

Our mission is to support *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* in providing services and supports to individuals with disabilities.

# OHIO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY BOARDS

SERVING PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



The 2010 OACB Board of Trustees elected its officers January 29. Standing next to Executive Director Dan Ohler are Diane Roman Fusco (Treasurer), Gabe DeSantis (Secretary), Blaine Brockman (Vice President), and Dean Fadel (President).

## OACB Welcomes Officers

Every two years, the *Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities* (OACB) holds a New Board Orientation. This two-day event includes a training that encompasses every phase of what a trustee should know to govern a statewide agency. On the second day, officers are elected and the January/February Board meeting is conducted.

For 2010, trustees elected Dean Fadel of Franklin County as its Presidents; Blaine Brockman of Madison

County as Vice President; Gabe DeSantis of Richland County as Secretary, and Diane Roman Fusco of Cuyahoga County as Treasurer.

"The commitment these 19 Board Members and Superintendents have demonstrated is commendable," said Dan Ohler, OACB Executive Director.

"In addition to attending their home *County Board of Developmental Disabilities* meetings and sub-committees, these dedicated individuals have agreed to be part of a statewide network," he said.

## Please Take A Minute To Update Your Information

Everyone agrees that *Senate Bill 79*, which was the legislation that served as the catalyst for removing the words "mental retardation" from the titles of *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* names, was the right thing to do.

That doesn't mean it was easy to accomplish. In addition to new signs, stationary, business cards, etc., many of you also changed your websites and email addresses. At the OACB, we are still in the process of getting our lists updated with your new information.

Please help us in getting information to *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* members. [CLICK HERE](#) to easily and quickly update your information on the OACB website to insure that you will continue to get the latest news and information as quickly as possible.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please call us at 614-431-0616.

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# Spotlight On Rod Standiford

*In an effort to become better acquainted with the volunteers who serve on the OACB's Board of Trustees, we will be profiling County Board of Developmental Disabilities' Board members who are elected to trustee positions. Profiled this month is Rod Standiford.*

**How long have you been a Lucas County Board Member?** 8 years

**How long have you served as a trustee on the OACB?** 5 years

**My family:** My wife Shelly and I have four children. Austin, 19, is a sophomore at the *University of Toledo*; Aaron, 18, is a senior at *Northview High School*; Megan, 13, is an eighth grader, and Michael, 12, is a seventh grader in *Toledo Public Schools' Special Needs Classroom*

**Occupation:** Firefighter/Paramedic with the *Sylvania Township Fire Department* for 10 years.

**Education:** Bachelors of Science Degree in Cardiac Rehab and Athletic Training from *Ball State University*

**Proudest moment as a Board member:** Hiring Dan Ohler as the Executive Director of the OACB. It

was a decision that affects 80,000 people with disabilities in a positive way, every day of the year.

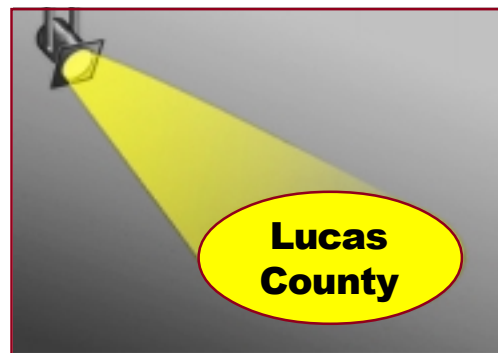
**Three people (living or dead) you would like to have dinner with:** My wife, Dale Earnhardt Sr., and my Thursday night crew that keeps me sane and helps recharge the batteries with good friendship and conversation.

**One thing I would like to accomplish:** Seeing our consumers survive the end of stimulus funding, and the next biennium budget with no decrease in services or supports.

**People would be surprised to know that:** Fortunately or unfortunately, nothing I do or say seems to surprise people.

**My favorite thing to do is:** Go on a cruise with the love of my life!

**My favorite snack food is:** Pizza



**Rod Standiford**

**This irritates me:** Non-transparent government and hidden agendas.

**Last book I read was:** *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*

**My favorite movie is:** *Caddy Shack*

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## Bidding Farewell To Rhonda Rhodes

Many will recall that as our collective involvement with Medicaid became more complex, Ohio's *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* were greatly assisted by the services of Rhonda Rhodes.

