



Ohio Association of County Boards

Serving People With Developmental Disabilities

Celebrating the abilities of Ohio's 85,000 individuals with developmental disabilities



One of the statue's in the Capitol Building is of Helen Keller. Pictured next to the statue commemorating her are OACB Policy Analyst Dustin McKee, OACB Trustee and Lucas County Board Member Rod Standiford, and OACB Executive Director Dan Ohler.

Representatives Patrick Kennedy and Henry Waxman were honored for their work to help people with disabilities.

As part of the conference, states are encouraged to send delegations to visit with their Representatives and Senators. Representing Ohio on the Congressional visits were Dustin McKee, Rod Standiford and Linda Oda.

Standiford is a member of the *Lucas County Board of DD* and has served as an OACB Trustee for six years. McKee is OACB's Policy Analyst while Oda serves as the Director of Advocacy Services for OACB.

All 18 members of the Ohio Delegation were visited. "Meeting with all 18 members of the Ohio Delegation is important on several fronts," Ohler said. "Most importantly, we are reiterating the importance of federal funding in our service system, as well as the importance of solid policy at the federal level.

The second week of March is always the annual conference for the *National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Directors (NACB-HDD)*, which is affiliated with the *National Associations of Counties (NACo)*, the national organization for *County Commissioners*.

This year, OACB Executive Director Dan Ohler presided over the NACB-HDD conference in his first term as President.

In addition to leading the conference, Ohler participated in a legislative reception where

Mark Your Calendars!

Train The Trainer

April 29-30, OACB Offices, 73 E. Wilson Bridge Road, Suite B-1, Worthington

This Train the Trainer seminar is designed to certify registered nurses as trainers of Medication Administration.

SPRING CONFERENCE

*Efficient Practices-
Quality Outcomes*

May 20-21, *Marriott Northwest*, 5606 Blazer Parkway, Dublin

Watch for more details to be posted on the OACB website at www.oacbddd.org.

OPAC Golf Outing

September 23, *Golf Club of Dublin*, 5805 Eiterman Road, Dublin

The 2010 OPAC Golf Outing will be held 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. We currently are looking for hole sponsors, items to be given as door prizes, and golfers.

For more information, contact Ann Neu at 614-431-0616.

Spotlight on Blaine Brockman



Blaine Brockman

In an effort to better acquaint you with the volunteers who serve on the *OACB* Board of Trustees, we will profile a Trustee who is a *County Board of DD* Board Member each month. Profiled this month is Blaine Brockman of the *Madison County Board of Developmental Disabilities* and Vice President of the *OACB*.

How long have you been a Madison County Board Member? Since 2003.

How long have you served as a Trustee with the *OACB*? Since 2008.

My Family: I have a wife, Cathy and no kids. We have three dogs - Murphy, Sophie and Buttercup (I did not give her that name).

Occupation? Two jobs. I am the Assistant Executive Director of the *Ohio Housing Finance Agency*, and I run *Brockman Legal Services*, a solo special needs and elder law practice.

Education? Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources from *Ohio State University*; Juris Doctorate from *Capital University Law School*.

Proudest moment as a Board Member? I don't have a "moment". I am constantly proud of being a Board Member. It is one of the most fulfilling things I have ever done.

Three people (living or dead) you would like to have lunch with? Chief Justice John Roberts (or really any Chief Justice); President Obama; George Washington.

One thing I would like to accomplish: Retire to a long life of leisure along with my wife.

People would be surprised to know that: I can wire an entire house (damn close to code!!)

My favorite thing to do is: Equal parts sitting around reading a good book and doing

handy work around the house.

My favorite snack food is: Raisinets.

This irritates me: Sweeping generalities in the guise of informed opinion (a topical irritation).

Last book I read was: I just finished *Water For Elephants* (I did not like it as much as everyone else did).

My favorite movie is: *Out of Africa*.

***OPI* Honors Those Who Promote People With Developmental Disabilities**

At the annual awards luncheon sponsored by *Ohio Public Images*, journalists and organizations were recognized for outstanding efforts that helped promote the positive awareness of persons with developmental disabilities.

The luncheon is held each year in conjunction with the *Ohio Superintendents of County Boards of DD* conference.

Among those receiving special recognition the community leadership category was State Senator Jimmy Stewart, who wrote the legislation that removed the term "mental retardation" from the names of *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities*.

Honored as "self-advocates of the year" were the *Personnel Plus Advisory* and *Advocacy Council* in Athens for their work lobbying Senator Stewart for the name-change legislation.

