

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



Malachi McDaniel, a consumer with the *Washington County Board of Developmental Disabilities*, works with glass that will be transformed into a beautiful piece of jewelry.

## Ohio Consumers Creating Their Own Employment Opportunities

Throughout the United States, people are hard at work, contributing to society and paying taxes. In October, we honor people with developmental disabilities who are in the work place with National Disability Employment month.

In Ohio, people with developmental disabilities can be seen working at fast food restaurants, major discount department stores, schools and just about every place in between.

On a recent trip to Marietta, visitors from Georgia spent some time browsing in *Heart To Art*, a store that sells

everything from ceramics to jewelry to picnic tables to tiles for ceilings and walls. Most importantly, everything in the store is made by consumers of *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities*.

Almost six months ago, Washington County's non-profit agency opened the store in downtown Marietta, just two and a half blocks from the historic *LaFayette Hotel* and the conflux of the Ohio and Muskingum rivers.

See "Employment"  
Continued on Page 7



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### OPAC/DD GOLF OCT. 8

The *Golf Club of Dublin* will once again be the site of the annual *OPAC/DD* Golf Outing. This year, the event will be Thursday, October 8.

This is the largest fundraiser for this political action committee, which allows contributions to legislators helping to make a difference for people with developmental disabilities statewide. Please plan on attending, or making a donation to this important event.

#### ANNUAL CONVENTION

Mark your calendars today, and plan on attending the 26th ANNUAL CONVENTION to be held December 2-4. Once again, this event will be at the beautiful *Hilton at Easton*.

You spoke and we listened. You said you enjoyed the convention more in December than October, so we are back in December. We know many of you take advantage of the wonderful shopping opportunities that Easton affords. For more information about registration or programs, contact Ann Neu at [aneu@oacbmrdd.org](mailto:aneu@oacbmrdd.org).

# Spotlight On Gabe DeSantis

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. The first person to be profiled is Gabe DeSantis.



**How long have you been a Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board Member?** Eight Years.

**How long have you served as a trustee on the OACB?** Four Years.

**My family:** Wife of 52 years: Carol Louise; Children: Sharon Panico, Marylouise Murphy, David DeSantis, and Thomas DeSantis; Grandchildren: Maria Panico, Elisa Panico, John Gabriel Panico and Michaela Gabrielle Murphy.

**Occupation?** Retired educator.

**Education?** Bachelor of Science in Education, *Ohio University*, Master of Science in Education, *Akron University*.

**Proudest moment as a Board Member?** Budget testimony when so many showed up wearing our 40-year pin, showing support for *OACB*.

**Three people (living or dead) you would like to have dinner with?** Politics, Zbigniew Breseinski; Sports, Tiger Woods; Health, my cardiologist Dr. Eaton.

**One thing I would like to accomplish:** Break 80 for 18 holes of golf – but that may be wishful thinking!

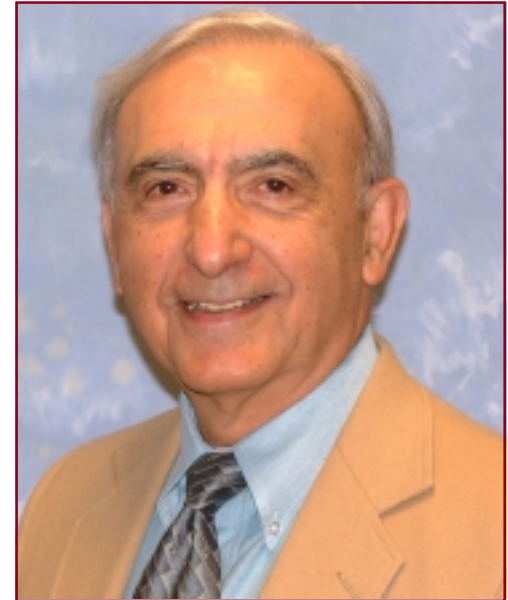
**People would be surprised to know that:** With the size of today's football players, people might be surprised to know that I played quarterback at *Ohio University*. That was when you played both offense and defense and had only one bar on your helmet.

**My favorite thing to do is:** Talk with my grandchildren at family outings.

**My favorite snack food is:** Pretzels or Fritos (The Original kind).

**This irritates me:** We take our country for granted. Voter turnout is usually not what it should be, and we elect our leaders on information from 30 second sound bites. Democracy requires thoughtful participation!

**Last book I read was:** Last two books: "The Shack", a book about forgiveness, and "Wired For War", a book about high tech killing. What a contrast! Will man-



Gabe DeSantis

kind ever get it right?

**My favorite movie is:** Don't know that I have a favorite. The last movie I waited in line to see was the "Godfather." We watch movies via Netflix now, and I recently enjoyed "The Greatest Game Ever Played," about Frances Quimet winning the 1913 *U.S. Open*.

## Special Olympic Plate Heads For Vote

A bill to allow the creation of license plates that would help generate funds for Special Olympics appears headed for a full vote by the *Ohio House of Representatives*.

House Bill 157 was introduced by Representative Allan Sayre to create a new specialty plate for Special Olympics Ohio.

This bill was then attached to House Bill 38, which also has other license plate naming bills attached to

it. HB38 is now out of committee and is waiting to be scheduled for a vote.

With each plate that is sold, the Special Olympics Ohio program will receive \$15. Special Olympics funds are all received through donations or fundraising.

Representative Sayre is asking everyone to contact their State Representative and ask them for a "yes" vote on this legislation.



