

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

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY BOARDS

CELEBRATING THE ABILITIES OF OHIO'S 80,000 INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



One of the rare moments Monty Kerr can be found behind a desk. Typically, Monty is busy with his hands-on approach in Belmont, Harrison or Noble counties. (Pam McCort Photo)

Collaboration Key For Success

In today's economic climate, collaboration is not just a good idea. It is a common sense initiative that many *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* are embracing with open arms.

Whether it is sharing an administrator like a superintendent or business manager, or collaborating on inservices, speakers and strategies, many *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* have found that cooperating with a neighboring *County Board* is allowing them to spend more money on consumers.

"Everyone is in agreement that Ohio has not faced such tough economic times in anyone's memory," said Dan Ohler, *OACB* Executive Director. "While each

of our 88 *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* is a unique organization with their own personalities and board members, the basic structure is the same throughout the state."

In 2008, the state *General Assembly* created a new committee that would study Local Government Collaboration for two years. That group is still gathering information today, and will present its findings to the *General Assembly* in July 2010.

If this committee needed any examples of how government agencies can work together to save money and increase the ser-

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CONVENTION Begins Wednesday At Easton

The 26th ANNUAL CONVENTION at the *Easton Hilton* begins on Wednesday, Dec. 2 and continues until Friday, Dec. 4. This year's CONVENTION has many highlights, and the *OACB* staff has been working hard to bring its members three days packed with information and techniques that people can use to improve services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities.

We are honored to have Francis Strickland, Ohio's First Lady, join us to celebrate the achievements of individuals with developmental disabilities and the significance of Senate Bill 79, the legislation that removed the term 'mental retardation' from the cabinet agency and Ohio's 88 county boards.

The highlight of the Convention promises to be the 3rd Annual ART & PRODUCT SHOW, featuring the amazing work of individuals with developmental disabilities from all across the state.

The *OACB* Staff will be available throughout the convention to answer questions or to help with any problem you may have. Please do not hesitate to ask so that we can enhance your CONVENTION experience.

Spotlight On Bob Milliken

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 appointed to trustee positions. Profiled this month is Bob Milliken of Stark County.

How long have you been a Stark County Board Member? 9 years

How long have you served as a trustee on the OACB? 4 years

My family: I am the youngest of three children. Both of my older brothers were born with developmental disabilities. My Mom, Dad and both of my brothers have passed away. I am the sole survivor of my family of origin.

I tried the marriage thing once. I am divorced and have no children.

Occupation? I have my own business, *RPM Properties*, which is a real estate investment/property management company

Education? Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from *Kent State University*.

Proudest moment as a Board Member? Being selected and honored at their annual dinner by *North Coast Community Homes* as their "Person of the Year" for my contributions to the developmental disability community.

Three people (living or dead) you would like to have dinner with? My Mom, Martin Luther King Jr. and President Obama

One thing I would like to accomplish: With the looming aging caregiver crisis, I would like to have the answer to how all those individuals will be cared for, when those who are caring for them now, are no longer able to do so.

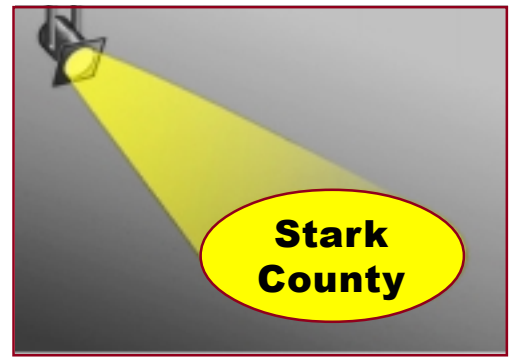
People would be surprised to know that: That I have a very tender heart and can be moved easily to tears.

My favorite thing to do is: Anything to do with *Kent State* athletics. I am part of a group of fans that we refer to ourselves as "SUPERFANS"

My favorite snack food is: Potato chips and French onion dip

This irritates me: Negative people

Last book I read was: I do not read for enjoyment. I read for purpose and to get the information I need to know. In the last number of years, that has meant I have



Robert Milliken

read a lot of material on the developmental disability field.

My favorite movie is: The *Rocky* series

A Word From Our President ...

Reflections Of Outgoing OACB President

As my days as OACB President are coming to a close, I cannot help but reflect on the past two years and what we have accomplished. It has been one of the most rewarding times of my life, but like most worthwhile ventures, there has been a cost associated with it.

I won't even attempt to figure out how many times I have made that two hour trip from Stark County to Columbus. Let's just say "a lot." There were

meetings with OACB Executive Director Dan Ohler and his staff, meetings with the *Joint Leadership Team (JLT)*, meetings with the *Superintendent's Executive Committee (SEC)*, meetings with ODODD Director John Martin and his staff, meetings with just about everyone who is involved with helping people with developmental disabilities.

