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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ODODD Director Chosen As Winner Of Prestigious Annual OACB Award

COLUMBUS, Ohio – John Martin became the first director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to receive the annual Betty Macintosh Award at the 27th annual *Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) of Developmental Disabilities' CONVENTION (OACB)* at the *Hilton at Easton* Dec. 1-3.

The award was established in 2000 by the *OACB*, and is presented annually to a professional in the developmental disabilities service delivery system who exhibits extraordinary accomplishments in professional leadership and advocacy for individuals with developmental disabilities.

“(Director Martin) meets this criterion and then some,” said Jim Canney, superintendent of the *Madison County Board of Developmental Disabilities* and last year’s Betty Macintosh award winner.

Before introducing Director Martin to the approximately 600 people in attendance, Canney noted that Martin has been a teacher, group home administrator, director of community housing and held a myriad of posts that improved services to people with developmental disabilities throughout Ohio over the past several decades.

“John always has a vision for people with developmental disabilities. He has a keen ability to bring all stakeholders together for the best possible outcome,” Canney said.

The three words Canney used to describe Martin were passionate, dedicated and professional.

Martin thanked his wife Sue for her years of support that allowed him to work for people with developmental disabilities throughout the state. “I’m the one who gets all the attention, but my wife is the one who gets stuck with all the work and sacrifice so that I can do the things I always wanted to do, including this job,” Martin said, hugging his wife.

“I deep appreciate this honor,” Martin said, noting he knew Betty Macintosh, a long time Department of Developmental Disabilities employee, by reputation only.

OACB Executive Director Dan Ohler thanked Martin for serving as the Director for the past four years.

“Clearly, you have displayed a model of service for everyone in Ohio. I look forward to working with you for many years to come,” Ohler said.

The *OACB* is celebrating its 27th-year of existence. 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 85,000 people with developmental disabilities who reside in the Buckeye State.

CUTLINE:

Director John Martin is shown with his Betty Macintosh award, along with Dan Ohler, OACB Executive Director.

Director John Martin with his wife, Sue.

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