Rhonda's career started on *Capital Hill* as a Human Services professional with the *U.S. Senate staff*, then 17 years with the *Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services*, then the past decade or so as an independent consultant.

For the past few years, Rhonda's work with us here in Ohio subsided a bit, but she always responded to us immediately when we sought her assistance.

A few years ago, Rhonda took a sabbatical to deal with breast cancer.



She kept in touch as she battled the disease, and it appeared in remission. Unfortunately, however, Rhonda lost her battle with breast cancer in early January. "We have lost not only a trusted professional colleague", said OACB Executive Director Dan Ohler, "but also a dear friend".

Rhonda is survived by her husband, David; her parents BJ and Blaine Sturgill (who have lost their only child); and her two sons, Matthew (14) and Jack (11).

# Evidence of Success: 'I Love My Life'

**By Dean Fadel**  
Board President, OACB

Growing up with a younger brother with Down syndrome has helped me better understand what life might be like for an individual with learning and physical disabilities.



**Dean Fadel**

I would never, ever think I know exactly what it feels like to be in my brother Jeffery's shoes, or anyone else's who deals with the challenges of living and surviving with a development disability. But as a sibling, observing and sharing in my brother's growth has afforded me some valuable insights and perspective.

When Jeffery was born, I was 6 years old, and at that time doctors were still telling parents to institutionalize people with developmental disabilities. I remember our parents knew another family who had a daughter with Down syndrome and that is exactly what they had done with their daughter.

As a teenager in 1974 I remember the re-election ads on television being run by incumbent Ohio Governor John Gilligan showing what institutions for the developmentally disabled looked like when he took office in 1971 and touting the reforms his administration had implemented.

One ad showed a bunch of very young kids sitting on a bare floor half-naked in a big empty room. I was absolutely horrified. I was grateful my parents did not take Jeffery away from us. I also wondered if the un-

fortunate daughter of my parents' acquaintances was one of those kids in that picture. That picture will forever be in my mind as vividly as the day I first saw that ad.

We lost our mother when we were both very young. I was in college and Jeffery was 14 years old. My mother knew she was dying and there was no question that Jeffery's well-being was her most trying concern.

If she were alive today, I know she would be astounded to see the level of independence in Jeffery's life. For a 42-year old young man whose parents were told he might not live past 15 or 16 years, he has overcome much adversity to reach the independence he long sought.

Jeffery often says to me, "Brother, I love my life. I'm happy."

Our developmental disabilities system in Ohio has helped create a life for Jeffery my mother would have never dreamed possible. He has his own bedroom and bathroom, and a roommate. He has a job, and he's a member of two *Next Chapter Book Clubs*. He is part of his community, and he contributes.

Ohio's system for people with developmental disabilities has come a long way from when Governor Gilligan was running for re-election, but today, that same system is also facing many new and daunting challenges.

The state's population of people with developmental disabilities continues to grow while funding becomes tighter and more vulnerable. I strongly believe that all developmental disabilities should be treated equally, and the system should not give any preferences. It will be vital

for our community to be as united as ever while the state of Ohio is facing a potential \$4 to \$9 billion deficit in 2011.

I am confident there are more than enough dedicated, passionate and knowledgeable people among *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* Board members, County Superintendents and Staffs, and among the OACB staff to help meet these challenges head-on.

When I first decided I wanted to get more engaged in developmental disability issues back in 2003, I never imagined it would lead me to the position I am in today. It is truly a privilege to be associated with so many incredible and caring people at the state and local level who help deliver the programs assisting Ohio's most vulnerable citizens.

I come to this position as a probate court appointee on the *Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities*. I will continue to strive to integrate my more than 25 years of professional experience in the legislative arena with the other diverse backgrounds that make up the developmental disabilities community for the betterment of our state's developmental disabilities system.

Every person who has a hand in Ohio's developmental disabilities system should take great pride when a young man like Jeffery can say, "I love my life and I'm happy."

Working together and as one under the broad umbrella of the OACB, I believe there will be many more Ohio citizens with developmental disabilities who will share Jeffery's sentiment.

# Any Tick Of The Clock ...

By Dan Ohler

Executive Director, OACB

[dohler@oacbdd.org](mailto:dohler@oacbdd.org)

On Thursday afternoon, January 7, 2010, a tanker truck driving on Interstate 70 near Springfield, Ohio lost control, went across the median strip and struck a shuttle bus carrying 10 passengers.