I am pleased to say that with very few exceptions, I have returned back to

Stark County glad that I took the day off of my busy work schedule in order to further the cause of people with developmental disabilities. I cannot imagine a more rewarding opportunity than to be president of this fine organization.

When I first became involved as a Board Member for the *Stark County*

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Opportunities Abound In 2010

By Dan Ohler

Executive Director, OACB
dohler@oacbdd.org

It is difficult to believe that this Newsletter comes to you at the beginning of the last month of 2009, which also marks the final year of the first decade of a new millennium. It was exactly one decade ago that almost every business, public or private, was completing their 'Y2K Plan' lest their computer systems came crashing down 01/01/00, and the world as we knew it would be in a sense of panic!



Dan Ohler

Many things have happened in the last decade. The most significant event for most Americans is likely September 11, 2001. Is there anyone that does not know exactly where they were that day when they first heard the news?

In the last decade, many people got married, others divorced. Some witnessed the birth of a child, or perhaps more than one. Others experienced the joy of grandchildren! Some people lost loved ones, while others saw their retirement savings wiped out when the economy took a severe nosedive. The *United States of America* elected the first minority President in history, while also paying their final respects to two of its former Commanders in Chief.

For many people with developmental disabilities, this first decade of a new millennium was when the term 'mental retardation' began to disappear from official agency names. While this was a very recent event in Ohio, sad to say we jumped aboard the train a bit later than the rest of the country. Even the federal government moved on the issue faster than the *State of Ohio*. However, there is much to be

proud of when we recall the past decade. The number of individuals served has skyrocketed, and the vast majorities are receiving those services in home and community-based settings. Community employment for people with developmental disabilities has increased, as have housing options. I am not suggesting we have reached utopia in any of those areas, but we are making progress.

As this decade comes to an end, members of the *United States Congress* are attempting to reach consensus on a Health Care Reform Bill that is acceptable to the President. Somewhere in that process I hope that it is a bill that is acceptable to the citizens of this country and considers that the health care needs of individuals with developmental disabilities are just as important as they are to other Americans. Despite the Americans with Disabilities Act, it seems that in this nation there is still discrimination – issues with access, free choice of provider, transportation, ancillary services. Through our affiliation with the *National Association of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Directors*, OACB will monitor the status of this legislation and lobby our members of *Congress* as appropriate. We may ask you to do the same through our grassroots CALL2ACTION program. The men and women serving in *Congress* are there because voters in their respective districts sent them there. As such, it is important for us to clearly state our requests to them in Washington, similarly to how we make our positions clear to our legislators in Columbus.

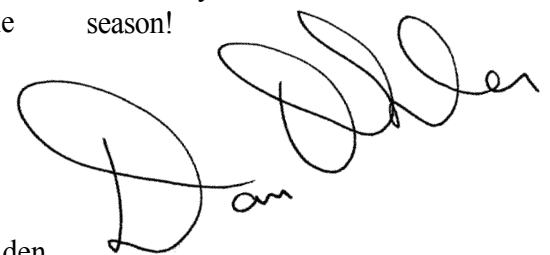
Calendar year 2010 will bring new opportunities and challenges, just as the second decade of this millennium will bring similar life changing events as those that took place in the decade that is about to close. Ohio's *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* will celebrate their Golden

Anniversary in the next decade; while both the *Department of Developmental Disabilities* and the OACB will celebrate 35th anniversaries!

The aforementioned events will happen. What else might happen? Well, a decade from now I expect to be writing an article about the '10s that highlights how the number of individuals served by or through Ohio's programs surpassed 100,000; local property tax revenues collected exceeded \$1B; HCBS waiver programs had doubled and an additional \$1B in federal revenues flowed into Ohio to support individuals with developmental disabilities.

Some kid in high school right now will emerge as one of our system's bright new leaders and someone in a leadership position today will put a stamp on this service system that will influence the way programs operate. In addition, I think LeBron James will lead the *Cleveland Cavaliers* to an *NBA Championship*, but I do not expect to see the *Cincinnati Bengals* or the *Cleveland Browns* play in a *Super Bowl*. As much as I still enjoy the show, *Law & Order* will come to a close as the longest running prime time TV series ever; the *Rolling Stones* will really have a farewell tour; people will still complain about the price of gasoline; and, most important of all, the sun will still rise in the east and set in the west.

On behalf of the *Board of Trustees* and Staff of the OACB, thank you all for a wonderful 2009 and the opportunity to be of service to you. We hope to see you at the 26th ANNUAL CONVENTION at Easton and wish you all a happy holiday season!



Online Training Boon To Portage Affiliate Member

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.

At an early age, Teri Eiermann was drawn to individuals with developmental disabilities.

At the age of 13, while completing a project for her confirmation at a Catholic elementary school, her grandmother took her to volunteer at the *Hattie Larlham Home* in Summit County. "It was the turning point of my life," she would later say.

She met a 10-year old boy with developmental disabilities. "Just seeing him sparked something," Teri recalled.