# Senate Bill 79 Kicks In This Week

Tuesday, October 6, can't come soon enough for people with developmental disabilities in Ohio. It is on Tuesday that Senate Bill 79 kicks in, officially taking the words "mental retardation" out of the titles of the *Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities* and *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities*.

The entire process for the name change began about two years ago when a small group of individuals with developmental disabilities approached the *Athens County Board of MRDD* and said they did not like being called "retarded".

Their personal stories touched the Board Members and then Representative Jimmy Stewart so intensely that the board immediately changed its name to *Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities*, and Representative Stewart began the process of introducing legislation to change the names of the *Ohio Department of MRDD* and all *County Boards of MRDD*.

"After listening to my constituents, I decided to sponsor this legislation because I knew in my heart it was the right thing to do," said Stewart, who is now a member of the *Ohio Senate*.

In June, both the *House of Representatives* and the *Ohio Senate* unanimously passed the bill. The *House* version of the



It was a day to celebrate, and people with developmental disabilities from throughout Ohio were on hand to watch the ceremonial bill signing of Senate Bill 79 by Governor Ted Strickland. The bill strikes the words "mental retardation" from the name of the *Department of Developmental Disabilities*, as well as from all *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities*. Above, Todd Mebane of Montgomery County and Mike Groleau of Pickaway County were all smiles in anticipation of the signing.

bill was introduced by Representative Debbie Phillips and Representative Deborah Newcomb.

While *Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities* took the lead on the statewide change, other *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* broke

ground on this issue decades ago. In November 1990, the *Delaware County Board of DD* dropped "mental retardation" from its name and began doing business as a *County Board of DD*. Just a couple of months later, *Fulton County* followed suit.

In the past 20 years, nine of Ohio's 88 counties made the change to doing business as *County Boards of DD*. State law required that they officially remain *County Boards of MRDD*, so that is the name voters would recognize on the ballot.

Many other *County Boards of MRDD* also wanted to drop "mental retardation," but were prohibited by their prosecutors, who interpreted the OHIO REVISED CODE in a way that would not allow *County Boards of MRDD* to do business under any name other than the state-sanctioned title. That is why a statewide name change was necessary.

Governor Ted Strickland graciously posed for hundreds of photos on the day of the ceremonial bill signing, and even wrote a note for one young man, explaining why he would be late for school.



# Law Represents Empowering Evolution

By Dan Ohler

Executive Director, *OACB*  
[dohler@oacbdds.org](mailto:dohler@oacbdds.org)

Tuesday, October 6, 2009 will mark a historic day in the *State of Ohio*. Specifically, Senate Bill 79 will take effect and the words “mental retardation” will no longer be part of the official name of the state cabinet agency or 88 county boards. This national trend started several years ago; in fact, Ohio is one of the last states to make the change in their state law.



Dan Ohler

There was much discussion from within our service system over the past couple of years about whether this was the right thing to do, or the right time to do it. But when the issue came before 132 members of the *128<sup>th</sup> General Assembly*, there was not a single dissenting vote – not even one. To have a piece of legislation move through a split party *General Assembly* with not so much as one dissenting vote is unheard of on Capital Square.

But in this case, it was easy for legislators. It was easy because it was about people. I had the pleasure of being at the 2008 *Self-Determination Association CONFERENCE* when then Representatives Jimmy Stewart and Fred Strahorn (now both members of the *Ohio Senate*) publicly announced the introduction of this bill. The reaction of approximately 300 individuals with developmental disabilities to this announcement was powerful – not just moving, but powerful!

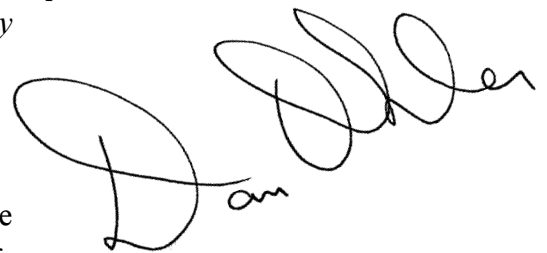
Self-advocates came forth to the Statehouse and testified to Committees of both the *House* and the *Senate*; their messages were clear and powerful. *OACB* Board

President Bob Milliken and I had the honor of being in the Governor’s Cabinet Room on August 28<sup>th</sup> to witness the Governor put his signature on the bill. Several self-advocates from Athens County were there, along with Superintendent Jody Harris. They pushed Senator Stewart on this bill, and the pride they felt from their accomplishment was overflowing! Several individuals from Franklin County were there right next to the Governor as well; Superintendent Jed Morison was clearly pleased to watch them take part in this historic event. Also in attendance was a young man from Union County who went through the Early Intervention program at the *Harold Lewis Center*. The experience there changed his life, to the point he asked the Union County Board to “drop the MR,” and then took his message to legislators and the Governor. (There is a Superintendent and a Children’s Services Director in Union County still moved to tears remembering the process.) Individuals from *People First*, families with *ARCOhio* – they were all there and their presence was powerful!

The service system we are all fortunate to be a part of is evolving. Let us hope and pray it continues to evolve, for that which fails to evolve ultimately fails to exist. What were originally *County Boards of Mental Retardation* became *County Boards of Mental Retardation & Developmental Disabilities*, then just *County Boards of MRDD*. No matter the name, the mission should remain the same: To enhance the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. That really is what it is all about for *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities*, for the *Department of Developmental Disabilities* and for provider agencies and advocacy organizations as well. No matter the name of the agency, no matter the programs and ser-

vices that are available, it all comes back to people. As long as we put people first, we never will have to worry about the existence of our respective agencies and organizations. Is it scary to think about “rebranding”? Perhaps. It also provides an opportunity to educate our communities about what we really do, the people that we serve, and the role we play in the county (or counties) where we operate.

