



# Edgecombe County Department of Social Services

February 2008

Diane Johnson -Editor



## A Message from our Director

I had the privilege of attending the 2008 Fiscal, Personnel, & Technology Conference in New Bern, North Carolina on February 6-8. The conference is sponsored by the North Carolina Association of County Department of Social Services. There are lots of changes in store for DSS in the future; however, DSS's mission remains the same which is to form partnerships with Families and Communities to enhance the family's quality of life. Our core beliefs as excerpted from our mission statement are:

- We believe that the family unit is the primary and preferred resource for meeting the needs of children and adults.
- Emphasis is placed on maintaining children and disabled adults in their own homes through the provision of needed services to improve and strengthen family functioning. Out of home placement services are available when the care and safety of children/disabled adults can not be insured in their own homes.
- Community based preventative services offer the necessary support to families and disabled adults in their quest to remain at home as long as possible.
- Edgecombe County citizens will be respected and supported in their interactions with our agency.

I encourage you to familiarize yourselves with our mission and core beliefs which are listed on DSS's webpage. There you will find valuable information pertaining to each unit within our agency.

### January Service Anniversaries

Employee	Unit	Yrs
Gloria Applewhite	Food & Nutrition – Tarboro	29
Tilda Marshall	Children Services - Tarboro	20
Janet Johnson	WFFA – Tarboro	17
Marie Goodloe	Children Services - Tarboro	14
John Jones	Fiscal - Tarboro	14
Nikicia Randall	Medicaid – Rocky Mount	13
Patricia Woodard	Food & Nutrition – Rocky Mt.	12
Iris Batts	Children Services – Tarboro	10
Linda Williams	Work First – Tarboro	10
Stephanie Bottoms	Child Support – Rocky Mount	7
Paula Dickens	Children Services – Tarboro	7
Bobby Heath	Children Services – Tarboro	3
Dorothy Baylor	WFFA – Rocky Mount	2
Sequita Mungo	Child Support – Tarboro	2
Kenisha Wiggins	WFFA - Tarboro	1

### January Birthdays

Day	Employee	Unit/Area
Jan 5	Debra McNeil	WFFA – Rocky Mount
5	Marva Scott	Director – Tarboro/Rocky Mount
5	Veronica Johnson	WFFA – Rocky Mount
6	Yvonne Winston	Children Services – Tarboro
14	Cora Culpepper	Children Services – Tarboro
16	Jewel Gray	Children Services – Tarboro
17	Bensanee Sherrod	Work First – Rocky Mount
21	Terill Adams	Children Services - Tarboro

## February Service Anniversaries

## February Birthdays

Employee	Unit	Yrs	Day	Employee	Unit/Area
William Staton	Fiscal – Tarboro	29	Feb 2	Denotra Jones-Mills	Children Services – Tarboro
Darlene Nobles	Office Support – Tarboro	24	3	Hope Bethea	Children Services – Tarboro
Beverly Clark	Food & Nutrition – Rocky Mt.	21	4	Sherwood Pitt	Work First – Rocky Mount
Janice Bulluck	Child Support – Rocky Mount	19	5	Bonnie Whitehurst	Children Services – Tarboro
Isham Spann	Work First – Rocky Mount	18	8	Sandra Jones	Office Support – Tarboro
Marisa Spruill	Medicaid – Tarboro	11	8	Sequita Mungo	Child Support – Tarboro
Sherrece Cousar	Work First – Rocky Mount	9	16	Diane Parker	Food & Nutrition – Tarboro
Jennie Hanson	Medicaid – Tarboro	9	21	Dorothy Baylor	WFFA – Rocky Mount
Darnise Bradley	Child Support – Rocky Mount	8	23	Tianna McDonald	Children Services – Tarboro
Shawn Sylvester	Adult Services – Tarboro	3	27	Deloris Council	Adult Services – Tarboro
Cara Martin	Children Services – Tarboro	1	28	Janice Bulluck	Child Support – Rocky Mount
Temesha Williams	Children Services - Tarboro	1			

## Congratulations on your Promotion/Transfer

Samantha Knight was promoted from IMC II, Rocky Mount, to Child Support Agent II, Tarboro

## Safety Tip from Susan Bolton



### **Place your car keys beside your bed at night.**



If you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get in your house, just reach for your keys beside your bed and press the panic button for your car. The alarm will be set off and the horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies. Your keys are a security alarm system that requires no installation. Test it. It will go off from most anywhere inside your house. It works if you park in your driveway or garage. If the car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break in, odds are the burglar won't stick around.....after a few seconds the neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there and sure enough the burglar won't hang around.

