



**DUVALL HOMES**

EST. 1945

Empowering People with Developmental Disabilities

**CELEBRATING 70 YEARS**

**Donor Spotlight**

**FARF Endorsement**

**Communication Through Technology**

Cover Story:

**Art Exhibit At Stetson University**

Newsletter | Spring 2015

## DUVALL HOMES EVOLVING

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends of Duvall Homes,

Welcome to the fall issue of the Duvall Homes Newsletter. This edition brings our evolution and change into focus as the pace of growth continues and we strive to meet the ever-changing needs of the developmentally disabled and our community.

Our ongoing physical changes are most dramatic when you consider the timely completion of the transition we began just thirteen months ago. With great efficiency we have acquired six new group homes, building our community total to sixteen. As you read this newsletter, we will be readying our last home to receive residents. Shortly thereafter, all individuals will have moved from McGaffin Hall on our Glenwood campus. Eleanor Roosevelt would hail the courage of our residents in making this life-change with great strength and in spite of many fears. Notes of successful transitions follow in these pages and we are proud of the way our residents are adapting – indeed, thriving!

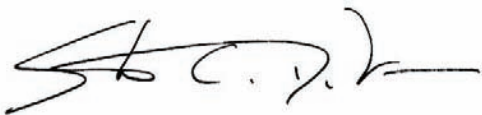
**“You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face.” – Eleanor Roosevelt**

We have further advanced our position in the public eye through many new community outreach projects that we are very excited about. Duvall Homes residents are taking on new responsibilities and contributing to community projects in many ways. Their hands-on involvement has opened up new partnerships for Duvall and has helped shed a brighter light on issues facing people with special needs.

Finally, this year marks our 70th Anniversary – an incredible accomplishment – and we have already begun to celebrate! (You may have noticed the subtle change in our name as well as our new logo.) We look forward to celebrating with you at **“THE NEXT 70”** our upcoming event on the evening of September 25, 2015. This will be a ticketed fundraising event and we hope you will be able to join us.

Through it all, friends and families have been by our side. Your support has given us “strength, courage and confidence” all along the way. Thanks to you we are changing lives every day! Help us celebrate!

Best wishes,



Steven C. DeVane  
Chief Executive Officer



Steven DeVane with Duvall Homes resident James Moore  
Photography by Will Philips

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR & SAVE THE DATE**

Friday Evening · September 25, 2015 · Sanborn Event Center, DeLand

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & INVITATION TO COME**

## NEW NAME, LOGO, WEBSITE AND BOARD MEMBERS

No, that's not a typo. We are pleased to present our new name...



DUVALL HOMES! Although the change is small, we think it better reflects our expanding footprint and the path of growth we are proudly committed to. Many Homes, One Community! WATCH FOR OUR NEW WEBSITE CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

We are also pleased to announce our newest Board of Regents members. Welcome, Sabrina Patterson, Michael Rinaldi and Lisa Ogram. We are privileged to work alongside this dynamic group, especially now, during our 70th anniversary year. Their exceptional leadership skills, coupled with passion and commitment to our mission will clearly influence our steps toward the next 70 years!

## THANKS FOR YOUR RESPONSE!

*"Just read the delightful news publication. A great job! Most informative and loved the photos! Bravo!" – Lynda Moncrief, Parent*

*"The new look is wonderful! I read the newsletter cover to cover and am always amazed at the volume of work going on at Duvall Homes. Your staff is incredible. The residents sure are busy!" – Kay Laws, Community Volunteer*

*"Very nice in form and content. Congratulations on getting my attention. I'm watching for the next issue to learn more about ways to get involved!" – Debra Buzzell, Quality Resource Group*

*"What a good summary of our accomplishments. We can't always keep up with ALL the work our colleagues are doing . . . this really puts it in perspective." –*

Sandra Karlovich, Duvall Homes Staff



## COVER ART BY



**PATRICK KEARNEY**

Cover story, page 6



## Board of Regents

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Volusia County

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## Executive Leadership Team

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### Christina Negri

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Duvall Homes News is published bi-annually for the families and friends of Duvall Homes.

