

*Ohio Assoc. of County Boards
Of MRDD
73 E. Wilson Bridge Road
Worthington, Ohio 43085
Contact: Linda Oda
Director of Communication
513-218-4851
loda@oacbmrdd.org*

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 30, 2008

Preble County Pioneer Honored With Statewide MRDD Award

COLUMBUS, Ohio – One of the “founding fathers” of the *Preble County Board of MRDD* recently was honored at the *Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD (OACB) 25TH ANNUAL CONVENTION* held at the Easton Hilton Hotel on Monday, Oct. 27.

Paul Shaeffer was one of three board members from across the state of Ohio who received the *Distinguished Service Award*, which began in 2006. There are 616 *County Board of MRDD* members in Ohio’s 88 counties.

Board members are nominated and chosen for their outstanding service and commitment to their local *County Board of MRDD*.

“These volunteer board members are the backbone of every school and agency across the state that helps people with developmental disabilities,” said Dan Ohler, *OACB* Executive Director. “Without their guidance, experience and wisdom, the 80,000 individuals we serve would not have their abilities and programs they enjoy today.”

In 1963, Paul Shaffer, who is the current president of the *Preble County Board of MRDD*, helped build the first classroom for students with developmental disabilities in Eaton. Today, *Preble County Board of MRDD* and *L&M Products* serve more than 250 individuals with developmental disabilities from birth to senior citizens.

Preble County Board of MRDD Superintendent Diane Knupp thanked Mr. Schaffer for his hard work and dedication, and noted he was a “pioneer” for the program.

“It is an honor – it’s like winning an Oscar,” Mr. Shaffer told the crowd of almost 600 people attending the convention. “Mrs. (Joyce) Shaffer had a big part in it too. It is rewarding to have an effective program in Preble County for people who really need it.”

In addition to serving on the *Preble County Board of MRDD*, Mr. and Mrs. Shaeffer have served on the *L&M Products Inc.* board for the past 16 years. *L&M Products* is the adult services component of the *Preble County Board of MRDD*.

This year, Preble County is celebrating 35 years in its current facility, a far cry from the days of operating out of a basement. In 2000 they added on to the current facility to accommodate the increased need for services, Mrs. Knupp said.

“I really enjoy serving on this board as well as the time I spent on the *L&M* board,” Mr. Shaeffer said. “While we have experienced some bumps in the road, all-in-all, it has been a very positive experience for me and my family. I feel the individuals that we serve are receiving outstanding services and that is the most important thing all of us can focus on. I am proud to be a part of this agency.”

The other board members recognized were Dennis Butler from the *Highland County Board of MRDD* and Bonnie Sisley from the *Portage County Board of MRDD*.

The *OACB* is celebrating its 25th-year. Its mission is to “support *County Boards of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities* in providing services and supports to individuals with disabilities.”

All 88 *County Boards of MRDD* in Ohio are members of this organization whose purpose is to educate and advocate for the 80,000 people with developmental disabilities who reside in the Buckeye State.

CUTLINE:

#####