
Fairfield Voice

FAIRFIELD COUNTY
DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
NEEDS BOARD

♦
Summer 2025



Since our last newsletter, there have been many exciting developments within our agency. We have been working to expand our residential services, our Park Project has been launched into the next phase, our annual Golf Tournament was *on par*, our individuals attended one of the best summer camps in the Carolinas, and more. This summer has brought a myriad of advancement and exciting opportunities for both staff and for those we serve. With the continuous support, dedication, and contributions to uphold our high quality of excellence in care and service to our community, we have been able to achieve long-term milestones, as well as venture into new and overdue advancement within our agency.

Supervised Living Programs

One of the recent developments our agency has pursued is within our residential program. We have recently implemented Supervised Living Programs, or SLPs, which would allow for select individuals within our residential settings to live more independently with little intervention. These SLPs will provide adults with needed support to live in apartments or other single-family housing with minimal direct care—in this case, our agency has successfully acquired two rental properties nearby the agency that will house four of our individuals who have met the criteria to live in these new settings. With the implementation of the SLPs programs, our Employment Specialist, Ms. Brittany Dreher, has been assigned into a new role to oversee the management and support of these programs, and will now carry the title of Independent Living Coordinator. We are excited to be on this path of providing our individuals with additional residential options for those who can and want to seek further independence, and we congratulate Ms. Dreher and her team for their tireless efforts in getting the programs up and running. The chosen individuals are set to move into these new homes by the end of October.



Park Project and the Golf Tournament

Park Project: Challenge Grant

One of our ongoing projects that has been in the works for some time has been the construction of a five-acre park, dedicated to the betterment of health and well-being for the individuals we serve. As part of this project, we have been actively seeking donations to help fund the implementation of the trails, infrastructure, landscaping, and other various pieces to complete this feat of engineering. An anonymous donor has come forth to donate a Challenge Grant, honoring dollar-for-dollar up to \$22,000, allowing for a potential total of \$44,000, to be contributed towards the completion of landscaping for the park. We thank the donors named below, without exclusion of those who donated anonymously (you know who you are, and we cannot begin to express our appreciation enough for your generosity):

Barbara Glenn

Ginger Smith

Chris Clark

Shirley Greene

Chris Boyce

Fairfield Medical Associates

Brent Parker

13th Annual Golf Tournament

On May 14th, we held our annual Golf Tournament at the Windermere Golf Club in Blythewood, SC. This fundraiser is typically our biggest of the year, bringing in substantial donations and sponsorships that gets allocated directly to the ongoing care and support of those who we serve. This year, our tournament raised just over \$10,000. The tournament hosted roughly sixty-four participants, most being teams of direct sponsors—both returning and new—and various same-day registrants. Along with the tournament, we also held a silent auction with items donated of varying worth from beverages, signed basketballs, TVs, and more, promoting even more to the profitability of the fundraiser and encouraging future participation.



Camp Joy and DSP Week

Camp Joy

On July 6th, several of our consumers attended Camp Joy, held in Flat Rock, NC. It was a week-long program filled with fun activities and rekindling of friendships from years past. This camp offered our individuals, as well as others with disabilities, a chance to enjoy arts and crafts, bible study, boat rides, swimming, music, and tons more. Camp Joy is sponsored each year by the Brice-Sanders Foundation, a ministry of the ARP Church. After 40+ years of offering these summer opportunities, they offer four sessions held each summer in Flat Rock, NC, two in Aiken, SC, one in Lake Wales, FL, and one in Wirtz VA. Overall, these sessions service hundreds of attendees, counselors, and staff members, to create memorable experiences for all those who attend.



Direct Support Professionals Week

Every year, there is a day dedicated to the exceptional work and commitment to those who work in agencies such as ours in providing the highest quality of care to those in need, and in our community. We have recently celebrated and recognized our DSP workers as declared by Governor McMaster, with this declaration deeming September 7th through 13th of this year as Direct Support Professionals week. To give thanks, we provided each of our DSPs with a goodie bag filled with items for everyday use such as pens, keychains, water bottles, and candles, providing inspirational quotes to express how important their work is to the well-being of our individuals. Thank you to all our DSPs, we would not be where we are today without you.