On December 2, 2009, the Delegate Assembly of the *OACB* will convene its annual meeting and consider adoption of a new name; specifically, the *Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities*. Perhaps you have already seen our new logo (it appears on page 1 of this newsletter). The Board of Trustees and Staff of the *OACB* are united in that the new name needs to reflect what the service system is all about – serving people with developmental disabilities. That is one of the reasons we started an Affiliate Member program (please see the article about one of our first Affiliate Members on page 5 of this newsletter). That is why we will continue to reach out and work with all stakeholders for the betterment of our system. There is power in this service system, but it is power that resides in the people the system serves. Regardless of whether you are associated with a Board, an affiliate organization or just an interested party reading this article, please join me in celebrating this historic achievement for people with developmental disabilities. **This is their bill, this was their moment, and it was powerful!**



# Passion, Fun Foundation For Midwest Success

*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.*

A first-time visitor with Tom Rickels and Joe Knetzer will immediately notice a couple things. First, Rickels and Knetzer are passionate about working with people with developmental disabilities. The second thing – they like to have a good time, and make no apologies for it.

Rickels, Knetzer and Knetzer's wife Kristine – a registered nurse who is certified to work with people with developmental disabilities - founded *Midwest Innovations, Midwest Health* and *Midwest Community*. *Midwest Health* was founded eight years ago, and provides residential supports (mostly Level One and Individual Options waiver services), while *Midwest Innovations* began two years ago, and is a day program.

*Midwest Community* began seven years ago, and includes three ICFMR facilities. Joe, 47, is President of the organization; Tom, 51, is the Chief Executive Officer.

Both Tom and Joe have more than 25 years of experience and have held various *County Board of Developmental Disabilities* positions. "We were both used to working 24 hour days meeting the needs of people," Rickels said.

As their careers progressed, they decided to step out on their own.

"We were really outspoken about what we wanted to do, and didn't always agree with the people we worked for. If people said something



Tom Rickels and Joe Knetzer take a break from working with individuals with developmental disabilities at *Midwest Innovations*.

that made sense, it made sense. If it didn't, we challenged it," Rickels said.

Like any business, the hardest part was getting started and finding people who had the same thought processes and motivation.

"We assembled a group of people who are passionate about what they are doing," Joe said.

Today, the entrepreneurs serve about 200 people in the health field and in the community, and another 100 in the *Innovations* day program. They are headquartered in Massillon, but also serve Wayne, Holmes, Knox, Licking, Muskingum and Stark counties.

Tom is proud of the fact that when they began *Midwest*, they agreed that individuals with developmental disabilities would be paid minimum wage. "We had some people who were doing hand-over-hand shredding, but

we still paid them minimum wage. It didn't matter," he said.

Why? "We think it is really important to give our clients economic freedom. You need to be able to have that to experience the decision-making process," Tom explained.

It doesn't take long to figure out that Rickels-Knetzer think and do things a little differently than others might. "We're not a status quo agency. We are solely here because of the people we serve," Joe said.

*Interested in becoming an OACB Affiliate Member? Contact Lisa Brewer at [lbrewer@oacbddd.org](mailto:lbrewer@oacbddd.org) or 614-431-0616.*

## OUR MISSION:

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

[www.oacbddd.org](http://www.oacbddd.org)

## OACB Issues Statewide Challenge



# Morrow County Needs Our Help On Nov. 1

If you have plans for Sunday, November 1, change them. There is something important that all of us need to be willing to do, and that is to spend a few hours in Morrow County to help people with developmental disabilities.

Through a series of events that are not a reflection of the practices of current Superintendent Jerry Manuel, the Board or members of his staff, voters in Morrow County thought money was not being spent wisely. It was not so much a fact as a perception that was perpetuated by circumstances.

Superintendent Manuel and his staff have worked tirelessly to overcome those perceptions. Elected officials are now on board. But the fact remains – the *Morrow County Board of Developmental Disabilities* has seen their levy fail 22 straight times.

The OACB is declaring November 1 “*Morrow County Board of Developmental Disabilities Day*,” and is encouraging each county that does not have a ballot issue in November to send at least three individuals to disseminate literature in a door-to-door campaign.

“Truly, we are only as strong as our

weakest link, and right now, that is Morrow County,” said Linda Oda, OACB Director of Communication. “We need to create a buzz and a media event so that we can get this county the exposure it needs to pass this levy,” she said.

Already, leaders across the state have said they will support Morrow County on November 1, including Franklin County Superintendent Jed Morison; Preble County Superintendent Diane Knupp; Washington County Superintendent Mary Ann Chamberlain and Hancock County Superintendent Connie Ament. OACB Board of Trustees members, including President Bob Milliken and Blaine Brockman, will be walking, as well as OACB Executive Director Dan Ohler and his staff.

Walking or driving lists will be provided to individuals, who are asked to meet at *Whetstone Industries* at 1 p.m. It is hoped that if every county participates, the entire county can be covered in about two hours.

To register for the walk, please contact Linda Oda at [loda@oacbdd.org](mailto:loda@oacbdd.org) or 513-218-4851.