Today, Teri is an individual provider in Portage County and is the December "affiliate member of the month" for the OACB. She began helping a woman with her teen-age son in 2002, and earned her certification as a way to help that family.

Teri and her husband are certified as an adult foster care provider, and provide respite care and homemaker/personal care for individuals. Teri also is certified

for supported employment.

They have two individuals who live with them, Mark and Angie. They are not just clients of the Eiermanns, they are family members in every sense of the word. "We do holidays together, they visit with our family, they call our parents grandma and grandpa," Teri said.

The Eiermanns have two children, ages 16 and 12. While having two adults with developmental disabilities as "siblings" may present it issues, they are far outweighed by the positive aspects.

"My kids (Jessica and Eric) really do look at the ability and not the disability. My son was asked once about a fun memory, and he remembered batting a balloon back and forth like a tetherball with Buddy (who used to live with the Eiermanns). It was then that I realized that my children did not recognize the disabilities as much as they looked at the abilities," Teri said.

In fact, Mark and Angie call Teri and her husband "mom" and "dad" and consider Jessica and Eric their "foster sibs."

Communication can be difficult with someone who doesn't speak, but Teri said that roadblock was easily overcome, once she, Buddy and Eric became better acquainted. "It's like Buddy. When I ask him



Teri Eiermann

if he wants French toast, he starts to sing. It's like his way of telling me 'oh, I love that stuff!'" Teri said.

What does a typical day entail? "Oh, my goodness. I get my husband off to work, the kids off to school. The paperwork is difficult, but we work out a routine," she said. Teri then gets Mark and Angie ready for work, and gets them to their jobs.

"If there aren't any doctor or dentist appointments, then it is back home to do paperwork, housework, whatever needs to be done," she said.

Teri said the online training now available through *The Training Center* on the OACB website has "helped tremendously."

"I'm a mom – the time I have to work on continuing education is in the evenings when everyone is sleeping or on Saturdays. Having the online connection, I can do it anytime," Teri said.

Being an independent provider and adult foster parent is something Teri recommends highly, noting the rewards are many. "The best part is the acceptance. Before I had children, nobody ever looks at you or talks to you – people keep to themselves. Now, at the dances, the workshops, or wherever, there are high fives and hugs, and so much acceptance," she said.

Interested in becoming an OACB Affiliate Member? Contact Lisa Brewer at lbrewer@oacbdd.org or 614-431-0616.

Don't forget the 26th Annual OACB CONVENTION on December 2nd through 4th at the Easton Hilton.



Meet *OACB* Staff Member Ann Neu

Ann Neu is the *OACB* Event Coordinator. If you enjoy our conventions, seminars, golf outings, etc., let Ann know! She works hard to make sure every detail is taken care of so that you can get the most out of *OACB* events. 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 for 15 years to husband Blair. They have four children: two daughters, Jacqueline, 10, and Alexandra, 9, and two sons, Maxwell, 7, and Dominic, 5.

What I do when I'm not working: With four kids in sports, it is usually coaching their soccer and tennis teams. In my free time, I'm a fitness instructor at my local *YMCA* teaching step aerobics, muscle conditioning, ultimate cardio and *Pilates* classes. I'm active at my church as a *Pastoral Council* member, religion teacher and assistant for our *Parish School of Religion* program that is for pre-kinder-

garten through 8th grade. I like baking. Just ask my co-workers. I'm constantly taking things into work.

Favorite restaurant: I can't pick just one. Anywhere that has good filets and salads, like *Mitchell's*, *J. Alexander's*, *Bravo*, *Brio*, etc. The list goes on and on!

Guilty pleasure: My favorite ice cream is *Graeter's* raspberry chocolate chunk! Dessert or anything made with chocolate, but not a big pie lover.

My favorite moment of working with individuals with developmental disabilities: Seeing all the great things people with developmental disabilities can do and knowing I work for an organization that helps support them in various aspects of their lives. I know how hard it is because my cousin, Suzy, has cerebral palsy, and she earned her college degree even though she is in a wheelchair and has limited use of her hands. She has been married for more than 20 years and continues to inspire me.



Ann Neu

*In an effort to give our membership a better understanding of our staff members, we will be highlighting a staff member in upcoming issues of the *OACB* Newsletter.*

Reflections (From Page 2)

Board of MRDD and later learned about the *OACB* and began attending its meetings – even before I was elected to the actual board itself – I knew that I wanted to hold a leadership position in this statewide organization.

Some may call it ego, and they may be right. But I knew I had something to bring to the table, and I knew that if were in a position to say something that needed to be said, I would. For those of you who know me, you know I am not shy, nor do I shy away from confrontation. I don't look for disagreements, but often times they find me.

I was fortunate to take over the presidency from a man I deeply respect and admire. Dave Dohnal is a man's man, and is as honest and forthright as they come. It was important to me that the

OACB continue down the path Dave Dohnal started us on, and I think we were able to do that.