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## Suggestions



*Your suggestions for the newsletter are welcomed. Please place any suggestions in Diane Johnson's mail tray in the mail room. Thanks in advance for your interest and participation.*

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## Who They Are & What They Do

### Guardianship

Edgecombe County serves as “Surrogate Decision Maker and Advocate” for individuals who lack the capacity to make and communicate important decisions about their personal and financial affairs. Guardianship should be used as the alternative of last resort and only if less intrusive alternatives are not appropriate and will give the individual a fuller capacity with his or her rights. The Guardian should give the ward as much control over his/her life as possible and allow the individual (ward) the opportunity to exercise those rights that are within his/her comprehension and judgment. The decisions that the Guardian makes must be sensitive to the ward’s needs, values, wishes, and in the ward’s best interest. As an Advocate for the ward the guardian should support the ward in developing the necessary skills needed to assume responsibility for their own decision making.

Guardianship services are provided to individuals for whom the agency director has been appointed as legal guardian or other clients who are alleged to be in need of a legal guardian. Director Marva G. Scott is the actual legal guardian of the wards served by the agency and she makes the final decision regarding service delivery. The Social Worker who serves as case manager of Guardianship cases is tasked with the responsibility of keeping the Director abreast of the individual’s circumstances so that she can make an informed decision. The Adult Services Case Manager is responsible for the day-to-day management of cases. It is that social worker’s responsibility to seek as much prior information regarding the ward’s lifestyle, value system, beliefs, family, friends, and any information that will assist the Director in making a decision as true to what the ward would decide if able to comprehend what is needed. There has to be a court proceeding before an individual can be adjudicated incompetent and the appointment of a guardian thus becoming a ward of the state. Family members are considered first and then others within the community but in instances where there is no other appropriate guardian, the Department of Social Services or some other disinterested agency is appointed. Guardianships should be limited to the needs of the wards with the ward maintaining as much decision making power, as he/she is able to comprehend.

The Adult Services Team of the Edgecombe County Department of Social Services provides Guardianship Services to wards of the state which are currently residing in some type of facility or structured environment that can provide around the clock care and supervision. There are three basic types of Guardianship: The Guardian of the Person is responsible for making decisions about personal issues, the Guardian of the Estate handles the financial issues, and the General Guardian assumes responsibility for both the personal and financial needs of the ward. The various powers and duties of a Guardian are outlined in the NC General Statutes 35-A. Wards are entitled to a court hearing to have their competency restored if desired.

The agency has pamphlets available that further describe Guardianship services or you can contact Carolyn Johnson with the Adult Services Team at 641-7607.

# National Heart Month



Did you know that February is American Heart Month, and not because of Valentine's Day? Every year since its congressional approval in 1963, the President has issued a proclamation to this effect, to help raise public awareness of heart disease. Even though most people associate heart disease with men, it's also the leading cause of death among women. One in five women has some form of cardiovascular disease. Thousands of Americans will help women fight heart disease when they participate in this year's **Go Red** for Women initiative sponsored by the American Heart Association. A Healthy Heart Luncheon was sponsored by Heritage Hospital on February 1, 2008, at St. James Methodist Church in Tarboro. The free lunch consisted of a Mediterranean healthy low fat menu. So, wear your heart on your sleeve by wearing something **RED** this month.

## Here are some things you can do to help your heart:

- Limit your intake of fat
- Choose heart-healthy fats over saturated fats and trans fats
- Limit your intake of sugars
- Limit your intake of sodium/salt
- Choose more whole grains, legumes, fresh produce and low fat dairy products
- Choose lean meat and poultry
- Include fish in your diet
- Exercise portion control
- Become physically active for 30 to 60 minutes a day
- Stop smoking
- Limit your intake of alcohol

You can also visit the American Heart Association's website at [www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org) for more information about women and heart disease.

## Take your off to....

**Janet Johnson** of the WFFA Unit in Tarboro. Janet is a Volunteer Firewoman. Janet joined the Speed Volunteer Fire Department about 6 month ago. Like so many other volunteer fire departments more members were needed. The NC State Fire Association requires Janet to have 36 hours of training per year. Janet has assisted with brush and wood fires. When responding to a call Janet is required to have on her turn out gear which consists of coat, pants, boots, gloves, and helmet. Once Janet gets all of this heavy equipment on she can barely move. The Speed Volunteer Fire Department was recently approved for a federal grant. The funds will be used to purchase a new fire truck, which cost the minimum of \$260,000. Janet states it takes a lot of funds to operate a volunteer fire department and each year they have a fund raiser. Any donations to the Speed Volunteer Fire Department would be greatly appreciated.

