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THE COUNTY'S

MISSION:

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

THE COUNTY'S

VISION:

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

DIVISION

INFORMATION

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

Annie Knight	34 Years
Diane M. Cahill	14 Years
Josefa Delgado	12 Years
Olivette Carter	4 Years
Sylvia Johnson	4 Years
Joan Jones	4 Years
Anea Brown	2 Years
Keith Welty	2 Years
Tonya Madison	1 Year

Front Page News

The Community Services Department held its Annual Retreat on December 15, 2017 at the Longwood Community Center. The annual event is an opportunity for the Department to review and celebrate its accomplishments and the hard work of staff. This is also a team building event where staff is able to engage in building comradery, team work and trust.

The event featured Ms. Barbie Reed who provided training on the importance of building and maintaining a strong team. Ms. Reed is a national training consultant and workshop facilitator with more than 30 years of experience in creating powerful customized programs that focus on empowering individuals, businesses, and community groups. Her presentation included an icebreaker; and several activities geared toward building team work, trust and collaboration among the community services staff.



The day ended with a review of the Community Services Accomplishment Report (which highlights the Department's accomplishments from the previous fiscal year) and the Annual Action Plan which outlines goals, objectives, and Action Steps for the current year.

The Theme of the Retreat was "The Big Picture is Us".

MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR

Greetings from Community Services

Happy New Year. The Community Services Department is pleased to showcase the many noteworthy services and activities conducted in the last quarter of 2017.

We are very excited on what 2018 will bring as we embark on several new projects geared toward increasing our capacity in the area of providing affordable housing for low-income and homeless households in Seminole County. In 2018, there will also be a renewed commitment to strengthen relationships with community partners by having a greater presence in the community.

We are currently reviewing and evaluating our programs and services based on the most recent community needs assessment which includes the results of Provider interviews conducted in the fall of 2017. Thank you for your feedback.

We look forward to a great year. Stay tuned for more exciting news from the Community Services Department in 2018.

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter"

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Around the Divisions

Community Assistance Division

Veteran Services

2017 Seminole County Veterans Stand Down

The 2017 Homeless Veterans Stand Down was held on Saturday October 21, 2017 9:00am to 1:00 pm, at the Florida Health Department in Seminole County, Florida, 400 W Airport Blvd, Sanford, FL 32773.

The Homeless Veteran Stand Down is an annual event designed to bring Homeless and precariously housed Veterans to a central location in an effort to reconnect them with the Veterans Administration (VA) and other service providers that can meet their needs. The meaning of the term Stand Down has evolved over the years. Today it means establishing a point where we can bring Homeless and precariously housed Veterans to a central location.

At the 2017 Stand Down, services offered included assistance with VA claims, dental screening, legal aid, clothing, hygiene products, showers, haircuts, and food. The event also provided educational and other resources from the VA, Mental Health Professionals, Community Assistance, and County Veterans Service Office. This year's Veterans Stand Down touched the lives of many homeless veterans living in the woods, and connected them to vital services and housing offered through the VA. More than 60 homeless and or precariously housed veterans were served.

Major partners for this event included the Florida Health Department in Seminole County, the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, Homeless Services Network of Central Florida (HSN), the City of Sanford, Florida Hospital, and Candlelight Catering as well as numerous local nonprofit organizations.

For additional information on the Homeless Veteran Stand Down or Veteran related matters, please contact: Ed Burford, Veterans Service Officer, 407-665-2300, rburford@seminolecountyfl.gov.

Food baskets for the Holidays

The Seminole County Veterans Services Office was the recipient of 27 food baskets for low income Veterans and their families. Heels and Holsters (a ladies shooting group) presented baskets for Thanksgiving and for the Christmas Holiday. Thank you Heels and Holsters, for supporting our veterans.

Gift Cards for the Holidays

The Seminole County Veterans Service Office was the recipient of gift cards provided by the Disabled American Veterans Post 30 and its Auxiliary. They were for low income Veterans and their families. Gift cards were provided both for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Thank you DAV, you too have made a difference in the lives of our low income Veterans.



