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Golden Triangle Planning & Development District, Inc.

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From the Director.

And Today?

"Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts...." Hebrews 3:15

Are we living in God's presence today, this moment? Are we drawing from His strength? Are we seeking to know Him and the power of His resurrection today?

Leave the past and the future with the Lord and resolve to cling to Him and dwell in His presence today. He truly has the whole world in His hands, and His strength is perfect moment by moment.

As we looked toward the CHRISTmas Season and remember the "Reason" we are blessed with this time to join with family and friends to celebrate, I ask that you take time to remember others.

I look toward the year 2018 as a time to set goals and to lend a hand to those in our community who have needs and struggles. This hand may just be a phone call away by contacting the GTPDD and helping set-up assistance for someone who has needs that aren't being met.

The GTPDD family wishes you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. We look forward to hearing from you this next year and allowing us to assist those in need.

Meals: 662-324-1173

Case Management:
662-320-2003

Personal Care Assistance:
662-324-8052

Grants: 662-320-2007 &
662-320-2006

WIOA: 662-324-5007

GIS: 662-320-2008

Please call the above numbers to reach the department you want.



Merry Christmas

Christmas is a joyous time of the year for Case Managers! From the beginning of the Medicaid Waiver program, Golden Triangle Planning and Development District, Inc. has provided gifts for clients at Christmas.

Many clients do not have family or friends with whom to share Christmas. First, Case Managers select food items, warm clothes, blankets, and other household goods. Then, they box the items for delivery to clients.

Among the Case Managers, the consensus of opinion is that words cannot describe the feelings of joy they experience when giving the clients gifts. Christmas is about spreading joy, hope, and kindness. The Case Managers feel blessed to know that they have made a difference in the lives of these seniors.

The Medicaid Waiver Program continues to serve over 1,400 clients in the Golden Triangle area. Area services include: personal care services, in-home respite services, and home-delivered meals. Case Managers make monthly visits to clients' homes to determine if the clients are receiving all the services for which they are eligible. If you know of anyone who may need this service, please call 662-320-2003.



& Happy New Year!



YOUTH TRIBUTES

Forty (40) youth participated in the Counseling to Career program from July 1 – December 31, 2017. Pictured below are a few youth who took advantage of this training opportunity, along with their statements of their future plans.

**Tristan Morgan Greene, Webster**

Internship: City of Starkville, Water Dept.

Currently: Employed by City of Starkville

Future Plans: "I enjoy my job with the City of Starkville, but I would consider a job change if an opportunity for greater success came available, especially one that gives the opportunity to use my diesel mechanic skills that I learned at Lincoln Tech in Nashville."

**Tyler Grayer, Oktibbeha**

Internship: Clark Beverage Group

Currently: Employed by Clark Beverage

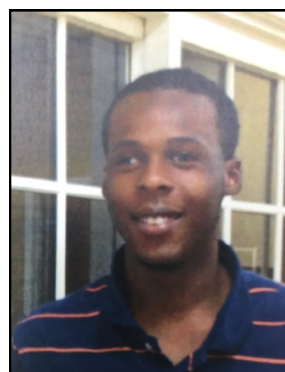
Future Plans: "Working at Clark Beverage is an enjoyable experience. I have gone through industrial training classes and have taken the WorkKeys test to help better my chance for promotions and increase my overall employability."

**Kaliya Graham, Oktibbeha**

Internship: Smiles Learning Center

Currently: Completing internship

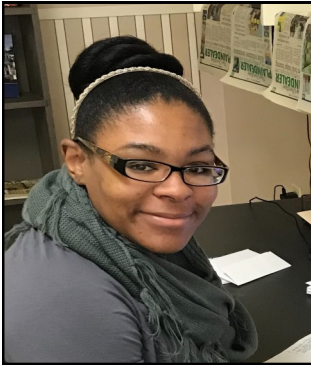
Future Plans: "I am scheduled to continue working at Smiles while continuing my education. My long term goal is to continue to be involved in the lives of children whether in daycare or early childhood education."

**Fre'Drico Love, Choctaw**

Internship: City of Weir, Street Dept.

Currently: Employed by Choctaw County School District

Future Plans: "Coming into the program my long term goal was to pursue a custodial position in the local community. Now that I have achieved that goal, through teamwork and use of work ethics skills, I plan to be a success at my new job."