Dan Ohler

The driver and three passengers, individuals that lived in an ICF/MR in Clark County, were killed. They were four people going about their day just as they had many days prior, perhaps over the course of many years. They never made it to their destination, and ultimately, never made it home that night. Just like that, with one simple tick of the clock, life changed its course for the friends and families of four people in Clark County.

Quite often in our profession, we hear about ensuring the "health, safety and welfare" of the individuals that we serve. Sometimes, it makes us want to scream! Quite often in our profession, we hear about ensuring individuals have the

same opportunities to live, work and play in the community that everyone else is assured.

In fact, recent policy coming out of the *Civil Rights Division* at the *United States Department of Justice* makes clear their intent to "ensuring that states...provide services in integrated, appropriate, community settings". President Obama has declared this the "Year of Community Living".

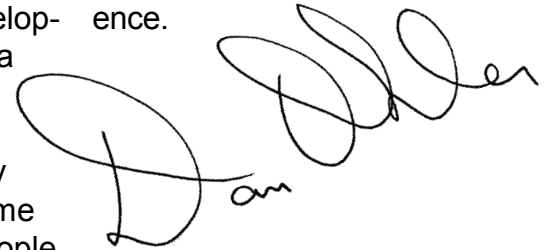
The realities of the world we live in, the realities of "community living" for all citizens of this country, are that sometimes bad things happen to people and there is not a thing the "professionals" can do to prevent it. Are there things professionals can do to lessen the risk of harm to individuals we serve? Sure there are. Does that mean avoiding community involvement? God help us if it does.

There may well be some who will use this accident as an example of why individuals with developmental disabilities should not be "out in the community". In fact, I was asked by a reporter, "...why on earth would a bus with people who are [developmentally disabled] be out on a highway when it is snowing?" After overcoming my initial moment of being appalled, I calmly responded, "Perhaps the same reason thousands of other people

were out on the road that afternoon – from my understanding, they were going home from work."

As we go about our jobs, as we go about our lives, we have to realize that there are simply some things we cannot control. No matter how much we might want to, the hands of fate will at times reach down and dictate the path we follow. The reality is that with "...any tick of the clock, life can change its course...".

Say a prayer for the four people that lost their lives on a snowy afternoon in Clark County. Say a prayer for their friends and family, and, say a prayer for the driver of that truck as I sense nothing about that person's life will ever be the same again. Then go about your profession of enhancing the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities; realize that you will never be able to completely ensure the health and safety of individuals we serve (i.e., no matter what a CMS regulator might suggest); and most of all, appreciate the opportunity you have to make a difference.



## Graduates of Superintendent Program Announced

Steve Hilgeman, Superintendent for the *Fayette County Board of Developmental Disabilities*, recently announced the names of the people who have successfully completed the 2009 *Superintendent Development Program*.

They include William Angel Jr., David Ashley, Kristi Marcum, Cindy Meinking, Chris Miller, Melissa Morelli, Kelly Connor Petty, Pheetta Wilkinson, and Eric Young.

As you have the opportunity, please congratulate these people on their success.

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# Meet OACB Consultant Lori Stanfa

Lori Stanfa is officially listed as a “consultant” on the OACB staff directory, but she is our “go to” person whenever a County Board is in need of training, program assistance or has policy issues. Often times, she works hand in hand with Associate Director Kim Linkinhoker to help County Boards reach their maximum potential. In an effort to give you the opportunity to get to know our staff better, we thought we would share a little insight into their personal lives.

**Family:** Married 20 years to Mike Schroeder, a fabulous guy, gourmet cook and my best friend. We have an 11-year old son, Cole, who is our greatest accomplishment and brings us so much joy.

**Favorite restaurants:** Locally, I love *Ciao* and *Georgios*. In Columbus, you can't go wrong with a steak at *Hyde Park* or seafood at the *Ocean Club*.

**Guilty Pleasure:** The BCO (Beans, Onion and Cheese dip),

chips and a margarita at *Loma Lindas* in Toledo.

**What I do when I'm not working:** We spend most of our time watching our son play sports, including basketball, football and baseball. We love to travel and enjoy spending most of the summer at our condo on Lake Erie in Port Clinton.

**Favorite moment working with individuals with developmental disabilities:** After more than 30 years in this field, I can't pick just one moment. Providing direct care in a developmental center in the late 1970s was probably the hardest and most challenging job I ever had!