Around the Divisions

Community Assistance Division

Community Assistance

Oviedo Lions Club Sponsors Homeless Households For The Holiday

This holiday season, participants of Seminole County Community Services Rapid Rehousing program were treated to a fully prepared Thanksgiving dinner for their families. Thanks to the generosity of the Oviedo Lions Club, six formally homeless families were provided with a Thanksgiving feast courtesy of Publix Supermarkets. Additional donations received provided for Thanksgiving meals for two additional families as well. In true Seminole County fashion, the collaborative effort allowed for a total of 31 individuals to enjoy their first Thanksgiving meal in their new homes.

Financial Assistance- On-the-Job Training (OJT)

Program Participant Successfully Completes Program and Secures Job

Ms. Patria Flores initially came into the program seeking rental assistance after losing her job. At the time, she had no employment prospects. Ms. Flores was advised of the FSSP-OJT program and felt it would be an opportunity for her to learn a new skill cease the revolving door of jobs. Ms. Flores successfully completed 12 weeks of on-the-job training with one of Community Services' OJT business partner: Hernon Manufacturing. Her placement in the program was well-received by both the participant and the community partner. Ultimately, Ms. Flores was offered an opportunity to remain with Hernon Manufacturing as a permanent employment.

The OJT Program is geared to provide individuals with the opportunity to experience employment in the construction/ manufacturing fields within the community. Placement for these positions is the result of each participant completing and passing an interview process through the partnership of Seminole County Community Assistance and Good Source Staffing Services.

Housing The Homeless

On December 20, 2017 Seminole County Shelter Plus Care welcomed a new client: Mr. Lucas. After living in the woods in the Sanford area for over a year, Mr. Lucas transitioned into his new apartment just before

Christmas. With the help of our partners at the Christian Sharing Center, Mr. Lucas was able to obtain furniture along with other household items. Further, Mr. Lucas has smoothly transitioned into his new living environment and has been very thankful throughout the process. At this time, Mr. Lucas is seeking part-time employment via Goodwill Industries.



Around the Divisions

Community Development Division

Community Development

Activities/Accomplishments

CDBG Demolition Program

Community Development worked closely with the Seminole County Building Department to complete the demolition of two abandoned properties that had been deemed a public nuisance by the County Commission.

Before



After



Bookertown Park Improvement



CDBG funds were used to complete a public facility improvement project at a neighborhood park, located in the CDBG Target Area of Bookertown. CDBG funds were used to construct restrooms for the park that lacked sanitary facilities. Community Development Division and Facilities Management staff partnered to develop the scope and complete the procurement for selection of a contractor to build two single stall, handicapped accessible bathrooms inside the park. Work was completed and the restrooms were open to the public in November 2017.

Around the Divisions

Community Development Division

Purchase Assistance

The fourth quarter of 2017 was very active for the Purchase Assistance program. Seven households received assistance with down payment, closing costs, prepaid costs and fees totaling \$140,000. Four of the households were also Habitat for Humanity participants and three of those households moved into the new Magnolia Place town-homes. Our staff was excited to be part of the home purchasing process for these seven new homeowners.



Mrs. Jenny Guerrier originally applied to the Seminole County Homeowner Rehabilitation/Reconstruction program on August 5, 2015. Mrs. Guerrier is a married disabled, homeowner whose home was inherited from her Great-Grandmother. This home was built in 1957 and the cost to rehab this home exceeded our Rehabilitation Program for repairs, however Mrs. Guerrier's home qualified for the Seminole County Reconstruction Program. Mrs. Guerrier worked diligently with the program, to ensure that all qualifying paperwork was in our office in a timely and efficient manner. This included the filing of various documents through the Judicial system in order to get the title to the property cleared so that her new home could be reconstructed. Mrs. Guerrier's hard work and perseverance, that she put in to get the title work for her property cleared was finally rewarded on November 3, 2017, as Mrs. Guerrier and her husband, were able to walk into their new home.



Milestone

The Community Services Department bid Farewell to Patricia Crampton, Customer Services Representative who retired from the County after 31 years of Service. We wish "Tish" all the best in this new chapter of her life.