



Since 1945

Duvall Homes 2019 Fall Newsletter

## A MESSAGE FROM DUVALL HOMES' CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Friends of Duvall Homes,

Once again, we are nearing the holiday season and a time to pause and consider the year behind us. Like most others, 2019 has been a year of change and growth for Duvall Homes.

The Opportunities Enrichment Center has seen its Phase I facelift completed and now boasts a brand new Tech Lab and Art Studio. A professional artist-instructor is onboard and leading the way in new and creative projects for ADT participants. Phases II and III will begin soon and include upgrades to the Life Skills classroom and Rec Hall.

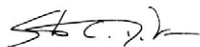
Renovations were completed to a newly acquired group home in Deltona, with another newly constructed group home in West Volusia nearing its grand opening soon, thanks to the grant funding received from Florida Housing Finance Corporation and work of Tanya Ebersole, licensed contractor and owner of Camelot Construction Inc.

It was a big year for vehicles. A Federal grant for \$246,239 just awarded from FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation) will allow us to purchase three new cutaway buses with wheelchair lifts. In addition to these, DaVita Labs, our friend and community-partner, has donated two utility vans to bolster our maintenance and facilities fleet.

Our Fifth Annual Inspiration Gala, held in September, saw record numbers in sponsors, silent auction donors and guests. Once again, the community support was inspiring to say the least. With donations still coming in, we're looking to surpass our 2019 goal of \$100,000 raised. Congratulations to all involved - the volunteers and Sanborn Center, our Master of Ceremonies - John Mondelli, Hits of the Britz, Puff 'N Stuff and so many more.

As we look ahead to the New Year, we will be focusing on ways to attract and serve new clientele. The importance of adding young adults to our family of residents can benefit everyone, as the story on page 3 points out. Through all of our capital and program changes we are reminded of the constant that remains in place - your support. For all who have offered us a helping hand, we are forever grateful that you are by our side. ♦

Have a wonderful holiday season,



Steven C. DeVane  
Chief Executive Officer



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P.O. Box 220036  
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DuvallHomes.org



Cover: Emily holds a collaborative work of art, which appears inside Duvall's newly released coloring book. (Story page 4, 5)

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# Caring For The Next Generation At Duvall Homes

If a generation of people changes every 25 to 30 years - the average time considered when people grow up and have kids of their own - then Duvall Homes has proudly served three generations of families with special needs and is headed into its fourth in 2020.

In 1945, Alanson and Thelma Duvall opened up their family home to other families with developmentally disabled children so that their nine-year old Down syndrome son, Alanson "Choppy", Jr., could socialize with similar kids. They did not want him to be institutionalized, so they worked hard, against the norms for the time, to create a supportive residential environment filled with community and social interaction for his direct benefit. Because the original Duvall Home quickly became recognized across the U.S. as *the* ultimate place in the south to have a child with special needs thrive, people moved here from across the state, nation and even overseas. Duvall has provided essential services for hundreds of individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities, from newborns to senior citizens, for the past 75 years. We have experienced decades of change, including economic and government policy challenges, and continue to lead the industry in providing the very best care and residential support services to those with special needs.

Duvall has a growing population of senior residents, but is also equipped to care for young adults. Today's 20-something young adult, who is able to attend high school a little longer than the average teenager and who has been socialized at a young age, is the ideal candidate for group-home living. Duvall Homes' Chief Operating Officer, Marsha Shankleton, explains. "In addition to the younger individual bringing a new energy level to our programs, they show more interest in learning new things and attending new events in and around the community," said Shankleton. "And it's wonderful to incorporate their personal preferences into our programs."

Change can be hard to embrace for most people, and the trained support staff at Duvall understands that it is especially hard for individuals with developmental disabilities who prefer a regular daily routine. We recognize that change can be equally hard on the parents or caregivers, and that thoughts of moving your child to a new environment can be daunting.

"My wish is that parents would begin to plan for the future of their disabled child much earlier, when both parent(s) and child are younger. This will help to avoid unexpected delays, which can occur during the complex application process. Early discussions on future care, residency, day training, volunteering and possible employment make all the difference when the time comes for a provider like Duvall to step in and help" added Shankleton.