As a case manager, moving individuals out of large state institutions in the early 1980s was both invigorating and rewarding. Supervising group homes through the 1980s was a great learning experience, and I developed many strong and significant relationships there.

Starting supported living in the early 1990s and helping individuals move



Lori Stanfa

into their own homes was inspiring and most gratifying. I literally remember hundreds of individuals with developmental disabilities who have touched me in countless ways and profoundly impacted who I am. I am proud to be a part of this movement and look forward to contributing to the field in the years to come.

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## New Logan County Restaurant Needs Our Support

Logan County has a new restaurant, and even if it is not close, it is definitely worth the drive.

Sure, the American bistro and French menus offer tempting delights. With seating for 200 and a banquet room for 100, the restaurant can accommodate just about every party.

What makes the restaurant, located at 212 E. Columbus Avenue in Bellefontaine, so special is that it employs people from Logan County who have developmental disabilities.

*Chattan Loch* is owned by Tracy McPherson and its chef is Aaron Brunner. Tracy knows firsthand how hard it is for her daughter, who has Down syndrome, to get a job. She also believes the

restaurant can provide opportunities for unemployed or underemployed county residents.

*Chattan Loch*, which is closed Mondays, offers lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and has a Sunday brunch from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dinner hours run from 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, with pub hours until 11 p.m. and no later than 1 a.m. on the weekends.

[CLICK HERE](#) to check out a recent story in the *Columbus Dispatch*.

# Company Provides Helpful Service

The OACB recently began offering *Affiliate Memberships* to people and companies that enhance the lives of people with developmental disabilities. In an effort to become better acquainted with our *Affiliate Members*, we will be showcasing an *Affiliate Member* in our newsletter

*The Billing Connection* - the name says it all.

Located in Pataskala in Licking County, *The Billing Connection* helps people and agencies that provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities spend their time doing what they do best - providing services and supports for people who need them.

For those involved in the Medicaid and Medicare system, keeping the paperwork straight can be so problematic that it actually keeps people from doing the job they love, and that is working with people with developmental disabilities.

For the past three years, President Willis Wolf and his staff at *The Billing Connection* have worked with *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities*



**Administrators for *The Billing Connection* include Melissa Skaggs (Vice President), Melanie Smith (Account Manager), Willis Wolf (President), Rhonda Stout (Office manager), and Robin Day (Operations Manager).**

and private providers, as well as providers of *Ohio Home Care Waiver, Residential Services, MACSIS*, and traditional medical billing.

"We specialize in a fast changing and complex area," said Melissa Skaggs, Vice President of the organization. "We are experts in the billing field, so our cli-

ents can concentrate on their specialties. We help to keep cash flow at the highest possible level by helping our clients increase their revenue and improve their turnaround time," she said.

To contact *The Billing Connection*, call (740)964-0043 or 1-800-995-0043.

## Meet Your 2010 OACB Board Of Trustees



The *Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities* welcomed several new Trustees for 2010. The group convened for its first meeting and orientation January 28-29. Pictured are (seated, left to right) Kay Ervin (Jackson), Patrick Macke (Portage), Roderick Standiford (Lucas), Rick Marriott (Ross), Laurie Benintendi (Clermont), Cheryl Phipps (Hamilton), Gabe DeSantis (Richland), (standing) Dean Fadel (Franklin), Steve Bolger (Jefferson), Tom Cochran (Portage), Robert Milliken (Stark), John Pekar (Fairfield and Vinton), DeeDee Kabbes (Champaign), Blaine Brockman (Madison), David Wigginton (Licking), Stephen White (Clark), and Diane Roman Fusco (Cuyahoga). Not pictured is Al Willis (Auglaize).

# Across Ohio - DD News In A Nutshell

*In an effort to provide news about all 88 County Board of Developmental Disabilities, the OACB has started a new feature this month. We asked superintendents from all 88 County Boards of Developmental Disabilities to send a sentence or two about something happening in their county.*

**Adams:** This county welcomed Sarene Bellamy as its new Early Intervention Specialist.

**Allen:** This county is part of a collaboration called *Building Partnerships Initiative*, which received one of three national replication grants. The goal is to replicate the model program developed by *Disabled Persons Protection Commission (DPPC)* in Massachusetts, focusing on the recognition, reporting, and response to crimes against persons with disabilities. Recently, 245 law enforcement personnel received extensive training at a conference in Lima on techniques for first responders and investigators when the victim of a crime has a disability.

