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Community Services

MISSION:

Stimulate social and economic opportunities to improve the quality of life for Seminole County residents

Community Services

VISION:

A thriving community where all residents can achieve social and economic success

OFFICE INFORMATION

Veteran Services

534 West Lake Mary Blvd.
Sanford FL 32773
Phone: (407) 665-2300

Community Assistance

534 West Lake Mary Blvd.
Sanford FL 32773
Phone: (407) 665-2300

Community Development

534 West Lake Mary Blvd.
Sanford FL 32773
Phone: (407) 665-2300

Employee Milestones

Carrie Longsworth	13 Years
Cora Yon	11 Years
Ed Burford	9 Years
Jeff Aldridge	5 Years
Kiauna (KC) Carbin	2 Years
Elivette Torres	2 Years
Diane Durr	1 Year
Rita King	1 Year

Message From the Director's Office

The Community Services Department is pleased to present our quarterly newsletter which highlights activities and projects conducted in the 3rd Quarter of 2018.

During the last three months the Community Services Department has undergone a reorganization which includes the restructuring of our Divisions and Offices. One of the major changes is the revamping of our Compliance Office which is now the Office of Community Partnership and Quality Assurance (CPQA). The CPQA Office will focus on the following core areas:

- Enhancing and increasing our partnerships with local nonprofits
- Increasing the capacity of current sub-recipient agencies to manage County funded projects
- Enhancing the client appeal process



Olivette Carter
Director, Community Services

The reorganization will also allow us to streamline processes and services provided by our Community Assistance and Community Development Divisions and our Veterans Service Office.

Through diversion and prevention efforts, Community Services will continue our homeless efforts with a renewed commitment to Seminole County Homeless Families and those at risk of becoming homeless. Through our Community Development efforts there will be an increased effort towards securing and creating affordable rentals for homeless households with children in Seminole County. Stay tuned for additional information on our County Owned Properties in our next edition.

I am excited about the new opportunities that will be created as a result of the Community Services reorganization and look forward to improving our services for the residents of Seminole County.

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts". Winston Churchill

Employees of the Month

The Community Services Department nominates an employee of the month to recognize their accomplishments such as teamwork, customer service, and performance beyond the call of duty. The three Employees of the Month for June through August are featured below.

Cora Yon

Project Coordinator

June 2018



Joyce McBride

Veteran Services

July 2018



Joan Jones

Case Manager Supervisor

August 2018



Around the Divisions

Veteran Services

Veteran of the Month



Veteran of the Month, July 2018 – was presented to Hospital Corpsman 4th Class Ronald “Doc” Bobele on July 24th at the Board of County Commissioner’s meeting. Doc entered the United States Navy on February 9, 1968, and was honorably discharged August 26, 1970 - serving more than 15 months in the Republic of Vietnam as a Hospital Corpsman with Echo Company 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Division. His awards include two Purple Hearts, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry and numerous other awards and decorations. Doc is a retired Immunohematologist and volunteers with Seminole County Public Schools and a number of other agencies too numerous to mention. Ronald “Doc” Bobele, we honor you.

Veteran of the Month, August 2018—was presented to Sergeant Bobby J. Draughon on August 14th at the Board of County Commissioner’s meeting. Bobby entered the United States Army on June 21, 2004, and was honorably discharged on October 23, 2008. During his tenure, Bobby served as a forward observer for the 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. He made over 40 Parachute Jumps while deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq for a period greater than 25 months. After serving the military, Bobby initially became a Seminole County Probation Officer and later on a Police Officer at the Oviedo Police Department. His military awards include 3 Army Commendation Medals, Iraq Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, NATO Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, US Army Jump Wings, and numerous other awards and decorations. Bobby J. Draughon, we honor you.



Veteran of the Month, September 2018—was presented to Chief Master Sergeant Mahlon “Mal” Martin on September 11th, 2018 at the Board of County Commissioner’s meeting. Mal entered the Air Force when he was 17 years old and served from 1950 until 1976. He started his career as a High-Speed Radio Intercept Operator using International Morse Code and crypto-graphics. He later retrained in Radio Maintenance, specializing in tropospheric and ionospheric scatter communication systems used for communicating around the horizon. Additionally, he repaired and calibrated the ground equipment consoles used to maintain the Hound Dog and Quail missiles that were launched from B-52 bombers. Mal graduated 2nd overall in a class of 120 from the Strategic Air Command NCO Academy. During his service to the Country, Mal received three Outstanding Educational Achievement Awards, five Commendation Medals, and a Meritorious Service Medal. Post retirement, Mal served as a reservist with FEMA for over 15 years - working natural disasters across the United States. At home in Geneva, he volunteers as a tutor at Geneva Elementary School, and is Historian and Genealogy Chairman of the Geneva Historical & Genealogical Society. Mal Martin, we honor you.

Around the Divisions

Community Assistance Division



Long term Seminole County resident Nicholas Glynn was recently housed in a lovely 1 bedroom condo in a gated community in beautiful Lake Mary. Nicholas has a long history of homelessness off and on for the past 20 years and is very excited to be off the streets in his own home. Mr. Glynn struggles with health issues, and being off the streets will provide him with stability and empower him to improve his health and overall well-being. Seminole County Shelter Plus Care team along with our partners at the Christian Sharing Center provided Mr. Glynn with new furniture, household items, and plenty of food so that he could be off to a great new start.