Please keep us current with your contact information, so that we may keep you current with happenings and up-dates.

Do we have your email address? If you would like to receive Duvall Homes News electronically, send your email address to [info@duvallhome.org](mailto:info@duvallhome.org) and we will add you to the broadcast list we are building.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### Networking & News

### OCTOBER 2014

Suzanne Sewell, President and CEO of the Florida Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (FARF), served as keynote speaker at Duvall Homes' *Networking & News Event*, held October 30th at the Sanborn Activity & Event Center in DeLand. Her forty years of experience and insight was shared with an audience of local business leadership, civic organizations and the friends and families of Duvall Homes residents.

FARF is a statewide, professional industry association that provides advocacy, information and networking for individuals with disabilities and the community agencies that serve them. As the Association's chief spokesperson, Sewell acts as public policy change agent and serves as liaison with executive and legislative branches. She directs the annual legislative campaign to advocate for the needs of more than 100 member agencies like Duvall Homes.

Duvall is engaged in a historic transition to reposition residents from McGaffin Hall, a congregate dormitory building on its main campus, to family-style group homes in the community and Sewell was on hand to add depth and clarity to a discussion focused on issues surrounding the move.

Sewell was joined by Commissioners Leigh Matusick, DeLand and Nancy Schleicher, Deltona, who offered city support as Duvall Homes moves through steps to accommodate new federal guidelines – to fully integrate disabled individuals into the mainstream community. Echoing the sentiments of Barbara Palmer (Florida's Director of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities) during her recent visit to Duvall Homes, Sewell commended the organization for "doing a very good job." The nationwide mandate is one Duvall is actively embracing. "We are proud of our collaboration with FARF and APD," said Steven DeVane, Duvall Homes' CEO, "and their validation inspires our continued move in this direction." Further, he said "we are committed to maintaining an organization characterized by acceptance and welcome for all,

where each individual is seen as unique, entitled to personal growth and development and self-determination. We are facing change head-on to remain true to our commitment."

The high-point of the morning was the presentation of special awards. Ten Duvall Homes residents received trophies for outstanding achievement in a variety of categories celebrating personal triumphs.



Photography by Will Phillips, AndYouFilms.com

## Mistletoe & Music December 2014



Adult Day Training  
Director, Shirley  
Zonneville with  
OPPS Christmas  
tree entry

Duvall Homes' Day Training participants hand-crafted and sponsored a Christmas tree entry in the City of DeLand's Mistletoe & Music holiday celebration. The festivities drew hundreds of community members and spotlighted trees donated by local businesses and nonprofit organizations. Trees were auctioned off and Duvall Homes received second highest bid!

## Freedom Playground 2014- 2015



Duvall Homes is actively engaged as a consultant and sponsor for the redesign and build of a DeLand community playground, *Freedom Playground Next Generation*. Local leadership has requested our support to ensure disabled individuals will be accommodated and able to enjoy the new design layout and apparatus. Duvall Homes residents will play an important role on build day as participant volunteers, with an opportunity to interact with neighborhood members.

**"The whole playground is designed for inclusiveness." ~ Rick Hall, director, City of DeLand Parks and Recreation**

The West Volusia Beacon, March 16-18 2015

## Paying It Forward **On-going . . . !**

OPPS participants volunteer throughout the year in a number of ways that benefit the community. The power of philanthropy and giving-back is an integral part of the Duvall Homes philosophy.

Every month OPPS participants visit local retirement and assisted living communities to interact with residents. Sharing stories and afternoon tea enable both groups to enjoy social activities and build new friendships.



OPPS created and donated gift baskets for a major fundraiser hosted by the *Women's Initiative*, an affinity group of the United Way. The gift baskets were auctioned off and helped to raise funds for women and children in need in Volusia and Flagler counties.



OPPS participants  
prepare silent  
auction gift  
baskets for the  
United Way  
Women's  
Initiative  
fundraising event.

