

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Working Together To Make A Difference

Oct./Nov. 2016
Volume 1, Issue 1

Afternoon of Love at the Department of Human Services

DHS Commissioner Designee Dr. Anita Roberts, along with more than 20 division managers of the Department of Human Services, filled the DHS conference room on Friday, October 7, 2016, for an "Afternoon of Love" and imparted words of wisdom to the 17-year-old teenager who was assaulted by a peer on September 15, 2016, on St. Thomas. His jaw was damaged by the repetitive blows, causing him to get four plate implants that are now a permanent fixture on his head.

According to his mother, the young man has always been a fighter and survivor of adversity.

"He was born 1 pound 6 ounces and had to stay in the hospital for 9 ½ months before I could take him home," his mother said. "He has always been a fighter from birth because he had a lot of issues."

Roberts introduced the teenager to everyone in the room as her new best friend, as they exchanged hugs.

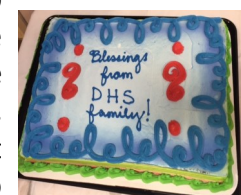
"We do NOT tolerate bullying. And it is NOT happening on our watch," Roberts emphatically expressed.

Roberts planned the event to let the boy and his mother

know that the Department of Human Services would help him in any way.

"We are family and family sticks together," Roberts said.

Despite all of the hardship he has experienced, the teenager continues to be very active in school as a Jr. ROTC sergeant, a rank he just attained. He has plans to join the military and to become a mechanic. His soft spoken demeanor won the hearts of everyone in the room.



Department of Human Services Hosts Job Fairs

The Department of Human Services hosted Job Fairs on St. Thomas and St. Croix for interested and qualified individuals on October 5 and 6, respectively.

Commissioner Designee, Dr. Anita Roberts said, "We are extremely concerned about the care of our seniors territory-wide. Their health and safety remains a priority and we intend to address this urgent matter holistically."

"In contemplating the department's options, we must simultaneously address the immediacy of the need to adequately staff those facilities that are owned and managed by the Department of Human Services," Roberts said.

The Division of Personnel facilitated the hiring process at the fairs. There



Division of Personnel Territorial Administrator Recruiter and Classification, Millicent Aubain speaks to prospects to guide them with the job application form.

are several positions needing to be filled: Certified Nursing Assistants, Licensed Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses, Institutional Food Service Workers, Institutional Attendants, institutional Cooks and Social workers, I, II, III.

"We hosted the Job Fairs to enhance our staffing at the Queen Louise Home for the Aged (St. Thomas) and Herbert Grigg Home (St. Croix)," said Roberts.

"This was an opportunity for Virgin Islanders who are interested and qualified for the positions to present their credentials," Roberts said.

(For more info contact the VI Division of Personnel at 340-774-8588)

Dr. Anita Roberts Says Congratulations on a Job Well Done



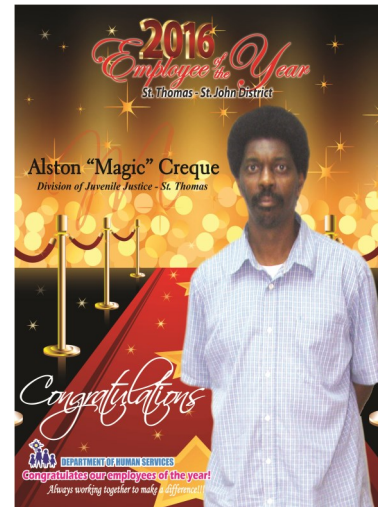
Mauretta Hazel of St. Croix is the recipient of the Employee of the Year 2016. She has worked for DHS for more almost 20 years!

Commissioner Designee Dr. Anita Roberts congratulated the 2016 Employee of the Year recipients Mauretta Hazel (Juvenile Justice—YRC) of the St. Croix district and Alston “Magic” Creque (Division of Juvenile Justice) of the St. Thomas/St. John district.

“I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the two Employee of the Year recipients,” Roberts said.

“It is very important to recognize employees who work very hard to make a difference in our units,” said Roberts, “I am very pleased that our employees strive to make a difference and ensure the success of our department. I encourage everyone to continue to work hard because your work is noted and appreciated,” Roberts concluded.

According to Roberts they truly exemplify DHS’ motto “To provide responsive and effective services, designed to motivate individuals and families to achieve their highest levels of self-sufficiency.”



Alston “Magic” Creque of St. Thomas is the recipient of the Employee of the Year 2016. He has been with DHS since 1985!