**Cheryl Bynum** of the Food and Nutrition Services Unit in Tarboro. Cheryl is a member of the North Carolina Social Services' Association and served as Membership Chair of the Edgecombe County Chapter. Unfortunately, Edgecombe County no longer qualifies as a chapter status due to not having enough people to serve in officers' positions. The chapter was dissolved in December 2007 with \$348 remaining in the account. Cheryl states this grant money will be donated to the Children's Resource Fund. The chapter's first project "An Italian Thanksgiving" benefited an elderly one-person household. Cheryl did an exemplary job while serving in her position and the accomplishments of the chapter members merit "pats on the back". Remember, you can join the NCSSA at any time. Membership fee is \$26. Current DSS members are Marva Scott, Clifton Hickman, Darlene Nobles, Avil Lyons, PJ Quinn, and Sandra Lancaster.

## **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

It is the month in which we showcase the progress, richness, and diversity of African Americans achievements.

The United States has recognized Black History annually since 1926, first as “Negro History Week” and later as “Black History Month”. What you might not know is that Black History had barely begun to be studied or even documented when the tradition originated. Although African Americans have been in America at least as far back as the colonial days, it was not until the 20<sup>th</sup> century that respectability in the history books began to be recognized.

We owe the celebration of Black History Month, and more importantly, the study of Black History, to Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Dr. Woodson was born to parents who were former slaves. Dr. Woodson spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at age twenty. He graduated within two years and later went on to earn a PH.D. from Harvard University. Dr. Woodson was disturbed to find in his studies that history books largely ignored the African American population and when African Americans did come into the picture, it was generally in ways that reflected an assigned inferior social position of the time.

Woodson was always one to act on his ambitions, so he decided to take on the challenge of writing African Americans into the nation’s history. He established the Association for the study of Negro Life and History in 1915 and a year later founded the widely respected Journal of Negro History. In 1926, he launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of Black People throughout American History.

Dr. Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly impacted the American Black Population, Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln. However, February has much more than Douglass and Lincoln to show for its significance in Black American History. For example:

- Feb. 23, 1868      W.E. DuBois, civil rights leader and co-founder of the NAACP, was born.
- Feb. 3, 1870      The 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment was passed granting Blacks the right to vote.
- Feb. 25, 1870      The first Black U.S. Senator Hiram R. Revels took his oath of office (1822-1901)
- Feb. 12, 1909      The National Association for the advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded by a group of concerned Black and White citizens in New York City.
- Feb. 1, 1960      In what would become a civil rights movement milestone; a group of Black Greensboro, North Carolina college students began a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth’s lunch counter.

Lets join together to understand our history and shape our future in a way that supports human dignity, justice, and fairness regardless of one’s race, ethnicity or cultural differences. I also look forward to the day when our African American History is recognized year round and not just in the shortest month of the year.

**Submitted by Cliff Hickman**

## Agency News



A BIG "thank you" to **Mrs. Scott** for the agency-wide meeting on February 20, 2008. The speaker, Ms. Carolyn McLaurin, was FANTASTIC. We now know we have the....

**P** - URPOSE  
**O** - PPORTUNITY  
**W** - ILLING  
**E** - NERGY  
**R** - ESOURCES

**Debra McNeil**, WFFA Supervisor (Work First Unit), will be honored with a retirement party on February 28, 2008. Debra is retiring with 30 years of dedicated service. She started her career as a Ceta Worker and held several positions. Debra will truly be missed. We wish her all the best. *By the way Debra, try not to think about us everyday!!*

**Denotra Jones-Mills**, CPS Unit, is 29 and holding. She started her birthday celebration on Saturday, February 2, by dining at Chili's in Rocky Mount with her husband and children. The following Monday, February 4, Denotra's husband carried her shopping in Raleigh and they had lunch at the Olive Garden. Denotra would like to thank her supervisor, Tilda Marshall, for giving her two days off (Friday and Monday) to relax. *What a way to remember the last of the twenties!!*

**Elizabeth Beasley's** daughter, Nakia Speller, a senior at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina will be inducted into the North Carolina Eta Chapter of Alpha Chi Honor Society on March 1, 2008. Elizabeth's husband, Clinton Beasley, completed his undergraduate program in December 2007, and will receive his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in May 2008, from Shaw University. *Congratulations Nakia and Clinton.....and you too Elizabeth!!*

**Kathy Lucas**, CPS Unit, was united in holy matrimony on February 16, 2008, to Mr. James Brown. Best wishes go out to the newlyweds.

**Kimberly Dozier's** son, Tyler Dozier, a fourth grader at Pattillo Elementary School, made the Principal's List for the past nine weeks grading period. Tyler was honored with a certificate at the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade honor roll reception. He was also chosen to participate in the AIG (Academically Intelligently Gifted) program. *Congratualtions Tyler!!! You know Mom and Dad can't stop smiling!!*

## Just for Laughs

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