



The Oklahoma Department of Human Services

DHS Gears for 65th Birthday Celebration

The 65th birthday of the Department of Human Services will be duly noted Aug. 6 with celebrations across the state and a statewide food drive to benefit those served by the department.

George Earl Johnson Jr., Director of Public Relations and chair of the 65th Birthday Planning Team, said each DHS office, institution and facility will host its own local event from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Aug. 6. Local events will recount the accomplishments of the department through local success stories and

local statistics.

DHS staff at local events will bring their own flavors to the rejuvenating and strengthening of community relationships through breaking of bread, Johnson said.

The events are a partnering opportunity, he said, and a great time for inviting those who are partners and those who should be.

We will also be inviting agencies who used to be part of DHS during its 65-year history to participate in the celebrations, Johnson said.

"And, of course," he said, "all retired DHS employees will be a welcomed part of all festivities."

The 65th Birthday Food Drive will take place from July 1 to July 31. The statewide collection goal is 65,000 pounds — about the equivalent load of two 45-foot trucks.

The focus of the food drive is replenishing food pantries with foods and items that cannot be purchased with food stamps.

All collections will remain in the areas where collected to serve those communities. DHS Director Howard H. Hendrick will announce the amount of

the collection drive on Aug. 6.

Other anniversary plans include:

¥ a live SATTRN broadcast



George E. Johnson

from the State Office with Director Hendrick and guests;

¥ a 10-minute video produced by SATTRN and bringing past, present and future together and to be aired in two parts on DHS Current Events July 5 and Aug. 2; and

¥ a photo exhibit in the State Capitol Rotunda during August using 65 photos to tell the DHS story.

Help us celebrate our 65th Birthday with your generous donations:

- Non-perishable Food Items
- Dry Goods
- Personal Care and Hygiene Products
- New Clothing
- Toys

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COUNTY DHS OFFICE.

Fifty-One Years and Counting....

*By Laura Bigger
Long Term Care Nurse
Area II, Carter County*

Oklahoma always honors its older citizens for their contributions toward making Oklahoma a great state. In Area II, we have a special Oklahoman that's hard to beat.

Comanche County Long Term Care Nurse Dea Younger, RN, marches to the drum of the Energizer bunny. For 51 years, she has been providing the best of her nursing skills and knowledge to the citizens of Oklahoma and around the globe. This DHS long term care nurse is renowned for her down-to-earth common sense and her gentle ways when dealing with our most fragile citizens in the Personal Care and ADvantage programs.

Younger performs her day-to-day activities managing one of the largest personal care caseloads in Area II - and maybe the state. She always seems to have time to go the extra mile to help out her co-workers, Area Nurses, clients and friends.

And yes, she has a life apart from her work. Younger has been a wife for 50 years to Jack Younger, a retired Army man, and a mother to Patrick, a pharmacist in Florida; to Michael, a retired Special Forces Warrant Officer; and to Michele, a very special mother to grandson Stuart.

This Hominy, Oklahoma,

native graduated from St. Joseph School of Nursing in Ponca City in 1950 and began her nursing career at Children's Hospital, Oklahoma City, where she was head nurse on the boy's ward ages two to eight. Over the next 15 years she followed her Army man and worked as a private duty nurse in Texas and as a volunteer school nurse in Germany.

Since 1966, Younger has lived in Lawton spending 16 years with Comanche County Memorial Hospital as a nursing supervisor, and 10 years as office manager and nurse in a doctor's office. The citi-

for eight years. She also serves on the Lawton Counsel for Aging. In recognition of her contributions, Younger was awarded for Outstanding Community Health Nursing in 1993.

Younger is Number One when it comes to training new nurses and working circles around most folks. She is generally the last step for new nurses as they complete their orientation, and she makes sure their skills are in line before unacceptable skills become habit. She provides many ideas, tips, viewpoints on case management and avenues to reason out problems and determine the best in gate-keeping for the Personal Care and ADvantage programs.

This seventy-something senior is a true advocate for older Oklahomans, pushing for better ways to serve their needs and helping people to take the best care of themselves.

She even continues to check on individuals who have retired from DHS, especially the nurses, seeing they are not forgotten. Younger often provides ways for them to stay in touch or attend annual conferences and sees that they receive the health care they need. Older Oklahomans have a true friend in Younger because she walks many a mile in their shoes. Oklahoma really benefits from seniors many times over, especially this one.



