



## NOVEMBER

- National Adoption Month
- National Epilepsy Month
- National Family Caregivers' Month
- National Alzheimer's Month
- National Native American Heritage Month

- 11/5 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 11/11 Veteran's Day (Observed 11/10)
- 11/23 Thanksgiving Day

### *Regina Davenport takes all at AHSEA*



At the 2023 Arkansas Human Services Employee Association (AHSEA) banquet, Regina Davenport was named DDS Employee of the Year. She also was awarded the 2023 DHS Employee of the Year.

Regina has 33 years and 10 months of service. She has served in many positions from DHS Program Coordinator to DHS DDS Director of Client Service. Throughout her tenure at DHS, her compassion, patience, calm demeanor, integrity, and knowledge are well known. She is an advocate for individuals in both her professional and personal life. She is the mother of a child who receives services from DHS. As a parent, she has a comprehensive awareness of client/guardian concerns and roadblocks. Providers and other stakeholders respect her experience and passion. She goes above and beyond to provide proper services to the clients she serves. Regina makes herself personally available to all of the staff within DDS, no matter what grade level they are. She is approachable and makes everyone feel welcomed to seek her guidance regarding any question or issue. Joe Winford on his personal working relationship with Regina shares the following.

*"I've been fortunate to work alongside Ms. D. for the past 23 years. When I transferred to Central Office in 2000, she recruited me to become a member of her Waiver training team. The team conducted trainings statewide to providers, consumers, families, guardians, and advocates on the ACS Waiver and the array of services under its umbrella. I watched her exemplify patience with families, guardians, and providers during these trainings on some topics that were not easily acceptable to the audience we were training. She always remained compassionate and respectful when dealing with their questions and issues. She is a woman of integrity. She has a heart of gold and everyone that comes in contact with her knows that she is trustworthy, respectable, and a compassionate person. She is the perfect example of what a DHS employee should be."*



*Regina Davenport cont'd*

CONGRATULATIONS Regina on both awards! You represent DDS/DHS exceptionally well!



Portland Gilbert, Regina Davenport,  
Melissa Weatheron, Joe Winford

Ronald Davenport, Regina Davenport,  
Kristi Putnam

**Veterans Wall Ceremony for Veteran's Day**

Please join us virtually for our annual Veterans Day ceremony honoring the many veterans who work here at DHS via zoom webinar.

Time and Date to be announced.

## DDS 7th Annual Fall Food & Craft Fair

On October 6, 2023, DDS celebrated its 7th Annual Fall Food & Craft Fair. There were over 25 client vendors, 6 food trucks, 360 booth, and a dj. Live entertainment included Piano for Life, Darnell Paul, a self taught pianist and DDS Board member, Becky Mitchum., a classical violinist. Both performed two sets during the fair. Customers and clients shopped, ate, danced, and played games. The HDC job recruiting van was open. Early Intervention set up their Miles and Stony (Milestones) booth to entertain the kids while providing information on the services they provide. All of the PASSEs were on site as well with information for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. All of the different collaborations made this year's event a complete success.



# DDS 7th Annual Fall Food & Craft Fair



## DDS takes on *Barbie*

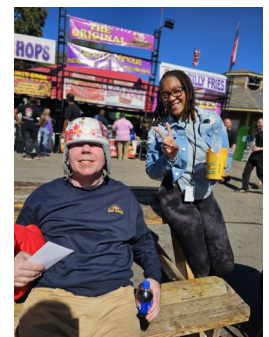
DHS held its Annual Children’s Halloween Event on October 30th. Local elementary schools, day-cares, and child care centers attended as well as staff’s children and grandchildren. DHS divisions competed with themed booths; Barbie, Haunted Mansion, Little Mermaid, Sesame Street, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Superheroes, Mario Kart, Old McDonald’s Farm, Addams Family/Wednesday, Wizard of Oz, and Alphabet Soup.

Gold Pumpkin 1st place– DCFS Little Mermaid  
Silver Pumpkin 2nd place– DYS/OP Mario Kart  
Bronze Pumpkin 3rd place– DCO Sesame Street



## *AHDC residents attend the Arkansas State Fair*

Thirty of the Arkadelphia Human Development Center’s residents were able to attend the Arkansas State Fair due to the many volunteers from our amazing staff members. We appreciate the staff’s dedication to ensure our residents are given as many opportunities to attend off campus events such as the State Fair. The residents had a blast purchasing air brush t-shirts, eating all the food that they can imagine, and being able to ride all the thrilling rides available. We appreciate the Arkansas State Fair for having us and for our staff volunteering to take our residents and provide them with this amazing experience.



### *Comments, Suggestions, and Q&A*

Please send all comments, suggestions, and Q&A to Yvette Swift at [yvette.swift@dhs.arkansas.gov](mailto:yvette.swift@dhs.arkansas.gov). by the 15th of the month.



NOVEMBER 2023



# The Blue Umbrella

## NEWSLETTER

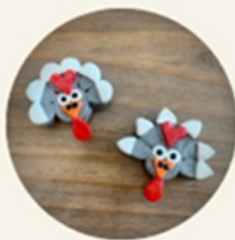


### SHOP OUR FALL COLLECTION!

From new candle scents to ceramic turkey décor and everything in between, we can help get you ready to welcome family into your home this Thanksgiving! The Blue Umbrella and our artists are thankful for you and your support of their work not only during this time of year, but all year long!



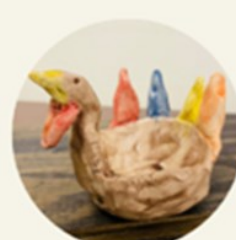
Autumn Glow & Fallen Leaves scented candles from AHDC



Tiny Turkey magnets from Jeremiah 29:11



Assorted pumpkins from Mel Mel's Creations and CHDC



Ceramic turkey from Magnolia Specialized Services

Shop Online → [www.blueumbrellaar.org](http://www.blueumbrellaar.org)



# Thank You!



Thank you to everyone who came to the 7th Annual Food Fall & Craft Fair! The weather was perfect and our artists had a wonderful time meeting you and showcasing their talents! We're already looking forward to next year! If you were unable to make it, visit the store! Some of our artists left a few of their items with us for you to see!



## New Arrival



Stay well this winter and enjoy the benefits of local raw honey! It's made in small batches in Cabot!

Sales of this item helps support  
The Blue Umbrella's mission.



***Mark your calendars!***

The Blue Umbrella's Christmas Open House  
**Friday, November 17th from 10 AM - 2 PM.**

Enjoy live music while shopping for unique gifts and home décor. Get there early because Santa Claus might even drop by!

Visit us in store Monday - Friday 10 AM - 2 PM or shop anytime online at [www.blueumbrellaar.org/shop](http://www.blueumbrellaar.org/shop)