



# HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 2—March 10, 2008

## CURRENT STUDENT SPOT LIGHT:

### SHANNON WILLIAMS

I had the privilege of meeting Shannon Williams fall semester 2007. At first, I was a little unsure as to how to take this spunky, energetic and sweet young lady. It doesn't take long for someone to see how charismatic and outgoing she is. Shannon is an encourager to others and her big smile is quick to spread. There are so many different things that she is to each of us that it makes it hard to define her. Shannon is a person you can count on to get things done.

The definitive things about Shannon is that she is a single mother

to 11 year old Jenna, a full time student, a full time participant in the Human Service Club, holds down two jobs and still has time to volunteer at multiple local organizations like Transitions Hospice. With a schedule as hectic as this, it is hard to think of anyone capable of being that friendly, happy, and willing to offer a helping hand when it is needed, so freely.

Shannon is a valuable asset not only to the Human Service Program, but to those of us who call her a friend. Here is our chance to give back a small

amount of what she gives us: kind words, encouragement, and a pat on the back for doing a job well done!



"Our lives are not determined by what happens to us but by how we react to what happens, not by what life brings to us, but by the attitude we bring to life. A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events, and outcomes. It is a catalyst, a spark that creates extraordinary results."

Anonymous

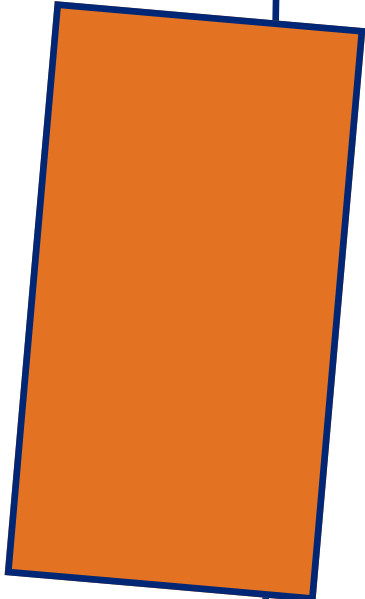
## GRADUATE SPOT LIGHT:

### KIM DAVIS

My name is Kim Davis; I attended Georgia Highlands College back when it was still Floyd College. I graduated from the Human Service Program in 2000. The professor's were amazing and always willing to help. Steve Burns and Suzanne Black were the two professors that influenced me the most. They continued to encourage me throughout the course of my studies. If it were not for them I would have never graduated. The Human Service program prepared me for the workforce in many ways. The field placements

were a great learning experience. It gave me an opportunity to explore what careers were out there and what interested me the most. After graduating from the program, I worked for the Department of Juvenile Justice as a Juvenile Probation Officer for 6 years. I left there and went to the Sexual Assault Center where I was the Victim Advocate for 3 years. I am now employed with Transitions Hospice Care.

*Continued on page 2*



## Kim Davis continued:

If it were not for the Human Service Program, I would not have been able to have the experience needed for the careers I have pursued. Although I am no longer a student at Georgia Highlands I am still involved with the Human Service Program. I do presentations for the Human Service classes as well as recruit volunteers from the program. This program has definitely helped make me who I am today.



## WHAT WE HAVE DONE...

- \* Bake Sale/Raffle: We raised \$284 from our Feb. 13th bake sale!
- \* Chilidogs: We raised over \$100 from our Feb. 27th sale.
- \* Pizza Sale: We raised over \$150 from our March 7th sale.

A HUGE "thank you" goes out to those that helped out with these events.

## WHAT ARE WE DOING NOW?

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*  
Margaret Mead

- \* Walk-a-thon: March 31st For those that wish to participate, please see Mrs. Claxton to pick up your donation sheet. Flyers will be posted around the school.
- \* Don't forget SPRING BREAK March 17-21!!
- \* Put this date on your calendar: **September 6th, 2008**: Motorcycle Ride to help fund the Felicia Claxton Scholarship.

## Agency Spot Light: AIDS Resource Council

Do you know your status? CDC estimates that at least 25% of persons infected with HIV are unaware of their condition. The AIDS Resource Council, (ARC) located downtown on Clock tower Hill provides free confidential testing for HIV. The virus, left untreated can lead to AIDS, but is controllable with today's medications and early detection is important. Unfortunately, the disease is increasing among the heterosexual population, especially females, so getting tested is a good idea for everyone. Arrangements can be made to bring

testing materials to campuses and do on-site testing of students, faculty, and staff. ARC wants to initiate Project TAP, Test All People, for two reasons. It's a good idea to be tested so you can have the peace of mind that comes with knowledge; and, perhaps even more important, if everyone is being tested, the stigma is erased. Even if you know you are "safe," participation is a good-citizen act. ARC provides a number of services in addition to HIV testing: risk prevention education, limited emergency financial assistance for

clients, weekly food bags for clients who meet the requirements of Project Open Hand in Atlanta. There are numerous opportunities for volunteers both in the office and out in the field, especially during health fairs when large numbers are tested. Call us if you are interested in being part of this important work which helps maintain the health of the community in which we live, work, study, and play, advocacy, and referral services.