Exposing children with disabilities to regular new experiences, the same experiences their siblings experience, helps to develop life skills, including social behaviors, and to set goals so that everyone involved is better equipped for the long-term care planning.

Duvall's experienced leadership team knows there is no single best answer for a caregiver seeking help or advice when a crisis occurs. If Mom has cared for her aging child with special needs for decades by herself and suddenly falls ill, it can be extremely challenging for a relative to take over.

Greg Monge from Texas avoided a crisis move two years ago before having shoulder surgery and realizing his special needs son would require physical and social care he could no longer provide. "The biggest struggle was realizing that your own feelings must come second to your child's (or loved one's) welfare and their future," said Monge.



*Proud father, Rafael Chevres, enrolled his son Ari into Duvall's day training program last spring and is now in the application process for residential supportive living for Ari. (Read Rafael's quote on back page.)*

## Plan Early - Plan Now

"Applying early for APD (Agency for Persons with Disabilities) iBudget assistance is a must," said Shankleton. "This shows a future need for funding to the State Agency. Many parents don't apply until they need urgent help and the government is unaware they even exist... Unfortunately, parents shouldn't depend on siblings to take on the fiscal and personal role of caregiving or guardianship. Often times they live far away, have their own medical challenges and don't fully understand what is required for full care."

Immediate and extended families of people with special needs can be fantastic support systems, who hopefully will remain part of the individual's life by calling regularly, sending cards, gifts and more, but it still won't change the facts. While very different, it is also very similar to taking the time to enroll a child in pre-school because you want him or her to do well in the requirements set in grade school and later in life.

We need to plan for the essential care and success of all of our children, whether they are completely healthy or have a mild, moderate or severe developmental disability. And no matter what your financial status is, enroll your child early for assistance. This way we can all work together to provide better care for the next generation of people with special needs. ♦ For more information, visit [APD.myflorida.com/ibudget](http://APD.myflorida.com/ibudget); email [mshankleton@duvallhomes.org](mailto:mshankleton@duvallhomes.org) and [lherring@duvallhomes.org](mailto:lherring@duvallhomes.org).



# NEWS & EVENTS



home with this groovy masterpiece! Take a look at this artwork, and others created by Duvall artists, by visiting our Facebook page or by going to <https://bit.ly/2BdQDpE> ♦

## Good Corporate Citizenship

DaVita Labs has been a remarkable friend to Duvall Homes for many years.

Giving of their time, talent and treasure, they have stood by us offering these three essential supports with graciousness and humility. They have lifted us up with community support and helped strengthen the work we do to enrich the lives of

people with special needs. They exemplify outstanding corporate citizenship and serve as a philanthropic model to our community. It is with gratitude that we thanked DaVita Labs at our recent Inspiration Gala with the honor of the 2019 Alanson and Thelma Duvall Memorial Award for Outstanding Community Service. *(Read kind words from DaVita GM, Hersh Sanghavi, on the back cover.)* ♦

## Art For Everyone

Art Instructor, D. Renee Wilson (right), joined Duvall's *Art For Everyone Program* this past August, helping us break in the new Art Studio at our Opportunity Enrichment Center.

Wilson is an established artist from New Smyrna Beach, and a professional Art Instructor from Arts4All Florida, a nonprofit organization headquartered in the College of Education at the University of South Florida.

Under the guidance of their new instructor, Duvall artists contributed to the *Sounds of The 60s – British Invasion* theme at this year's Inspiration Gala with individual and collaborative works. Wilson also made a personal donation with a one-of-a kind *Twiggy: The Face of 1966*, acrylic and block printing painting on a vinyl record, which she created just for the event! One lucky winner who bid the highest at the Gala's silent auction, went