**Isabella Tucker, Choctaw****Internship:** Choctaw Plaindealer**Currently:** Employed by Choctaw Plaindealer**Future Plans:** "My long term goal is to obtain a medical office position. Through continued education, advanced training, and the skills I am learning at my current job I hope to someday achieve my goal."**Camerin Love, Winston****Internship:** Louisville Medical Center**Currently:** Job Seeking**Future Plans:** "I plan to continue to pursue my goal to be a teacher assistant where I can help children with educational as well as social development."**Phillip Johnson, Webster****Internship:** City of Starkville, Sanitation**Currently:** Job Seeking**Future Plans:** "My plan for success is to never give up; always keep my faith strong, even when things get hard; stay humble and patient; and to remember that a seed has to break and crack before it grows. Always do the best you can at everything!"**Jeremy Young, Oktibbeha****Internship:** Clark Beverage Group**Currently:** Completing Internship**Future Plans:** "I plan to perform my internship job duties in such a way that I will be offered a full time job upon completion of my WIOA hours. In the future I would like to get my barber license and open my own shop."**Tamara Walker, Winston****Internship:** Dirt Cheap**Currently:** Employed by Dirt Cheap**Future Plans:** "The C2C program helped me get my current job which is helping me at this time. In the future I plan to continue my education and become a labor and delivery nurse."**If you know youth:**

- ♦ 16-24 years of age
- ♦ Not currently enrolled in school
- ♦ Motivated and looking for a job

Tell them about the WIOA C2C Program at the GTPDD!**Choctaw & Winston:** Teresa Shumaker 662-324-7860, ext. 1125**Oktibbeha & Webster:** Myra Halford 662-324-7860, ext 1115

Reed helps decorate the White House for Christmas



"I'm taking a little bit of Clay County and Mississippi with me."

Scott Reed



There may be no place like home for the holidays, but West Point's Scott Reed is happy to be spending part of them at the White House.

Reed is the owner of Petal Pushers, located in West Point's historic Commerce Street. About 10 years ago, he began the process of applying to help decorate the White House for Christmas.

Today, and two presidents later, Reed put a big drop in his bucket list. "At first, I was really excited. Then, a period of nerves followed. But it's quite an honor and a good experience," Reed said.

The veteran florist and designer received an official notice from White House Volunteer Services in October, and he flew to D.C. the week of Thanksgiving.

"This is a bucket list item for a lot of reasons," Reed said. "This will be chronicled for years to come. It's a part of history."

Reed's artistic flair with florals began at an early age.

He started his career as a delivery boy for a local florist. And while studying ornamental horticulture at Mississippi State University, he did free-

lance design work. "I enjoy all aspects of the industry. When I was little, I spent time at my grandparents' home in Columbus. In the spring, I always helped with the planting. I grew up with a love for plants, in general. I've always enjoyed creating things," he explained.

Reed specializes in decorative item: floral design for events, interiors and gift for home and garden.

As a child, he wanted to be an artist. "I was in this field for several years before I realized that's what I'd grown up to be—an artist," Reed said. The canvas may be different from that of some artists, but the result is the same. Colors, shapes, textures and different patterns of flowers flow together like paint on a canvas. "It's a creative process."

Petal Pushers opened its doors in 2002. The business draws customers from Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee. Petal Pushers was voted best florist in Mississippi by a readership poll in Mississippi Magazine.

Ultimately, Reed admits, he is a people pleaser. "It's a lot of fun to help someone make an idea into a reality,

whether it be a wedding or whatever," he said.

The local designer will work with other volunteers from around the country in the White House Christmas decoration process. He will work with materials provided on site. And, the first-time visitor to D.C. insists he will enjoy the scenery. "I'm going to keep my eyes peeled for selfie opportunities," Reed said.

Humbled and flattered are the best ways to describe his feelings about his unique opportunity, he said. Representing the people of Mississippi and the Golden Triangle area is foremost in his mind. "I'm taking a little bit of Clay County and Mississippi with me."

Excerpted from Today in Mississippi, November/December 2017 issue.

Petal Pushers is a business the Golden Triangle Loan Program assisted with financing, great job Scott!

Completed Macon Project

The City of Macon has completed a project to construct 5,200 feet of 8-inch PVC water main along U.S. Highway 45 to provide water for Superior Catfish Products. The Company production is about 1,800,000 pounds per month and with adequate water, an additional 15% could be produced which would add approximately 20

new jobs. The proposed project would allow the Company to expand production which will provide more jobs in the area. The expansion would allow the Superior Catfish Products to expand from 170 jobs to approximately 190 total jobs. This project relates directly to MDA's

Priority #1 by providing improvements that would allow for new private investment and new and improved jobs. The project was made possible by funding from the State of Mississippi's State Municipality/Limited Population County Grant Program.



The City of Eupora is completing

a sewage treatment project to pull eroded material from the lagoon dikes back into place and provide stabilization at the primary sewage treatment cell (lagoon). The stabilization consists of a layer of filter fabric and a 12 inch layer of rip-rap. The project was funded through the Mississippi Community Development Block Grant Program as administered by the Mississippi Development Authority.



FY2018 CDBG Applications Due May 2018

Local units of government should plan immediately for the upcoming FY18 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application process. CDBG Public Facilities applications will be accepted by the Mississippi Development Authority in May 2018.

