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THE COUNTY'S MISSION:

To deliver excellent public service that enhances quality of life and addresses our community's needs now and in the future.

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

Prosecution Alternatives for Youth (P.A.Y.)

Seminole County Juvenile Justice Center
190 Bush Blvd.
Sanford, FL 32773
Phone: (407) 665-5360



Employee Service

Milestones This Quarter:

Annie Knight	31 Years
Diane Cahill	12 Years
Josefa Delgado	10 Years
Valmarie Turner	4 Years
Joan Jones	2 Years
Olivette Carter	2 Years
Sylvia Johnson	2 Years
Joe Sandley	1 Year
Shanika Preston	1 Year
Laterika Williams	1 Year

Front Page News

the Community Services Department nominates



Habitat for Humanity of Seminole County and Greater Apopka, Florida, Inc. has been chosen to receive the nationally recognized 2016 Audrey Nelson Community Development Achievement Award. Habitat for Humanity is being recognized for partnering with Seminole County Government, the City of Casselberry, e2 Homes, Inc. and others to build affordable housing for a local United States Navy veteran and his family in Casselberry, FL. The project, completed in 2015, is a model for private/public partnerships to provide affordable housing. Affordable housing projects like this also help to support the Central Florida's regional effort to end homelessness by 2020. The National Community Development Association (NCDA) presents this award to recognize exemplary uses of Federal Community Development Block Grant and HOME funds. The award is scheduled to be presented to Penny Seater, CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Seminole County and Greater Apopka, Florida, Inc. at a luncheon from 2:15 pm to 3:00 pm during the NCDA Winter Conference on Friday, January 22, 2016 in Washington, DC.

Community Services Annual Retreat 2015

The Community Services Department Annual Retreat was held Friday, December 11th at the Longwood Community Center. This year's speaker was Ms. Teri Ridler, is a professional speaker on a variety of Leadership topics and was a top executive for a Fortune 500 company for over 20 years.



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy New Year!!

The Community Services Department continues to move forward with a renewed commitment to the citizens that we serve!

The Department participated in a Strategic Planning Session and Retreat, **Revitalizing Communities by Restoring Our Commitment**, on December 11, 2015. **Ms. Teri Ridler**, the event's trainer, presented an interactive presentation on "Communication: Contact or Conflict?" The presentation touched on how you come across to both internal and external customers. Ms. Ridler is a professional speaker on a variety of Leadership topics and was a top executive for a Fortune 500 company for over 20 years. The retreat ended with a "friendly" completion of **"Community Services Family Feud"**. Congratulations to the Community Assistance Division on their win – AGAIN!!!

I would like to welcome some of our new team members: Clarice Morris, Anea Brown, and Joyce McBride. We also have a few temporary staff members: Rose Banks and Jackie Ramirez.

Again, Happy New Year, and we look forward to our continued partnership.



VALMARIE H. TURNER
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

"To build an effective community, everyone must realize that their community is bigger than them."

— Idowu Koyenikan

Around the Divisions

Retreat

The Community Services Department Annual Retreat took place on Friday, December 11th at the Longwood Community Center. The event provided an opportunity for staff to reflect on the department's achievements during the year while engaging in team building activities. Ms. Teri Ridler, the event's trainer, presented an interactive presentation on "Communication: Contact or Conflict?"

The highlight of the day was the "Community Feud" activity in which four (4) teams competed in a game of Family Feud hosted by Valmarie Turner. When the dust had settled, the Community Assistance Team emerged the winner. Other activities included a catered lunch, icebreaker games, and a scavenger hunt. The department reviewed their 2015 accomplishments and the 2016 Strategic Plan. The Department's Charter (3rd edition) was reviewed and endorsed by all department staff.

Holiday Outreach

The Community Services Department adopted three (3) families during the holidays – two of the families are featured below:



Sherry Siler is a single mother of three young children ages 5, 2, and 1 years old who was living in a local homeless shelter when she applied to the program. Sherry has been employed at a local daycare but has just accepted a new position at another childcare facility where she has received a raise and will be eligible for a scholarship to attend school and obtain her Child Development Associate (CDA) certificate. She was very appreciative of the gifts for her children and wanted to thank all of the staff at Community

Services for their help.

The second family selected was Lynn Goetsch a Prosecution Alternatives for Youth family. Ms. Goetsch is a low-income grandmother raising three young grandchildren. She was extremely grateful of all the gifts purchased for the children. Through the kindness and generosity of the Community Services Department, her grandchildren received far more than she could have ever provided during this Christmas holiday.



