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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Crawford County Advocate Honored By Ohio Developmental Disabilities Agency

COLUMBUS, Ohio – One of the true leaders of the *Crawford County Board of Developmental Disabilities* recently was honored at the *Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) 26TH ANNUAL CONVENTION* held at the *Easton Hilton* Dec. 2-4.

Joyce Cramer was one of three board members from across the state of Ohio who received the *Distinguished Service Award*, an honor which began in 2006. There are 616 *County Board of Developmental Disabilities* members in Ohio's 88 counties. Board members are nominated and chosen for their outstanding service and commitment to their local *County Board of Developmental Disabilities*.

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

"Consistent and un-ending" were the two words Chuck Frobose, superintendent of the *Crawford County Board of Developmental Disabilities*, used to describe the work Mrs. Cramer is known for. President of the Board since 2004, Mrs. Cramer has been worked relentlessly to help pass levies for the *Crawford County Board of Developmental Disabilities*.

"She has gone door to door and completed too many literature drops to remember," Mr. Frobose said.

As the mother of two children with Autism, Mrs. Cramer has provided in-services to staff, other family members and the public schools. "She is very knowledge and has shared her knowledge so that all of us can serve our clients better," Mr. Frobose said.

Mrs. Cramer said she had to educate herself first before she could help others. "I knew I had to learn this new language if I was ever going to be successful advocating for my children," she said.

She remembered some of her earlier challenges when Al Willis, who is now superintendent of *Auglaize County Board of Developmental Disabilities*, was her children's principal.

"May we all continue to advocate for the people we serve," Mrs. Cramer said.

In addition to Mrs. Cramer, the other board members recognized were Sam Greenwood from the *Clark County Board of Developmental Disabilities*, and Steve Streng of the *Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities*.

The *OACB* is celebrating its 26th year of operation. Its mission is to "support *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* in providing services and supports to individuals with disabilities."

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

CUTLINE:

Joyce Cramer recently earned one of the most prestigious awards bestowed at the *OACB* CONVENTION. Pictured are (seated) Mike Cramer, Joyce Cramer, Gretchen Rice, (back row) Robert Rice, *Auglaize County Board of Developmental Disabilities* Superintendent Al Willis, Jean Semonoff, *Crawford County Board of Developmental Disabilities* Superintendent Chuck Frobose, and Judy Enders.

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