

EDGECOMBE COUNTY DSS NEWSLETTER



As we are quickly approaching two of the most celebrated holidays, please stop and reflect

on how blessed we are to live in one of the best countries in the world. Even in the midst of poverty, wars and inequality, we are still fortunate to have rights and freedom so many people in this world are not privileged to have.

Let's not forget the feeling of waking up in a warm bed, when many people sleep outside in the cold elements. Or the times we contemplate on whether we will have steak, chicken or fish for dinner; when there are people who sift through trash cans looking for their next meal. Nor should we forget the mornings when the alarm clock wakes us up and we begin to complain about having to go to work, when there is a man or woman without a job; who would love to trade places with us.

We should be thankful everyday we wake up and can still see, hear, move about, and have the love of family and friends.

It is so easy to focus on what we don't have and lose sight of what we do have!

During these upcoming holidays, I challenge you to go beyond giving to family, friends, co-workers; and be a blessing to someone or a family you don't know. In giving from the heart, you will receive back much more than you can imagine.

I appreciate each one of you and I'm very grateful for the service you provide to "mankind".

I wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season!

Marva G. Scott, Director

Thanksgiving Facts & Trivia

Thanksgiving Trivia

- Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey to be the national bird, not the eagle.
- Americans eat 46 million turkeys each Thanksgiving.
- Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin's first meal in space after walking on the moon was foil packets with roasted turkey.
- The heaviest turkey on record, according to the *Guinness Book of Records*, weighs 86 pounds.
- Californians consume the most turkey in the U.S. on Thanksgiving Day!
- Female turkeys (called hens) do not gobble. Only male turkeys gobble.
- The average turkey for Thanksgiving weighs 15 pounds.
- Campbell's soup created green bean casserole for an annual cookbook 50 years ago. It now sells \$20 million worth of cream of mushroom soup.

Thanksgiving Quiz

1. The first Thanksgiving in 1621 was believed to have lasted how many days?
2. What is the busiest travel day of the year?
3. Where does Butterball™ say the best place to put the meat thermometer in the turkey is?
4. True or False- Turkeys can drown if they look up in the rain.
5. What part of the turkey is saved and snapped as a superstitious good luck custom?

Happy
Thanksgiving

Answers: 1. 3 days 2. The Day After Thanksgiving 3. Thigh 4. True 5. Wishbone

New Staff



Lashell Cruse, F&C Medicaid



Sheena Alston, FNS



Bessie Martin, Receptionist



N'Kela Harrell, Adult Medicaid



Alicia Lewis, Children Services



Gracie Goss, Children Services



Edna Parker, Fiscal



Felicia Elam, Children Services



Iesha Phillips, Adult Medicaid



Keith Bryan, F&C Medicaid



Lanora Bush, F&C Medicaid



Montrell Braswell, Adult Medicaid



Sophia Edmonds, F&C Medicaid



Taisheka Pittman, Child Support



Ellen Ellis, Adult Medicaid



Kathleen Simmons, HR Placement Specialist



Kortia Morning, Child Support



T'Kieyah Brown, F&C Medicaid



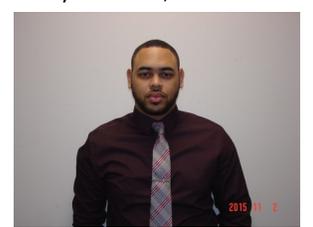
Angel Corpening, Children Services



Angela Cooper, F&C Medicaid



Mabeleen Jones-Taylor,
Children Services



Kevin Bradley, Child Support



Jessica Knight, F&C Medicaid



Never give up! Great things take time

The road to success can sometimes be a difficult one. For Work First Employment Services participant Olvette Arrington, the road was hard but it was worth it. Olvette (or Necie as most people know her) recently graduated from Nash Community College with an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice and completed Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET). We as casual observers may think that these accomplishments don't seem that difficult. After all, lots of people go to college and basic law enforcement training doesn't sound that difficult; it's "basic" right? Well, we're wrong! What Ms. Arrington accomplished is nothing short of a miracle and she deserves to be praised.

Necie's youth was difficult. She spent some time in foster care and became a teen mother at 17. Before her 24th birthday she would have three more children. When she began participating in the Work First Employment Services (WFES) program, most workers would have described her as difficult and angry. She fought every activity assigned and questioned the value of every part of the program.