## Duvall's 2019 Inspiration Award

Each year, Duvall Homes recognizes an individual, or group of individuals, who have demonstrated exceptional and often unique support for our mission. Their creative efforts speak directly to the true spirit of charitable giving. This year, we are pleased to thank the following people who have shown us overwhelming support, with Duvall Homes' 2019 Inspiration Award. Standing with their awards with Duvall CEO, Steven DeVane, are award recipients, l to r, Duvall Employee Alice Ball; DeLand H.S./Bull Dog Carpentry Teacher, Rick Hervey; Community Advocate/Bealls Manager, Peggy Smith; and North Lake Presbyterian Church - Anna Circle Chair, Linda Williams. *(Read the words of Rob Walsh, Duvall Board Vice Chair, to Alice on the back page.)* ♦



Standing beside one of two utility vehicles donated from DaVita Labs to Duvall Homes are (l to r) Hersh Sanghavi, DaVita's General Manager; Steven DeVane, Duvall's Chief Executive Officer; Elizabeth Bhimjee, Duvall's Chief Marketing & Development Officer; and Keri Wagner, DaVita's Vice President.



A special, early release of **Duvall Homes' 75th Anniversary Art For Everyone Coloring** day training participants and support staff are celebrated in this 20-page project that was

The completed collaborative artworks were transformed into grayscale coloring pages so that team to a larger audience. The option to color within large or small lines, or to use removable t

Many of the pages in this anniversary coloring book have a repeating Crossroads focus – symbol great program for people with developmental disabilities through the donation of 20 or more your information to [ebhimjee@duvallhomes.org](mailto:ebhimjee@duvallhomes.org). All proceeds from the sale of the coloring b single book will cost \$10 and may take up to two weeks.)

Thank you to all sponsors, auction donors and the participating community who continue to s part of #TheDuvallDifference. ♦





## Bulldog Carpentry

DeLand High School carpentry students Alejandro Hernandez, Chris Broyles, Mackenzie Chitty, Trevon Blake and Daniel Alvarez help load beautifully hand-crafted outdoor furniture donated to Duvall Homes' Inspiration Gala Silent Auction. Under the guidance and

experience of beloved Bulldog Carpentry teacher, Rick Hervey, numerous students during the past three years have assisted Duvall's day training program with the assembly of various pieces of furniture and wooden art frames. Check out the wonderful items Bulldog Carpentry has for sale at DeLandHS.org. ♦

## Grand Opening Coming Soon

With sod laid, generator installed, safety plans and alarms in place, and stamp approved, Duvall Homes' new group home in West Volusia is almost ready, thanks to Tanya Ebersole (right) and her team at Camelot Construction, Inc. There is a great deal to be done yet,

## Top Facebook Posts This Past Quarter

Coincidentally, images and photos of Camelot GM, Tanya Ebersole, beat all other Facebook posts in regards to the organic (non-paid) reach, numbers of clicks, reactions, comments and shares. We're clearly all very excited about the stellar work you do Tanya, and can't wait to see what projects you do next! *(Tanya was a sponsor at this year's Gala. See who joined her on pages 6 and 7.)*



including furnishings and licensing by Florida's Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) before further arrangements can be made for residency. Once everything is in place, Duvall's new group home will be a wonderful addition to the community. ♦

Coming in closely behind Tanya, were posts related to our recent Inspiration Gala and posts involving Duvall Board Members who have participated in our #TheDuvallDifference testimonials. *(See back cover.)* Help us grow engagement on our social sites by posting, or writing us, why you support, or chose, Duvall Homes as your provider for empowering individuals with special needs. Your comments are quite valuable to us. ♦



## DUVALL HOMES BARGAIN STORE FALL SIDEWALK SALE +

CUSTOMER  
APPRECIATION DAY  
**25% OFF**  
Everything in the Store

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16  
FROM 8:30AM TO 4PM**

Be a part of #TheDuvallDifference.  
Reserve 10' space to sell for only \$6.  
LIMITED SPACE. CALL TODAY! 386-860-4110  
Set up for Retailers is at 7am on November 16

STORE PROCEEDS BENEFIT PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES WHO ARE SERVED BY DUVALL HOMES

**DUVALL BARGAIN STORE**

1200 Deltona Blvd., Deltona (Deltona Plaza) • DuvallHomes.org

**Book** debuted at our 2019 Inspiration Gala on September 27 at the Sanborn Center in DeLand, Florida. Images of the artworks created by completed last summer at Duvall's Opportunities Enrichment Center.