One of the things I am most proud of is the creation of the *JLT*. Throughout my tenure, Mary Ann Chamberlain has been the *SEC* President. When it comes to people with developmental disabilities, Mary Ann and I always have been on the same page. We don't always agree on policy issues, but our hearts are always in the right place. While we may have brought different visions to the table, in the end, we were always in agreement on how our organizations could best help the people we serve.

In December, both the *OACB* and the *SEC* will be electing its leaders for the next two years. Without hesitation, I

will tell the incoming *OACB* President that it will be a tremendous leadership opportunity, but one that will require personal sacrifice.

I will challenge the 2010-2012 leadership to reach for a higher bar than Dave Dohnal or I attained. With the nation and Ohio's funding issues, there is still much work to be done, and we need people who are not afraid to ask the tough questions and hold people accountable for their actions and words.

I will not be going away. I have learned that two hour trip from Stark County to Columbus just isn't that long, and when I am needed, I will always be ready, waiting for a new opportunity to serve Ohio's people with developmental disabilities.

Collaboration Key For Success *(From Page 1)*

vices provided to customers, they don't need to look any farther than the *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities*.

For years, *County Boards* have shared personnel ideas. Monty Kerr became superintendent of Belmont County in 1988, and three years later, was contacted by the *OACB* when Noble County needed a superintendent. That worked out so well that seven years ago, Harrison County asked him to serve for a short time period while they searched for a new superintendent. Scott Brace came in as superintendent, but then was offered a new opportunity in Holmes County. Harrison's board came back to Kerr for help, "and I've been hanging around every since. Things just happened, but it has worked out fairly well."

Other *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* also share superintendents. Steve Oster, superintendent at Knox County, recently assumed the duties at Coshocton as well. John Pekar is superintendent in Fairfield and Vinton counties.

Kerr says in order to be successful, self-assessment is necessary. "You have to be willing to ask the hard questions and then accept the answers," he said. What are you deeply passionate about? What can you be the best at doing? What will enable services to grow?

"After the first assessment, do it again, and again, and again," he counseled.

Ohler said most *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* recognize that revenues will not be growing at the state level, and are drawing down as many federal dollars as possible through

the Medicaid programs. However, he has seen the dependence on local dollars grow at an alarming rate.

"We had nine levies on the ballot in November, and after talking with many of our *Board Members* and superintendents, it appears that number will be growing substantially in 2010 and 2011," he said.

As more and more *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* see their state revenues shrinking and their local dollars increasing, it makes the importance of local control through *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* even more important.

"Money talks. If a substantial portion of a *County Board's* budget is generated locally, than those *County Boards* have every right to decide the best way to provide services and supports to their individuals with developmental disabilities," Ohler said.

Kerr said that if a *County Board of Developmental Disabilities* is thinking about sharing services, they should talk to someone who already has gone through the process. "It's a balancing act. Leadership must be strong, and you must respect the integrity of each county. That's essential," he said.

Regardless of whether *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* decide to share services, the bottom line will be the same. There is a sense of urgency for *County Boards* to be efficient and expand services without additional money. "That's the motivating factor. It can work and frankly, it has to work," Kerri said.

Monty's Words of Wisdom

- There is a sense of urgency as *County Boards* face shrinking revenue, rising costs and increased needs.
- We must preserve local resources to ensure our ability to provide for services with less revenue in the future.
- Ohio's fiscal crisis revealed the importance of planning for the future.
- It's not enough to project losses. Great organizations plan for them and take action before they occur.
- Change is happening, and it is picking up speed.
- We cannot continue to do things the way we always have.
- Will we be able to adjust to changes as they occur, or will we become a casualty of them?
- We must be willing to examine how we are doing business and create a sustainable model.

- Monty Kerr, Superintendent of *Belmont, Noble and Harrison County Boards of Developmental Disabilities*



State funding problems are forgotten during a preschool graduation where Mr. Kerr hands out diplomas. (Pam McCort Photo)

Focusing On The Needs of Transitional Youth

For many years it has proved beneficial for the developmental disabilities system to intervene early in the lives of children who are need of services. The inclusion of children and their families into the system has resulted in outcomes that are person-centered and beneficial for the long-term.

Traditionally, it was thought that vocational opportunities for children with disabilities were limited at best. Time and experience has shown us that if we are able to work with these children early on we will be able to open doors towards employment that were not opened in the past. It is time to take a fresh look at getting school-aged children ready for their eventual venture into life after school - the world of work.

The *Bridges to Transition Project* was developed to tap the resources and expertise of the developmental disabilities community and the vocational rehabilitation community so that children, ranging in age from 14 to 22, their families, and schools can be helped through the transition from school to work. The *Bridges Project* is the result of a grant from the *Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (ORSC)*. The project is a partnership between the *ORSC*, 15 *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities*, and the *OACB*. This innovative project signifies the first time that children as young as 14 will be identified and provided tran-

sitional services.

