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Serving People With Developmental Disabilities
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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 7, 2010

Huron County Board Member Honored By Ohio Developmental Disabilities Agency

COLUMBUS, Ohio – No one has ever accused DeEtte Zimmerman of not being a team player. Or of sitting back and letting others do all the tough lifting.

That's one of the reasons the President of the Huron County Board of Developmental Disabilities earned the Distinguished Service Award at the at the *Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) 27TH ANNUAL CONVENTION* held at the *Easton Hilton* Dec. 1-3.

“DeEtte is a zealous advocate, and her passion is fueled by her son Chum, and his wants and needs and desires,” said Dr. Dee Zeffiro-Krenisky, superintendent of the Huron County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

While that description could fit many mothers of children with developmental disabilities, what makes Zimmerman special is her willingness to go the extra miles to make opportunities possible for all people with developmental disabilities – not just her own son.

“DeEtte is very active in Huron County. Sometimes she has had to politely push fellow board members and staff to be better, but everyone has benefited from her involvement,” Dr. Zeffiro-Krenisky said.

Zimmerman said she considers herself “blessed to continue to be able to touch the lives of people who have not been as fortunate as others.

“Over the years I have had the opportunity to work and serve with good, dedicated, creative people who shared my concerns. The collaboration, the advocacy, the accountability of working together to fulfill the needs of our folks has been made easier because of the caring people that I am surrounded by, including my family,” she said.

The *Distinguished Service Award* began in 2006. Each year, three Board Members are recognized. 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 85,000 people we serve would not have their abilities and programs they enjoy today.”

The *OACB* is celebrating its 27th 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 85,000 individuals with developmental disabilities who reside in the Buckeye State.

CUTLINE:

DeEtte and Dick Zimmerman are pictured with Dan Ohler, OACB Executive Director, and Dr. Dee Zeffiro-Krenisky, superintendent of the Huron County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

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