A copy of the video presenting the winners is now posted on the *Ohio Public Images website*, www.OhioPublicImages.com.

A Word From our President...

Giving People an Official Voice

By Dean Fadel, *OACB* President

Senate Bill 47 is legislation pending in the *Ohio Senate State & Local Government Committee* which proposes to increase the number of members of each *County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CBDD)* from seven to nine.



The bill would require the new members to be individuals eligible to receive services offered by the *CBDD*. There would be one additional *Probate Court* appointee and one additional *County Commission* appointee.

Senate Bill 47 has the best intentions anyone served by *CBDDs* could hope for – the ability to speak with an official voice.

However, there are some practical realities associated with adding two individuals served by *County Boards* to every *CBDD* in the state.

The most glaring to me personally is that individuals with certain disabilities would have a distinct advantage over others in qualifying to serve on a *CBDD*.

Boards should treat all developmental disabilities equally, but Senate Bill 47 could create a situation where one disability could dominate the *CBDD* positions and tilt the focus of board programs away from other disabilities.

Fortunately, the current law specifies that each *CBDD* in the state should have at least 3

individuals who are immediate family members of individuals eligible for services. There is also nothing in the law to prohibit an individual who is served by the *CBDD* to serve in one of these or the other four seats today.

To a limited extent, the current law already attempts to address the fair and equal representation among the varying interests served by *CBDD* programs and recognizes that the *CBDD* program is often serving their citizens their entire life.

Current law says that whenever possible, of the two *County Commissioner* appointees on *CBDD*, one of the immediate family members should be of an individual eligible for adult services and the other should be an immediate family member of an individual eligible for early intervention services or services for preschool or school-age children.

In addition, whenever possible, at least one of the probate court appointees should be an individual who is an immediate family member of an individual eligible for residential services or supported living.

Going from a 7 to 9 person board could also present additional problems for smaller counties where finding the current number of individuals willing and able to volunteer their time and expertise is already challenging.

However, there is no avoiding the worthy intent behind of Senate Bill 47 and I would never suggest it would be some-

thing *CBDDs* should avoid. Self-determination and self-advocacy are vital components of our current DD system and must grow. It is these ingredients which demonstrate that the *CBDD* system is truly committed to providing Ohio residents a program that embraces the most important components of independence and freedom for people with development disabilities.

In Franklin County, we recently formalized an agency-affiliated council composed solely of people with development disabilities and established the Self-Advocate Advisory Council. It is made up of eight adults who receive services from the agency. The panel will provide an official forum for discussion of policies, programs and related topics.

Through this formalization, service recipients can express themselves as fully as possible regarding decisions and issue that affect their lives. They are assured that their voice is being heard at the highest level within the *CBDD* program.

Whether Senate Bill 47 ever becomes law does not matter, for the backers of this well-intentioned change to Ohio law have already voiced their desire for an official voice with the introduction of the bill.

These are the same people who the *CBDD* system was designed to serve, and there is no denying they deserve an official voice. As *CBDDs*, we are well served when we listen to those we serve for the betterment of our business.

Robin Hood...

By Dan Ohler, *OACB* Executive Director

It's Spring! After a long, cold, snowy winter, Spring has finally arrived. Time for longer daylight hours, warmer weather, baseball, rain, green grass and kids excited about the school year winding down. The *OACB* staff is busy preparing for the Spring Conference and if you have not done it yet, spring is time to file your income tax return. There is even a new Robin Hood movie coming to a theater near you!



This spring will also bring some interesting races in primary elections and in all likelihood, continued debate in our Nation's Capital regarding health care reform. All eyes will continue to be on Ohio's tax revenues and unemployment figures in an attempt to plan for what 'might' happen with state general fund appropriations. That will test the character of leaders. It is fairly easy to lead when times are good and money is bountiful. Leadership gets tougher when the challenge is raised, when money is not there for every entity that needs it. Clearly it is not a big secret that the *State of Ohio* is struggling financially,

most states are. The state budget has been cut by over \$2B the past three years and absent more financial relief from Washington, DC, a \$5B deficit awaits a year from now. That is causing some members of the Administration and the *General Assembly* to push costs down to the local level and even look at local tax revenues as the source of income to solve other funding crisis. Sound like cannibalism to anyone?