County Boards of Developmental Disabilities who are participating include Belmont, Champaign, Crawford, Fairfield, Huron, Hocking, Jefferson, Logan, Marion, Miami, Ottawa, Perry, Warren, Wood, and Wyandot.

Already, Pete Moore, who has worked for more than 20 years with individuals who have developmental disabilities, has agreed to be the project manager, and has been working several weeks at the *OACB* offices.

In the next year the project will identify and provide services for 200 school-age children in Ohio. The *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities*, in partnership with local school districts, will identify through a referral process those who are most in need of transitional services. The *County Board Partners* will then work closely with their local *Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR)* (a division of the *ORSC*) liaisons to develop and implement individualized plans.

The plans will be designed to assist in the transition from school to work by helping the children gain the necessary skills that they need to gain successful employment after school. Additionally, this statewide project will result in statewide systemic changes to how transitional services to children are provided. The *Bridges to Transition* will result in changes in attitudes and expectations for these youths exiting



Pete Moore

public school.

The *OACB* will play a project management role. As the project builds its foundation and evolves the *OACB* will provide support and technical assistance to the partner *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities*, as well as act as the conduit between the partner counties and the *ORSC*.

At this point in the project all of the partner counties have signed contracts agreeing to be a part of the project. The *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* are hiring the necessary staff and attending training provided by the *ORSC*. They are also developing their implementation plans complete with timelines so that they can ensure that the requirements of the grant are met.

The *ORSC* is identifying the liaisons that will work at the local level. The *OACB* is in the process of hiring two additional people in order to assist partner counties with their implementation plans, data collection, administrative support, and training needs. It is believed that by the start of 2010, the project will be well on its way to providing services.

OUR MISSION:

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



Hancock County Man Is An Eagle Scout

It could be one of the best lessons in perseverance in Ohio. On October 26, 2009 – about 27 years after he started his quest – Tim Bozell was awarded the Boy Scouts of America’s highest honor. He became an Eagle Scout.

With family friends, and Boy Scout leaders celebrating, Tim – now age 40 - was officially honored by members of troop.

He began the arduous journey in 1931, when 13-year old Tim joined Troop 310. After earning 31 merit badges for his work on many other projects, he decided to go for the ultimate goal in Scouting.

Tim’s Eagle Scout project was a Fishing Derby for children with developmental disabilities. For many children, it was the first time they had ever fished. All the children were given their own fishing rod, reel and tackle box. One youngster caught a 19-pound catfish.

Connie Ament, superintendent of the *Hancock County Board of Developmental Disabilities*, said that the *Findlay Cou-*



Don and Becky Bozell look at a scrapbook of photos from the Fishing Derby Tim Bozell operated to earn his Eagle Scout designation.

rier did a big story about Tim’s success and that her entire agency of staff and self-advocates were proud.

“Tim and his parents are amazing people. We couldn’t be happier for them,” Ament said.



Let’s All Celebrate!!!

About 100 people were on hand for a big celebration in November to mark the transformation of the *Jackson County Board of Developmental Disabilities*. The celebration removed the words “mental retardation” from the name of the agency. The event included songs, words from board members and Superintendent Kay Michael, and introduction of county and state leaders. A chili luncheon and bazaar followed.

Across Ohio - DD News In A Nutshell

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

Adams: Adams County's workshop, *Venture Productions Inc.* just received a \$2,000 grant from Wal-Mart for their gardening project. A five-year plan to co-op with *OSU*

Extension Office's Master Gardeners currently is being developed. Also, they welcomed CeCe Hummel as a part-time SSA.

Allen: "Talking About Touching" is a personal safety program that *ACBDD* was able to provide for preschool and elementary students. This program was funded through a grant from *Partnerships for Violence Free Families*. The program was eight weeks long and included training for parents as well as children.

Ashland: The *Ashland County Board*

of Developmental Disabilities is teaming with *Ashland University's* student-athletes to create unique opportunities for individuals and student-athletes to meet and forge win-win relationships. This program is customized to the students' interest, major, and desire to serve the community.

Ashtabula: This county received a four-year accreditation award from the *Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities*.

Athens: In this county, there are 153 people enrolled with Level One and 76 with Individual Option waivers.

Auglaize: In this county, there are 41 people enrolled with Level One and 29 with Individual Option waivers.

Belmont: In this county, there are 70 people enrolled with Level One and 51 with Individual Option waivers.

Brown: Voters in every precinct approved the *Brown County Board of Developmental Disabilities'* replacement levy. This was the first time voters were asked to replace two .5 mill levies.

Butler: In this county, there are 294 people enrolled with Level One and 266 with Individual Option waivers.

Carroll: This county has officially adopted *Positive Intervention Culture* through contracting with Willie Jones and cutting 65 aversive behavior plans to 33. *Carroll Hills School* renewed its 3-year levy on November 3.

