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Ross Board of Developmental Disabilities volunteer wins state award for service *Janet Stauffer recognized by state association for dedication to people with disabilities*

WORTHINGTON, Ohio – The *Ohio Association of County Boards – Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB)* announced Tuesday that one of three 2011 Distinguished Service Award winners is Janet Stauffer, a volunteer at the Ross County Board of Developmental Disabilities in Chillicothe. The state disability group presented Stauffer with her award in a ceremony held last week at the association’s annual convention in Columbus. [SEE ATTACHED PHOTO]

“Janet is the kind of volunteer we wish we had in all of Ohio’s 88 counties,” said Dan Ohler, OACB Executive Director. “Janet’s unwavering commitment to people with disabilities in Ross County is a testament to her strong character and sense of civic responsibility, and we are proud to present her with this honor.”

Since 2006, OACB has presented three Distinguished Service Awards at their annual convention – one for the smallest, middle, and largest third counties by size and population. Board members, employees, and volunteers of county boards of developmental disabilities who demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to people with disabilities in their communities are eligible for nomination. Rick Marriott, Superintendent of the Ross County Board of DD, nominated Stauffer for this year’s award from middle-third counties.

“Janet personifies the word volunteer,” Marriott said in his nomination. “Besides being a parent of a son with a disability, she has logged many hours of personal time helping us with countless projects at the Ross County Board of DD. We owe her a great debt for the time and energy she has devoted to our activities, and hope that this award is seen as a small token of appreciation for a job well done.”

Marriott highlighted many examples of Stauffer’s volunteerism both past and present when nominating her for the award, including a previous stint as a board member of the Ross County Board of DD from 1981 to 1987 as well as current volunteer roles at the United Commercial Travelers (a disability organization), People First (a self-advocacy disability organization), and the Pioneers Booster Club, among others. He also recounted at least 20 occasions when Stauffer purchased pairs of shoes for children in need from her own personal funds, showing that her generosity was not limited to volunteer time.

As part of her regular volunteer activities, she serves meals at the Pioneer Center and oversees the daily operation of the cafeteria, sometimes even volunteering to serve as a classroom aide if staff members are shorthanded. Retired from the Social Security Administration after 30 years of employment, Janet lives Chillicothe with her two sons Joe and Jason.

“Despite being officially retired, Janet puts in a full work week on behalf of people with disabilities in Ross County,” Marriott said. “We couldn’t be more grateful for all she’s done to help the Pioneer Center achieve its mission over the years. She is truly one of a kind.”

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About OACB

The *Ohio Association of County Boards – Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB)* is a non-profit organization that has provided information, continuing education, training, and legislative advocacy services to Ohio’s 88 County Boards of Developmental Disabilities since January of 1984. For more information about OACB, visit www.oacbdds.org.

Photo cutline

Distinguished Service Award Recipient Janet Stauffer (center) poses with Ross County Board of DD Superintendent Rick Marriott (left) and her son Jason Stauffer (right) after receiving her award at the 2011 OACB Annual Convention on November 30, 2011.