WE EXTEND A HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR OCTOBER CELEBRANTS!

Alexander, Jacqueline
Bailey, Natalie
Benjamin, Sylvia
Bess, Chyrise
Bethelmie, Gertrude
Brow, Mabeline
Brunn, Florecita
Burton, Joan
Chapman, Maria
Charlemagne, Goldine
Charlery, Margarita
Christian, Esteban
Christian, Esteban
Coggins, Karen
Creque, Alston
Daniel, Carolie
Daniel, Christine
David, Deborah
Dover, Harley Misty
Edwards, Helena
Edwards, Monee
Galloway, Miranda
Garfield-Willock, Vinette

Griffith, Christobel
Gumbs, Cicely
Halliday, Jasmine
Herman, Maura
Heyliger, Teresia
Hobson, Xavia
Howell, Duane
Jackson, Audrey
Jacobs, Rose
Jones, Marcia
Kriger, Judith
Latorre, Lisandra
Lewis, Shanequa
Lloyd, Doris
Martin- Simon Adinah
Maxwell, Dora
Maxwell, Stephanie
Mills, Nadya
Mollah, Eyshtar
Mottley, Mellane
Navarro, Luz
Ottley, Sarah
Parris, Mary

Pennyfeather, Ernie
Petersen, Arthur
Quinland-Pemberton, Latoya
Reynolds, Abraham
Robles, Jose
Rodriguez, Elizabeth
Rodriguez, Melania
Rollins-Williams, Cindy
Sackey, Tyrone
Samuel-Richardson, Roseann
Smith, Ulalie
Somme, Troy
Stewart, Clarita
Turnbull, Kevin
Tutein Velez, Alysha
Ventura, Shentel
Victor, Celia
Williams, Deshawn
Williams, Marguerite
Woodley, Victoria



DHS OBSERVES NOVEMBER'S AWARENESS



1.4 million Americans are diagnosed with diabetes every year.

It remains the 7th leading cause of death in the United States in 2010.

In 2012, 29.1 million Americans, or 9.3% of the population, had diabetes.



An estimated five million Americans now have AD. Nearly twice as many women have AD as men, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The Alzheimer's Association states that AD is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States.

The more education you have, the lower your risk of getting AD.



Lung cancer is higher for men (51.7 per 100,000 persons) than for women (34.7 per 100,000 persons)

Lung cancer is the most common cancer worldwide, accounting for 1.8 million new cases and 1.6 million deaths in 2012.

WE EXTEND A HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR NOVEMBER CELEBRANTS!

Aloyo, Carmen
Barnard, Keesha
Barzey, Shamoya
Bellille, Schattell
Boatswain, Esther
Bowry, Sherre
Bradley-Browne, Sandra
Bradshaw, Janice
Brathwaite, Elbe
Browne, Nicole
Cancel, Helen
Chandler, Thecla
Charles, Brenda
Charles, Debbie
Charles, Winsbert
Charleswell, Avery
Clarke, Alton
Clause, Sherri-Lynn
Connor, Dionne
Delerme, Jenny
Didier, Nathalia
Dowling, Laverne
Duparl, Francisca
Fawkes, Kalia

Ferris, Clint
Fleming, Ordette
Francis, Perilla
Garcia, Felicita
George, Alicia
Gonzalez, Jose
Green, Julia
Gumbs, Ignace
Hansen, Julein
Hendrickson, Leonora
Henley, Sharla
Inniss, Vesley
Jaeger, Elizabeth
James-Goga, Denise
Jarvis, Carla
John, Diane
John-Lewis, Vicky
Jones, Prisca
Kloss, James
Krind, Laura
Lanclos, Natasha
Louis-Vidal, Andrewer
Miller, Judith
Miller, Shermaine

Milligan, Ayana
Neptune, Miguelina
O'shaughnessy, Virginia
Powell, Roger
Ralph, Francine
Roberts, Laverne
Rogers, Jamal
Rogers-William, Avonelle
Simmonds, Gustave
Smith, Kema
Smith, Marita
Spencer, Marleyne
Springer, Michelle
Stanislas, Juliana
Stevens, Sharon
Stewart, Citierra
Stout, Ronald
Teague, Trevor
Thompson, Shantel
Todman, Deloise
Todman, Vincent
Turnbull, Genair
Turnbull, Shenequa
Tyrell, Theresa

Victor, Celia
Wyre, Krystal



DHS Grants/Project Reconciliation Meeting

Ten members of varying DHS divisions, the Chief of Staff and Commissioner Designee Dr. Anita Roberts met on October 12 to speak about challenges, needs and vacancies in each of their respective areas.

