

THE SCOOP

January 17, 2018

On the job

Richland Newhope's new superintendent is busy settling into her new office.

Michele Giess succeeds Liz Prather, who retired on Dec. 31. Michele previously served as director of the agency's Service and Support Administration and Community Choices for the past four years.

Born and raised in Richland County, Michele has worked in various capacities at Richland Newhope for more than 27 years. She calls her new role 'an honor' and says she's looking forward to leading the organization.

We'll have more about Michele and her plans for Richland Newhope coming up in the spring edition of The Insider newsletter.



Kudos to...

- Staff at Richland Newhope's Administration Building and Service and Support Administration (SSA) who participated in SSA's Christmas Stocking Project, resulting in gifts of

wanted or needed items for 11 individuals who otherwise may not have received any presents.

- Richland Newhope employees who provided food and other items needed for a traditional Christmas meal for 13 families who receive services from our Early Childhood Center.

- Aktion Club, Workers' Council, Newhope Charities, and Richland Newhope Administration Building staff who donated money to provide gift cards for 35 families who receive services from Richland Newhope.

- Everyone who donated non-perishable food and other items to restock the food pantry at Richland Newhope's Service and Support Administration (SSA). Thanks to Aktion Club for assisting with collecting the food for the pantry. The items are used to help individuals and families throughout the year.

- The Richland County Children's Auxiliary Christmas Project, which helped to provide Christmas presents for 51 children who receive supports from Richland Newhope.

January Employee of the Month

Name: Sarah Helms

Position: Preschool Instructor

Employed since: Nov. 22, 2010

Nominators Comments: "She finds creative ways to meet each unique need of every one of her students. She works with the PLAY Project



consultant to implement Teaching Play strategies in her classroom, trying every suggestion and technique given to her. She has been a wonderful mentor for our new staff, sharing ideas and providing support. She is well respected by families and builds positive relationships with everyone she works with. It is clear that she strives to do everything possible to meet the needs of every child in her classroom."

Employee of the Month Comments: "I feel honored that my coworkers feel that I am making an impact on the lives of the children I work with. I love seeing the smile on a child's face when they learn something new and watching a child interact with a friend for the first time. I truly enjoy working with coworkers who are dedicated to work with kids and who love their job."

EMPLOYEE MILESTONES

18 Years – Ronda Sherman

17 Years – Karen Pruitt, Shannon Mahoney

16 Years – Laura Brackett

13 Years – Nicole Maglott, Star June

12 Years – Diane Thrush, Claudia Strong

7 Years – Alicia Bailey

DID YOU KNOW?



Richland Newhope (Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities) works with more than 150 agency and independent provider partners to ensure individuals with developmental disabilities can get the services they need to be fully part of the community.

Something new is coming!

CARE – Compassion, Advocacy, Respect, and Excellence. That’s what we’re calling several new awards to be presented this year by Richland Newhope/Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Stay tuned for details on how you can nominate someone!



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