**Ashland:** This county is pleased to announce that Amy Coey will be serv-

ing as its new SSA Director. She will be replacing Jim Huntington.

**Ashtabula:** Employees of this county were honored for their years of service ranging from 5 to 35 years at a holiday gathering in December.

**Athens:** On December 31, Jody Harris embarked on a well-deserved retirement after 10 years as superintendent and more than 32 years in the field. She received recognition awards from several entities, including *PAR, SOCOG, Region 4 Superintendents, Athens County Commissioners* and the local *Consumer Advocacy & Advisory Council*. Eric Young is now superintendent in Athens.

**Auglaize:** Effective January 1, this county had 42 individuals enrolled in

Individual Options (IO) waivers and 31 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Belmont:** Effective January 1, this county had 70 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and 61 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Brown:** *Survivor* contestant Marisa Calihan visited individuals at the *Brown County Board of Developmental Disabilities*. She signed autographs and talked about the reality television show, which many followed throughout the season. Marisa is the daughter of Board Vice President, Elizabeth Doss, who formerly was an OACB trustee.

**Butler:** Effective January 1, this county had 303 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and 305 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Carroll:** The Carroll Hills Program kicked off the New Year by becoming a smoke free campus. The Board is working on better utilizing data as it ventures down the road of quality improvement.

**Champaign:** Mike Halpin, former SSA Director in Clark County, has been hired as the new SSA Director replacing Michael Missler, who retired in November.

**Clark:** We are now known as *Developmental Disabilities of Clark County*. Putting the words "developmental disabilities" first reduces the amount of times people abbreviate the most important part of this county's name.



**Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities Superintendent Kim Miller presents Kim Eberly with an award, recognizing her more than 25 years of service to U-Co Industries. Also pictured are Bruce Eberly and Board President Bruce Davis.**

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# News In A Nutshell *(From Page 7)*

**Clermont:** Effective January 1, this county had 167 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and 45 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Clinton:** Joanne Sell has been hired as Service & Support Coordinator. Joanne previously worked for this County Board in the mid-1990's in residential services, and more recently was employed by an agency provider as a home manager.

**Columbiana:** This county said goodbye to two long term Board members, who completed 12 years with the Board in December. The Board approved the purchase of a candle company to increase employment in the workshops.

**Coshocton:** This county served more than 100 children in the last six months through the *Work Enforcement Grant*. Students were able to gain work experience over the summer in their job goal that was designed by the student. Some of the unique examples were individuals wanted learn about welding, childcare, nursing, dentistry, security work, and many professional fields. Although it was a difficult challenge finding work experience for 100 students, all of them had 4-8 weeks of experience.

**Crawford:** This county's first *Project STIR* class, which included 38 people, celebrated its achievements January 20. Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility (STIR) provides training that focuses on self advocate leadership.

**Cuyahoga:** This county has received a three-year accreditation for Community Services-Community Integration; Employment Services-Job Devel-

opment, Job Supports and Job-Site Training; and Employment Services - Organizational Employment Services. This latest accreditation, which extends through 2012, is the ninth consecutive three-year accreditation that *CARF*, the international accrediting body, has awarded *CCBDD*.

**Darke:** Effective January 1, this county had 42 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and 45 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Defiance:** This county's seniors program is doing volunteer work at Mercy Hospital in Defiance assembling patient packages and volunteering in the food court area. This is just one of the many volunteer activities our seniors do and have done over the years. We take the philosophy that anybody can contribute back to the community.

**Delaware:** Read an inspiring story of a support administrator from this county and her race to help children with Cerebral Palsy in this community. [http://www.dcbdd.org/viewpdf.php?pdf=For Community/pdf/newsletters/2009/Fall Newsletter 2009.pdf](http://www.dcbdd.org/viewpdf.php?pdf=For%20Community/pdf/newsletters/2009/Fall%20Newsletter%202009.pdf)

**Erie:** Effective January 1, this county had 91 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and 31 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Fairfield:** *Blue Shoe Arts*, this county's arts program, had eight pieces selected for the *VSA Accessible Expressions 2010* exhibit. The exhibit, which tours Ohio for the entire year, opens Feb. 20 at the *Westerville Community Center*.

**Fayette:** This county will abandon traditional pay schedules and will move

toward a merit based, performance driven set of pay ranges.