"This was a collaborative effort to enhance grants operations," according to Alvin E. Williams, the facilitator of the meeting.

"When staff are able to express



In attendance were: Kathleen Gussie, Pam Richards, Sylvia Parris, Carla Parkins, Natalie Bailey, Edna Duzant, Patricia Welcome, Natalie Lewis, Alvin Williams, Analyn Creque, Diane Capehart and Michael A. Richards.

their feelings freely without fear, then we can fix what is needed to be fixed," Roberts said. "I want the best for this department because a lot of people depend on us."

The Grants/Project Reconciliation Assistance Meeting will be conferring again on October 25 at 10:00 a.m. in St. Croix.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Shines Bright



The Division of Family Assistance is on a roll with notable improvements to its Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps. As it pertains to federal guidelines, the

SNAP was actually reporting poorly in its performance and this dynamic was rooted in its negative error rates. This situation festered and ultimately impacted SNAP's performances and overall ranking regionally and nationally.

In prior years, the SNAP was stagnated, and the indicators suggested a strategy was necessary to restore the program's viability. The managers and staff collaborated on a corrective action plan that analyzed the prevalence of errors throughout the application process. The Front End captured the errors early and during the managerial evaluation. The Quality Control Unit pursued the negative error rates by closely examining cases that were denied or closed.

Natalie Bailey, Acting Administrator, and the committed teamwork of our Family Assistance staff have boosted the program's numbers. From a previous ranking of 41, the SNAP program has vaulted to 19 out of 53 states and territories. Additionally, the territory made significant improvements in its overall standing for Error Rates and is now ranked #3 nationally. **Go Team SNAP!!**



THE EMPLOYEE RELATIONS COMMITTEE (ERC)

The early, early bird ticket sale for the December 22, 2016, holiday party will begin on November 7 to 15.

Employee ticket \$20
Guest tickets \$40

Please go to the Human Resources Department for more information.



*October is
Breast Cancer
Awareness
Month*

Dr. Anita Roberts Calls for Mandatory Team Meeting

On October 31, 2016, a Team Meeting was held by Commissioner Designee Dr. Anita Roberts during which Roberts asked for reports from each division of the Department of Human Services. In attendance were DHS representative from all islands.

Roberts said, "Because the programs are not being managed as they should be, monies are being returned to the Feds and future funding jeopardized."

According to Roberts, DHS is making aggressive changes and negative findings will no longer be acceptable. Roberts stated, "I am not going to lose Federal funding because we are not doing our jobs."

Needs for staffing in all divisions were voiced to the Commissioner.

"We need to reassess our staff salaries," Roberts stated, "We must be



DHS Monday Team Meeting facilitated by Commissioner Designee Dr. Anita Roberts

competitive and make DHS more attractive to prospective employees. And to do this we must look at what we are offering to prospective employees."

Roberts will meet with Human Resources Director, Kendra Roach, and other senior management staff to discuss a strategy for competitive salaries and positions.

"It is very important that we come together each week to let each other know what projects we are working on, the difficulties we are confronting and what we need to do to ensure the success of all our programs," Roberts concluded.

Head-start Pupils Welcomed Halloween with a Performance



DHS Head Start Teachers brought about 30 children from their classrooms up to the Commissioner's Office for Halloween. They ended up giving the staff in the Commissioner's suite a treat.

Children from the ages of three to about six years old performed a dance that even the ghouls and goblins would have found amazing!

A few of the children were dressed up in costumes and most were in their school uniforms; nevertheless, the presentation was energetic and full of happy children.

After their presentation, each child was given a bag full of sweet treats to take with them.



Representing Our Community,
One Client At A Time!



Department of Human Services
St. Thomas/St. John and
St. Croix

The Department of Human Services and Legal Services are working together to assist and serve our community.

"I am pleased to know that if our clients are in need of legal representation we are able to refer them to Legal Services," Commissioner Designee Dr. Anita Roberts said. "Not everyone can afford an attorney at \$300 to \$400 an hour. Having this organization helps our clients with legal issues is wonderful."

Legal Services
St. Thomas/St. John Office
1832 Kongens Gade
340-774-6720

Legal Services
St. Croix Office
3017 Orange Grove, Christiansted

PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES CONFERENCE

In collaboration with the State Office of Special Education in the Department of Education, The Department of Human Services recently hosted a three-day training conference at the Marriott Frenchman's Reef Resort on September 28-30.