**Cover Story: Art . . . For Everyone!**  
**February 2015**

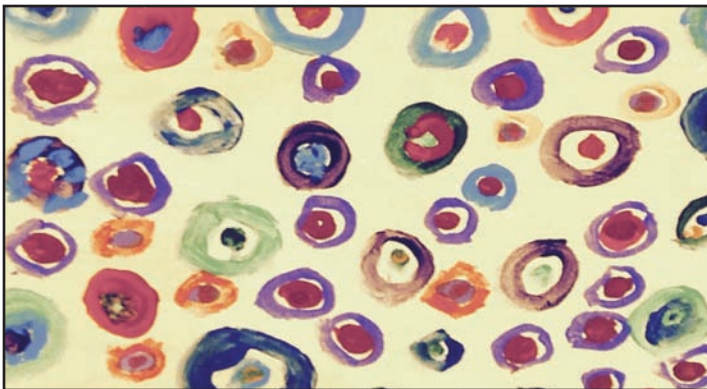


Duvall Homes artists and staff at Stetson University  
Photography by Lisa Yetter, LisaYetter.com

In February, Duvall Homes hosted the DeLand Area Chamber of Commerce *Business-After-Hours* at the Stetson University Hand Art Center. The evening event, “Art . . . For Everyone!” was a collaborative showcase representing the accomplishments of Duvall Homes artists, alongside world renowned figures in a gallery setting.

This unique program moved Duvall Homes artists into the public spotlight as more than a hundred visitors viewed their work. Artists in attendance had an opportunity to talk about their artwork as they mingled with guests.

A generous patron donated \$150 toward one of the paintings and several guests offered future volunteer support to further the efforts of our arts program.



The Chamber of Commerce followed by offering their facility to extend the exhibit, and in March artwork was moved to their location in downtown DeLand.

Ensuing discussions are in process to secure additional public venues as we work to develop a “traveling exhibition” – a great way to inform the community about Duvall Homes and to gain visibility for the artists.



Kristin Burrhus begins a painting for “Art . . . For Everyone!”

**“The confidence and self-esteem this builds . . . the artists will be talking about it for a long time,” says Tim Nelson, OPPS Day Training supervisor**