Champaign: In this county, there are 37 people enrolled with Level One and 65 with Individual Option waivers.

Clark: In this county, there are 251 people enrolled with Level One and 129 with Individual Option waivers.

Clermont: In this county, there are 166 people enrolled with Level One and 39 with Individual Option waivers.

Clinton: The adult program operates a thrift store on site. We have a donation drop off area (primarily clothing, small household appliances, and other household items such as linens, etc.), and the store sells these items. This has been a very successful venture that provides additional revenue for the adult program and also serves a need in our community.

Columbiana: *Robert Bycroft* teachers agreed to concessions in the union contract approved October 13 by the *Columbiana County Board of Developmental Disabilities*, with no raises over the next three years in exchange for freezing their health insurance premium contribution. *Board President* Thomas Snow said, "I personally want to thank the teach-



State Representative Roland Winburn recently toured *Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities'* Calumet Adult Services Center. Above, Representative Winburn (back) is pictured with Superintendent Mark Gerhardstein and Board Member Art Komorowski. Also pictured are self-advocates Beth and Tim, along with parent Sheila Buehrle.

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News In A Nutshell *(From Page 9)*

ers for everything they did to bring this contract to a fast close.”

Coshocton: *Hopewell Industries* has taken on the job of landscaping the “Welcome to Coshocton” sign when you drive into Coshocton County. With several partnerships in the community, the individuals at *Hopewell* have finished landscaping the area which will be seen by everyone who enters the county. The same individuals have done some fundraising and donated more than \$700 back to the community.

Crawford: In this county, there are 52 people enrolled with Level One and 11 with Individual Option waivers.

Cuyahoga: In the spring, a farm tended by individuals enrolled in the *Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities*’ community employment program, will sprout just a few blocks east of downtown Cleveland. After months of studying and planning, the project got off to a concrete start when 50 *Americorps City Year* participants descended on the site to help clear away the remaining brick fragments from the *Stanard School*, which once stood on the site.

Darke: In this county, there are 42 people enrolled with Level One and 39 with Individual Option waivers.

Defiance: In this county, there are 30 people enrolled with Level One and 33 with Individual Option waivers.

Delaware: In November, this county unveiled a new web site design. Much thought went into the new site to allow for an easier experience for the consumer, provider and community members. The new design includes a media center to post pictures, videos and news articles. This is in addition to web site features such as board packets, provider trainings and specific information about the services at *DCDD*. Check out the new site at www.dcbdd.org.

Erie: In this county, there are 89 people enrolled with Level One and 25 with Individual Option waivers.



Dustin McKee, OACB Policy Analyst, is shown with Kate White, Health Educator for the *Licking County Health Department*. McKee and Linda Oda, Director of Communications, were asked to present a CALL2ACTION at a provider fair hosted by the *Licking County Board of Development Disabilities*.

Fairfield: In this county, there are 153 people enrolled with Level One and 76 with Individual Option waivers.

Fayette: In this county, there are 42 people enrolled with Level One and 7 with Individual Option waivers.

Franklin: *ARC Industries*, the adult services division of the *Franklin County Board of Development Disabilities*, has established a professional scanning operation. They will separate and scan documents and store them on disks at competitive prices. For information, contact Kurt Schmitter at 614-342-5754.

Fulton: In this county, there are 44 people enrolled with Level One and 25 with Individual Option waivers.

Gallia: In this county, there are 17 people enrolled with Level One and 12 with Individual Option waivers.

Geauga: This county has completed their 5-year Strategic Plan. It is available for review beginning. Please call the administrative office at (440) 729-9406 for

a copy.

Greene: In this county, there are 121 people enrolled with Level One and 56 with Individual Option waivers.

Guernsey: The *Guernsey County Independent Stars* (self-advocate group) recently completed a community service project at *Byesville City Park*, raking leaves around playground equipment and pavilion.

Hamilton: The *Hamilton County Board of Developmental Disabilities* was chosen as a finalist for the Greater Cincinnati “Best Place to Work” honor through the Cincinnati Business Courier. Businesses in Greater Cincinnati that scored well on a staff survey were eligible.

Hancock: *Ohio Special Olympics* contacted Helen Stahl, the *Hancock County Special Olympics* Coordinator, to announce that two of Hancock’s unified soft-

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ball players will be part of *Team Ohio* for the 2010 USA National Games to be held in Lincoln, Nebraska in July. They will be playing on the traditional softball team. Chosen were Tyler Cooper and Charles McCarley.

Hardin: In this county, there are 35 people enrolled with Level One and 12 with Individual Option waivers.

Harrison: In this county, there are 18 people enrolled with Level One and 7 with Individual Option waivers.

Henry: In this county, there are 57 people enrolled with Level One and 15 with Individual Option waivers.

