

MAY 2025

Volume 10, Issue 5



## MAY

Lupus Awareness Month

Mental Health Awareness  
Month

National Foster Care Month

National Mobility Month

National Stroke Awareness  
Month

5/1 National Day of Prayer

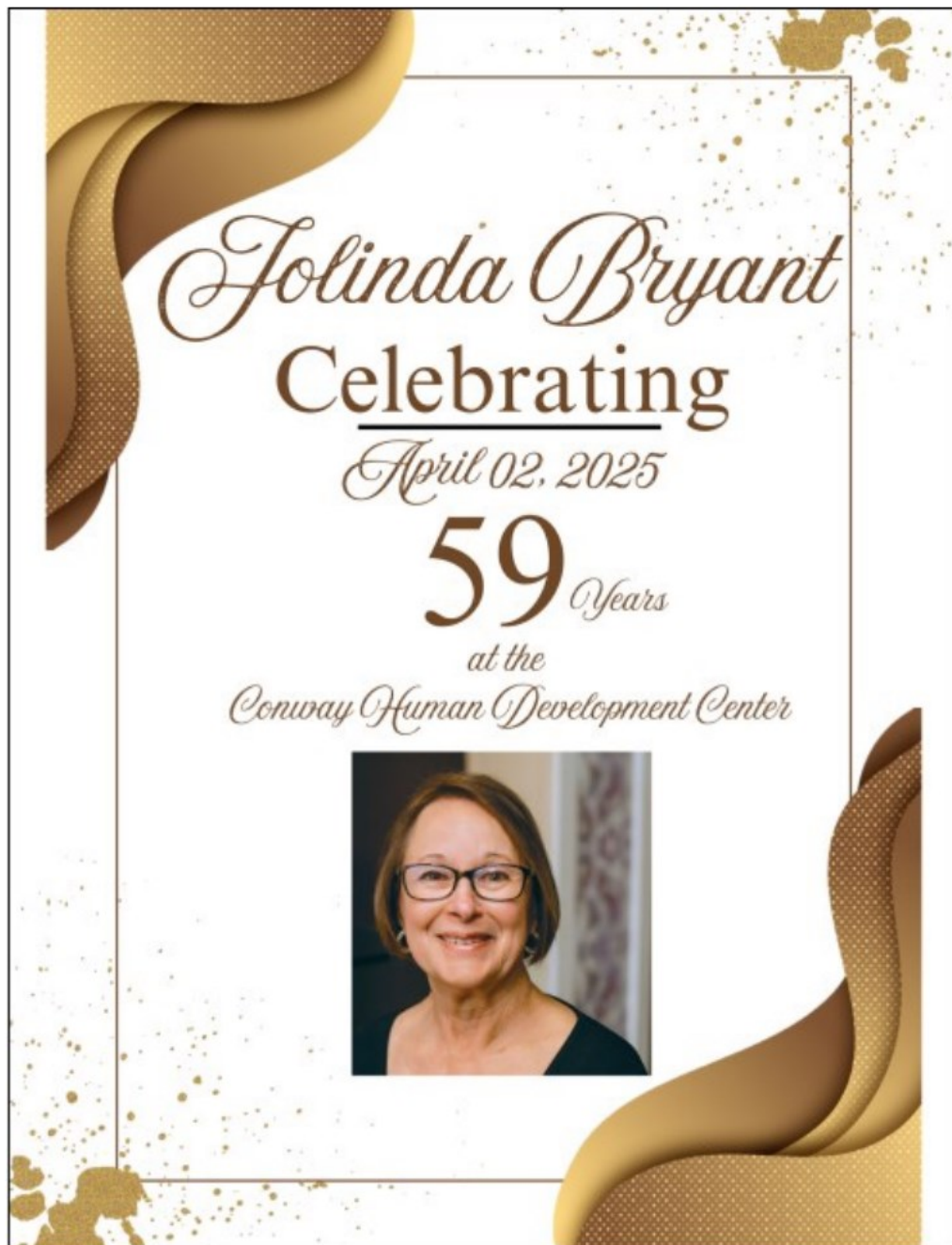
5/5 Cinco de Mayo

5/4-5/10 Public Service  
Recognition Week

5/6-5/12 Nurses Week

5/11 Mother's Day

5/26 Memorial Day



## Arkadelphia HDC 1st We Heart Winners

Congratulations to:

**Marcellus Carter** (Direct Care Winner) Residential Care Shift Manager

**Laura Adams** (Non-Direct Care Winner) Administrative Specialist I

This will be an annual event. We appreciate our staff's hard work, dedication to our facility, and most importantly, our clients.