In times like these, effective leaders are creative. They scour every opportunity to cut costs, enhance revenues, stay focused on their mission and ensure that the objectives in their strategic plan are carried out. Unfortunately, some leaders turn into Robin Hood. They start to believe the only way to move on is to take from the (perceived) rich and give to the (perceived) poor. The fact is, we have seen legislation introduced that would do just that. Rest assured that *OACB* is working hard in opposition to that legislation, as are many other associations on Capital Square. But lest anyone think that will be the only attempt, then I respectfully request that you think again.

The objective for *OACB's* mem-

ber boards, as well as our Affiliate Members, is to enhance the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. Collectively we work hard to develop positive relationships in our communities to gain their trust and their support of our programs through property tax levies. Some of our more challenged programs are quite dependent on the little bit of state appropriation that remains. We must remain focused on those objectives and from time to time we will need to remind our legislators, not to mention our county commissioners and other elected leaders, that when our citizens go to the ballot box and vote "yes" on a levy to provide services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities, that is exactly how they expect their money to be spent. They do not expect any portion of those funds to be scraped off the top to fund other areas of government. They do not expect their elected officials to alter their wishes as made clear when they when into the voting booth.

As mentioned in the opening paragraph, there is a new Robin Hood movie coming to the big screen later this spring. Keep your eyes open and make sure Robin Hood stays in theaters and out of government!

Introducing Willie Jones...

The *OACB* is pleased to introduce it's newest team member, Willie Jones. Willie has been in the DD service delivery system for thirty (30) years and has been part of the Positive Intervention Culture Initiative sweeping the nation. For the past six (6) years, Willie has been employed full-time with the *Belmont County Board of DD* and has been an individual consultant providing technical assistance to *County Boards of DD* and private providers. Mr. Jones will provide technical assistance to our membership.



Change In Title Means Nothing, Everything

By Linda Oda, *OACB* Director of Advocacy Services

While the headline to this story may seem like an oxymoron or like I am very confused, let me assure you that there is the proverbial “method to the madness” to this heading. In actuality, the headline is the perfect description of my new title – Director of Advocacy Services.

First, the “nothing.” Nothing will be changing in the *OACB*’s Table of Organization, nor will my duties be changed significantly from what they are today. I will enjoy the same relationships with many of you. No one else has been or will be hired as Director of Communications, my former title.

Since coming to the *OACB* more than two years ago, my responsibilities have shifted from a straight public relations/marketing focus to how can I more effectively help people with developmental disabilities.

That’s where the “everything” from the headline comes into play. In the last two years, I have witnessed a focus on people – not programs, legislation, trainings, etc., by the *OACB*. While we need programs, legislation and trainings to improve the lives of people with developmen-

tal disabilities, we have never lost sight of the faces and the names of those who will be affected.

While many organizations refer to “people” in their mission and vision statements, sometimes individuals get lost in the overall day to day operations. That is the reason for my change in title. Executive Director Dan Ohler and I have been talking for months about where the *OACB* can truly effect change for people with developmental disabilities and their families, and at the end of the day, it boils down to advocacy.

I want to make it clear that while the *OACB* represents 88 *County Boards of DD* and more than 85,000 people with developmental disabilities, we are a relatively small staff. With only 13 people on staff, many part-time, we have a lot of ground to cover. Let me assure you that while I hold the title of Director of Advocacy Services, every single person who works at the *OACB* also does their share of advocacy on a regular basis.

The title change is important because it accentuates a paradigm shift that already has taken place at the *OACB*. Yes, we will continue to be a leader in push-

ing through (or stopping!) legislation that directly affects services and supports for people with developmental disabilities. We will continue to offer the highest level of training and technical support to our membership.

But now the *OACB* wants to clearly demonstrate its commitment to ensuring effective advocacy in the developmental disabilities system in Ohio. In a recent [NewsAlert](#), Dan Ohler said, “Our organization is trying to evolve to better meet the needs of our clients. We have learned in the past year or so, the power of advocacy and self-advocacy, and we want to provide the same leadership, communication and education to our members that we offer in so many other areas.”

Many of you know I have a severely autistic son. Donnie has turned our life upside down on more than one occasion. While there are many stories that probably would make one sad, more times than not, he has enriched our lives and changed our household for the better.

Donnie has changed my heart and the way I perceive people. He has changed my perspective.

Meet *OACB* Staff Member Lisa Brewer

Family: I’ve been married for 19 years to my best friend, Kenny. We have two wonderful children, Amanda and Kenneth and one grandchild, Kenton.

What I do when I’m not working: In the summer - motorcycle riding and backyard barbeques. In the winter – wish it were summer.