Highland: This county has a self-advocacy group *JUMP* (Just Us Making Progress) that had its first annual Fall Conference with multiple speakers including *State Representative* David Daniels as a keynote speaker. Subject areas covered included support dog training, basic first aid, Kamp Dovetail (a week camping experience which now serves

more than 300 individual with disabilities in Highland), and *Visionaries & Voices*, a visual exhibit from Cincinnati.

Hocking: Hocking and Perry counties has formed a new COG called *The Employment Connection*. This COG will act as the Community Employment Department for both counties. The *Employment Connection* is involved with two *RSC* grants, which have been used to launch community employment efforts.

Holmes: In this county, there are 27 people enrolled with Level One and 26 with Individual Option waivers.

Huron: Sponsored by the Norwalk Kiwanis Club, the *Huron County Board of Developmental Disabilities* is on the way to establishing their own *Aktion Club*, the newest sponsored organization under *Kiwanis International*. *Aktion Club* is a community-service group for adult citizens who live with a disability.

Jackson: This county had a major *New Identity Celebration* in early November to

celebrate the dropping of “mental retardation” from its name. County officials attended the ceremony, as did all clients and school-age children. A luncheon and bazaar, along with many activities, were held following the ceremony.

Jefferson: In this county, there are 86 people enrolled with Level One and 55 with Individual Option waivers.

Knox: This county has increased its private day habilitation programs to eight different providers, with the newest one an agency that does clowning with individuals. With so many choices, some individuals are choosing to attend a different program each day.

Lake: Three community members judged a scarecrow decorating contest in which four different individuals and agency were awarded cash awards and recognition as part of the *Scarecrows Deep in the Woods Boo-tying the Boulevard* effort.

Lawrence: Sharon Odekirk, who has served 29 years as a board member, has retired. The 29 years are a combination of *Tri-State Industries Inc.*'s non-profit board and the *Lawrence County Board of Developmental Disabilities*. Thanks to Sharon for her dedication to the individuals and families served.

Licking: In this county, there are 157 people enrolled with Level One and 74 with Individual Option waivers.

Logan: In this county, there are 53 people enrolled with Level One and 18 with Individual Option waivers.

Lorain: Staff members of the *Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities* helped the *Murray Ridge Levy Committee* state its annual “*Murray Ridge Inland Trail Marathon/Half Marathon/5K Walk*.” This unique fundraiser attracted 363 participants and raised \$6,000. Participants came from 15 different states and 3 countries.

Lucas: Hundreds attended a rally at



About 20 people were on hand for a *CALL2ACTION* training in Vinton County about a month ago. *State Senator* John Carrey, who chairs the Finance Committee, was gracious enough to share information on how to advocate. Pictured above are *Jackson County Board of Developmental Disabilities* Superintendent Kay Michael, *Vinton County Board of Developmental Disabilities* Superintendent John Pekar, Senator Carrey and Kay Ervin, *OACB* Trustee and *Jackson County Board* Member.

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a municipal park to show support for the name change. “Disable the Label” t-shirts were distributed to all who attended. There were consumers, staff, parents, providers, advocates and interested citizens all dressed alike, partying together with music, food and speeches.

Madison: In this county, there are 72 people enrolled with Level One and 20 with Individual Option waivers.

Mahoning: This county has been working with the *Youngstown YMCA* to explore adult services programming for three days at the Camp Fitch facilities located next to Lake Erie in Pennsylvania. Groups of 12 clients along with 2-3 staff and an LPN staff member also would attend. The program would run from Sept through May, including winter activities.

Marion: In this county, there are 109 people enrolled with Level One and 8 with Individual Option waivers.

Medina: In this county, there are 203 people enrolled with Level One and 55

with Individual Option waivers.

Meigs: In this county, there are 32 people enrolled with Level One and 16 with Individual Option waivers.

Mercer: This county sponsored its first annual self-determination conference in October. About 50 adults and vocational-aged students from the schools in Mercer County attended. There were five speakers (two from Mercer County and three from around the state). The all day event included lunch and cost \$5. It exceeded all expectations, and a conference is planned for next year.

Miami: In this county, there are 144 people enrolled with Level One and 83 with Individual Option waivers.

Monroe: In this county, there are 7 people enrolled with Level One and 8 with Individual Option waivers.

Montgomery: What started out as a training exercise for people with disabilities has turned into a booming business. *Pets and People Dog Treats*, made by hand - and with love - by employees

of *MONCO Enterprises*, are now sold in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. Treats can be purchased at *Dorothy Lane Market*, *IGA*, and *Cub Foods*.

Morgan: In this county, there are 24 people enrolled with Level One and 18 with Individual Option waivers.

Morrow: A “*Morrow County Developmental Disabilities Day*” rally was held on November 1, as a final effort to distribute levy information throughout the county. More than 150 individuals from *Boards of Developmental Disabilities* across the state participated in the rally. While the levy bid was unsuccessful, *Morrow County’s Board* and employees were very appreciative of everyone who came out to offer their help. A special thanks to Delaware County for bringing a busload of individuals – more than 40 – to the rally with posters they made in support of *MCBDD*. It was a great day - thank you to everyone who helped.

