



HUDSPETH REGIONAL CENTER NEWSLETTER

FAREWELL TO THE FOSTER GRANDS

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After nearly 43 years, the Foster Grandparent Program at HRC has come to an end. “The Foster Grandparent Program provides grants to organizations with a dual purpose: to engage Americans 55 years and older in volunteer service and to provide one-on-one support to children with special needs to improve their academic, social, or emotional development.” (<https://americorps.gov/partner/how-it-works/americorps-seniors-foster-grandparent-program>)

The Foster Grannies would arrive every morning wearing their uniformed, red-buttoned shirts ready to care for HRC’s under 21 population. Always there to assist, seeing the Foster Grannies on campus was as normal as seeing regular staff members.

HRC’s Foster Grand Program began in October 1981. Since then, we’ve seen plenty of Foster Grannies, FGP Directors and Administrative Assistants. Current FGP Director, Shella Sanders, and Administrative Assistant, Mellody Hollins, organized a heartfelt farewell luncheon. The food was catered by Berry’s and served by Human Resources and Support Coordination staff members. Those, who wanted to, made remarks about their time or the impact of the FGP. Every Foster Grand received a plaque and gift for their years of service. The bittersweet occasion truly marked the end of an era. Thank you to Shella, Mellody and all the Foster Grannies for your dedication to the people HRC serves.



HRC BABY BOOM

Though it's not 1954, HRC is in the midst of its own baby boom. Approximately **EIGHT** staff members are expecting a new bundle of joy. It's not easy being a working mother, and what these ladies could use most at a time like this is the support of those around them. Don't hesitate to bring them a snack or carry their loads. You can also ask where they're registered and purchase a gift. Every single contribution makes their lives a little easier. Featured are a few of the mothers to be. Congratulations to all the expecting mothers at HRC!



Kendaysha Warren

Kendaysha Warren, Direct Care Worker at Meridian Group Home, 6 mos.
Expecting a girl (name undecided)

Who are your motherly role models and why?

"My mom and grandma. They basically raised me, showed me how to be a mother."

Cravings: "Watermelon"

Brooke Stevens, Nurse, 23 weeks
Expecting a girl - Swayze



Brooke Stevens

What about motherhood are you most looking forward to?

"We have struggled with infertility and trying to get pregnant for four years. I am already thankful just being able to experience pregnancy and feeling her move every day! I most look forward to finally seeing her, bonding with her and how sweet and fun it will be to have a little girl. This is our first baby, and we are so thankful for this little turkey."

Cravings: "Chinese food and anything sweet, especially ice cream."



Timila Bell, Public Relations Director, 35 weeks
Expecting a girl - Hannah Joyce

What makes you most nervous about having a baby?

"At first, it was my age. I'm no longer in my twenties, and I'm considered an "Advanced Maternal Age". But fortunately, my pregnancy has been healthy and I feel just like I did when I was in my twenties. I attribute it to God's grace and good health."

Cravings: "Chili dogs, salad, and ice cream."



Timila Bell

*Kendaysha and Timila's photographs are courtesy of Antwone Perkins, Media Coordinator

JULY HAPPENINGS

On the 4th, the Kosciusko Group Home held a red, white and blue-themed cookout. As everyone listened to music, they enjoyed grilled hamburgers, grilled chicken, baked beans, potato salad, strawberry cake, and sweet tea. I can think of nothing more American than barbecue and music.



As the Mississippi Braves end their lease in Mississippi, the gentlemen of Pine Cottage enjoyed one of their final games.



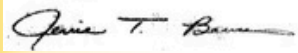
In true HRC summer tradition, the Recreation Department worked the annual Watermelon Cutting. Needless to say, it was sweltering outside, but the sweet treat was well worth the heat.

The Director's Note

As children return to school, HRC's public school students will resume their studies as well. I'd like to thank the Education Department and Interdisciplinary teams for their work ensuring their school year is off to the right start.

There is a steady rise in COVID + cases. As I mention every month, please continue to practice the protocols that are in place. Continue washing your hands and sanitizing your spaces as frequently as possible. Do not hesitate to get tested if you begin experiencing symptoms.

Sincerely,



Jerrie T. Barnes
Facility Director



Important Dates in August

5-8th: Orientation
8th: Upgrade
9th: Friends of Hudspeth Center Meeting
13th: MANDT recertification
15th: CPR Training
20th: Advanced MANDT

For any submission requests or feedback, contact Timila Bell, Public Relations, at (601) 664-6017 or timila.bell@hrc.state.ms.us

Employees of the Quarter (2nd)



Lori Brookins,
Direct Care
Meridian Group
Home (left)



Sadie Lewis,
Support Care
Clothing
Department (right)

