



## 2017 Circle of Champions Winner!



Josh Marsac with Craig Greiner

Josh is a valued team member who consistently role-models a positive attitude, excellent work ethics and professional behavior. Josh takes initiative by going beyond the expected parameters of his job responsibilities, often taking on additional tasks and making creative contributions. In addition, Josh is highly respected by all of his peers and appreciated by the supervisors at the day program as well as the cottages.

## October Employee of the Month

*Jo Gamblin – Senior Cook*

*"Jo has been a good employee for quite a while. She puts her heart and soul into her job. She tries to please as many people as she can, especially the clients. Halloween is her specialty. She loves to go out of her way to do the haunted house every year. She stays for all the events we have to help make sure it is a success."*

## November Employee of the Month

*Rhonda Traynor – Unit Coordinator  
Cottage 6*

*"Rhonda has a positive attitude and has been working hard to keep the house going strong. She is always polite and helpful, jumps right in and lends a helping hand all the time."*

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# News From Home

## Happy Birthday



January; Eric  
February; Linda, Maria, Amy G., Jane, Jennifer, Deanna, John

### Happy Holidays from House One

Our residents have been full of excitement these past two months. To begin our month for November we got to spend time together as a family at KFC for a wonderful dinner outing. We all really enjoyed our delicious dinner. Next we had an Angel Tree outing which was a blessing for the less fortunate kids. Last but not least they were very grateful to stuff their bellies on Thanksgiving Day with the wonderful food from the café with lots and lots of yummy turkey and delightful desserts. They appreciated everything, including the time spent in the kitchen making such a blissful dinner. Hello December! We had come to a very joyful month. Where do I start? Jane was beyond happy knowing Christmas was only several days away. Denny's was also very fulfilling, the residents could not get enough of it. Also the residents were very busy making Christmas crafts at the café. Not to mention they helped decorate their house as well. I would say it was definitely starting to feel a lot like Christmas. Sharon got to celebrate her Christmas at home with her family. We wanted to all say thank you for the amazing dinner and party, our residents had a blast and loved seeing Santa. They were super excited to open their presents on Christmas Day. Their faces were priceless! They loved everything. We also wanted to thank you for the staff party it was very beautiful. The food was delish! A humongous thank you to the Greiners for blessing us all with a Christmas bonus, we really cannot thank you enough for your generosity. We appreciate everything and all you guys do for us! Lastly another thank you to the staff on our house for going above and beyond and showing each and every resident the love and care they deserve.

### Busy on House Two

This November our house celebrated Brian's 29th Birthday! We had a small party on at the house for Brian where he had a special meal which consisted of Chicken Parmesan with spaghetti, bread sticks, tossed salad and a brownie cake with ice cream! Brian enjoyed all of his gifts and got to celebrate with his parents at home too! We have been continuing to visit Sandy's Barber in Crystal River for haircuts. All the guys enjoyed getting their haircuts from Sandy and her daughter now. They do an excellent job! This year we took a few residents to Wal-Mart to buy gifts for less fortunate children in the community. Jennifer, Brian, John and Dean accompanied me (Mike) and one of my staff to help pick out gifts. They were all more than enthusiastic to help out and they felt good about doing it! We were scheduled to go out for a picnic to King's Bay; however the weather was starting to get colder so we just enjoyed our sandwiches and the like on the house. We had also planned to eat at Checker's in Inverness, but once again with the weather getting colder and there was only seating outside; our plans changed. Everyone had a craving for Mexican cuisine so we took a drive over to Taco Bell where everyone could appease their palates. December brought us another Birthday! Dean turned 51! Dean chose to have spaghetti and meatballs, bread sticks, tossed salad and a chocolate cake for his special meal! Dean also went out to Cody's for a special 1 on 1 birthday dinner outing with Toni! He had a lot of fun, but he said he forgot to throw peanut shells on the floor there! For our dinner outing for the entire unit we settled on Subway where everyone got a healthy sandwich, chips and a beverage. For our dessert outing we chose to go over to Winn Dixie in Crystal River where we just picked out some ice cream bars that everyone would like. Everyone enjoyed their Holidays! We had a lot of residents who went home for a few days to spend with family or some that went home for some delicious holiday feasts!