**Franklin:** Frank New, this county's Director of Planning and former Director of Special Education for the *Ohio Department of Education*, will retire at the end of February, after 48 years of public service. Wish him well at [frank.new@fcbdd.org](mailto:frank.new@fcbdd.org) or 614-342-5972.

**Fulton:** Through an agreement with the County Commissioners, this County Board is now doing all of the recycling for the county. They will also maintain a drop off site for the city of Wauseon as part of this agreement.

**Gallia:** This County Board has a new board member. Tara Calvert, who is the parent of one of our school age students, joined the Board in January.

**Geauga:** Commissioners approved the bidding for a new transportation facility for the *Metzenbaum Center (Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities)* that will serve both the *Metzenbaum* fleet of vans and the *West Geauga Local Schools* bus/van fleet. The collaboration will save taxpayers about \$2 million by collaborating on a single facility.

**Greene:** This county's Adult Services Division recently launched music, art and pet therapies, which are very popular with the clients.

**Guernsey:** This county's *Early Intervention* and *Help Me Grow* hosted a dinner with Santa for families in the birth to age three programs, with 281 people participating.

**Hamilton:** Five individuals served by this county graduated just before the holidays from a pilot mentorship pro-

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## News In A Nutshell *(From Page 8)*

gram for young adults involved with or at risk for involvement with the court system. The program is operated in conjunction with the *City of Cincinnati's Human Relations Commission*, and will continue as a non-pilot effort in 2010.

**Hancock:** This county's has kicked off a new *Next Chapter Book Club* under the leadership of Kim Tabor and Linda Benjamin. Linda retired as an *Early Intervention Developmental Specialist* and is taking the lead as the facilitator of the book club. The *Raven Book Store*, an outstanding book store in Findlay, has agreed to host the club.

**Hardin:** This county has collaborated with the *Hardin County Master*

*Gardener's* to develop a *Community Teaching Garden* behind our Adult Program. These gardens will be comprised of perennials, rock landscaping, and a pond-less waterfall, among other features. This will allow all of our enrollees the experience of gardening and enjoying the natural environment. It will also bring the public closer to our facilities to enjoy and learn more about gardening.

**Harrison:** Effective January 1, this county had 19 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and nine enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Henry:** Effective January 1, this county had 58 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and 20 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Highland:** Effective January 1, this county had 44 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and seven enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Hocking:** Effective January 1, this county had 35 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and 48 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Holmes:** Effective January 1, this county had 28 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and 28 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Huron:** Ten artists from *Artists' Open Studio* at Christie Lane will have art featured in the *Accessible Expressions Ohio 2010 Exhibit* and *VSA arts of Ohio Touring Show*. The opening ceremonies are at 11 a.m. February 20, Westerville Community Center, 350 N. Cleveland Avenue.

**Jackson:** This county held its second annual *Amy Duggan Basketball Classic* to raise funds for the *Aktion Club Relay for Life Team* and local *Special Olympics*. The *Jackson County Trotters* team plays local celebrities (known as the *Playground Legends*) for a traveling trophy. More than \$3,500 was raised for these two projects.

**Jefferson:** This county continues to work with the *Watson Institute* of Pittsburgh and the school districts of Jefferson and Harrison counties to expand and improve the educational services provided by the *Jefferson Regional Spectrum Center*. The *Spectrum Center*, which opened in August, currently serves 17 students with autism and is operated by the *Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities*.



At the *Summit County Board of Developmental Disabilities*, Stephanie Davis, *CALICO* Supervisor and Angelo Miller read a book together.

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# News In A Nutshell *(From Page 9)*

**Knox:** This county has been working hard over the past year to put together effective *Dual Diagnosis Intervention* and *Crisis Intervention* teams. These are two different groups involving several partners including law enforcement, mental health, and developmental disabilities. The teams help solve emergencies and crisis for adults with dual diagnosis. Because of this effort, individuals are being served more efficiently, effectively, and safely when they are in crisis.

**Lake:** This county has entered into a *Prodigious Partnership* with *Barnes and Nobles*, *Retired Senior Volunteers (RSVP)* and *Mentor Schools*. The *Nobel Readers* book club meets twice a month at *Barnes and Nobles* and is facilitated by *RSVP*. This fall *Mentor Public Schools*, specifically *Ridge Middle School*, joined in reading *October Sky* and celebrated the student projects and field trip to Coal Wood, West Virginia from the book. These partnerships have led to a book cart in the workshop, book drive, sporting events and performances.

