



Andy's World

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River Region Human Services

Derya E. Williams
Executive Director &
CEO

Susan M. Cochran
V.P. of Operations

Ed McCall
V.P. of Finance

Minerva Bryant
V.P. Clinical Operations

2055 Reyko Rd., Ste. 101
Jacksonville, FL 32207

904-899-6300

www.rrhs.org

Over 50 gather for Narcotic Overdose Prevention & Education (NOPE) Candlelight Vigil at Memorial Park



On Thursday, October 29th, communities across the nation joined The Narcotic Overdose Prevention & Education (NOPE) Task Force in hosting the Third Annual National Candlelight Vigil in memory of those lost to and suffering from substance abuse and addiction.

The NOPE Task Force is comprised of law enforcement officials, members of the judicial system, addiction and parenting specialists, and, most importantly, parents

and family members who have lost loved ones to an accidental overdose or drug and alcohol related incidents.

Over fifty people gathered for the NOPE Vigil in Jacksonville, which was organized by River Region, at Memorial Park in Riverside. With the sun setting to the west and the moon rising over the St. Johns River, they lit candles in memory of the loved ones they had lost. Some told stories of their own recovery from addiction.

“The NOPE Vigil strived to raise awareness and open the doors to recovery for people who need it,” said Minerva Bryant, V.P. of Clinical Operations for River Region. “With the holiday season coming up, this is the right time to remind revelers of the tragic consequences that can result from the misuse and abuse of drugs and alcohol.”

Jacksonville Urban League honors Derya Williams

The Jacksonville Urban League held its 36th Annual Equal Opportunity Luncheon on October 28th at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Derya Williams, River Region’s CEO and Executive Director, was honored for her leadership on issues related to equality in the workplace. Ephren Taylor II, CEO of City Capital Corporation, was the keynote speaker.



River Region welcomes the following new employees

Karissia Kimbrough, HIV Case Management
Shirley Wells, Food/Transportation
Kimberly Buxton, Children’s Treatment
David Montcalvo, MH Day Treatment

Margaret DiRollo, Methadone
Elizabeth Evatt, Adult Prevention
Patricia Alberson, Peer Specialist
Ivory James Jr., Drop In Center

River Region Human Services is dedicated to the promotion of strong and healthy individuals, families and communities. River Region provides a high standard of customer service through competent, caring, and professional staff.

The mission of River Region Human Services is to improve the quality of life for individuals and families of NE Florida affected by substance abuse, mental illness, homelessness, HIV/AIDS and other communicable illness through outreach, prevention, intervention, treatment, and housing services.

River Region does not discriminate and has no barriers to service access on the basis of age, sex, race, sexual orientation, national origin, religion or physical/mental disability.

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River Region hosts block party for Breast Cancer Awareness



The MLK Jr. Elementary School Jazz Band, under the direction of Reginald Haywood, played at River Region's Breast Cancer Awareness Block Party on Friday, October 23rd. Over 100 attended the event at the agency's administrative offices on the Southside. Minerva Bryant, V.P. of Clinical Operations for River Region, said, "The band was fantastic. I truly thank them for playing at our event and helping us to get the word out about such an important health problem."

World AIDS Week

8th Annual Awards Luncheon
 Monday, November 30, 11:30 AM
 Wyndham Riverwalk Hotel
 Tickets: \$30 Individual & \$300 Table
 Contact: Heather Vaughan
 904-739-7016



National AIDS Quilt
 Opening Display
 December 1st
 Noon to 12:30 pm
 Jacksonville City Hall

Memorial Service
 December 1, 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
 St. Luke's Community Church
 1140 South McDuff Avenue

CONNECTIONS Conference
 Thursday, December 3, 8 am – 4 pm
 St. Luke's Community Church
 1140 South McDuff Avenue
 Contact: Paul Labonte 904-730-8295
 Linda Williams 904-697-1139

Teddy Bear Touchdown
 Saturday, December 5, 1 pm – 2 pm
 Riverside Park/UMC

Thanksgiving Baskets

Please join Outreach Services in their collection of non-perishable food items for Thanksgiving Baskets for community families in need. We appreciate your continued support and great efforts to assist in this endeavor.

For more information, call Vontresa Allen at 899-6300, ext. 4465. Donations will be accepted at 382 Park St., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., through November 20th.

Clothing Drive

PHR is in need of donated items, and YOU can help!

We are looking for **BABY and KID ITEMS** (blankets, clothing, jackets, hats, strollers, etc) and **MATERNITY CLOTHES**. With the cold weather coming, the mommies and babies need a little assistance staying warm.

If you have any clothing or items at home that aren't being used and are in good condition, there will be donation bins at Park St., Reyko Rd., and PHR from November 9th – 20th.

For more information, contact Patrice Shumate at 899-6300, ext. 4323.