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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

Community Assistance

Community Development

Veteran Services

Community Partnership & Quality Assurance

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

Employee Milestones

Annie Knight	35 Years
Michelle Cahill	15 Years
Josie Delgado	13 Years
Olivette Carter	5 Years
Sylvia Johnson	5 Years
Joan Jones	5 Years
Joe Sandley	4 Years
Anea Brown	3 Years
Tonya Madison	2 Years
Toni Haynes	1 Year

Message From the Director's Office

I am pleased to present the Community Services Newsletter for the 4th quarter. As I reflect on the great work and accomplishments over the past year, I am truly humbled and grateful to lead the Community Services Department. The work that is being done in Seminole County is truly amazing. During the quarter the Department assisted 8 families in becoming new homeowners and provided assistance to 14 low-income households for much needed housing repairs. Our Veterans section staff in partnership with Heels and Holsters, a local nonprofit group provided food baskets for approximately 40 Veterans and their families for Thanksgiving and Christmas. In addition, Community Services staff also volunteered at Harvest Time International's Christmas Bag of Joy event which serve over 500 families. Staff also continue to provide much needed services for the homeless. In December the Community Services Department voluntarily sponsored two homeless families by providing a variety of Christmas gifts for their 8 children. Staff continue to work closely with our nonprofit partners by providing technical assistance and training to meet the need of our most vulnerable residents (see agency highlighted on page 5).



Olivette Carter
Director, Community Services

I applaud the Community Services Staff and community partners for their hard work and dedication and I look forward to continuing our efforts in serving the community in 2019.

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.

September 2018

Rita King

Project Coordinator



October 2018

Sylvia Johnson

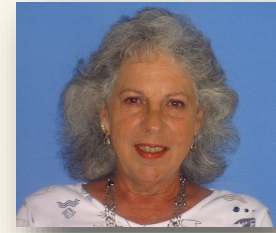
Grants Performance Mgr.



November 2018

Rita Hendricks

Program Specialist



Around the Divisions

Veteran Services

Veteran of the Month



Veteran of the Month, October 2018 -Corporal Walter (Wally) Nelson joined the Army seven months after Pearl Harbor and was assigned as a Scout for Company I of the 133rd Regiment, 34th Infantry Division. His awards include Bronze Star Medal, Good Conduct Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Victory Medal, Prisoner of War Medal, Expert Machine Gun Ribbon, and the American Theater Medal. Corporal Nelson was honorably discharged in December of 1945.

Veteran of the Month, November 2018- Gunner's Mate 3rd Class Richard E. Roberts joined the Navy on March 3, 1963, two months after turning 19 years old. He was honorably discharged on January 4, 1967. His awards include the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon.



Veterans of the Month, December 2018 – December provided Seminole County a unique opportunity for its Veteran of the Month by designating a military family as co-Veterans of the Month.

Co-Veteran of the Month December 2018 – Senior Chief Brenda Yeoman Johnson joined the Navy in October 1970 and retired on November 30, 1993 spending over 20 years on Active Duty. Her military awards and decorations include three Navy Commendation Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, four Navy Good Conduct Awards and the Antarctic Service Medal.

Co-Veteran of the Month December 2018 – Chief Petty Officer Casper Johnson joined the Army in June 1968 and spent a tour in the Republic of Vietnam until his discharge in September 1969. His military awards and decorations include, the Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with five clusters, Vietnam Service Medal, Presidential Unit Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, Expert Rifle and Expert Pistol awards, the Navy Good Conduct Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, and Navy Achievement Medal.



A big thank you to Heels and Holsters for their donation of Thanksgiving and Christmas gift baskets for low income/no income Seminole County Veterans and their families. Thanks to their generosity, we were able to put smiles on the faces of our Veterans and their families.

Around the Divisions

Community Assistance Division

The Newton family has been a participant on the Rapid Rehousing Program since March 2018. The family was homeless, between shelter and hotels, before securing a place of their own this past August. Recently, Mrs. Newton experienced the passing of her mother. This loss caused Mr. and Mrs. Newton and their 4 children to grieve this holiday season.

When the family was notified about being selected to receive a Thanksgiving dinner supplied by Publix, Mrs. Newton expressed her sincere gratitude, explaining that this gesture brings the holiday spirit back to her family.



This year Seminole County Community Services volunteered to sponsor two families this Christmas season. Ms. Charity Applegate, a single mom of 4, came to us through Families in Need and is now a participant in the Rapid Rehousing program. While Ms. Applegate continues to seek housing and employment, the team collectively gathered and wrapped gifts for all the children—ages ranging from 1 to 9 years-old, to support the family during this time.