Jeanne Cahill, Executive Director  
108 B 5th Street 706-290-9098

## Advisor's Corner:

*Susan Claxton*

I have been working in the field of human services for more than twenty-five years and yet I feel it was just yesterday that I walked through the doors of Georgia Highlands College (then called Floyd Jr. College). I did not have a clue what Human Services was or what type of job I would be eligible for. I was here almost a year before I met Steve Burns and Jim McKeel the two professors who led the way for me to find my niche in life.

What are human services? That is a common question I hear. It was a question I had myself. It is not easily defined. Human Services encompasses many things. Human Services can be defined in the simplest way, helping others who are unable to take care of their own needs to the activities that enhance the wellbeing of society. Schmollin, Youkeles, and Burger (1997) the authors

of *Human Services in Contemporary America* divide human services into four general categories: those who help the recipient of services, supervisory positions, administrators who determine policy, and support services such as clerical and security work. According to *Health Careers in Georgia 2004-2006*, Human Services Workers may find themselves in Adult Care facilities, Community Mental Health Centers, Group Homes, Hospitals, Military, Prisons, Public Health Departments, Public Welfare Agencies, Schools, and Substance Abuse Treatment Centers to name a few. Course work in the Human Services Program also is helpful in life skills regardless of degree. Coursework includes: Group Process, Death and Dying, Social Problems, Behavior Analysis, Interviewing and Helping Skills, Abnormal Psychology, Human Growth and Development,

Theories of Personality, Introduction to Human Services and two internships that include students working 240 (120 hours each) in an agency of interest.

For more information please contact: Susan Claxton, Human Services Program Coordinator at 706 368 7618 or sclaxton@highlands.edu.



## Words from the Human Service Club President:

*Kelly Kuykendall*

As you can see, we have a new look. This new look could not have happened without the help of **Ken Davis**, Publications Editor. He really knows how to listen to what people want and integrate it with what "has to be" to come up with something new and exciting. We love the new look! Also we would like to thank **Dana Davis**, College Relations Director for her extensive input on the newsletter. Many thanks and lots of gratitude goes out to them both.

Another huge "Thank You" goes out to **Mary Norton**, Interim Advancement Officer. She has given us a great deal of assistance in the implementation of the new scholarship. I feel that without her help we wouldn't have gotten it up and running.

Since this is turning into a "Thank You" section this month, I would

like to also give **Dr. Nancy Applegate**, English Professor, a pat on the back. She has given us so much of her time and effort and we are eternally grateful for her kindness and caring. She is constantly donating handmade hats to us so that we may take them to the Harbin Oncology Clinic in Rome for cancer patients.

**Anthony "Dion" Blackwell**, Human Service student, has taken it upon himself to do an article on the club and what we are trying to accomplish with the scholarship. I cannot express the appreciation I felt for his kind words, and it really meant a lot to me to know that he thinks so highly of the club and its officers.

I would like to say that we, as the Human Service Club, cannot express enough gratitude to these individuals

because each one of their contributions has meant so much and has been greatly appreciated. With such support, I feel very confident that we will achieve the goals that we have set.



This is a picture of the beautiful Felicia Claxton. I wish to keep her picture here in order to remind us of what we are working so hard for.

## Georgia Highlands College

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Making a difference  
one starfish at a time!



## Human Services Club

In this period of scarce resources, community agencies face unparalleled challenges in meeting existing needs. The Human Services Program/Club works to build collaborative relationships among public and private community organizations in order to help build, shape, and strengthen relationships between Georgia Highlands and the communities within their service area.

"Avoiding the phrase *"I don't have time..."*, will soon help you to realize that you do have the time needed for just about anything you choose to accomplish in life." Bo Bennett

## Human Service Advising Information

To all Human Service majors and those thinking of joining the Human Service program:

Be advised that these classes are only offered in the **Fall**: SOCI 1110 Intro to Social Services; HMSV 1120 Interpersonal Communication and Helping Skills; and PSYCH 2140 Principles of Behavior Analysis.

These classes are only offered in the **Spring**: SOCI 1160 Social Problems; SOCI 2145 Death and Dying; SOCI 2130 Group Process; and PSYCH 2128 Theories of Personality.

I would suggest that everyone contact Mrs. Claxton to set up an appointment to go over your schedule as soon as

possible to avoid any confusion with which classes are offered when.

Also, HMSV 2160 Field Work Practicum I must be taken after you have taken PSYCH 1120 during your last two semesters.

Human Service Core classes are not taught in the Summer

\*\*\*If you would like to see your Agency spotlighted, please send a brief statement describing your agency and the clients you serve. Also include what volunteer opportunities are available, contact information, and e-mail address.

### How do I change?

If I feel depressed I will sing.

If I feel sad I will laugh.

If I feel ill I will double my labour.

If I feel fear I will plunge ahead.

If I feel inferior I will wear new garments.

If I feel uncertain I will raise my voice.

If I feel poverty I will think of wealth to come.

If I feel incompetent I will think of past success.

If I feel insignificant I will remember my goals.

Today I will be the master of my emotions.

*-Og Mandino*