**Lawrence:** Five of the eight teachers at the *Early Childhood Center* have officially completed their *Master's Degree in Education*, with focuses on *Special Education* or *Early Child Development*.

**Licking:** This county is gearing up for an exciting first half of 2010. In March their biggest event is *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day* on March 19 where we invite the community to participate in programs. The day is capped off with an awards program and luncheon, and sharing of experiences. This event has been very successful for almost two decades.

**Logan:** This county recently hired

Andrew Kinder as Business Manager. Andrew comes from the Miami County Board of Developmental Disabilities with eight years of experience in the business office.

**Lorain:** This holiday season, staff of this county's *Service and Support Administration* department volunteered to collect food and funds for the needy people in their community. In two weeks, the department collected \$350 and 53 pounds of food, which they donated to the local *Second Harvest Food Bank*. This is the second time the SSA department has undertaken this project, which extends the spirit of the agency's motto, "Helping People," beyond the walls of Murray Ridge.

**Lucas:** Effective January 1, this county had 703 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and 624 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Madison:** This county has the fortune to be affiliated with a pair of organizations who annually provide gifts for youngsters served by the *Fairhaven School*. For 36 years, *Jonathan Alder High School* students involved with *FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America)* have provided Christmas gifts for children served by the *Madison County Board of Developmental Disabilities*. For the past six years, *Fairhaven* has been the guest of *Beightler Armory* – a Columbus military facility. The military and civilian personnel provide gifts for children with disabilities, as well as a fun-filled day that includes games, crafts, lunch, and a visit by Santa Claus.

**Mahoning:** Effective January 1, this county had 258 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and

194 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Marion:** Effective January 1, this county had 111 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and 10 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Medina:** Effective January 1, this county had 205 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and 56 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Meigs:** Effective January 1, this county had 32 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and 17 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Mercer:** This county welcomes Beth Gehret as its *SSA Director*. She is taking the position from Marcy Brown, who has retired after 36 years of service.

**Miami:** This county will be participating in the *Bridges to Transition* program. This innovative initiative will assist in developing employment outcomes for underserved youth, ages 14 to 22 as they transition from school to employment.

**Monroe:** Effective January 1, this county had eight individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and eight enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Montgomery:** This county has accomplished 112 home modifications for individuals with disabilities from 2005-2009, including 41 bathroom modifications, 24 wheelchair ramps, 11 Grab bars, 6 handrails, 5 automatic door openers and 25 Adaptive equipment, door widening, fences, gates, hoist lifts, ceiling lifts and alarms.

**Morgan:** Effective January 1, this county had 25 individuals enrolled in

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# News In A Nutshell (From Page 10)

Individual Options (IO) waivers and 21 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Morrow:** Effective January 1, this county had 48 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and 16 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Muskingum:** Effective January 1, this county had 62 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and 14 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Noble:** Effective January 1, this county had 12 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and four enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Ottawa:** Effective January 1, this county had 68 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and 22 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Paulding:** Effective January 1, this county had 29 individuals enrolled in

Individual Options (IO) waivers and 29 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Perry:** As part of this county's ongoing efforts to increase positive awareness of people with developmental disabilities, the *Perry County Board of Developmental Disabilities Media Committee* is visiting local schools offering an awareness program. Students will have the opportunity to experience hands on what it may feel like for individuals dealing with disabilities such as; blindness, limited mobility, deafness, dexterity issues, and learning disabilities.

**Pickaway:** This county has announced its 2010 goals, which include 1) Fully implemented *Primary Service Provider* model for *Early Intervention* service delivery; 2) Fully implemented individualized budgets based on *Individualized Service Plans*; and 3) Elimination of *Supported Living Waiting List*.

of *Supported Living Waiting List*.

**Pike:** Effective January 1, this county had 53 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and 17 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Portage:** This county is pleased to announce the completion of the phase one renovation to the *Dennis M. Coble Administration* building. The renovation included a remodeling of all restrooms, employee break room, building entrances, HVAC, and a much larger conference/Board room. The renovation was \$100,000 below budget. Significant energy savings should result from the renovation. Phase II is scheduled for mid-2010.

**Preble:** The *Preble County Cougars* basketball team is playing exhibition games again this season at all five Preble County high schools. This is the third year for these games that are held during halftime of men's varsity games. The Cougar cheerleaders are also on hand, cheering on the team!