My favorite moment of working with individuals with developmental disabilities: When people with disabilities attend our events. It is very inspiring to see individuals overcome challenges to attend. It means a great deal to me that they are included.



Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kick-Off Event

The annual Ohio Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month kickoff was held March 4 in the Statehouse Atrium. Pictured below left is Bob Milliken, *OACB* Immediate Past President, Dean Fadel, *OACB* President and John Martin, *Department of Developmental Disabilities* Director. Pictured below right is Linda Oda, *OACB* Director of Advocacy Services and several members of *People First*. About 300 people were in attendance.



Organizations Connect For Buying Power

(Contributed article)

Knowing most people with development disabilities face economic challenges regarding cost of living expenses, the *Arc of Ohio (Arc)* and Columbus-based *Foundation For the Challenged (FFC)*, with the help of *Pro Op*, have partnered to create *Empowered Group Purchasing*, a group purchasing organization that will help individuals, families, nonprofits, provider service organizations, government agencies and other supporters realize significant annual savings on the cost of frequently purchased goods and services.

Discounts are available on commonly used goods such as medical supplies and durable medical equipment (20-35% discounts). Other savings including 20% discounts on mobile phone services, and reduced rates with *Nationwide Insurance*.

Empowered Group Purchasing functions like a discount club without walls. Research and development for *Empowered Group Purchasing* was funded in part by the *Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council* under the *Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act*.

Access to *Empowered Group Purchasing* is available by joining *Arc*. "Offering the benefit of cost savings to individuals and families throughout the Ohio fits with our mission of working to create a world where individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities have and enjoy equal rights and opportunities," said Gary Tonks, *Arc* Executive Director.

"Realizing social and economic barriers can limit such opportunities has motivated us to expand our

advocacy to include a service that helps overcome these challenges. That is why we call purchasing through *Empowered Group Purchasing*, 'Purchasing With Purpose,'" Tonks said.

Beyond the benefit of savings, users of *Empowered Group Purchasing* will illustrate the purchasing power and consumer value that people with developmental disabilities, their families and supporters have, evoking a new type of awareness, said Fran K. Wesseling, Executive Director of *Foundation For the Challenged*.

For information on how to join the *Arc of Ohio* and access *Empowered Group Purchasing*, call 800-875-2723 or a local *Arc* office or apply online at www.TheArcofOhio.org.

OACB's First 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 better acquaint you with our Affiliate Members, we will be showcasing an Affiliate Member in each newsletter.

One of the familiar faces at all OACB events and at many County Boards of DD is Ken Albert, president of MCG in Pickerington.

Originally named *Medicaid Consulting Group*, the organization has evolved into doing so many other things that they now typically go by MCG, Albert said.

"We do so much outside of Medicaid consulting. We have evolved into doing so much more," he said, noting that his company of three people now handles any aspect of an agency's operations.

In addition to Albert, the company employs Sandy Landers and Elizabeth Looney.

"We do strategic planning, capital projects – our biggest market right now is doing analysis to help counties measure the effectiveness of their expenditures," Albert said.

Costs are compared against other counties in the geographic region and benchmarks are set. "If the county is extremely higher, we help them figure out ways to become more efficient. Often times, that leads to long term planning and sometimes, privatization of services," Albert said.

With 25 years of experience of working with the County Board of DD system, Albert and MCG are uniquely qualified to help organizations in many areas.

"We have a strong overall knowledge of the industry. We have extensive knowledge from human resources to transportation. There's nothing we haven't experienced," he said.

Currently, MCG is acting as the Business Manager for four counties, and is mentoring new business managers in four others.

"Because we have worked in so many counties, both large and small, we bring in different perspectives. I have seen different programs and how different things work together. I have an intimate knowledge of how a lot of counties work," he said.

Albert said the biggest change he has seen in the past 25 years in this field is the expanded opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. "With the advent of private day centers, County Boards are expanding outside of the traditional workshop, and into community employment opportunities. There are so many more opportunities," he said.

Albert predicts the next "big change" will be adult services moving away from large sheltered employment. "People are looking for smaller community-based employment that individuals can use as a base for employment and recreation and social," he said, pointing out the success of such programs in Summit County.

At the end of the day, what keeps MCG moving is the people. "We are passionate about this industry. I have family members in the program. We are extremely passionate about people in our programs. It's more than dollars and cents for us. It's about making people lives better," Albert said.

For more information on MCG, call 614-856-1698.



