



November

National Epilepsy
Awareness Month

National Long Term Care
Awareness Month

National Veterans and
Military Families Month

11/3 Daylight Savings Time
Ends

11/11 Veteran's Day

11/28 Thanksgiving Day

JHDC celebrates 50th Anniversary

The Jonesboro Human Development Center recently its 50th Anniversary on October 11th. Elected officials, DHS personnel, guardians, and residents came out to celebrate with staff for the historic occasion. After celebratory speeches from Senator Dan Sullivan, Representative Jack Ladyman, and DHS staff, guests were treated to scrumptious snacks and a trip down memory lane, with memorabilia dating back to 1974 when the facility was first constructed as a residential facility for children in need of services.

-Submitted by Dustin Azlin, Program Coordinator

Photos: Stephen Thornton



Rebecca Lowrance, 2024 DDS Employee of the Year

Congratulations!

I cannot think of anyone who deserves this award more than Rebecca Lowrance. Rebecca is an incredible employee and she has made a huge impact here at CHDC. Starting as a House Supervisor, she worked hard to build a fun and trusting relationship not only with our residents and their guardians, but with her staff as well. She listens and interacts with everyone and is one of the strongest advocates we have. Our residents are truly lucky to have her, as she cares for their well-being in every aspect.

Rebecca is not afraid to do the hard work and will never ask her staff to do something she isn't willing to do herself. If something needs to be done, she will get her hands dirty right alongside her team, to ensure it is done correctly and on time. She has tremendously improved the recreation department over the last couple of years. Our residents have enjoyed more outings to new and exciting places in and out of state, more holiday programs and so much more. Rebecca puts extensive thought and research into each event and encourages her team to do the same. I couldn't ask for a better or more dedicated employee, and I am truly thankful for all she has done.

Submitted by Brittney Wood, CHDC Volunteer Services Program Coordinator



DDS CES Waiver Staff attends 2024 ASPE Conference



The 8th biennial Arkansas Association of People Supporting Employment First conference was held in Hot Springs, AR October 7-9, 2024 at the Hot Springs Convention Center. The workshops for the conference were centered around the conference title; Changing The Climate. Resilience and Reinvention. Becoming Agents of Change Navigating the World of Disability and Employment. APSE is the only national organization focused exclusively on Employment First to facilitate the full inclusion of people with disabilities in the workplace and community. The keynote speaker for the conference was Chisa O'Quinn. Ms. O'Quinn holds a Masters in Social Work from Portland State University, has been in the Human Services professional field for over 20 years and is currently a consultant and owner of Re-Purposed Living, LLC. DDS staff who provided assistance during the conference were Tammy Rose, Martha Gordon, Linda Dismuke, Issac Perry, and Lacrosha Fitzpatrick. The 2024 AR APSE conference committee lead by Dale Turrentine, gave DDS many thanks for their partnership and volunteerism. You can learn more about the AR APSE Chapter by visiting <https://www.apsear.org>.

DDS Children's Special Services Vendor Booth

Shelly Barnes is a Registered Nurse Case Manager for Children's Special Services/Title V. She was a vendor at a community resource and job fair at Ozarka College Campus in Ash Flat, AR. The fair was organized through the Sharp County Health Coalition on October 22, 2024. CSS provides case management for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) who qualify for services. Shelly provided resources for families in need of services and she shared information for individuals seeking employment opportunities in the nursing field. Additionally, she shared resources with other employment vendors to share with their employees or others who may have CSHCN and may benefit from Children's Special Services/Title V.



Wash out doesn't stop the Fall Festival Fun



Although the Fall Festival in Jefferson County was canceled due to the rain, staff came through for the 40 residents of the Jenkins Center with lots of fun and candy.

Way to go!





Cory Jackson and his wife of 18 years have two children. Cory is a native Arkansan and received a bachelor’s degree from UALR. After working for several years in the healthcare field, he transitioned to Little Rock School District working in the special education department. In January 2022 he began working with DHS DDS Waiver in the quality assurance and licensure team. He traveled the state meeting with consumers to conduct NCI surveys and licensure reviews for providers serving waiver. He joined the DDS Incident Reporting Unit in October 2024.

There is a lot coming up at DHS. Stay tuned!

Save the Date

November

Blue Umbrella Holiday Open House

11/13

10:00 am– 2:00 pm

Let’s Talk DDS

11/14

11:00 am via zoom

December

Candyland Jamboree 2024

CES Staff Open House Tour

12/5

DDS Holiday Potluck

12/13

Noon in the DDS Director’s Conference Room



Comments, Suggestions, and Q&A

What would you like to learn more about or see featured? Please send all comments, suggestions, and Q&A to Yvette.swift@dhs.arkansas.gov