W.E.B. Du Bois
William Edward Burghardt Du Bois was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. While attending Harvard University to earn his Ph.D., Du Bois was selected for a study-abroad program in Germany. While there, he became a pupil to some of the most influential social scientists of his time. In 1895, Du Bois became the first African American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. During his adult life, he became a prominent figure in the African American community. Du Bois wrote about the oppressions inflicted on African Americans and called for a drastic change. In 1909, he co-founded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Additionally, he helped organize several Pan-African Congresses to free African colonies from European powers.

Katherine Johnson
From a very young age, Johnson was fascinated with numbers, and her intense curiosity allowed her to advance quickly past her peers. Johnson graduated with high honors from West Virginia State College with a B.S. in Mathematics and French. In 1953, Johnson was hired by NACA (now recognized as NASA) to analyze flight test data. After nine years of various achievements, Johnson was asked to join the team of mathematicians that would later be recognized for their contributions in sending the first man to the moon. Her greatest contribution remains the calculations she completed to help synch Project Apollo's Lunar Lander with the moon-orbiting Command and Service Module. In 2015, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest American civilian honor.

Dr. Glenn Anderson
When Anderson became deaf at seven years old, his parents told him that he'd "have to be twice as good as anyone else to be successful." After earning his bachelor's degree in Psychology from Gallaudet College (1968) and his master's in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Arizona (1970), Anderson became a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor. Setting an example for the deaf students he taught at LaGuardia Community College, Anderson went on to earn his doctoral degree in Rehabilitation Counseling at the New York University. Upon graduation, he became the first deaf African American to earn a doctoral degree. Amongst many other recognitions, Anderson received the Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Black Deaf Advocates in 2012.

WHY IS FEBRUARY BLACK HISTORY MONTH?
In 1926, Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) founded "Negro History Week" in response to the lack of emphasis on the history of African Americans' achievements in textbooks. Woodson chose the second week in February as it encompassed both Fredrick Douglass' birthday on February 14th and Abraham Lincoln's birthday on February 12th. During the 1960s, colleges nationwide began pushing for the week to be expanded to a month. In 1976, President Gerald Ford declared February to be recognized as Black History Month. Since then, the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom have continued to devote the month to recognizing all contributions made by African Americans.

Carter G. Woodson
THE ART OF STORYTELLING

This month, clients are putting their creative imaginations to the test through the art of storytelling. Jacob Stewart, Activities Specialist, has been teaching clients the different components of a story: characters, setting, conflict, and conflict resolution.

To begin, Jacob introduces the goals of the activity to each new author: the ability to follow instructions, translate abstract thoughts into concrete details, and form a coherent plot for the audience. Next, clients put their thoughts on paper with minor guidance in proper grammar from Jacob. After the writing is complete, the story comes to life as clients illustrate each scene. To conclude, Jacob assembles the final product and shares it with the proud writer.

Eventually, OE hopes to hold a collection of clients’ stories at each location for future educational purposes.

AWARDS, BINGO, AND ICE CREAM

On January 21, OE hosted its first Durham/Orange Job Retention Social to celebrate the work of our people who are employed in their community and participate in OE Retention Services. Consumers and parents enjoyed a buffet, played bingo, and danced all afternoon.

A special thanks goes to Diane Thompson, Job Retention Coordinator, who orchestrated the event with the help of her dedicated community team: Denise Puryear, Yashika Drew, Donna Sharpe, Phylicia Evans, and Travious Bradshaw. Thank you for all of your hard work in making this event a huge success!

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

Regina Barbee
Bethany Boak
Betty Curtis
Cyeteese Garrett

Brittany Perry
James Thompson
Clifford Whitfield
Solow Williams

Work Anniversaries

Wally Enoch
Deon Hamner
Angella Hester
Margaret Samuels
James Shropshire