OACB Executive Director Dan Ohler had the privilege of introducing Congressman Patrick Kennedy during the NACBHDD legislative meet and greet. Ohler recently was elected President of the national organization and will serve a 2-year term.

Across Ohio - News In A Nutshell

Allen CBDD's Pathways Project, now called VRP₃, is moving forward nicely in collaboration with *Auglaize, Hancock, Logan County Boards of DD* and *Goodwill Easter Seals of Miami Valley*. To date, 118 people have been referred, 91 have completed application, and 53 have been determined eligible and have open cases. This is an opportunity to greatly expand employment services for the people we serve.

Ashtabula CBDD celebrated DD Awareness Month by holding an open house and hosting the *Ashtabula County Commissioners* meeting in March. Highlights of the meeting included an overview of their programs, services and supports.



State Senator Tim Schaffer presented a proclamation declaring March DD Awareness month. Above, Senator Schaffer is pictured with Ben Hollinger, Superintendent of *Hocking County Board DD*.

Athens CBDD had almost 300 people in attendance at their DD Awareness Festival – with a Disable the Label theme. People performed songs, skits, poetry and life-stories. The County Board programs, providers and parent groups had several booth displays. *Ohio University* and high school students were also involved. Athens City Mayor and County Commissioners read Proclamations, and the *Athens City Commission on Disabilities* received an

award for their work on improving accessibility.

Belmont CBDD is partnering with the seven public school districts to transition youth from school to work, helping students with disabilities explore every option for their future employment.

Brown CBDD celebrated DD Awareness Month by taking six individuals to the local radio station for an interview. They talked about their jobs, programs, and activities they receive through the County Board. This was a great experience for them to be on the air and to be heard. The radio station is playing the interview all throughout the month of March.

Butler CBDD received a three-year *CARF* accreditation, with commendations in three main areas: to the adult services program for the development of the sensory studio, which allows individuals who have severe and or multiple disabilities to express themselves and interact with their environment; to the E.I. staff for their use of videotaping as a tool to coach parents how to nurture their child's development; plus a commendation for the staff's development of a computer data-tracking system to track accountability and productivity of E.I. services to families. The Board also recently redesigned its web site. Check it out at: www.butlerdd.org.

Carroll CBDD's Carroll Hills Industries has improved Day Habilitation services by focusing on ways to get individuals involved in the community through shopping trips, visiting museums, volunteering, etc. The County Board is in the process of improving records retention through scanning documents, and *Carroll Hills Industries* will open this service to the public soon.

Champaign CBDD is in the process of implementing Caretracker for the Adult Day Habilitation program. Staff members are be-

ing trained and kiosks are being installed. Early Intervention staff are excited about their involvement in the DD Council grant for training on the primary service provider model. We have implemented this approach with all of the families receiving services, and are honing our skills through the monthly exercises with the national experts.

Clark CBDD's Quest Adult Services has been awarded a 3-year *CARF* Accreditation

Clinton CBDD's Superintendent Kyle Lewis has worked closely with several parents to form a new support group called Friends and Families of the *Nike Center*. The mission of this group is to provide support and assistance to families, care providers, and customers of the *Nike Center/Clinton County Board of DD*.

Coshocton CBDD celebrated DD Awareness Month with a kick-off breakfast for the community. Proclamations were presented by the Commissioners and State Representative Troy Balderson. Other activities included a spaghetti supper was open to the community with more than 200 people attending, a puppet theatre traveled to different schools to present on disabilities, a basketball tournament with staff versus individuals, and a Boy Scout Adventure crew event.

Cuyahoga CBDD had nearly 1,800 30-second spots running on various *Time-Warner* and *Cox* cable stations (*ESPN, Fox Sports Ohio, TNT, A&E, USA, Disney Family, Nickelodeon*, etc.) throughout March. If you go to our website and click on the "Just Like You" link (<http://www.cuyahogabdd.org/movies/JustLikeYou.wmv>), you can view their spot.

Darke CBDD is currently participating in the (Federal/State) Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). The NSP program has provided the *Darke CBDD* with the opportunity/funding to purchase and renovate a home in the community to be accessed by County Board eligible

individuals. This project is 100% funded with NSP monies, no local dollars. This home will be the 5th home that the *Darke CBDD* has purchased/renovated for individuals with disabilities.

Delaware CBDD has been working in collaboration with the local EMS to develop a special needs registry. The registry went live in February. People can register for the free service that provides first responders with crucial information concerning people with special medical needs before they arrive on the scene.