**Putnam:** During its January board meeting, through the annual action plan, the Board emphasized the need to expand both habilitation and community employment services to better meet the unique needs of individuals served in the county.

**Richland:** This county has adopted a 10-year strategic plan called *Envision Newhope 2020*. The plan is being shared with staff and is available for viewing on the agency's website.

**Ross:** This county is sponsoring a continuing series of classes for adults in the *Pioneer Center* program called "Being Safe." The class teaches indi-



The A.S.K. (Advocating for Special Kids) Playground Committee, made up of parent volunteers, community business leaders and a few staff members from the Preble County Board of Development Disabilities, is in the process of raising \$150,000 to build a totally accessible playground. In addition to swings, slides, climbing areas and other neat stuff, the playground will be built over a poured-in-place rubber surface.

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# News In A Nutshell *(From Page 11)*

viduals how to be safe in all daily living experiences. For more information on the program, contact Administrative Service and Support Director Laura K. Martin, at (740) 774-7044 or [lk martin@rossdd.org](mailto:lk martin@rossdd.org).

**Sandusky:** This county was an active participant in launching the *PATHS* program in northwest Ohio. Workshop Specialist Laura Pendleton graduated with the first *PATHS* class in the North Central Region, while Cheryl Cotter and Doug Krieger provided 1:1 mentoring, guidance, and direction for class participants.

**Scioto:** Effective January 1, this county had 104 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and 20 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Seneca:** Effective January 1, this county had 59 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and 16 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Shelby:** Effective January 1, this county had 43 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and 50 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Stark:** *Handprints Sign Choir*, comprised of 20 adult men and women with varying degrees of abilities from the Stark County area, performed the pre-game show for the *Harlem Globetrotters* on January 29 at the *Canton Civic Center*. The choir is voluntarily directed by Sara Yates, an SSA for the *County Board*.

**Summit:** A handful of eligible Summit County residents with disabilities will be part of a micro-enterprise “business incubator” pilot project. These entrepreneurs will receive a day program that includes shared services and work supports that allow them to pursue there

individual business plans. Shared resources for the business owners with disabilities will include office space, phone/fax/Internet and accounting services.

**Trumbull:** This county has seen 87 adult consumers leave its adult services program in the last month to a private day habilitation provider. These adults live in ICFMRs so there was no free choice of provider, just a business decision on the part of the owners. As a result of this development, we are in the process of laying off 18 employees (workshop specialists, bus drivers, and bus aides). It is sad to see the adults leave, as well as our employees.

**Tuscarawas:** This county recently was issued a five-year accreditation certificate in *DODD’s Areas of Excellence* for the quality services and supports provided to people with disabilities. In addition to submitting documentation for all five *Areas of Excellence* domains, this county submitted its *Ohio Partnership for Excellence (Baldrige)* application for which they earned recognition of their commitment to quality systems.

**Union:** This county encourages people to view its new website at [www.ucbdd.org](http://www.ucbdd.org). This website serves as the primary information resource for the organization. Viewers are encouraged to view the 60-second services video on the website.

**Van Wert:** Effective January 1, this county had 31 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and 38 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Vinton:** Effective January 1, this county had 27 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and 17 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Warren:** After more than six months of information gathering from stakeholders including staff, family members, and providers, the *Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities* has completed the development of a 5-year strategic plan. The Board had a training session and voted to approve the strategic plan at its January meeting.

**Washington:** Effective January 1, this county had 64 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and 52 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Wayne:** Throughout the 55-year history of this county, the entire community has taken great pride in the staff that has dedicated their lives to serving the children and adults enrolled in the *Wayne County Board of Developmental Disabilities* programs. The quality of staff is reflected in the progress made by the individuals served. When people step back to observe the progress made by many of the children and adults, it is truly remarkable.

**Williams:** Effective January 1, this county had 31 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and 12 enrolled in Level One waivers.

**Wood:** This county is one of eight in the state participating in the *Bridges to Transition* grant program that is being offered through the *OACB* and the *Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC)*. The program’s focus is to assist youth with developmental disabilities to acquire the needed skills to obtain employment upon graduation from high school.

**Wyandot:** Effective January 1, this county had 45 individuals enrolled in Individual Options (IO) waivers and 5 enrolled in Level One waivers.