The FY2018 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Final Statement outlining the application process has not been released by the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), but as always, the minimum threshold requirements are that at least 51% of the project beneficiaries be of low and moderate income, applicants must have no open Public Facility (Regular or Small Government) grants, and have no unresolved audit or monitoring findings.

It is important for governmental entities to remember that the Community Services Division of MDA must receive an audit-reporting package within nine (9) months following the end of the fiscal year. The Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133 require a single audit for state and local governments, which expend \$750,000 or more in federal awards for that year. Entities, which expend less than \$750,000 a year in federal awards, are exempt from federal audit requirements for that year, but an acceptable Funding Certification Form must be submitted to MDA. Failure to provide this information to the Mississippi Development Authority in a timely manner will **disqualify** an applicant from submitting a CDBG application during the fiscal year. Any governmental entity needing assistance with this matter should contact the PDD.

GTPDD/AAA delivers meals to over 1700 clients per day in the seven-county service area. A total of 29 employees, operating from 11 nutrition sites, deliver over 33,000 meals monthly to homebound, disabled and frail elderly.

The annual Christmas meeting, for training and fellowship, was held on December 15. Food, Fun, fellowship and door prizes were the order of the day!



SENIORS AND HEALTHCARE COVERAGE

OPEN ENROLLMENT—MEDICARE PART D

To assure that they will have adequate insurance coverage for their health needs, most seniors, in addition to Medicare Part A which is no cost, elect this basic combination:

1. Medicare Part B, paid for by the individual,
2. A supplementary policy to Medicare Part B, which covers co-pays, purchased by the individual (commonly called “Medigap”), and
3. A drug plan (Medicare Part D), which is also purchased by the individual.

There are a multitude of additional options discussed in the Medicare Handbook, and they are also listed online.

GTPDD provides counseling staff to assist senior clients in making informed choices about supplements (Item 2) that they must purchase from a licensed agent, or company. (**NOTE: GTPDD is not affiliated with the insurance industry in any way.**) Staff educate clients about how supplements work and the limitations of coverage.

Counselors also provide valuable information to the senior in choosing medication insurance coverage. Drug plans (Item 3), like other insurance plans, are not all the same: some do not cover certain medications; copays vary from plan to plan; pharmacies do not honor some plans, etc.

In counseling, staff discuss with clients: the clients’ current prescription drugs, their preferred pharmacy, and other insurance issues pertinent to clients’ specific needs. Staff then research the pluses and minuses of drug insurance plans available in order for clients to make suitable choices. If requested by the client, the Counselor can enroll the client online. Counseling may be conducted in person or via telephone.

GTPDD staff served 400+ area seniors in selecting the most appropriate insurance to meet their needs for 2018. Open enrollment occurred from October 15 through December 7.

Low-income seniors can also receive assistance in:

- Completing applications for drug discount programs
- Enrolling in the Extra Help Program, which helps with Part D premium and the costs of prescriptions
- Enrolling in the Medicare Savings Programs to help with Part B premiums, copays and cost.

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS (MED. PART C) & DIS-ENROLLMENT

Some individuals “opt out” of traditional Medicare (Part A, B, and D), and choose to purchase private insurance coverage that may include additional benefits, such as dental, vision, and wellness coverage. These private plans are called **Medicare Advantage Plans (or Med. Part C)**.

If a person decides to return to traditional Medicare (Parts A, B, D), the dis-enrollment from Medicare Advantage, and enrollment in traditional must occur during the period Jan 1 to Feb 14.

For further information, call Sharon Duke, 662-324-7860.

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Golden Triangle
Planning & Development District
P. O. Box 828
106 Miley Drive
Starkville, MS 39760
Phone: 662-324-7860
Fax: 662-324-7328
E-mail: gtpdd.com

We're on the
Web:
www.gtpdd.com

OCTOBER

Dave Alexander	09 years
Melody Bensend	19 years
Nora Carroll	19 years
Stacey Elkins	06 years
Martie Gibson	18 years
Willer Glenn	12 years
Minnie Hodge	07 years
Aldean Ivy	19 years
Charlene Jones	12 years
Hardie Jordan	19 years
Lucille Mosley	05 years
Jennifer Paten	05 years
Joanne Peterson	24 years
Diana Prince	06 years
Annie Sanders	19 years
Lauren Smith	17 years

NOVEMBER

Beverly Baker	14 years
Mary Byron	16 years
Glenda Fason	10 years
Shirley Forrester	08 years
Jessica Foxx	17 years
Beatrice Logan	16 years
Lindsay Marsh	05 years
Michelle Milner	13 years
Elberta Phillips	25 years

DECEMBER

Jackie Byas	10 years
Hazel Cunningham	09 years
Isadora Davis	06 years
Rachel Embry	09 years
Fannie Mays	06 years
Maria McNutt	14 years

Staff Anniversaries

Staff members that have served at least
5 years at the GTPDD.