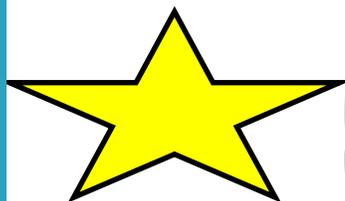
Then as if a switch was lifted she realized that she could do better than to just get by and she could give her children more if she improved herself. She surrendered her heart to the heavens letting forgiveness come in. She forgave her own mother for her misgivings and leaned on her for support. Suddenly Ms. Arrington was a model client. Her activities were the first to be submitted. She came to her appointments on time, dressed properly, sometimes with her very well behaved children in tow.

Ms. Arrington went back to school enthusiastically earning a 4.0 GPA. When the opportunity presented itself for her to attend BLET, she took it on eagerly. Most days in BLET she was in class/training anywhere from 8 to 14 hours a day. All while finishing her degree, raising her children, and meeting participation for WFES. All things came together on June 23rd, 2015 when she in the presence of her four children and her mother (and three super proud social workers) graduated from BLET. Only a few short weeks later she was hired as an officer by Rocky Mount Police Department!

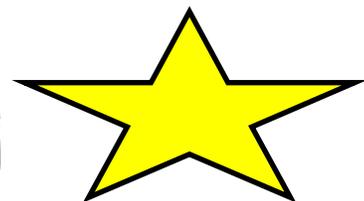


Olvette (center) with her mother, two sons and two daughters

*Written by
Lynda Kennedy, Work First
Social Worker*



Shining Employees



These employees have been recognized by either clients, staff or someone in the community for their hard work and dedication in serving clients of Edgecombe County.



Louise Draughn, Food & Nutrition
May 2015



Margaret Wiggs, Child Support
May 2015



Tina Parker, Family & Children Medicaid
May 2015



Telleshus Jones, Fiscal
May 2015



Malinda Ingram, Adult Medicaid
May 2015



Jewel Gray, Children Services
May 2015



Malinda Ingram, Adult Medicaid
&
Valerie Fenister, Family & Children Medicaid
June 2015



Kathy Brown, Children Services
June 2015



Tuekellia Jones, Children Services
June 2015

Edgecombe County DSS Fatherhood Initiative Program

“Show Me The Way”

Edgecombe County DSS has partnered with an organization called NC Baby Love Plus in our Fatherhood Initiative. Here is how this new initiative works: When the non-custodial parent comes to court and has not paid his child support or arrears and is not employed, DSS Attorney Mrs. Sameka Bennerman will recommend to the judge that he enter this program. He will be required to do the following:

First, he will enroll in a 6 weeks course taught by NC Baby Love Plus. The non-custodial parent will be required to attend all classes once a week for two (2) hrs. per session. He will also be required to attend weekly Soft Skills Classes and Pre-Employment Classes in order to better prepare him to get and keep a job.

Second, the non-custodial father must enter the job search component at the end of the 6 weeks and work with the Human Resource Placement Specialist located at the Edgecombe County Department of Social Services in order to find employment. He will also be required to register with NC Works. If he refuse a job or quit a job without “just

cause” he will be brought back to court the following month and have his case heard before the judge.

During his participation in the Fatherhood Initiative Program, he will be exempted from having to go to court for 90 days as long as he is actively participating in our program. It is our goal to have the non-custodial father into a job within 30 days after completing the classroom portion of our program.

We are pleased to announce that **34** men have already completed the program and **25** are employed!



First Graduation Class September 16, 2015



Second Graduating Class November 4, 2015

Edgecombe Co. DSS Events



Family Fun Day in Sunset Park 5-16-15



1st Fatherhood Event- 6-20-15



Service Awards Luncheon 10-14-2015



NC Social Services Institute, Hickory NC 10-21-15

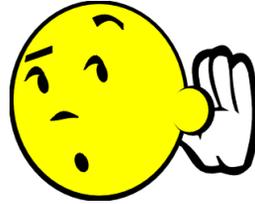


DSS Agency Wide Training 10-29-2015



DSS Agency Wide Training 10-29-2015

Staff Corner



"My son Shaheed "Malik" Jones graduated from Roanoke Valley Early College in Weldon, NC on May 22, 2015. He is attending NC Central University to study Athletic Training. Thank you to all the staff that donated sick leave and sent prayers to me as well as Malik when he was at the UNC Burn Center."



Denotra Jones-Mills, Children Services Social Worker



Georgia Kamp, Intake Unit Social Worker

"Congratulations to my daughter Heather Elizabeth who got married on September 6, 2015 in Cincinnati to her husband Vincent Moriano.
"Welcome aboard to Elizabeth Beasley for joining the Intake Unit!"

****If you would like to share new and exciting information please notify Jessica Pittman****