### ON THE BALLOT NOV. 3

Other County Boards of Developmental Disabilities on the November 3 ballot include:

- Brown County – to combine two .5-mil continuing levies into one as a replacement. Neither has been replaced in 31 years.
- Crawford - 1.5 mill new levy
- Hocking County – (2) 1.5 mill replacements
- Holmes County - 2.5 mill replacement
- Hamilton – 3.62 mill renewal plus .51 mill increase for a total of 4.13 mills.
- Pike County – 1 mil renewal
- Union County – 2.4 mill renewal

*\*If you have a levy on the Nov. 3 ballot and are not listed here, please send information to Linda Oda at [loda@oacbmrrd.org](mailto:loda@oacbmrrd.org)*

# Employment *(From Page 1)*

It is a spacious store, and people from *Wasco*, the non-profit branch of the *Washington County Board of Developmental Disabilities*, quickly realized that in order to get a wider range of people shopping *Heart To Art*, they needed to offer a wider variety of products. They graciously offered to sell products created by people with developmental disabilities from throughout the state for a nominal fee.

Today, you can purchase beaded necklaces from Licking County, pottery from Summit County, and wood furniture from Jefferson County. Artwork that is for sale adorns the walls in *Heart To Art*, and that artwork was created by individuals in Athens, Carroll, Stark and Washington counties.

At *Heart To Art*, they don't talk about ways to employ people with development disabilities; it is an everyday practice that generates cash for the artists who participate. Every day, artists travel from the *Washington County Board of Developmental Disabilities* to the store on the main drag in Marietta.

In the back of the store, but in full view of shoppers, consumers carefully construct beautiful pieces of jewelry that are then baked in a kiln to prepare them for sale. In all, about 35 consumers work on the jewelry Monday

through Friday.

They use Dichroic glass, and the result is unusually vibrant colors that make quality necklaces and earrings.

"We invite customers to come back and watch the jewelry being made," said Kim Cowman, a *Wasco* associate who is employed at *Heart To Art*.

"Our consumers love to have people watch them work. It makes them feel important. The jewelry is beautiful, but it is the story of who makes it that sells it," Kim said.

Potential customers are surprised to see a visually impaired man who makes meticulous jewelry, judging beauty by the shape and size of glass pieces. A woman who has limited use of her arms and hands has learned to scoot one piece of glass over top of another, creating a type of jewelry that is exclusively hers.

*Heart To Art* and many other artists from across the state will be bringing their work to the *OACB CONVENTION'S* annual art show and sale on Wednesday, December 2 at the Easton Hotel.

Please make it a point to not only familiarize yourself with the creative talent in Ohio, but to make purchases to support these talented individuals with developmental disabilities.

For a listing of artwork that is available statewide, [click here](#).

# Consumer Products Available

This month, we are adding a new resource to *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities*. The following is a list of products that has been created by consumers from Ohio *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities*. This is not a complete list of products. Rather, this is a list of *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* who chose to participate in this advertisement effective September 1, 2009. To participate in this listing, send a one paragraph summary to Linda Oda at [loda@oacbmrrdd.org](mailto:loda@oacbmrrdd.org).

**Adams County:** Adult program *Venture Productions Inc.* sells reusable shopping bags for \$15 each. *Venture* also sells bundles of camping firewood for \$2 a bundle. Contact Superintendent Scott Amen at 937-544-2574.

**Clinton County:** *Nike Center* adults are marketing multi-purpose cleaning rags to business and retail customers. Businesses may place orders for several hundred or more rags while retail customers can purchase bundles of 25 rags. Contact Superintendent Kyle Lewis at 937-382-7519.

**Darke County** has custom, made to order, polymer clay bracelets. They are in the *Hallmark* store in Greenville and have been sold to local school districts. They are professionally manufactured and the cost is \$4.

Contact Jeff or Beth for more information at [jeffim@darkemrdd.org](mailto:jeffim@darkemrdd.org) or [bethj@darkemrdd.org](mailto:bethj@darkemrdd.org).

## WE WANT TO HELP YOU FIND WORK

Does your agency offer paper shredding? How about fall cleanup or gardening enclaves? The *OACB* would like to compile and distribute a list of services offered to the public by *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities*. Please send us one paragraph outlining available services, as well as contact information, and we will not only get it on our website, but we hope to partner with *Chamber of Commerces* throughout the state to find work for people with developmental disabilities! Email information to Linda Oda at [loda@oacbdd.org](mailto:loda@oacbdd.org).

See "Products"  
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# Wood, Athens Counties Clean Up At APSE Awards

Kristen Fisher of Wood County was awarded the “supported employment employee of the year” at the annual APSE awards September 24 in Worthington. Several others from Wood County also won awards.

Kristen is the *Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities* switchboard operator and handles all incoming calls for the agency. As a full-time employee, she is *Wood Lane*’s welcoming voice and greeter to callers and visitors, according to Liz Sheets, spokeswoman for *Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities*.

The winner of the Rebecca McDonald Award was given to Vic Gable, the Employment Services Coordinator for *Wood Lane*. Gable has been employed at *Wood*

*Lane* since 1991 and has held nearly every position in the employment services realm, including job coach, follow along specialist, and job developer.

The “small employer of the year” award went to the Bowling Green Recycling Center in Wood County, which has employed an individual with a developmental disability for more than 20 years. In addition, the Center also employs an enclave.

The “best practices award” was earned by Jeanne Novak, an assistant professor at *Bowling Green State University*.

The “supported employment employee of the year” award was given to Elaine Inlow of Athens County, while Stephanie Howell of Athens County



Kristen Fisher and Vic Gable

won the “supported employment professional of the year.”