### **Happy New Year from House Three**

In the month of November our residents stayed busy and tried their best to stay on the good list for Santa's appearance for the next month! At the very beginning of the month we celebrated Kim's birthday with some finger licking hamburgers and cupcakes! We then went on our last picnic of the year at Kings Bay Park and enjoyed some sub sandwiches and chips by the water. The residents did their good deed of the month by going shopping for the less fortunate children of our county. Denise was able to participate in the Citrus County Rodeo and had an absolute blast. For the residents dinner outing our original plan did not work out, so when all else fails we go to the fast food! We chose to go to Arby's and the residents had a great time. We wrapped up the month with a really nice Thanksgiving dinner and were truly grateful for all of our blessings. December had finally arrived, the month that some residents look forward to all year. We started the month with the Crystal River Christmas Parade and half of our house got to enjoy that Christmas fun. Kim and Bruce then went to an FFRA Christmas dinner and Kim also got to attend the "Singing Christmas Tree" event at the First Baptist Church in Crystal River. Sandra got to go on a special trip to see some beautiful horses and really had a great time. She talked about it for a few days afterwards. All of our residents had a really nice dinner outing at Denny's and had breakfast for dinner! Bruce and Deanna went to an FFRA Christmas concert in the middle of the month. Our dessert outing was a quick stop in Dunkin Donuts and we of course got as many donuts as we could afford. Finally the day had come, Santa dropped by our house and filled our living room with so many presents we could hardly walk through it. The residents ended the great year with a New Year's dinner at the café and they all had a blast ending the year together. We are so happy to welcome new journeys and adventures that await us in 2018!

### **Hello from House Four**

The months of November and December were very busy for us. In November we all enjoyed dinner at the Riviera in Crystal River. Then we had milkshakes and Sundaes at Dockside Ice Cream. We cannot forget about Thanksgiving! The majority of our residents went home to spend the holidays with their families while a select few stayed back and enjoyed the festivities on campus. As December approached the residents had a blast shopping for our Christmas angel. Eating at one of their favorite restaurants again, the residents partook in a lovely meal at Coaches in Inverness. For our dessert outing we went to Wal-Mart to get ice cream for Sundaes and shakes on the house! Santa then came and visited our house bringing many toys and Christmas cheer! All in all the past two months for our house were busy but we came together and had a phenomenal time for the holidays!

### **Greatful on House Five**



We have had a great holiday season here at the house! Thanksgiving was a feast worthy of sharing here around the Village with lots of spirits fully fed! As we moved into the Christmas season we had many things to be grateful for considering the love we all share for our guys. It was nice to see so many of you go the extra mile to make sure that our guys were welcomed home as well as had so many of you visit. I cannot express enough how much, as simple as it sounds when I say their faces simple light up in the best of ways. Often times they cannot wait to tell their staff who came and visited them or where they got to go and so we humbly thank each and every one of you for coming together to make each holiday season something to look forward too. We wish you all the best of luck in the New Year and we hope to see you all soon enough!

## **Thankful on House Six**

November is our time to be thankful and we are thankful for many gifts in our lives such as; Gail, Leslie, Cassie and our family and friends. We were over loaded with birthdays and fun. We went to KFC and picked up food. Then we were supposed to head to the beach but weather had a different idea so we hung at the house and got our bellies full of chicken. We chose to give our dessert outing to our little angel for Christmas. What we did was picked a name with our brother house and went to the store and bought tons of items that our little angel needed and wanted. We were just as excited as we hoped he was when he opened the gifts we bought him. We were blessed with a big turkey dinner with our campus family. What a wonderful feast. December came in with a bang and had us moving and shaking. Oh the Christmas shopping we had to do and all the beautiful lights that we were able to see on our outing. We drove all over just to admire the lights. We were blessed with a family Christmas dinner from NHV and were able to see our favorite "Santa". We are so blessed to live on this campus. We had an amazing Christmas day full of treasures and treats. We would like to send out a great big thank you to the Greiner's for being totally awesome and putting us ahead of everything. We love you and appreciate everything you do for us.

