



Program Testimonial written for the United Way of Lake & Sumter Counties

Jimmie L. Edwards is very proud of the fact that he has been a participant at the day program since it opened in August 1977; the first direct service provided by SCARC, Inc. He has developed excellent leadership skills and is a respected member of the community and of the program. Mr. Edwards recently completed 3 terms as a member of the SCARC, Inc. Board of Directors, served in an advisory role for a year, and was recently re-elected to the Board.

Mr. Edwards refers to his job on the SCARC, Inc. lawn service as his chosen career. He has excellent skills and takes pride in his work. He is a valued employee and highest rated worker on the lawn crews earning \$8.38 per hour. He contributes to United Way by payroll deduction.

Mr. Edwards talks not only about his work skills, but also about his ability to mentor other workers and teach them how to do the job better. He states that what he enjoys most about attending the day program is learning new and different things. One of his goals, he said, is learning first aid skills so he could assist an injured person. In adult education classes he is learning to use the Internet to research topics of interest.

When asked what he would do if he had a million dollars, Mr. Edwards said, "I would build that new building", referring to the long term plans to build a new facility for the day program. He says he remembers how it "used to be" when he lived in a state institution at Gainesville and how he doesn't want others to "have to go through that". I believe that is why Mr. Edwards is so committed to SCARC, Inc., because he knows first hand what it is like when there are no community based services for people with developmental disabilities.