(Information, photo submitted by Liz Sheets of Wood County)

## Products (From Page 7)

**Fairfield County:** *Blue Shoe Arts* is a studio/gallery where many different artists work independently in a variety of mediums. They specialize in acrylic painting on canvas, paper and wood, but also offer some fabric art, dolls, found object sculpture and mixed-media. Prices of original artwork range from \$8-100. We also offer note cards (\$10 for pack of 8), prints (\$5 - \$10), T-shirts (\$12), pewter jewelry (\$15-\$20), jewelry (\$15) and our new *Blue Shoe Butterflies* (\$60 for hanging version, \$65 with yard stake). Visit [www.blueshoearts.org](http://www.blueshoearts.org). Contact Cheryl Fey at [cheryl@blueshoearts.org](mailto:cheryl@blueshoearts.org) or call 740-756-7874

**Huron County:** At *Artists’ Open Studio*, they print blank all-occasion note cards and holiday notes. Cost \$5-\$10 per package. They do our own custom printing, so notes can be prepared with personal messages. *Artists’ Open Studio* offers an e-mailed pdf of design choices and will quote quantity prices for custom color printing on eco-friendly *Xerox* printer. Contact: [stonehamrdd@accnorwalk.com](mailto:stonehamrdd@accnorwalk.com)

**Jefferson County:** They produce picnic tables, a whole line of lawn furniture-gliders, chairs, park benches, end tables, porch swings, lounge chair, and tete-tete. They also produce a children’s line of the same pieces which are splashed painted. For more information, contact Superintendent Mike Mihalik at [mikem@jccdd.com](mailto:mikem@jccdd.com) or 740-264-7176.

**Licking County:** *LICCO Inc.* offers a variety of jewelry and other items, including customized memory boxes with a velvet-line interior, greeting cards, and puzzles. *LICCO*



Pendants available through *Hearts To Art*.

recently formed a partnership with a national trade organization to work with college bookstores across the nation. Contact Superintendent Nancy Neely at 740-349-6588.

**Miami County:** *RT Industries*, an affiliate of the *Miami County Board of DD*, is selling wreaths made out of greeting cards. There are two sizes, and are available for a donation by contacting Sharon Emerick at (937) 440-3005. The suggested donation is \$5 for a small wreath and \$10 for a large wreath.

**Stark County:** *The Workshops* have everything from soap to customized cornhole games, and everything in between. Visit their website [www.theworkshopsinc.com](http://www.theworkshopsinc.com) or contact Tim Casper, Manager of Work and Job Development, at 330-479-7899.

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# Educators, Students Honored With Awards

Students and teachers from across Ohio recently were honored for their achievements by a collaborative group of educators.

Statewide organizations consisting of the *Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities*, *Buckeye Association of School Administrators*, *Ohio Educational Service Center Association*, *Ohio School Boards Association* and the *Ohio Association of County Boards* sponsored the “Horn Walter Outstanding Achievement in Special Education Awards.”

The award is named after Dr. Raymond A. Horn, who was a respected leader in the field of education of children with disabilities, and a former member of the *OACB Board of Trustees* and the *Franklin*

*County Board of Developmental Disabilities*. Franklin B. Walter was a longtime educational leader in Ohio, and a former superintendent of the *Ohio Department of Education*.

The award recipients included:

- Martha Davis, *Hancock CBDD/Blanchard Valley School*; Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award
- Ryan Dudley, *Lake CBDD/Broadmoor*; R.A. Horn Outstanding Achievement Award for a Student
- Marsha Horne, *Geauga CBDD/Metzenbaum Center*; Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award
- Megan Bailey, *Ashtabula CBDD/*

*Lakeside High School*; R.A. Horn Outstanding Achievement Award for a Student.

- Deborah Cardaman, *Ashtabula CBDD/Geneva High School*; Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award
  - Christopher Notman, *Stark CBDD/Rebecca Stallman Southgate School*; R.A. Horn Outstanding Achievement Award for a Student
  - Kimm Luckring, *Stark CBDD/Rebecca Stallman Southgate School*; Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award
  - Harriett Eakins, *Franklin CBDD/Central Crossing High School*; Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award
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## Across Ohio - DD News In A Nutshell

*In an effort to provide news about all 88 County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, the OACB offers “News In A Nutshell.” We asked superintendents from all 88 County Boards of Developmental Disabilities to send a sentence or two about something happening in their county.*

**Adams:** The Adams County Early Intervention program has been approved as an accredited site by *Reading is Fundamental*, a national non-profit organization which promotes literacy. *Adams County Board of Developmental Disabilities* was able to secure grant funds from *General Electric* to promote early literacy with the families served by Early Intervention and *Adams County Help Me Grow*.

**Allen:** There are 56 children enrolled in the *Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities*’ Early Intervention program.

**Ashland:** There are 57 children enrolled in the *Ashland County Board of Developmental Disabilities*’ Early Intervention program.

**Ashtabula:** There are 26 children

enrolled in the *Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities*’ Early Intervention program.

**Athens:** There are 19 children enrolled in the *Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities*’ Early Intervention program.

**Auglaize:** On September 18, Auglaize Industries held its annual “Summer Blast”. The theme this year was racing. Events include golf cart rides, racing games with medals being awarded to the winners, and a great homemade summer picnic lunch. Kent Walters, a driver from Eldora Speedway, was on hand with his sprint car.

**Belmont:** There are 28 children enrolled in the *Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities*’ Early Intervention program.

**Brown:** There are 26 children enrolled in the *Brown County Board of Developmental Disabilities*’ Early Intervention program.

**Butler:** Completed a marketing survey and are re-branding in conjunction with the name change. They will have a new logo to go with their new name and plans for re-educating the public. Butler also has developing a new strategic plan.

**Carroll:** The Board has been collaborating with local agencies and developed a Locally Coordinated Transportation Action Plan for Carroll County. They are searching for a Director of Educational Services.