## **Social Activity Department Highlights**

*by Duane*

The month of November was a lot of fun. We attended the rodeo at the Citrus County Fairgrounds. The residents had a blast. Thanksgiving dinner was held in the café this year. All of the residents were grateful for the wonderful food that was served. In December we attended the Crystal River Parade and The Singing Christmas Tree at the First Baptist Church of Crystal River. We are continuing with horse therapy and Client 1 on 1 activities as well. We are taking small groups to Hunter Springs Park each month for a picnic and lunch and will continue to do so for the New Year. The Family Christmas Party was a success with a visit from Santa Claus to top it off! We had a great New Year Eve's formal steak and shrimp dinner with a toast to bring in the New Year. We look forward to a great 2018 wishing all of you a happy New Year!!

*Gail, Tony & their fish while on a picnic!*



*Michael enjoying the beach*



*Debbie enjoying a game of toss at her house*



## **Recreation and Special Olympics**

By MaryLouise

We had a great start to the holiday season! The weather cooled off in time for Thanksgiving. We closed the pool and began indoor group activities. The Dietary staff prepared a feast for Thanksgiving Day with turkey, squash casserole, green bean casserole, sweet potatoes and rolls. Then we had apple and pumpkin pie-so yummy! We all helped decorate for Christmas with trees in every house, the office, the school, the café and Center Circle. Many of the guys also had trees in their rooms. The houses each bought presents to donate to the Resource Centers Christmas Angel Program. They wanted to give to those in need. FFRA held a Car Wash that the members helped with giving the money raised to the Moose Heart Program which benefited seniors and children in need at Christmas time. We continued to practice Special Olympics Basketball and Basketball Skills at Crest School, getting ready for competition. County games were in November with area games in January. No one's name was drawn from New Horizons Village to go to Special Olympics State Bowling Competition but we had fun practicing anyway. Our Employee Christmas Party was a great success! The theme this year was Candy Land and there were many delicious treats to eat. Next was the Family Christmas Party where the Dietary staff shone brightly again. They created delicious veal parmesan with angel hair pasta, broccoli florets and an Italian soup with Crème brûlée for dessert! We were delighted by the residents' performance and then Santa made a visit with gifts! We are very Thankful for all we have and are looking forward to 2018! Happy New Year to All!!

## **Learning and growing at the ATF**

### **Greetings from Classroom 1**

November and December were very fun yet busy months. In November we learned about the pilgrims and Indians. We celebrated Thanksgiving and learned all about the traditions around the world. December we learned how different countries get ready for the holidays; we had a great time celebrating Christmas with our friends and family. We enjoyed listening to Colleens daughter sing at our party and Santa visiting us with gifts.

### **Enjoying the holidays with Classroom 2**

November brought excitement learning about fall foods and pilgrims and Indians while preparing for Thanksgiving. We had a wonderful feast made by the Dietary staff in the café. Yum! December was full of learning and fun with winter clothes, food and activities as well as learning about Christmas. The Dietary staff was at it again with an absolutely delicious Christmas meal. We also learned about New Years and made glittery crafts. We wish everyone a safe and happy 2018!

### **Learning in Classroom 3**

In November we learned about different branches of the military like the Marines, the Air Force and the Army. Did you know that the Air Force is the youngest branch of the military? It became its own branch during WWII! We also talked about the first Thanksgiving with the pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indians. Did you know they ate deer at the first Thanksgiving not turkey? They did not have pumpkin pie either. Can you believe it? Everyone enjoyed having four days off for Thanksgiving, everyone got to stay home and relax for four days. At the end of the month we talked about American presidents like George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. In December we talked about winter activities like sledding and ice skating. We even watched a few clips of figure skating which Leslie really enjoyed. We also learned about why we give gifts at Christmas and the meaning behind candy canes. Candy canes were actually given to children to keep them quiet in church! Now we just enjoy this minty treat during the Christmas season in hot chocolate or with sweets. We rehearsed Christmas carols for the party at the beginning of the month to get ready for the residents Christmas party. We also sang a lot of Christmas songs in and out of class! At the end of the month we started talking about New Year's traditions and foods.