The conference was for counselors, social workers and special education teachers, administrators and students. There were approximately 273 attendees at the three-day conference.

"I am very pleased with the turnout of this year's event. It was

very important to us and to the people of the territory to have adequate training for professionals who assist those with disabilities," Commissioner Designee, Dr. Anita Roberts said.

The purpose of the conference was to provide pre-employment transition, professional development to staff and services for students with disabilities who are eligible or potentially eligible for services under Section 113 of the Rehabilitation Act. Participants received Continuing Education Unit credits (CEU), toolkits and other pertinent materials.

"The event was well attended and

participants expressed satisfaction that the information presented was timely and a necessary tool in their professional toolkit," said Felicia Bylden, Administrator for the Department of Human Services, Division of Disabilities & Rehabilitation Services."



Youth Rehabilitation Center

"Ensuring a second Chance through Discipline and Opportunity"

Recently, the DHS' Youth Rehabilitation Center (YRC) hailed the success of six residents who completed high school. The six males participated in a structured educational setting and applied themselves towards achieving a high school diploma or GED certification.

The management and staff at the YRC are very serious about its' mandate of rehabilitation and continues to pursue avenues and opportunities to achieve this goal while recognizing the many challenges these youngsters face. Staff are committed to modifying the behaviors of these youths and to mold them to realize positive outlooks in their lives.

Juvenile delinquency in the territory is high; and, strategies to prevent and intervene are systematically examined and updated. The YRC has an educational component which is required by law. The teachers at YRC are highly quali-



fied in varied disciplines to include Special Education. There is also a social worker and residential counselor assigned to the center.

Of the six males who completed high school, half were residents of St. Thomas. Two attended St Croix Central High School, three were Adult Education graduates, and one received his G.E.D. Some of the students were also recipients of academic awards.

"It takes a very special individual to look beyond their faults and mistakes and to address their needs to

help them turn their lives around," stated Linnea Hector, Acting Director for Treatment and Programs. The young men are pursuing opportunities in academics, vocational, and military careers.

Department of Human Services

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St. Thomas, VI 00802

3011 Golden Rock
Christiansted, VI 00820

St. John Multipurpose Building
DHS Head Quarters in St. John
Cruz Bay, VI 00830

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WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES to the DHS FAMILY

ALLICK, RENISHA
AUGUSTE, LORRAINE
BA-AT, ROBERT P.
BARRETTO, AJA
CALLWOOD, KYZA
CARR-JACOBS, DIANNE ROVINA
CARTER, CAMPBELL
CHARLES, BRENDA
CHRISTOPHER, BEVERLY
CHUNG, TAMIKA
CLENDINEN, DELANI
COLE, NATOYA
DANIEL, JOSELITA
DANIEL, JUDY
DAVID, DEBORAH M
EDDY, EDWARD O
FALU, VERA M
FLEMING, SIEDAH
GARCIA, MARIE
HALLIDAY, JASMINE
HENDRICKS, UKLYN A
HERMAN, MAURA
HEYWOOD, KAREN
HODGE, CYNTHIA
JEFFERS, STEPHNIE
JONES, KAREN
LUBRIN, LEONA MAHADIA
MCGOWAN, MICHELLE
MONTES, KYSHAMA
NESTOR, THEODORA
OLIVIERI, G'LIQUE
POWELL, SHANA
RICHARDS, PAMELA
ROACH, KENDRA
ROBERTS, ANITA
ROBERTS, TAKESHA
SMITH, ALDA
STEWART, CITIERRA R
VAN BEVERHOUDT, SHELLEY ANN
VICTORIA, LEENISHA
WALTERS, SHAMEKA
WEBSTER, DENELLE
WILLIAMS, SHEENA