**Champaign:** Champaign County is joining in the RSC Pathways Transition Grant and will be developing a department specifically for transitional youth.

**Clark:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kenton Caper Bike tour was held September 19 to

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## News In A Nutshell *(From Page 9)*

support *Clark County Special Olympics* and the *Clark County Board of Developmental Disabilities* Levy Fund.

**Clermont:** There are 199 children enrolled in the *Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities*' Early Intervention program.

**Clinton:** The adults at the *Nike Center* in Clinton County are marketing multi-purpose cleaning rags to business and retail customers. Businesses may place orders for 100-plus rags while retail customers can purchase bundles of 25 rags from a display at the *Wilmington Kroger* store. *Kroger* has been a terrific partner to the consumers of the *Nike Center* and actually offered to serve as a retail outlet before being asked.

**Columbiana:** There are 67 children enrolled in the *Columbiana County Board of Developmental Disabilities*' Early Intervention program.

**Coshocton:** The *Coshocton County Board of DD* took over *Help Me Grow* effective September 1. *Help Me Grow* Staff moved into the office with the therapists, Service Coordinators and Early Intervention Specialist and have a wonderful collaboration in place.

**Crawford:** In July the *Crawford County Board of DD* voted to place a new 1.5 mil levy on the November 3 general election. The levy campaign committee, "Citizens for Fairway/Waycraft" are gearing up for an active and vibrant campaign. This is the first additional new money request since 1996.

**Cuyahoga:** There are 1,227 children enrolled in the *Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities*' Early Intervention program.

**Darke:** The Adult Services Program *Wayne Industries* is a busy place. They have a new contract with the *Whirlpool Corporation* that has everyone busy.

Graphite brushings are used in the *Kitchen Aid* mixers and W.I. has completed more than 800,000. They also completed 9 jobs for the *Midmark Corporation* in Versailles.

**Defiance:** There are 41 children enrolled in the *Defiance County Board of Developmental Disabilities*' Early Intervention program.

**Delaware:** *Focus on Abilities* held a talent show on August 19. *Hollywood Nights* was a huge success as 13 acts gave award winning performances to the sold-out crowd. People with disabilities wowed friends and family with songs, dance, signing, comedy, impressions and an original song performed on the piano. *Focus on Abilities* promotes positive images of people with disabilities and raises funds for future levies.

**Erie:** There are 95 children enrolled in the *Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities*' Early Intervention program.

**Fairfield:** There are 111 children enrolled in the *Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities*' Early Intervention program.

**Fayette:** Their summer preschool pilot project was a huge success. There were 16 children with the most severe needs enrolled. Parents are thrilled.

**Franklin:** Franklin County is honored to collaborate with Union, Licking, Hocking and Fairfield Counties on the RSC Pathways contract serving youth in paid internships that lead to employment.

**Fulton:** They recently shared some quotes from clients, staff and families about the state name change as part of our agency display at the county fair. Several members of the Seniors Group won ribbons for their crafts at the fair as well.

**Gallia:** There are 20 children enrolled in the *Gallia County Board of Developmental Disabilities*' Early Intervention program.

**Geauga:** Geauga County has begun its 5-year strategic planning for 2010-2014. Anyone interested in participating can contact the administrative office at (440) 729-9406.

**Greene:** Greene, Inc., the *Greene County Developmental Disabilities Services*' Adult Services division, recently was awarded a large federal document-destruction contract through *Ability One* (formerly *NISH*). This is *Greene, Inc.*'s largest shredding contract to date, and will position *Greene, Inc.* as the largest shredding operation among nonprofit organizations in Ohio.

**Guernsey:** Dr. Michelle Dayton from *SEORMC* participated in a medical mission's trip to Honduras. To assist with the mission, staff and enrollees participated in a Band-Aid drive to help her with much needed supplies and collected enough to fill a suitcase to send with her.

**Hamilton:** There are 873 children enrolled in the *Hamilton County Board of Developmental Disabilities*' Early Intervention program.

**Hancock:** The *Hancock County Board of Developmental Disabilities* in collaboration with the *Allen, Auglaize, and Logan County Boards of DD* and *Goodwill-Easter Seals of Miami Valley* has received a Pathways Grant from the *Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission* to provide job training and job preparation services for individuals with disabilities. The total grant is \$935,352; Hancock's County's portion is \$119,830.

**Hardin:** There are 22 children enrolled in the *Hardin County Board of Developmental Disabilities*' Early Inter-

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# News In A Nutshell *(From Page 10)*

vention program.

**Harrison:** There are 19 children enrolled in the *Harrison County Board of Developmental Disabilities* 'Early Intervention program.

**Henry:** The *Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities*, HOPE Services, participated in the Tomato Festival/Henry County Fair Annual Parade. In spite of temperatures in the upper 90's, about 30 board employees, 20 consumers, and various family members made the mile long march. The theme for the parade, "50 Years of Pageantry," gave the *Henry County Board of DD* the opportunity to showcase the numerous program components of the Board, as well as program participants from preschool to senior citizens.

**Highland:** Superintendent Chuck Biggert is happy to announce that Bryan Miller is his new Business Manager.

**Hocking:** Received word they have been CARF accredited for three years for the first time. Also, they are working hard on a levy request for November.

**Holmes:** The booth at the County Fair was a big success. *Lynn Hope Industries* donated a picnic table to give away and children lined up to spin the wheel and answer a question about the Training Center to win a prize.

**Huron:** Was awarded an *ODODD* grant in collaboration with *CMS* to implement creative employment solutions for "Three Guys Named Mow," a green venture in landscaping utilizing manual/electric equipment to mow and trim yards in Huron County, employing six individuals.