## **Exciting in Classroom 4**

November started off exciting with a relaxing picnic at Wallace Brooks Park. The residents enjoyed the nice weather and seeing ducks by the lake. Our class holiday season was full of cheer and joy. They enjoyed all of the activities and decorating of the NHV Christmas tree. We had a wonderful time practicing Christmas carols for the annual Christmas party. Family and friends joined in the wonderful holiday celebration. Together we brought in the New Year with a wonderful steak and shrimp dinner that the residents raved about. Our class is ready and eager for the upcoming months and what 2018 has to bring!

## **Adventures at the Workshop**

The last part of the year was filled with learning adventures. The beginning of November found our classes learning about elections and the armed forces. Towards the end of the month they learned about pilgrims, William Bradford, Squanto, the Wampanoag tribe and fun Thanksgiving facts. November ended with presidents. December found us getting ready for Christmas starting with winter clothing and foods. The week before Christmas we dove into the elements of Christmas which included The Christmas Story, the true story of Santa Claus, the legend of the Christmas tree, Christmas presents and eggnog. To end the year we talked about New Year's Day and we were looking forward to a New Year – 2018, a year to be filled with new adventures in learning.

## **Greetings from Retirement House**

We have had a wonderful year here in Retirement. The residents have enjoyed doing crafts, watching movies and listening to their favorite oldies on the radio. They especially enjoyed the picnic this year. Walter has found jewelry to be his favorite new hobby. Kim has begun to enjoy outside activities. Adam and Debbie enjoy getting creative with blocks. We hope 2018 will be a great year full of new activities and fun. Happy New Year and Thanks from Retirement.

## **Staff Happenings**

### **Promotions –**

#### **Willis Thomas – 3<sup>rd</sup> Shift Supervisor**

Since Willis' hire May 2016, he consistently demonstrates his dedication to uphold the company's mission, vision and values specifically as they relate to the care of our resident clients and the cleanliness of their living environment.

He consistently shares the responsibility of creating and sustaining an environment that humanizes and individualizes each resident client under his care. He has proven himself as a team member who strives to maintain our high standards of care.

#### **Toni Gregson – Social Services Director**

Since Toni's hire March 2009, she consistently demonstrates her dedication to uphold the company's mission, vision and values specifically as they relate to the physical, psychological and social needs of our resident clients.

Toni has consistently shared the responsibility of creating and sustaining an environment that humanizes and individualizes each resident client.

In 2016, she was recognized as the Employee of the Year. Management along with her peers recognize and appreciate that not only does she perform her duties and responsibilities as required of her position, she consistently goes above and beyond expectations by "jumping in" at any opportunity to help.

Upcoming Events:

**Special Olympics Area 6  
5 on 5 and Skills Basketball**

Place: Wesley Chapel and  
Clearwater  
January 13, 2018  
Time: 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Summer Sports Coaches  
Training**

Place: Orlando  
January 21, 2018  
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Special Olympics State  
Competition - North**

Place: Tavares Big House  
January 26 – 27, 2018  
Time: 12:00 p.m.



**NOTES FROM THE EDITORS**



**\*\*Please check out our website for updates at [www.newhorizonsvillage.us](http://www.newhorizonsvillage.us)**

**If you would like to receive the New Horizons Village News by E-mail, or if you would like it sent to someone else, please send your request via e-mail to [kim@newhorizonsvillage.us](mailto:kim@newhorizonsvillage.us).**

**We invite you to visit the New Horizons Village ATF Learning Center to see the difference it is making. Please call Toni Gregson at 352-746-3262 ext. 201 or e-mail her at [toni@newhorizonsvillage.us](mailto:toni@newhorizonsvillage.us) so we can be prepared for your visit.**