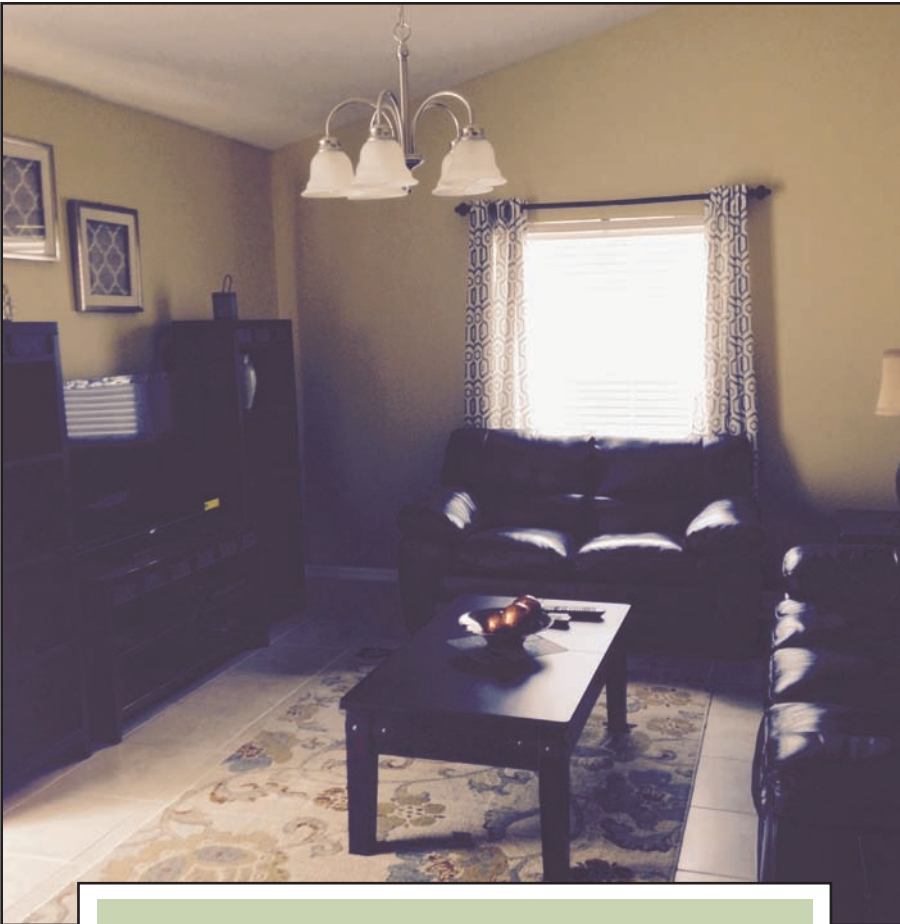


Event opens at Stetson’s Hand Art Center

**Visit our website for videos and additional photos of all our events!**  
**[www.duvallhome.org](http://www.duvallhome.org)**

## SIX HOMES LATER . . .

**Less than a year ago**, Duvall Homes embarked on a monumental undertaking. A specific timeline was developed to ensure a thoughtful and efficient transition to make it as seamless as possible for our residents. Six homes later, we are proud to report, mission accomplished! Countless hours, remarkable skill, and commitment from our staff, business partners and donors, have turned the houses into homes.



FINISHED PRODUCT — A STUNNING NEW HOME!



Rough interior after total tear-down and before total remodel



## DONOR RECOGNITION

### In-Kind Donations\*

Audio visual equipment with an estimated value of \$7,500 was donated to the OPPS program in March.

Contributions were received from the David Fuller Estate and have greatly influenced sales in our Bargain Shops, helping to net more than \$1,500 . . . to date.

A beautiful collection of hand-made quilts was donated by a local stay-at-home mom. She stopped by our offices one day to say she “just wanted to do something meaningful.” Priceless!



\*Please contact us with questions regarding items that can be accepted by Duvall Homes. Some restrictions may apply.

## DUVALL HOMES BARGAIN SHOPS

Shop & Donate

Two Locations:

642 W. New York Ave., DeLand, FL 32720

(386)736-8270

1200 Deltona Blvd., Deltona, FL 32725

(386)860-4110

Store Hours:

Monday - Friday 8am-6pm

Saturday 9am-5pm

*A generous donation of \$50,000 was made through*

### **The Duff Family Charitable Trust**

*in memory of Dot and Howard, longtime friends of  
Duvall Homes.*

*Their legacy will help underwrite the furnishings in five  
new group homes and help enrich the lives of many.*

*We are forever grateful.*

### iPads: A Ripple Effect

During December 2014, Duvall Homes initiated a month-long mini-campaign to raise funding for iPads. Critical to opening up communication for our non-verbal OPPS participants, we put this on our holiday wish list. The project soon took on a life of its own and the ripple effects resulted in \$4,500! Special thanks go to three remarkable groups – we could not have done it without their help!

First Presbyterian Church of DeBary, First Presbyterian Church of Umatilla, First Presbyterian Church of New Smyrna Beach, The Presbyterian Women of Fort Walton and Lake Square Presbyterian Church raised \$2,388.

The Rainbow Girls, an organization of young women from Masonic Lodge Assembly #31 DeLand, spearheaded a fundraising project named “Every Penny Counts” and collected 11,200 pennies toward our campaign.

The Women’s Initiative, an affiliate of the United Way awarded Duvall Homes with a \$2,000 grant . . . bringing our total to \$4,500 . . . 9 new iPads!