**Jackson:** The J-Vac Amy's Aktioneers Team raised more than \$2,300 for the *American Cancer Society Jackson County Relay For Life* event and received a third place award for monies raised by companies with

less than 100 employees. Building on the statewide awareness theme, they walked the track in supersized glasses and their banner stating "Just Like You - Looking for a Cure".

**Jefferson:** The *Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities* had a ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the Jefferson Regional Spectrum Center. The Spectrum Center is a joint effort between the school districts of Jefferson and Harrison Counties and the *Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities*. The Center will serve up to 24 students with autism. Director John Martin spoke at the ceremony in front of about 60 people.

**Knox:** The *Ohio Coordinating Center of Excellence (CCOE)* recently recognized the *Knox County Dual Diagnosis Intervention Team (DDIT)* as a model in Ohio for system's collaboration and cooperation, citing meticulous planning process, community development of systems working together, education efforts and ongoing systemic interventions.

**Lake:** There are 160 children enrolled in the *Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities* 'Early Intervention program.

**Lawrence:** There are 87 children enrolled in the *Lawrence County Board of Developmental Disabilities* 'Early Intervention program.

**Licking:** There are 145 children enrolled in the *Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities* 'Early Intervention program.

**Logan:** There are 52 children enrolled in the *Logan County Board of Developmental Disabilities* 'Early Intervention program.

**Lorain:** Representatives from the Murray Ridge School Autism Program are preparing to again present at the

annual *Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence* conference. This conference is considered "the nation's premier event in Autism, Assistive Technology and Low-Incidence Disabilities." The Murray Ridge group, comprised of a teacher, speech therapist, and two supervisors, will be presenting an overview of their use of the Ziggurat model (an innovative framework for designing comprehensive interventions for students on the Autism spectrum). *OICALI* has characterized the *Lorain County Board of DD* Autism Program as "exemplary."

**Lucas:** *Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities* has entered into a partnership with the *University of Toledo* and the *Ability Center of Greater Toledo* developing Options for Tomorrow. This is a program to help families avoid having to react to a crisis by planning early and making informed decisions. Caregivers are provided assistance with decisions regarding finances, community resources, advance care, insurance, guardianship, and housing options.

**Madison:** Received notification from *ODODD* that they will be awarded a 5-year Accreditation, which includes *ODODD*'s areas of excellence.

**Mahoning:** *Mahoning County Board of DD* just concluded its 2009 Summer Enrichment Program in which 117 preschool and school-age students with special needs were able to participate in the 6-week long summer day program. This is the third consecutive year in which program participation has increased. The camp is operated by the Educational Service Center under a contract from the *Mahoning County Board of DD*.

**Marion:** There are 8 children enrolled in the *Marion County Board of Developmental Disabilities* 'Early Intervention

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tion program.

**Medina:** There are 102 children enrolled in the *Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities* 'Early Intervention program.

**Meigs:** There are 4 children enrolled in the *Meigs County Board of Developmental Disabilities* 'Early Intervention program.

**Mercer:** Completed the fourth annual Summer Program for young adults, a ten-week program designed to provide the 15 oldest youth still in school with experiences in the Adult Services Program. They are able to experience all divisions of the Adult program, including work.

**Miami:** The *Miami County Board of DD* was pleased with the success of its 9<sup>th</sup> annual fundraiser for "Friends For Riverside" selling 1,100 chicken dinners throughout the area. Also the Board's Adult Services department is hosting two Brown Bag Lunch open houses to showcase its programs and services.

**Monroe:** There are 12 children enrolled in the *Monroe County Board of Developmental Disabilities* 'Early Intervention program.

**Montgomery:** The board authorized the creation of one full-time recreation assistant and 14 additional recreation aides to support the new children's recreation program beginning in January, 2010. Bill Green, Assistant Superintendent for Program Services, (937) 837-9205 is the point of contact for additional information.

**Morgan:** There are 8 children enrolled in the *Morgan County Board of Developmental Disabilities* 'Early Intervention program.

**Morrow:** In an effort to raise awareness of its programs, the *Morrow County Board of Developmental Disabilities* is holding two of its most popular events during October. The 14<sup>th</sup> an-

nual Whetstone Country Festival is being held on Saturday, October 17, and the 4<sup>th</sup> annual "Two Dime Dinner" will be held on Thursday, October 29. The dinner will be held at the Board's Adult Sheltered Workshop, Whetstone Industries, 440 Douglas Street, Mt. Gilead, and guided tours of the workshop are available following dinner.

**Muskingum:** There are 66 children enrolled in the *Muskingum County Board of Developmental Disabilities* 'Early Intervention program.

**Noble:** There are 31 children enrolled in the *Noble County Board of Developmental Disabilities* 'Early Intervention program.

**Ottawa:** The *Ottawa County Board of DD* hosted the Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours. It was a great opportunity to promote our name change and to show off the Board offices. Additionally, the Board is hosting a Name Change Celebration in conjunction with People First Ottawa County on October 1.

**Pauling:** There are 41 children enrolled in the *Paulding County Board of Developmental Disabilities* 'Early Intervention program.

**Perry:** On October 9, *Perry County Board of Developmental Disabilities* will host Oktoberfest (formerly known as County Cup) at *PerCo Inc.* This is the 11<sup>th</sup> year that community members, family, and friends have been invited to spend the day with the staff and enrollees. The event is well attended and successful in making the community aware of services provided within the program

**Pickaway:** *Haiku Pickaway.*

New Name, same supports

More Waivers reduce wait lists

School starts, districts pay

**Pike:** *Pike County Board of Developmental Disabilities* has started a new classroom for children with autism and

had to expand their playground in the process.