Ms. Applegate expressed her appreciation for all of the gifts and the opportunity to provide her children with a Christmas after all.

Elizabeth Rios, mother of four young boys, found herself homeless with limited access to resources and little support. Thanks to Seminole county, she was able to be placed in a hotel in August and has been working to improve her situation by obtaining employment and going back to school. She has recently been accepted into the TBRA-HP program and has found a 3 bedroom home with a big backyard for her boys to play in that she will move into in January. Thanks to the generosity of the Community Services Department, the Rios family's Christmas was filled with smiles and delight when her boys were able to see the bounty of gifts to open on Christmas morning. Because of these amazing staff members, a bit of Christmas joy was able to be spread to a deserving family in need.



On December 6, 2018, staff from Community Assistance participated in a Team Building activity to help one of our local non-profit organizations. Harvest Time International, through their annual Christmas Bag of Joy event, provides toys to children who ordinarily would not have a Christmas. Community Assistance staff assisted in stuffing almost 400 stockings for boys and girls registered for the event. Because of the community donations and countless volunteers, the Christmas Bag of Joy event was able to serve over 500 families with Christmas presents for their children in 2018.



Around the Divisions

Community Development Division

Purchase Assistance

Community Development provided Purchase Assistance to 8 low or moderate income households with down payment and closing costs to make homeownership affordable. This photo is of the most recent happy homebuyer, from a closing that took place in December. Staff worked diligently in cooperation with the homebuyer, lender, County Attorney's Office, and the Comptroller's Office to meet the seller's deadline to close.



Immediate Needs

Community Development assisted 14 low income households with emergency repairs through the Immediate Needs program, which provides necessary repairs or replacement to roof systems, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, or accessibility.

Homeowner Rehabilitation

Three homeowner rehabilitation projects were completed during this first quarter of FY 2018-2019. Including two projects in Sanford and one project in Altamonte Springs. The homes required substantial repairs to bring the dwellings into a more habitable condition.

In addition to these homeowner projects, Community Development continues to identify foreclosed homes to acquire and rehabilitate for the purpose of creating affordable rental units. A property is currently under contract and is anticipated to close in January, 2019.



Around the Divisions

Community Partnership & Quality Assurance

Agency Spotlight - Inspire of Central Florida

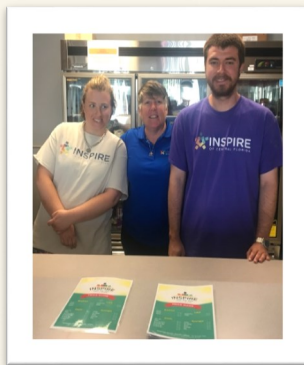
Inspire of Central Florida is an Adult Day Training facility, providing vocational and personal success training to adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities - including those diagnosed with Downs Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Autism Spectrum Disorder and other diagnoses. Inspire operates several programs including:

Contract fulfillment center: a work center specializing in bulk mailing, product packaging and light assembly. A fully-functioning woodshop is also on the premises. The woodshop produces survey and landscaping stakes, along with other products, including: custom furniture, corn hole games, giant puzzles and award plaques.

Operation G.R.O.W. (Giving Real Opportunities for Work): offers advanced levels of personal and business success classroom instruction along with real-world work experience with cooperating businesses. Currently, Inspire works in partnership with The Sharing Center, Goodwill Industries, Northland Church and the Seminole County Sheriff's Office. At these locations specialists sort donated goods, perform janitorial duties and operate a café. Inspire of Central Florida, Inc. received 2017-2018 CDBG funds from Seminole County for their skills training program.



CPQA Staff



Inspire Your Day Café: With support from the Sheriff's Office and Public Safety Department, the café opened in May of 2018. It is located in the first floor breakroom at 100 Eslinger Way and is open each week day from 8:00 am to 11:30am. The café offers prepackaged food and drinks at bargain prices for breakfast and lunch. Inspire specialists run the entire operation, from greeting the customers, to taking orders and ringing up sales. Inspire of Central Florida invites you to visit the Inspire Your Day Café and their main facility, located at 1095 Belle Ave. in Casselberry.

Be INSPIRED!

On December 17th, the Community Services Department celebrated "Christmas Around the World". This team building event provided the staff with an opportunity to plan, prepare and enjoy various cuisine that represented the following regions: America, Caribbean, Europe, Mexico/Spanish, and Asia. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