Courtney Edgcomb presents a check from United Way

## TECHNOLOGY

### Opening the Doors to Communication with iPads

The Adult Day Training Program (“OPPS” for Opportunities) is central to Duvall Homes’ mission. OPPS empowers developmentally disabled adults to reach their full potential as individuals and as members of the community. The program achieves this through educational, vocational and life-skills training, and mentoring both on the Duvall Homes campus and within the West Volusia community.

Beyond the usual conventions of social media and technology that many take for granted, Duvall Homes is enhancing its technology program specifically for those with *no* verbal capabilities to pull them into the conversation.

More than 50 percent of OPPS participants struggle to make their feelings known and technology and assistive software is vital to opening the door to self-expression and discovery for these non-verbal communicators.

Technology currently in use has shown remarkable results, enabling users to engage in a form of social exchange and conversation where they were otherwise limited (to silence). Where they were once shut in, they can now speak out.

Providing participants with iPads, programmed with specific software applications, has opened new worlds for them. With a simple touch screen, a non-verbal individual is able to communicate what he or she needs or wants through a series of diagrams, photos, or graphic displays. Helping to create a type of language through pictures, this tool serves as a proven bridge between isolation and inclusion.

**“One participant could only express himself in meaningless sounds. Using an iPad he can now turn his sounds into words and his manual dexterity has also improved.**

**Another would not even shake his head ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to answer basic questions. He began using the iPad and assistive software, and now answers questions about his feelings, needs and state of health. Staff is better equipped now that they have a deeper understanding of how to connect with him.”**



For those at higher-functioning levels, the iPad apps have been customized with features tailored to individual skill sets and used as an educational tool. Progressive levels of work can be assigned as goals are mastered and individuals accomplish new skills.

Manipulation of the tablet also helps with hand-eye coordination and develops improved manual dexterity. For those with vision impairments, the text size can easily be enlarged to meet their needs and keep them equally engaged.

**We are loading up on technology to bring ALL our residents into the conversation.**

## YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

### Helping Hands Improve Lives!

Thanks to all for the outpouring of support we received for our Phantom Ball 2014! With your help, we were able to raise nearly \$14,000 and have beautifully furnished one of our newest group homes. Residents now enjoy a family-style environment with all the comforts that make a house a home. **Thanks to you**, we sustain our founding mission and continue to grow in our commitment to those in our care. We are constant in our dedication to enriching lives; nurturing the greatest level of independence and helping others live life to the fullest. As the cornerstone in our foundation, family and friends have been at the forefront of our mission and we are truly grateful for your kindness and support. Your collective efforts improve the lives of others every day!



Your confidence in our vision has led to great things and has helped us to achieve our goals at every turn. From new roofs to vehicles, from educational materials to medical supplies, you have been alongside us and together we have achieved remarkable goals. Based on these achievements, we are announcing our appeal for 2015 . . . with all trust that our work together will again achieve great results! Our current fundraising project, **Helping Hands** is underway and we are reaching out to our closest friends for continued support.

As we celebrate our 70th Anniversary, your support is vital to the next chapter in our history. We have moved quickly and carefully to locate most McGaffin Hall residents into new group homes and the results have been overwhelmingly positive. Breakthroughs occur every day as residents settle into their cozy, fresh environments among friends and new roommates. Even those most involved and physically challenged have thrived and many family members have reported “incredible transformations”. Now, as we prepare for the final shift in moving our remaining residents, we have determined that *purchasing* the last home will be our best course. Sharp increases in leasing costs at this time indicate ownership to be the prudent financial path and we will move in this direction.

**Helping Hands** will allow us to complete the entire McGaffin Hall transfer with this purchase. As we near the finish line we need your help. We hope you will reach out today with a donation to help us create quality of life for all our residents.



For your convenience, a gift envelope is enclosed. Please make your check payable to Duvall Homes. Should you have questions, contact Marsha Shankleton at (386)734-2874 or [mshankleton@duvallhome.org](mailto:mshankleton@duvallhome.org).