Community Assistance

Addressing the Needs of Seniors in Seminole County

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Senior Services Mini Grant Program is a new initiative designed to address the needs of Seniors in Seminole County through partnerships with local entities and nonprofit organizations to provide services to low-income seniors ages 55 and older. The term of the grant is January 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016.

During this funding cycle, three (3) agencies were awarded funding; The City of Sanford, Lighthouse, and Meals on Wheels:

The City of Sanford will offer *The Wellness Program for Seniors* at the Westside Community Center and the Sanford Senior Center. This eight (8) week program highlights physical exercise, strength training, and nutritional information/guidance.

Lighthouse will provide vision-rehabilitation services including self-advocacy, maintaining well-being, managing the home and navigating safely to avoid common hazards.

Meals on Wheels will provide senior homemaker services. These services include routine household chores such as cleaning, grocery shopping, prescription pick-up, and taking out the trash.

Prosecution Alternatives for Youth (P.A.Y.)



Seminole County Teen Court celebrated its 20th anniversary this fall. To mark this milestone, it hosted its first Teen Court Summit in October. Over 40 teen participants were in attendance, with representatives from Brevard, Orange and Seminole Counties. Special speakers included the Honorable Susan Stacy, juvenile judge with the 18th Judicial Circuit, and Dr. Erica Pooler, Director of School Safety and

Student Alternative Placement for Seminole County. Presentations were also made by members of the Seminole County Sheriff's Office Domestic Security/Counter-Terrorism and K-9 Units.

The Prosecution Alternatives Program held its annual Hearing Officer Training in November. We graduated eight volunteers, one of which is a practicing attorney. The Honorable Susan Stacy, juvenile judge with the 18th Judicial Circuit presided over this year's ceremony. Three of our graduates have successfully completed all of the necessary observations and have begun volunteering as Hearing Officers.



Around the Divisions

Community Development

Seminole County's Immediate Needs Program is opening! This program is funded with State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. It is designed to provide funding in the form of a grant to qualified applicants with necessary immediate repairs and/or alterations to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the household or affect the immediate livability of the home. The five (5) trades in which assistance can be provided are roofing, electrical, plumbing, HVAC (heating and cooling systems), and accessibility (accommodations for those with disabilities).

Applications will be accepted beginning Thursday, January 21, 2016, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Applications are processed in the order in which they are received. Assistance is provided based on eligibility and on a first-ready, first-served basis. If needed, due to the high volume of applications received, a waiting list will be created based on the date and time the application was submitted.

Note: Assistance is unavailable within the city limits of Sanford. Applications will be accepted based on funding availability and can close without further notice. Here is a link to the application: <http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/core/fileparse.php/30/urlt/INFlyerand-App.pdf>

Community Development Releases 2016 Notice of Funding Availability! On October 1, 2016, Seminole County expects to receive funding from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for activities that benefit low and moderate income families or persons. Proposals are now solicited for projects to help meet the needs that are identified in the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan. Community Development held a workshop for interested applicants on Wednesday, January 13th. Applications will be due on or before 4 p.m. on Friday, February 26th. Below is a breakdown of the funding available.

Estimated Funding Available	Program	Eligible Activities
\$480,897	HOME	New or Existing Affordable Housing -*\$72,135 is set aside and anticipated to be awarded to a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO)
\$1,144,892	CDBG	Capital Improvements -*\$500,000 is set aside and anticipated to be awarded to continue the implementation of a current water system improvement project.
\$264,205	CDBG	Public Services -*\$50,000 is set aside and anticipated to be awarded to an in-house dental project.
\$74,325	ESG	Homeless Shelter Operating and Maintenance
\$49,551	ESG	Rapid Re-Housing of Homeless Families

Here is the link for this NOFA <http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/news/notice-of-funding-availability-and-solicitation-of-proposals.stml>

Neighborhood Stabilization Program

Our Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) is a wonderful tool for stabilizing neighborhoods suffering from foreclosures, short sales and abandonment. Many families have benefited from NSP including single Moms like Teresa Engle. Ms. Engle is a first time homebuyer that leveraged the NSP program to purchase a 3 bedroom 2 bath house in Altamonte Springs.



Congratulations on Your Graduation!!



Please join the PAY office in congratulating Clement Warner on his recent educational accomplishment. Clement graduated in December from the University of Central Florida with his Master's Degree in Public Administration. Way to go!