SCAAIDD Conference

Every year, the South Carolina chapter of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (SCAAIDD) hosts a conference in highlighting awareness to those who our agency serves. This year, the key focus areas were Frontline Leadership, Community and Connection, Innovation and Inclusion, and Advocacy in Action, which were all topics covered in various informational sessions throughout the three-day event. Within these sessions, presenters delved further into the meaning of the key focuses, offering seminars on topics such as *The Ripple Effect of Self-Leadership: Leading with Mindset, Meaning, and Momentum in Times of Stress*, *From Misunderstood to Magnetic: How to Communicate So People Take Action*, *Data Analysis: ASD/IDD Housing Options in South Carolina*, and one session presented by our very own Mr. Ravin Jackson, *What It's Like to Have a Disability: Living with Cerebral Palsy and Anxiety*. All these sessions plus many more gave attending participants the opportunity to learn more about those with intellectual and developmental disabilities through first-hand research, data analysis, and boots-on-the-ground experience. This conference was held in Myrtle Beach with our agency having been represented by eight team members and sixteen members of the Fairfield Winners Self Advocacy Group, accompanied by four additional staff members.

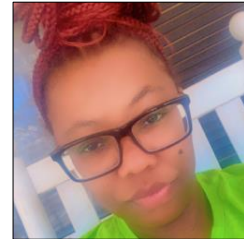


FCDSNB Employees of the Month

Staff

Elizabeth Green – *April 2025*

“I have witnessed Elizabeth’s engagement of consumers in activities at the workshop. Her compassion is evident in all she does.”



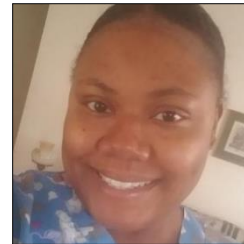
Tangee Harvey – *May 2025*

“Tangee is very dependable and is available when she’s needed to support the consumers and her fellow co-workers.”



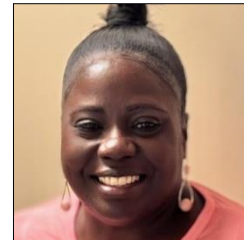
Christine Green – *June 2025*

“When I first came to FCDSNB as Manager, Christine jumped in with open arms, willing to give me all I need to do my job. Christine is willing to help any way she can to train others. Christine has a great heart, and she loves her job and her ladies.”



Sifornia “Angel” Williams – *July 2025*

“I would like to nominate Sifornia Williams as employee of the month. She is the house manager at Palmetto and has been doing an awesome job. She is very dedicated to the consumers that live in that house and does her best to advocate for them.



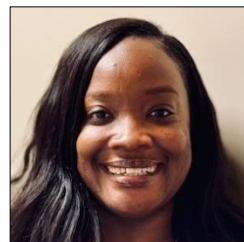
Edwin Rodriguez – *August 2025*

“I would like to nominate Edwin Rodriguez for employee of the month. Edwin is very eager to learn and when asked for something, he brings it right away. I have watched how he cares for the consumers at Vanderhorst CTHII and how he does hands-on care for them. He is very kind and compassionate towards the consumers. He is doing a great job.”



Brittany Dreher – *September 2025*

“I would like to nominate Brittany Dreher as employee of the month. Throughout our agency’s efforts in expanding our residential services, Brittany has been an invaluable asset to its seamless implementation, ensuring hands-on action through every step and stepping into her new role to further upkeep the successful transitions for our individuals.”



FCDSNB Employees of the Month

Consumers



Justin Blinn – *April 2025*

“Justin is always willing to lend a hand when needed at events or during his day at the workshop. He is compassionate towards his housemates at Hunstanton and makes sure they are taken care of to the best of his ability.”



Willie Young – *May 2025*

“Willie is always greeting everyone with a big smile on his face. He works hard with the yard crew and the enclave he’s a part of and always does what’s asked of him. He always has a sunny demeanor and is willing to help out when he can, whenever he can.”



Pamela Riley – *June 2025*

“I would like to nominate Pamela Riley for consumer of the month. Pam has done a great job adjusting to living at Woodbury. She is always smiling and interacting with staff and her peers. Pam is very pleasant to be around.”



Mike Dodds – *July 2025*

“I would like to nominate Mike Dodds for employee of the month. Mike works at recycling and does an awesome job. He is very focused on his job when at recycling and does not like to miss work. He is up every morning, dressed and ready for work in a timely manner. Mike often has to be asked to take a break when working at recycling due to him being so focused on doing his job.”



David Bell – *August 2025*

“David Bell is a friendly individual that tries to do what is asked of him. Davis comes to the sensory room and makes sure he speaks to everyone in the room. He has compassion for his peers and wants them to know he sees and acknowledges their presence. He enjoys being social and enjoys entertaining.”



Kenny Douglas – *September 2025*

“I would like to nominate Kenny Douglas for consumer employee of the month. Kenny has put forth extra initiative with the Day Program, taking the extra mile to help when needed and even forgoing retirement for the time being to make sure there are enough workers available for the recycling enclave.”