*Submitted by Janna Huneycutt, Quality Assurance Coordinator*



## Pine Bluff Community Outreach

Jefferson County DDS workers prepared Easter Bags for our clients at Jenkins Memorial. Virginia Green, Lynetta Reese, Sheena Burton, and Patricia Jenkins are featured in the picture around the table with Virginia Green seated.





# Arkadelphia HDC's Spring Formal

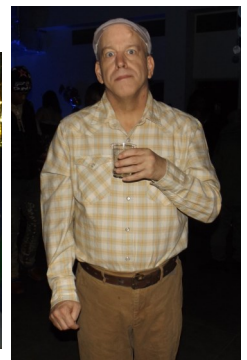
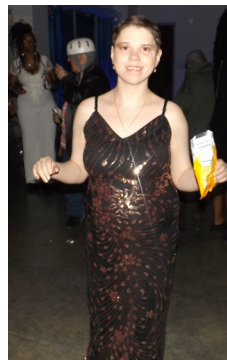


The dance themed "Under the Sea" was held on March 21, 2025.

The residents were able to go shopping, get nails/hair done as requested, and dress in formal attire for our spring formal.

They look forward to events like this each year.

*Submitted by: Janna Huneycutt, Quality Assurance Coordinator*





# Families First Panel featuring Amala Sista, DDS Program Coordinator

On March 20th, Amala Sista was invited to be a panelist at Supporting Families with Disabilities: Community Efforts in Benton County. The event was coordinated by United Way Benton County Director, Mr. Carlos Garbutt. She spoke about how families can turn barriers into opportunities. Here's some of what she shared in an article written by Kayley Ramsey that was published in Smart Justice, A Service of Restore Hope.

She spoke of her personal experience caring for a loved one with dementia.

*"One of the biggest challenges is a lack of information," she explained. "Families often don't even know how these services exist." She encouraged families to apply early, despite long wait lists, stressing that "the wait should not be a deterrent."*

DDS knows what an invaluable asset Amala is. She has always poured her heart into her work in Waiver Services for almost 20 years. She is diligent, attentive, and now others know what we already knew. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for people in need of services.





# Conway HDC May Activities

CHDC shares photos from a busy month. Residents and staff enjoyed Easter activities and We Heart Celebration. Also, Special Olympics went to eat at Texas Roadhouse with a cop.





# 12th Annual Family Bistro & Disability Resource Expo

Danielle Kimbrough took over the reigns from retired Rodney Farley coordinating and executing an enlightening, informative, interactive Expo. Kudos Danielle! You did Rodney and DDS proud!

**12th Annual Family Bistro & Disability Resource Expo**

**Saturday, April 12th**  
8:15am-4:00pm

**Veterans Park Event Center**  
508 N Lincoln St. Cabot, AR



**Arkansas PAC**  
Parent Advisory Council

**SESSIONS**

- Title V - Stacy Schratz
- Camp Aldergate - Luke Nipper
- Parent Panel
- Autism Resources - Renee Holmes
- Care Planning - Natalie Woodbridge
- Lunch & Vendor Parade
- Learn & Lead Act - Christin Harper
- Let's Talk Transition - Cindy Roach
- Anti-Bullying - Jennifer Edwards
- Guardianship & Special Needs Trust - Chip Cross
- DD Network Listening Session - Johnathan Taylor & Karen Barnett



Connecting with us is simple just scan the QR Code using your camera and this will direct you to our website and our Facebook page.





## DDS Central Office Staff Community Outreach

Sabrena Harris (DDS Program Manager), Riconda Johnson (DDS Social Worker), Danielle Kimbrough (DDS Medical Assistance Manager), and Yvette Swift (DHS Program Administrator) participated in the annual fair day in Benton. Staff played games with children and adults with disabilities, explained DDS services to families, and gave out information for programs to families and other vendors.



## Save the Date

### May

Public Employee Recognition Week 5/4-5/10

Nurses Week 5/6-5/12

### June

HDC Farmer's Market

6/18 (tentative)

10:30am– 1:30pm

Donaghey Plaza North Building



## 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](mailto:Yvette.swift@dhs.arkansas.gov) by the 15th of each month.