murphy, CHDC Superintendent



Small banquet held earlier in the week.



Left to right: David Byers, husband; Sarah Murphy, Superintendent; Karen Byers, recipient; and Glen Gray, psych examiner



Arkadelphia HDC residents enjoyed spa day!



Our clients were pampered to the fullest with a relaxing self-care day. They LOVED every moment of it! They received manicures, pedicures, hair therapy, facials, and massages from our VTS Adult Enrichment staff.

~ Janna Huneycutt, AHDC Quality Assurance Analyst



The Warren School District book giveaway



The clients at the Southeast Arkansas Human Development Center (SEAHDC) received a special surprise from Rhonda Williams and Regina Scroggins with the Warren School District, along with a group of students. Through the Read Across Warren book giveaway program, the clients were thrilled to receive the books and were eager to see what literary treasures were provided. SEAHDC is grateful that the Warren School District included our special folks in the program.

DDS staff Patricia Jenkins, Sheena Burton, and Sarah Freeman participate in the Jefferson County Summer Cereal Drive 2023



Patricia Jenkins (black top) Sarah Freeman (purple top), and Sheena Burton (white sweater)



4th Annual HDC Farmer's Market



The 4th Annual HDC Farmer's Market was held on Friday, June 23rd. The Human Development Centers were in attendance selling plants, vegetables, and various crafts produced by HDC clients. Proceeds totaling \$2571.35 exceeded last year's total and will benefit the HDC Client Christmas fund. Special thanks to our community partners Empower, Sales East, and PepsiCo. A great big THANK YOU to Central Office for organizing and staffing the event.



4th Annual HDC Farmer's Market con't



DHS 2nd Annual Juneteenth Celebration



This year's celebration was marked by organized walking trips to Mosaic Templars Cultural Center. Tours of the museum were provided exclusively for DHS staff. The event showcased a variety of vendors and artisans along with an assortment of local food trucks. Community partners Little Rock Police Department, AT&T, and Philander Smith College were in attendance along with Wal-Mart who provided free health screenings and vision services. The Divine Nine were also represented. Special thanks to the Juneteenth committee (Angel Smith, Tammy Rose, Stacy Curtis, Alfred Paul Fisher, Linda Dismuke, April Nichols, Pammy Graves, Rosalind Reams, Simone Grice, Terion Clark, Deanne Cunningham, Lee Honorable, Ed Wallace, and Yvette Swift) for organizing this event.



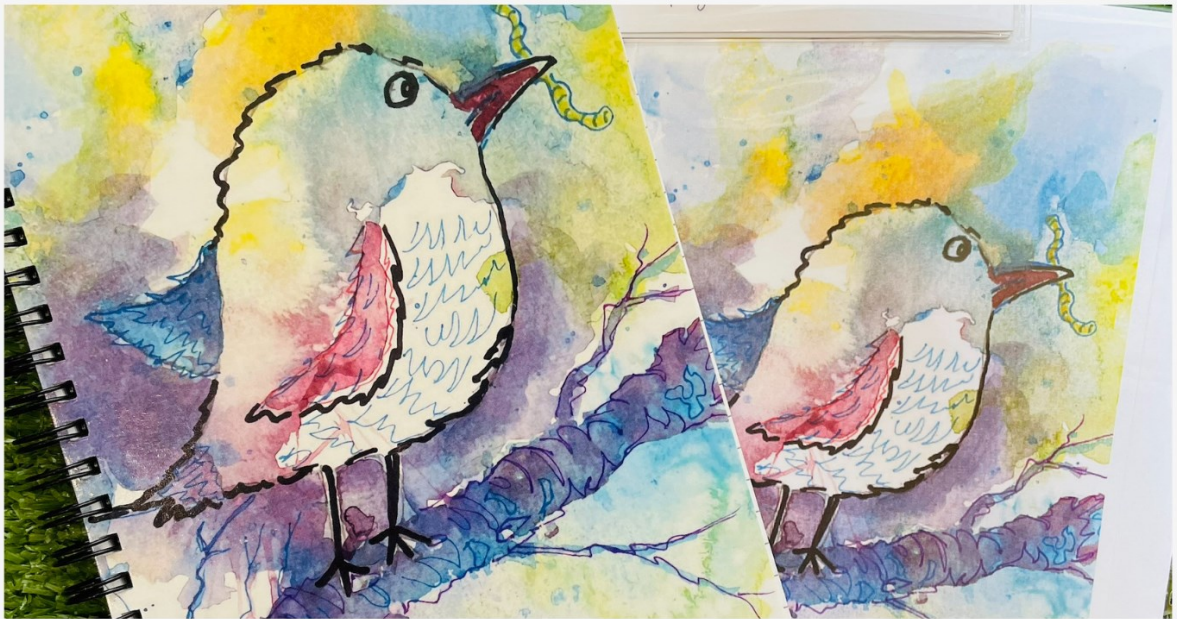
Comments, Suggestions, Q&A

Please send all comments, suggestions, and Q&A to yvette.swift@dhs.arkansas.gov by the 15th of the month.

The Blue Umbrella NEWSLETTER



July 2023



Artist Spotlight

Robyn Moore attends Opportunities, Inc., a nonprofit organization in Texarkana dedicated to providing developmental and support services which empower individuals with disabilities in attaining a full life in the community. Read about Robyn and her crafts, including the pastel birds pictured above, by visiting the blog on our website.



Shop Online → www.blueumbrellaar.org

New Arrivals



(Left): There are many new items you can find in The Blue Umbrella. SEAHDC has been working hard to produce authentic Rawlings baseball keychains and proceeds from these sales directly benefit the SEAHDC Special Olympic athletes.

(Middle): Our newest artist, Rebecca, is proud to introduce her zentangle art.

(Right): Magnolia Specialized Services has dropped a new batch of beautiful fused glass hearts. These always sell fast, so stop by to pick out your favorite today!



DID YOU know?

The Blue Umbrella offers birthday and celebration bundles?

Prices range from \$5-\$10 and include a 24-hour rental of one personalized door hanger, one balloon of your choice, and one greeting card.

Plus, we now offer rental rewards!

Rent 3 times, then the 4th is FREE.

*Limited to DHS Central Office Employees only!

Visit us in store Monday - Friday 10 AM - 2 PM or shop anytime online at www.blueumbrellaar.org/shop