the community could take part in this empowering Initiative developed to introduce the artistic talents of Duvall artists and their support tape for guides just as Duvall residents demonstrate, makes the coloring book a great gift for any age or ability.

olic of the many roads taken in all Duvall programming to bridge the gap between ability and disability. If you're interested in supporting a coloring books to a classroom or school of your choice (at only \$5 each + shipping), please contact Duvall Homes at 386.734.2874 or email book help enhance the programs and services that enrich and improve the lives of those in our care. (Please note, to purchase and ship a

upport the programs and services that serve people with special needs living at Duvall Homes and who attend our day training. You are all





A Sincere Thank You  
2019 Inspiration

**The Robert Hanky Family**

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**The Walsh Family**



Gala Photo  
Will P  
AND

Thank you to this year's Silent Auction Donors. You were

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Badcock Home Furniture & More  
Blue Heron River Tours  
B & O Cleaners  
Bouchard Insurance  
Busch Gardens  
Casa Monica Resort & Spa  
Cell Phone Repair, DeLand  
Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens  
Cobb Theater  
Copper Bottom Craft Distillery  
Courtyard by Marriott DeLand  
D. Renee Wilson, Artist



Daytona Beach Symphony Society  
Daytona International Speedway  
Debbie Tarmann, Artist  
DeLand's Garden & Gatherings  
DeLand H.S. Bull Dog Carpentry  
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Duvall Homes' ADT Participants  
Duvall Homes' Board of Regents  
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Elite Island Resorts  
First Presbyterian Church of DeLand  
Glenda Dupuis, Artist  
Grand Bohemian Hotel  
Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort  
Hilton Garden Inn Orlando





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all instrumental in helping us reach our 2019 Gala goal!



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Wonderworks Orlando ♦



# #THE DUVALL DIFFERENCE

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"Wow, 47 years at Duvall Homes. Congratulations Alice! Not many of us know anyone who has worked for one organization for as long as you have. You are incredible. Duvall Homes and those in our care are fortunate to have an Angel like you." - Rob Walsh, Duvall Homes Board of Regents, Vice Chair; Project Manager, Growth & Resource Management, County of Volusia

“



"Duvall Homes provides an essential service to our community. They provide our most vulnerable with opportunities to participate in a full life through meaningful work, creative art and more. To me, that's a noble cause and is why I support Duvall." - Lisa M. Ogram, Duvall Homes Board of Regents; First Vice President/Associate Resident Director of Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, DeLand

“



"We're a mission-driven organization and believe that fidelity towards our community is just as important as our company and shareholders. Through our long-standing partnership with Duvall Homes, we're honored to participate in a small way in the incredible care you provide for the underserved in our community." - Hersh Sanghavi, DaVita's General Manager; DaVita Labs is the recipient of the 2019 Alanson and Thelma Duvall Memorial Award for Outstanding Community Service.

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"We've lived in more than a dozen countries where Ari attended day care. I ranked Hong Kong's famed Child Development Center at the Matilda International Hospital to be at the top position; however, in just a few months of attending Duvall Homes' Adult Day Training program, Ari has been showing improvement in communication and in the performance of some life skills and activities. Today, I rank Duvall in the number one spot, and have just applied for full-time residency at Duvall for Ari, my treasured son." - Rafael "Ray" Chevres, father of Ari, Duvall Day Training Participant

“



"Art is an active and visual process. Talking about is antithetical to making it. It's literally on the wrong side of the brain. When teaching art to individuals with disabilities at Duvall's Day Training, I don't like to think of it so much as teaching as I do facilitating art making. I provide visual examples of a project, then break it down into simple steps that allow the participants to express freely and explore materials...When participants enjoy the journey and create a work of art they are happy with, it builds confidence in their abilities, fosters communication and personal expression. No matter the outcome of the projects, there is never 'bad' art." - D. Renee Wilson, Duvall's ADT Art Instructor; Professional Artist, New Smyrna Beach