Muskingum: In this county, there are 62 people enrolled with Level One and 10 with Individual Option waivers.

Noble: In this county, there are 12 people enrolled with Level One and 4 with Individual Option waivers.

Ottawa: In this county, there are 69 people enrolled with Level One and 22 with Individual Option waivers.

Paulding: In this county, there are 27 people enrolled with Level One and 25 with Individual Option waivers.

Perry: In this county, there are 49 people enrolled with Level One and 32 with Individual Option waivers.

Pickaway: In this county, there are 31 people enrolled with Level One and 10 with Individual Option waivers.

Pike: Thanks to a complete staff and community team effort, *Pike County Board of Developmental Disabilities* passed its levy in November.

Portage: In this county, there are 157 people enrolled with Level One and 87 with Individual Option waivers.

Preble: The second annual Track-n-Treat for children and their families was



Hamilton County Superintendent Cheryl Phipps took *Senate Bill 79* to new heights in November when she personally removed the letters “MR” from the *Hamilton County Board of Developmental Disabilities’* administration building. With a little help from a *Duke Energy* cherry picker, Cheryl went about 50 feet high to pull the letters of the building, and then showed them off to about 300 people cheering below.

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held Oct. 29 on the *Susan Melzer Walking Path*. Surrounded by the beautiful Kylie Pierson Memorial Garden, more than 150 ghosts, goblins and even a Transformer or two “begged” for candy. Sponsored by the *PCBDD*, this community event has grown tremendously. What makes it even more fun is the staff that dressed in their Halloween best to hand out the candy.

Putnam: In this county, there are 28 people enrolled with Level One and 26 with Individual Option waivers.

Richland: *Richland Newhope Industries Inc. (RNI)* opened a new business in Mansfield’s Carrousel District. *Element of Art Studio/Gallery* features various artwork produced by individuals at *RNI*. Some of them will actually be creating the artwork at the downtown store.

Ross: In this county, there are 91 people enrolled with Level One and 40 with Individual Option waivers.

Sandusky: In this county, there are 110 people enrolled with Level One and 7 with Individual Option waivers.

Scioto: In this county, there are 101 people enrolled with Level One and 17

with Individual Option waivers.

Seneca: In this county, there are 56 people enrolled with Level One and 11 with Individual Option waivers.

Shelby: Earlier this year, this county’s Transportation Department wanted to find a way to help support the developmental disabilities programs, so they started the *Shift Into*

Gear, Change It Up campaign. The Transportation Department has a small school bus they throw coins into. In December, they will donate the money collected.

Stark: *Rebecca Stallman Southgate School* received a grant for \$16,550 from the *Austin-Bailey Health and Wellness Foundation*. The grant, pursued by two of the school’s speech pathologists, helped purchase a *MyTobii* speech generating device, which will enable the students with neurological damage to communicate.

Summit: In this county, there are 898 people enrolled with Level One and 467 with Individual Option waivers.

Trumbull: Dan Ohler, *OACB* Executive Director, visited the *Trumbull*

County Board of Developmental Disabilities and led an in-service for our seven board members and senior leadership employees. This was a very well received and very professionally presented program.

Tuscarawas: The construction of a new Service and Support Center to be built on the campus of the *Starlight School* and *Workshop* began. In addition to SSAs, it will also house transportation, information technology, Board Room, and business offices, locating all agency services in one place. The move will enhance operational efficiency, allowing for ease of access for families and individuals receiving services and allowing for creative use of space and technology to accommodate the population’s changing needs.

Union: A new, improved web site www.ucbdd.org was launched, and serves as the primary information resource for the organization. Designed to be user friendly, the new interactive site features the organization and its four program divisions: Support Services, *Harold Lewis Center*, *U-CO Industries Inc.* and *WorkNet*.

Van Wert: In this county, there are 32 people enrolled with Level One and 36 with Individual Option waivers.

Vinton: In this county, there are 26 people enrolled with Level One and 17 with Individual Option waivers.

Warren: In this county, there are 318 people enrolled with Level One and 71 with Individual Option waivers.

Washington: In this county, there are 65 people enrolled with Level One and 39 with Individual Option waivers.

Wayne: In this county, there are 171 people enrolled with Level One and 22 with Individual Option waivers.

Williams: In this county, there are 29 people enrolled with Level One and 11 with Individual Option waivers.

Wood: In this county, there are 98 people enrolled with Level One and 30 with Individual Option waivers.

Wyandot: In this county, there are 44 people enrolled with Level One and 4 with Individual Option waivers.



More than 150 people from throughout Ohio gave up a Sunday afternoon to help the *Morrow County Board of Developmental Disabilities* drop literature to every single voter in the county. It was to no avail, as the levy was defeated for the 20th time. Above, Superintendent Jerry Manuel thanks the crowd and gives them a few last minute instructions before sending people out into the community.