**Portage:** The *Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities* is pleased to announce the appointment of Bill Whitacre as Director of Adult Services. Bill has been with the Board for 18 years, beginning in the Adult Services Program. Bill also has worked as a Case Manager and most recently as the Board's Investigative Agent.

**Preble:** Preble County's A.S.K. Playground Committee is busy raising funds to build a handicapped accessible playground. To date, more than \$40,000 has been raised and we are gearing up to break ground for the swing set phase of the project. The goal is more than \$150,000 for the project, which will include five-foot ramps and a poured-in-place rubber surface.

**Putnam:** On September 25, Brookhill sponsored an open house to commemorate the removal of the label 'mental retardation' from their name. Consumers were eager to take an active role in this day and express their appreciation for the name change.

**Richland:** Richland Newhope presented a four-hour awareness program as part of the *Mansfield Salvation Army's* summer camp for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Activities ranged from a version of "Family Feud" featuring disability-related questions to a scavenger hunt seeking letters in *Braille* and *American Sign Language* that spelled the awareness theme "Just Like You."

**Ross:** There are 58 children enrolled in the *Ross County Board of Developmental Disabilities* 'Early Intervention program.

**Sandusky:** The *Sandusky County Board of DD* received an RSC Pathways II grant to provide vocational rehabilitation counseling and services to students in transition from school to

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# News In A Nutshell *(From Page 12)*

work.

**Scioto:** There are 54 children enrolled in the *Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities*' Early Intervention program.

**Seneca:** The Seneca County Self Advocates are gearing up for their 13<sup>th</sup> annual Unity conference. The Unity conference is an annual conference that is organized and planned by Seneca County Self Advocates. This year approximately 160 self advocates and support staff will be attending the conference.

**Shelby:** Twelve eligible adults worked recently on updating the logo for the *Shelby County Board of Developmental Disabilities*. They were instrumental in the design and creation of the new logo, successfully removing the words "mental retardation" while maintaining the overall theme of the original logo. We are grateful for their help in implementing this positive change.

**Stark:** *Stark County Board of DD*, in sponsorship with the *Plain Township Rotary* and other local businesses, will sponsor the 12th Annual Great Pumpkin Race on October 31. Runners compete in the popular *Subway® Challenge Series* in either a 4-mile run or a 1-mile fun walk/run. All proceeds benefit the *Stark County Special Olympics*. Runners can register online at [www.ohiochallengeseries.com](http://www.ohiochallengeseries.com)

**Summit:** The *Summit County Board of DD* has implemented a new, computerized customer feedback system to track concerns and suggestions. The system is designed as an improvement identified during the Board's recent Baldrige Quality review and will aggregate common complaints and issues to allow for system-wide corrections.

**Trumbull:** The *Trumbull County Board of DD* has launched two revised websites. [www.fairhavenpgm.com](http://www.fairhavenpgm.com) for

the entire program and [www.fairhavenind.com](http://www.fairhavenind.com) for our Adult Services not-for-profit industry board. I would emphasize they are a work in progress and will welcome comments and constructive criticism.

**Tuscarawas:** *Tuscarawas County Board of Developmental Disabilities* was recognized by the Ohio Partnership for Excellence for completing the Advising and Partnering stages of the Baldrige assessment process which is the national benchmark for improving organizational performance. They are one of only two Ohio businesses being recognized at the Partnering level of the quality journey.

**Union:** WorkNet participated in the rigorous two-day survey by *CARF International*. As a provider of rehabilitation services for people eligible to receive assistance through the *Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities*, WorkNet has been awarded a three-year accreditation for Community Employment Services; Job Development, Community Employment Services; Job Supports and Community Employment Services; and Job-Site Training.

**Van Wert:** There are 45 children enrolled in the *Van Wert County Board of Developmental Disabilities*' Early Intervention program.

**Vinton:** There are 9 children enrolled in the *Vinton County Board of Developmental Disabilities*' Early Intervention program.

**Warren:** The Miracle League Park Complex, in part sponsored by the *Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities*, celebrated the opening of the ballpark September 19. The ribbon cutting ceremony included an honor guard and band from *Springboro High School*, the choir *Voices of Warren County*, and several past and present

*Cincinnati Reds* ball players such as Aaron Harang, Tom Browning, George Foster and of course, the Reds mascot, Gapper. The first pitch was caught by former Reds player Sean Casey.

**Washington:** There are 93 children enrolled in the *Washington County Board of Developmental Disabilities*' Early Intervention program.

**Wayne:** There are 66 children enrolled in the *Wayne County Board of Developmental Disabilities*' Early Intervention program.

**Williams:** There are 72 children enrolled in the *Williams County Board of Developmental Disabilities*' Early Intervention program.

**Wood:** The *Ohio Department of Development* has awarded Wood Lane in partnership with the *Wood County Commissioners*, a grant to purchase five new wheelchair accessible buses that will run on liquid propane. The \$390,600 grant was one of 16 awards given statewide through is Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant program.

**Wyandot:** The *Wyandot County Board of DD* held its annual 2-day inservice training in August. In addition to our state training requirements, we had the pleasure of hosting two keynote presentations: Positive Behavior Culture (Melanie Stretchbery and Brent Baier) and "Autism Spectrum Disorder: Supporting Families in the Community" (Denise Sawan Caruso, NW Ohio Autism Council).

*(NOTE: The Early Intervention counts were provided by the Ohio Department of DD and were based on 2008 data.)*