Duvall Homes is a 501(c)(3) organization, designated by the IRS, and your donation is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR DUVALL HOMES (SOLICITATION # CH710) MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING 1-800-435-7352 TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE

## RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Duvall Homes Staff,

*"You cannot imagine how happy, how satisfied I am to know that my brother is doing exactly what he should be doing, with exactly the people I would choose to support him, at exactly this time. Eddie is calmer than I've seen him in years and clearly has embraced his new digs!"*

*I have wanted this for a long time, this move to a group home, but I didn't really understand that was what I wanted until now. I have always, from the day he moved to Duvall, known that Eddie was well-loved and cared for beautifully, but in recent years, I wanted something different, something I couldn't quite articulate. I'm a bit like Eddie, I guess, and it had to come to 'no choice, this is going to happen' to make me realize what I wanted for him. And I think, in some way, he also knew it was time.*

*The move has been handled with such love and care, and the people who support Eddie so obviously love him.*

*Our quick visit has renewed my spirits, mine and our fathers. I am so very proud of my big brother and so very grateful to so many who made the transition a smooth one. And one that will go on!" – Ann Stone*



Eddie Shields, awarded Outstanding Adaptor

### What do you love about your new group home?



**"I like more space around me and I have more room."**

– Donna Toothman



**"I love my new bedspread . . .**

**I love my bathroom.**

**They're yellow, my favorite color!"**

– Debbie Glass



**"I have a new best friend!"**

– Jennifer Lovett

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Email: [info@duvallhome.org](mailto:info@duvallhome.org)  
Website: [www.duvallhome.org](http://www.duvallhome.org)



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## Duvall Group Homes

### DeLand

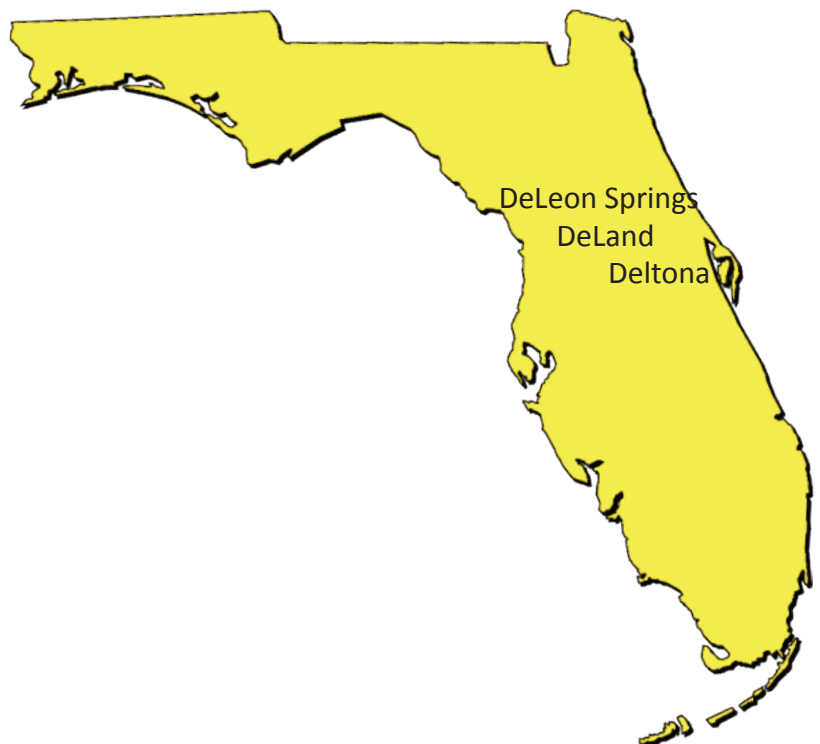
Allgair Cottage  
Bates Cottage  
Beman Cottage  
Wardwell Cottage  
Florence Cottage  
Gatlin Cottage  
Nickless Cottage  
Rinker Cottage  
Creative Ministries Cottage

### Deltona

Irondale Cottage  
Outrigger Cottage  
O'Gorman Cottage  
Luck Cottage  
Flynn Cottage

### DeLeon Springs

Davis Cottage  
Wheeler Cottage



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