Erie CBDD appointed Dr. Dee Zeffiro-Krenisky as Interim Superintendent.

Fayette CBDD has entered into the Superintendent Interview Process with the assistance of the *OACB*. Superintendent Steve Hilgeman is leaving in August.

Franklin CBDD has started a Self-Advocate Advisory Council that meets with the Superintendent quarterly to offer opinions on Board policy and to serve as an additional avenue of communication with the Superintendent and Board.

Fulton CBDD had more than 130 people attend the annual workshop employee recognition dinner. All clients were recognized for the last year while four clients received the annual special awards.

Geauga CBDD is proud to announce that the annual *Metzenbaum Center* golf outing will be held at the Tanglewood Golf Course on June 26. Lunch will begin at noon with the scramble beginning at 1 p.m. Dinner will conclude the event at 6 p.m.

Greene CBDD recently launched its own Facebook page (www.facebook.com/greencountydevelopmental-disabilities) to a positive response from the public. This new forum has allowed the Board to share its news and information in real-time.

Guernsey CBDD had several members from the Guernsey Independent Stars (self-advocates) attend the DD Awareness Month Kick-Off at the Statehouse on March 4.

Hamilton CBDD's Advocacy Leadership Network participants danced to the song YMCA on Channel 12 WKRC's "Dance Party Friday" segment led by Reporter Bob Herzog as they exercised in their weekly Fitness Blast Class at *Williams YMCA*.

Hancock CBDD is celebrating March as being DD Awareness Month in a variety of ways. They held a community breakfast, soup/sandwich dinner, and Grandparent's Breakfast and have put displays up at the *Findlay/Hancock County Library* and several Main Street store-front windows.

Henry CBDD is gearing up to begin a scanning business that will employ up to 30 people with disabilities. They will be located at Oakwood Plaza in Napoleon, where numerous county offices are located. Their first major customers will be various departments of Henry County government.



Holmes County Board of DD Superintendent Scott Brace, pictured in the Board's library, said books, toys and other manipulatives used by families are regularly checked out. Holmes County is home to the only on-site dentist office in Ohio, and Brace said they are looking to add a physician.

Highland CBDD had about 15 individuals attend the People First Conference and balloon launch to celebrate DD Awareness Month.

Holmes CBDD We are in the midst a campaign to pass a renewal of a five-year, 2.5 mill levy in May. Despite staff layoffs, turning preschool services over to the public schools, the elimination of adult therapy and adult community activities, everyone is pulling together to promote DD awareness during March.

Huron CBDD celebrated DD Awareness Month with activities that included breakfast with elected officials, radio spots, letters to

the editor, and 5K run/walk - all coordinated by the *AC Club*, the Self Advocates of the *Huron CBDD*.

Jackson CBDD This County Board welcomed a new Adult Services Coordinator - David Price. Also, the J-VAC Longenberger Basket Bingo Fundraiser was March 11 and raised more than \$3,000. The *County Commissioners* declared March DD Awareness Month.

Jefferson CBDD continues to work cooperatively with its local school districts to identify gaps in services to youth. During the last year, two joint initiatives have been started to meet the needs of Jefferson County students. Students with autism are now being served in the *Jefferson Regional Spectrum Center* and students with other developmental disabilities looking to transition into employment are being aided through the Bridges to Transition Program.

Knox CBDD had four proclamations signed by the different mayors and commissioners, a kick-off luncheon in collaboration with *Mount Vernon Developmental Center*, a life planning panel for parents and individuals, a celebrity omelet/pancake dinner for the public, participated in the Danville Fish Fry, a bowling tournament, a Special Education Recognition Dinner for the Public Schools and a dual diagnosis training with local doctors as part of DD Awareness Month. There were also billboards, banners and yard signs celebrating DD Awareness Month.

Lake CBDD and Lake Health are collaborating on a special art exhibit. There are 15 pieces of consumer art displayed at the new state of the art hospital in Concord. A VIP reception was held to celebrate the visual artists. The exhibit will hang through May 30.

Lawrence CBDD's Tri State Industries, the adult workshop, was named the Business of the Week by the *Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce* for the week of March 15-21.

Licking CBDD's LICCO Inc. hosted the second-annual 5K Run/Walk to benefit Citizens for Developmental Disabilities, our levy committee.

It was at the Newark Campus of OSU and Central Ohio Technical College. Mark your calendars for June 12. That is the day for the second annual DD Family Fun Day at TJ Evans Park in North Newark. The public is invited and admission is free. Activities include free fishing (no permit needed, just bring your own fishing gear), face painting, cornhole and more.