*Comanche County Long Term Care Nurse
Dea Younger*

zens of Comanche County have been blessed to have her with DHS for the past 15 years as an NTMC nurse and long term care nurse.

Her involvement in the community extends far beyond the DHS boundaries. Younger is active in the American Nurses Association having served District 11 as vice president for one year, president for two years and as a board member

Caught Working



Garfield County Director Don Henderson

Garfield County Director Don Henderson informed his staff in mid-June that he was going to be put in jail on Friday June 29 by the county chapter of the American Heart Association.

Henderson told the staff he did not want to spend the rest of his life and the weekend in jail, and he needed their help to raise bail money of \$100.

He agreed that, for a price, he would allow an individual or unit to choose and provide his attire for the day. The honor for each of two days would go to the highest bidder.

To humiliate your CD should be priceless, he said.

And so, Henderson went about his office duties one day as Mrs. Clown in a dress, apron and large, multi-colored wig. Another day, Roman columns flanked the entry to his office, and Henderson dressed as an emperor in toga, sandals and laurel wreath.

To be sure sufficient funds were raised, he also set aside another day in which, during the lunch hour, he would accept a pie-in-the face for five bucks a throw.

From the three events, the Garfield County staff, anxious to keep their CD out of jail, or maybe just enjoying the opportunities, provided more than \$300 for the Heart Association.

McCurtain County Morale Team



The McCurtain County staff has formed a morale committee to promote more interaction among workers in different divisions. The physical layout of the county office building kept folks from getting to know one another. The committee's first event was to give away two Father's Day baskets. Coming next is a contest for the best tasting dessert and for the prettiest dessert. County Director Sharon Helms says the morale committee has already proven successful in helping staffs get to know each other and have a little fun while doing it. Members of the committee are front row, from left, Tracy Mills (a basket winner), Donell Wright (big basket winner) and Paulette Bushers; middle row, Jamie Tadlock, Karen Hopson and Shanna Atteberry; back row, Donna Campbell, Chris Robberson and Pattie Lancaster. Members not pictured are Teresa Tapley, P.J. Maben and Sandra Vandever.



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Support Enforcement
Association**

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[www.okdhs.org/childsupport/
swrsea/swrindex.htm](http://www.okdhs.org/childsupport/swrsea/swrindex.htm)

Eight Complete MSW through Scholarship Program

Eight DHS employees received their Master of Social Work degrees in May through the DHS MSW Scholarship Program. Nineteen other employees are in the scholarship program and working toward their MSW from the University of Oklahoma School of Social Work.

Members of the 2001 DHS graduating class are:

Maryann Briscoe,
Oklahoma County 55-H
child welfare supervisor
David Hill,
Area V Swift Adopt worker;
Peggy Howell,
Area IV Swift Adopt worker
Bobbi Knack,
Muskogee County
child welfare worker

Sandra Oliver,
Oklahoma County 55-G
child welfare worker
Vicki Pierce,
Tulsa County
child welfare worker
Jeri Poplin,
Oklahoma County 55-F
county director
Cheryl Witty,
Oklahoma County 55-G
child welfare worker.

The scholarship program was initiated in 1994 to help DHS in achieving national accreditation, which requires that a high percentage of staff have an MSW degree. Accreditation is a state mandate, and scholarships are funded with state and federal monies.

Scholarships are limited to

employees who currently are working in, or are willing to transfer to, Child Welfare Services, and are committed to a career in child welfare.

The program offers full and partial scholarships.

Under a full scholarship, the employee transfers to a position in the Division of Children and Family Services in State Office and is considered on the job while attending school full time.

Under a partial scholarship, employees hold their current position and use a combination of educational and annual leave to attend class.

Classes are held at both the OU Norman campus and Tulsa campus.

For further information, contact Cyd Roberts, Child Welfare Services, (405) 521-2277, or by e-mail. Find policy regarding the scholarship program at 340:75-1-240.

Celebrating Flag Day



The Pittsburg County Office celebrated National Flag Day June 14 with a ceremony raising the first flag on the new flagpole. Taking part in the ceremony were Alice Foran, Area IV Director; Joe Bray, Pittsburg County Director; and George Earl Johnson Jr., Director of Public Relations. DHS Facilities Management installed the new flagpole for the event, and the Oklahoma Department of Corrections Honor Guard raised the colors. In an address to the crowd, Johnson asked them to remember what the flag stands for and take the time to teach those beliefs to their children.

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