BUS AIDE/PSS/STX
PRESCHOOL TEACHER ASSISTANT/PSS/STX
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
REHIRE EMPLOYEE PREP COORD. STX
EMP. MOVING FROM OMB TO DHS/SPECIAL ASST TO THE COMM/STT
PRESCHOOL TEACHER ASST/PSS/STX
FAMILY SVCS. COORDINATOR/PSS/STX
PRESCHOOL TEACHER/PSS/STX
PRESCHOOL TEACHER ASST/PSS/STX
EMP. PROMOTED EFF 9/19/19/ELIG SPEC II/STT
EMP. PROMOTED FROM ELIG SPEC. I TO ELIG SPEC II/STT
ELIG INFORMATION CLERK I/STT
ACCOUNTANT/PSS/STT
PRESCHOOL TEACHER, PSS, STX
SCA SENIOR AIDE CHAUFFEUR STT
SCA SENIOR AIDE CHAUFFEUR STT
TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATOR SCA - HOMES
ELIG INFORMATION CLERK I/STT
SOCIAL SERVICE AIDE/PSS/STX
FROM CLERK III TO ELIG INFO CLERK I/STT
STX NEW HIRE ADMINISTRATOR, CFS
PRESCHOOL TEACHER ASST/PSS/STX
SOCIAL SERVICE AIDE/PSS/STX
STX NEW HIRE VOLUNTEER SOCIAL SERVICE AIDE I
PRESCHOOL TEACHER ASST./PSS/STX
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER- OFFICE OF FISCAL AFFAIRS/STX
CNA STX
STT. NEW HIRE/SOCIAL WORKER III
QUALITY CONTROL & DATA ENTRY SPECIALIST/PSS/STX
PRESCHOOL TEACHER ASST/PSS/STX
NEW HIRE EMP. ELIG INFO CLERK I STJ
PRESCHOOL TEACHER ASSISTANT/PSS/STX
REHIRE EMPLOYEE EFF 9/01/16/CHIEF OF STAFF/STJ
EMP. MOVING FROM DOL TO DHS EFF 9/12/2016/DEP COMM HR/STT
EMP MOVING FROM OMB TO DHS EFF 8/29/2016/COMMISSIONER/STT
STT. PROMOTION TO SOCIAL WORKER I
CNA STX
ELIG SPEC I/STX (JOBS TRAINEE)
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE HR DIRECTOR/STT
ELIG INFORMATION CLERK I/STT
FOOD SERVICE WORKER-PSS-STX
PRESCHOOL TEACHER ASST./STX/PSS
STX. NEW HIRE/CUSTODIAL WORKER II

**Dr. Anita Roberts Speaks:
I appreciate everyone's dedication to make DHS excellent!**



The only way to do great work is to love what you do according to Steve Job of Apple. I have been here less than three months and I have observed many of you on several occasions now, and find your enthusiasm and love for helping those less fortunate very contagious.

This quotation is a befitting description of the employees of DHS. You know how to inspire others to do their best. I can only imagine the time and patience each of you gives to each client, let alone doing it repeatedly on a daily basis!

I want to express my sincere thanks and gratitude. Without your leadership, dedication, and long hours of hard work, we would not have been able to maintain such a fine department. We have already begun to receive positive feedback from clients who have received our services, and expect that more will appreciate the care and concern you all have displayed.

Your abilities to make a client feel at ease with use of the programs availed to them are remarkable.

I am very grateful for the great contributions you have shared to make DHS a success. Your willingness to volunteer your time and your professional expertise above and beyond what is required are what keeps this organization moving forward. I know I can always count on all of you to make DHS even better as years go by.

What you are doing is a great service to all of us and to our community. I look forward to many productive years and many new projects that we will work on together. Thank you!

ADOPT - A - FAMILY CAMPAIGN 2016

The Department of Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services, is seeking sponsors for the annual Adopt-A-Family Holidays program. During the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, individuals, family members, friends, groups, schools and organizations are asked to donate \$80.00 to purchase a holiday meal or a gift certificate for families in the territory.

Commissioner Designee, Dr. Anita Roberts said, "This is the community's opportunity to experience the joy of giving to those who are less fortunate by paying it forward and helping put a smile on the faces of the children who otherwise may not have a positive experience during the holidays. The families are very appreciative of the kindness that is shown to them."

For more information about becoming a sponsor on St. Thomas/St. John and St. Croix for the Adopt-A-Family program, please call (340)774-0930 and ask to speak with either Ms. Michelle Benjamin at ext. 4340 or Ms. Heather Lambertis at ext. 4245.

***This year's goal is to serve at least
400 families on all three islands.***

***Thanksgiving Deadline
November 17, 2016***

***Christmas Deadline
December 16, 2016***



**OCTOBER
HOLIDAYS!**

**Oct. 01 - Liberty Day
Muharram**

**Oct. 03 - Rosh Hashanah
Child Health Day**

Oct. 10 - Columbus Day

Oct. 12 - Yom Kippur

Oct. 17 - Boss' Day

Oct. 31 - Halloween