The Community Assistance Division provided backpacks and school supplies to 80 Seminole County Public School children for the 2018-19 school year. These children are all currently homeless or on a housing program managed by the Community Assistance Division. An additional 56 backpacks with supplies were donated to the Rescue Outreach Mission to provide to the children residing at their shelter.



In November 2017 Mr. Patrick Taylor, a single father of 7 children, was referred to Seminole County Community Services by Seminole County Public School's Families in Need program. Seminole County Community Assistance (SCCA) was able to assist Mr. Taylor and his family with financial assistance for hotel placement through our Bridge Housing program.

Despite the challenges Mr. Taylor faced with maintaining employment, having limited income, providing food for his children, and locating housing, he has never given up. Throughout the duration of his assistance, Mr. Taylor was selected to apply for a Section 8 voucher through the Seminole County Housing Authority. In March 2018 Mr. Taylor was approved and issued a Section 8 voucher. To support his efforts, Project Manager Jennifer Ortiz would meet weekly with Mr. Taylor to help him search for housing on his one day off. Week after week, dead end after dead end in his housing search, Mr. Taylor and his family were finally able to successfully secure housing this past September.

Over the summer Mr. Taylor also received assistance with school supplies provided by SCCA, and was referred to the Community Resource Network's Family Advocate program where he will work with a volunteer trained to work one-on-one to establish goals for the family to achieve long term stability and success. In the last conversation between Ms. Ortiz and Mr. Taylor, Mr. Taylor was eager to inform Ms. Ortiz of his \$3.00 pay raise and promotion at work, as well express his gratitude for the commitment set forth by the SCCA department.

Mr. Taylor's success is the epitome of the saying "It Takes a Village".

Around the Divisions

Community Assistance Division

The Community Services Agency (CSA) Partnership Program collaborates with community organizations to address the needs of Seminole County Residents. The program provides funding from the Board of County Commissioners' General Fund to qualified nonprofit agencies. The majority of funding is allocated to Essential Life Services - which is defined as services that meet the basic needs for daily survival such as shelter and food. The remaining funds are allocated for Supportive Services - which is defined as services that enhance the quality of life for residents which may include afterschool and social/recreational program.

The following agencies were approved for 2018-2019 funding through the CSA Grant-Program

AGENCY	Program	Award Amount
Meals on Wheels	Home Delivered Meals & Medical Transportation	\$135,000.00
IMPOWER	The Village Transitional Housing	\$33,732.00
Early Learning Coalition	School Readiness	\$180,000.00
Kids House of Seminole	Child Advocate Program	\$81,000.00
Safehouse Shelter	Domestic Violence Shelter	\$76,500.00
Catholic Charities	Pathways to Care	\$36,509.00
Christian Sharing Center	Food Assistance	\$67,500.00
Foundation of Seminole County Public Schools	Midway Safe Harbor	\$18,225.00
Seminole County Bar Association Legal Aid Society	Legal Assistance to Victims of Domestic Violence	\$21,870.00
Rescue Outreach Mission	Shelter Nights	\$58,320.00
Boys & Girls Club	East Altamonte Branch	\$49,208.00
Recovery House	Shelter Nights	\$43,740.00
True Health	Prenatal Care	\$45,000.00
TOTAL AWARD		\$846,604.00

Around the Divisions

Community Development Division

This quarter, Community Development qualified 9 households for the Immediate Needs program. The Immediate Needs program addresses repairs to a home's roof, electrical, plumbing or HVAC system as well as addressing accessibility issues. Qualified households receive assistance with one of the approved trades through a grant of up to \$15,000. These 9 households are in the process of having the repairs made to their homes.

Community Development also qualified and closed with 8 households through the Purchase Assistance program. A total of \$239,913 was provided to help with down payment and other closing costs.



One of those new homeowners is Anthony Wilson II, an Army veteran and Seminole County School employee.

Another new homeowner is Joanne Parker. She was able to purchase her home in Sanford through her hard work with Habitat. She and her three year old son are happy to have a home to call their own. Gayle Fleming with Habitat gave her the keys at the closing in July.

Ms. Willie Mae Anderson – native to Historic Goldsboro Community has lived in her home all her life. Ms. Anderson's childhood home became less of a home and more of a burden. The front steps, along with narrow hallway and small bathroom limited mobility for Ms. Anderson.

After patiently waiting, we are finally able to build Ms. Anderson a new 3 bedroom 1 car garage home funded with Seminole County Ship dollars.

Ms. Anderson's only request - on demo day - was to take the first swing with her pink hammer. On September 6th Ms. Anderson was there at the home that recently brought her so many limitations. Wearing her Sunday's best, she picked up her pink hammer and swung causing a small dent and an invitation to the demo team. The home was demolished in less than 20 minutes and Ms. Anderson was there for the duration.



Community Development is using State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) funding to assist low- and moderate-income homeowners whose homes were damaged during Hurricane Irma. Applications were accepted for assistance with insurance deductibles so the homeowner could complete the repairs and prevent further damage to the homes. To date, there have been twenty-nine (29) households approved for the program, and reimbursement for the insurance deductibles and depreciation allowances have been provided to sixteen (16) of these households at a cost of \$56k. This program was piloted to meet the needs of homeowners that were unable to complete repairs due to not being able to afford the insurance deduction. Additionally, several households have also been served through the Immediate Needs program, as there were other repairs needed that were not caused by the hurricane.