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Clark Board of Developmental Disabilities president earns state honor for service

Michael Bartee recognized by state association for long-time 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 Michael Bartee, president of the Clark County Board of Developmental Disabilities in Springfield. The state disability group presented Bartee with his award in a ceremony held last week at the association’s annual convention in Columbus. [SEE ATTACHED PHOTO]

“Michael is the kind of board member we wish we had in all of Ohio’s 88 counties,” said Dan Ohler, OACB Executive Director. “His unwavering commitment to people with disabilities in Clark County is an inspiring model for other board members across the state, and we are proud to present him with this honor.”

Since 2006, OACB has presented three Distinguished Service Awards at their annual convention – one each 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. Jennifer Rousculp, Superintendent of the Clark County Board of DD, nominated Bartee for this year’s award from the largest-third counties.

“Being a parent of a son with disabilities is very important to Mike,” Rousculp said in her nomination of Bartee. “He leads the board with his son Brian as well as the other 1,050 individuals at the forefront of his work, always remembering the real reason we are all here – to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities.”

Rousculp highlighted many examples of Bartee’s long-time service to the community when nominating him for the award, including more than 23 years as a board member of the Clark County Board of DD. In addition to his role at Clark DD, Bartee has served as a board member for Housing Connection, Inc., Clark County’s non-profit housing corporation for more than 125 people with developmental disabilities.

Bartee is currently employed at Navistar, where he serves as a union representative for United Auto Workers Local 658. Rousculp noted in her nomination that Mike’s experience has assisted the Board in understanding the importance of labor and management working together for the mission of the Board. Mike has been instrumental during times of major change; most recently the privatization of TAC Industries, which was formerly operated by the County Board.

“Without Mike’s guidance and leadership during the past three decades, the Clark County Board of DD would not be as successful as it is today,” Rousculp said. “This award is but a small token of our appreciation for the time and energy he has devoted to our program. We are forever thankful for his contributions.”

Michael Bartee has served as a board member of the Clark County Board of DD since first being appointed in 1988. He lives in Springfield with his wife, Roxie.

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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 outline

From left: Mary Brandstetter, CEO, TAC Enterprises; Jennifer Rousculp, Superintendent, Clark County Board of DD; Mike Bartee, Roxie Bartee, Lacey McKinstry, and Sam Greenwood are photographed after Bartee receives his award at the 2011 OACB Annual Convention.