Logan CBDD is hosting a Business Partnership Appreciation breakfast on April 9th for local businesses that employ its clients, along with businesses that provide work for *RTC Industries* workshop. Director John Martin, *Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities*, spoke at the elected officials breakfast in late March.

Lorain CBDD's Murray Ridge School has developed a unique program designed to simulate the job-seeking process in order to better prepare students for work. This vocational curriculum gives students practice in such areas as responding to job postings (for tasks to be performed in the school setting), completing applications, identifying references, interviewing, wearing uniforms, and completing job tasks. Students also have the opportunity to negotiate salaries in the form of something they value, such as extra music time. Although this is the first year of the program, 31 students have enthusiastically participated.

Lucas CBDD has produced the first in a series of "story teller" videos that allow individuals and families to tell their stories in their own words. Journalist George Tanber, who conducted the interviews, said, "Not only are these stories inspiring, but they are humbling as well, when you see how people with disadvantages can make a life for themselves." The videos are being placed on the County Board website at: www.lucasdd.org.

Madison CBDD held its annual Appreciation Awards on March 11 with almost 300 people in attendance. *Madison County Board of DD* Children Services Director Peg Johnson was presented with the Dorothy Allison Lifetime Achievement Award.

Named after *Madison County Board of DD's* founder, that presentation was the highlight of the 20th annual appreciation awards. Johnson was honored for her 40 years of passionate service, where her name has been synonymous with *Fairhaven School*.

Maboning CBDD challenged the *Columbiana County Board of DD* to a "food fight" to benefit the *Second Harvest Food Bank*. Non perishable food items were collected at both facilities and at all of the DD Awareness Month activities. These items will be counted, and the winner will receive a trophy and bragging rights until next year. Both sides engaged in a friendly war of words with plenty of trash talking for a very good cause.

Mercer CBDD's The CA Group Board (non-profit) recently hired Gregg Rutledge as its full-time manager of operations. Gregg has been involved with the *Mercer CBDD* for almost eight years in the Adult Services Programs.

Fifteen women who receive services from the *Miami County Board of DD* have recently completed a "Being Safe" self-defense class taught by several staff members and the *Troy Police Department*. The women say they hope to never have to use their new skills, but feel the strategies learned will be useful in a crisis situation.

Montgomery CBDD has partnered with a Public Access TV production group, *Miami Valley Communications Council*, to do 25, 30-minute interviews about the County Board throughout 2010. The series will be taped on the second and fourth Wednesdays and will be shown throughout the weekends immediately following the interviews. A DVD of each interview will be provided to the County Board and will be shared through its website as well as that of the county.

Morgan CBDD has been working for the past two years to enroll as many people as possible on either an IO or Level One waiver. As of last fall all but two individuals who attend their workshop were on

a waiver. One of the goals in this County Board's annual action plan is to identify consumers who are interested in receiving services.

Morrow CBDD had three individuals employed by *Whetstone Industries* provide clerical support to this County Board. One young lady comes to the *Whetstone River Family & Children's Center* twice a week for a couple of hours to assist with answering phones and clerical work. The others help cover phones at WI during the lunch hour. All three are doing an awesome job working for the County Board. The hope is this experience will allow for them to find employment in the community in the clerical field.

Perry CBDD is planning for the official kick off event for the opening of the *PerCo Greenhouse*. The date for the festivities is Friday, April 23rd from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.. A long list of invitees include local and state politicians, grant providers, various community service representatives, newspapers, radio stations and possibly a TV station, to name a few.

Pickaway CBDD's March Haiku:
Spring brings awareness
Calamity days over
New projects begin

Pike CBDD's Cougars basketball team earned the title of South Sectional Division 4 Champions on March 6. They played for the Division 4 State Championship at the Ohio State University RPAC North Gym on March 26. They are very proud of their Cougars!

Portage CBDD released it's new logo in conjunction with the DD Awareness Month activities. The logo was developed by *Kent State University (KSU)* students working at *The Tannery*, which is a student-run, full service communications firm affiliated with *KSU*. None of the *KSU* students involved in the development of the logo had any previous personal or professional contact with the DD field, but they captured a unique and great perspective on developmental disabilities.

Preble CBDD was featured in *The Register-Herald* twice, as well as a

story and two photos in *My Life* magazine, a local publication. The *Preble County Commissioners* proclaimed March as DD Awareness Month and that photo ran twice in the local newspaper. Other activities included a month-long food drive for area food banks, sponsored by *L&M's Employee Council*, and an art exhibit at the *Preble County Fine Arts Center*. The art show featured drawings and paintings by individuals who receive services from the *Preble CBDD*.

Putnam CBDD's consumers and staff enjoyed participating in the DD Awareness Month Kick off event at the Statehouse.

Richland CBDD hosted special guests Miss Ohio 2009 Erica Gelhaus and Ms. Wheelchair 2009 Danielle Brown at the 17th Annual Richland County Third Grade Coloring Developmental Disabilities Contest Awards Luncheon on March 5. *Richland CBDD* received 583 entries from 17 schools. One winner was selected from each school. This is one of several activities they sponsor to mark DD Awareness Month.

Ross CBDD recently donated \$400 to a young man whose dream was to be able to drive, but was unable to because he couldn't pass the reading test for a driver's license. The money goes toward tires for his Go-Kart, which he is able to race in several area tracks. The young man was then featured in an article in the *Chillicothe Gazette*.

Sandusky CBDD honored the *Clyde Heritage Hall League* and the *City of Clyde* for their support of individuals with disabilities in celebration of DD Awareness Month. *Heritage Hall* has been the donated home for the Senior Life Enrichment group for the past six years.

Scioto CBDD collaborated with *Petermann Ltd.*, a transportation company headquartered in Cincinnati, to construct a two-bay bus maintenance garage so that the County Board can better control repair costs. This facility will not only service buses, but also the vans used in the Adult Services program.

Seneca CBDD had a full slate of events planned for DD Awareness Month. These included a lunch with Director John Martin of *DODD*, local officials and advocacy leadership. The annual celebrity basketball game with local government officials, *Heidelberg University* athletes and Special Olympic basketball team also was held. Finally, more than 800 community families were expected at the 38th annual Palm Sunday dinner.

Robert Schmidt, the *People First* representative to the *Shelby CBDD*, received a plaque from the County Board in appreciation for his service to *People First* and to the County Board. Robert plans a move to Texas to be close to his family. Robert has been a strong advocate for people with disabilities across Ohio. He has met with the *Governor's Office* and served on the state *People First* Board.

Bill Green began his duties as *Stark CBDD's* new superintendent March 29. His appointment follows the retirement of H. Michael Miller in January. Chuck Holden served as Interim Superintendent since Miller's departure.

Summit CBDD opened two new integrated community service centers serving up to 75 eligible people each. The centers, located in Cuyahoga Falls and Barberton, were LEED certified "green" construction projects and include a Gift Gallery store and food bistro that employees people with disabilities. For details visit www.SummitDD.org.

Trumbull CBDD operates 34 school buses that completed 720,000 miles of accident-free miles last year. That is roughly a trip to the moon, back to Earth, and another trip to the moon. They are proud of their transportation department!

Works of art created by artists from the *Starlight Workshop* in *Tuscarawas County* were featured in an exclusive gallery show at the *Tuscarawas County Center for the Arts*. Art remained on display until March 19. Most art was available for sale and was sold during the exhibit. This is the second year for the exhibit.

Union CBDD is proud to have been selected by *Ohio Public Images* for a merit award for Overall Awareness Efforts in 2009. This was a result of an overall awareness campaign driven by strategic planning initiatives and executed by a committed and dedicated staff. It will serve as strong outreach and education foundation for years to come.

Warren CBDD has created a new logo and website. Both can be viewed at: www.warrencountydd.com

Washington CBDD hosted the seventh annual Showcase of Talents on March 26 at the *Marietta High School*. This event has become the most popular event of the year for the people served. There were volunteers from *Marietta College*, several area high schools and many other community members performing with individuals, teaching them skits, making costumes and props and assisting during the show. It takes more than 100 volunteers and staff to put on this memorable show.

Wood CBDD has formed an informal discussion group for staff who aspire to explore opportunities or improve needed skills for management positions. Superintendent Melanie Stretchbery is leading the group. People meet monthly to ask questions and gain other staff's perspective on being a supervisor. There are 24 people registered for the initial group.



North S.T.A.R. artists Renee, Tiffany, Charlie, Craig, Jon and James recently completed this painting, which was featured at the *Preble County Fine Arts Center* in Eaton throughout DD Awareness Month. Titled *Beach Week*, the painting shows a beach scene with the waves coming in, all under a clear blue sky.