



Ohio Association of County Boards

Serving People with Developmental Disabilities

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



Governor Ted Strickland, pictured above with *DODD* Director John Martin (left) and *OACB* Executive Director Dan Ohler (right), welcomed over 350 people who attended the *OACB* SPRING CONFERENCE on May 20-21.

Governor Speaks At *OACB* Spring Conference

Efficient Practices Quality Outcomes was the theme of the annual *OACB* SPRING CONFERENCE May 20-21 at the *Marriott Hotel at Tuttle Crossing* in Dublin.

Governor Ted Strickland gave the opening welcome to a group of over 350 people who attended the event, thanking them for their service and encouraging them to do their best in helping individuals with developmental disabilities.

"We were pleased and appreciative that the Governor found time in his busy schedule to make visiting with our members and other attendees a priority," said Dan Ohler, *OACB* Executive Director.

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) Director John Martin spoke about national trends and how Ohio stood against national data.

The keynote speaker in the opening session was Greg Wellems, Director of *SmartHomes and Imagine!* in Colorado. He spoke about the innovative ways to provide security and save on expenses using current technologies that are available today. He also spoke about future technologies and how they can be integrated into community-based housing.

Other topics discussed at the two-day conference included Bridges to Transition, legal updates, early invention/Help Me Grow, personnel and business manager's updates, the *CMS* Firewalls Document and a host of other topics.

Executive Director Dan Ohler spoke on fiscal situations facing *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* in light of the \$8-11 billion deficit the General Assembly will face in the FY 2012 – 13 budget process.

Save The Dates

OACB Annual Convention

The *OACB's* 27th ANNUAL CONVENTION will be December 1-3 at the *Hilton at Easton*, 3900 Chagrin Drive, Columbus. This has been the location for many years, and continues to be a favorite among attendees because of the variety of dining and shopping venues.

Dr. Ron Manderscheid, Executive Director of *NACBHDD*, will be presenting on implementation of national health care reform. *OACB* staff is working with other speakers and more information will be forthcoming. Last year's single day attendance record was nearly 700 people, and we anticipate another strong conference in 2010.

Ann Neu will be the point person for the ANNUAL CONVENTION. She can be reached at 614-431-0616 or aneu@oacbdd.org.

Save The Dates

OPAC Conference

Ohio Association of Services for Children (OASC) Summer Conference will be from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Xenos Center, 1340 Community Park Drive in Columbus.

The cost is \$50 for the one-day seminar, and that includes lunch. Agenda items include CPR for Busy Professionals; Caring for Yourself; Updates from Katrina Bush, DODD Children and Family Supports; and Engaging Families and Building Community Capacity for Family Supports.

Attendees will earn six CEU hours. For more information, contact Lana Beddoes at 614-431-0616 or lbeddoes@oacbdd.org.

OPAC-DD Golf Outing

This year's golf outing will be held September 23 at the Golf Club of Dublin beginning at 11:00 a.m. The golf outing is the primary annual fund-raising event for OPAC.

Proceeds fund the political education efforts of OPAC that support passage of legislation to keep and improve the quality of services to Ohio's citizens with developmental disabilities.

Please plan on putting together a foursome, sponsor a sign or giving a donation to this worthy cause. For information, contact Ann Neu at 614-431-0616 or aneu@oacbdd.org.

Are you a golfer in Central Ohio?

Ask the golf pro if they employ people with developmental disabilities to help with the care of the golf course. About 25 golf courses were represented at a meeting in April at the Muirfield Village Golf Club to learn more about how they could



employ people with developmental disabilities to help with the maintenance of thousands of acres grass, sand and water hazards.

"We simply are trying to find community work for our individuals," said Greg Wehr, who co-owns *Person Centered Services* with Ken Albert. Based in Pickerington, the organization provides adult day services and transportation.

"A small part of what we do is find community. We do recreational, socialization – anything any non-profit would do. But we're trying to find community work for individuals," Wehr said.

The golf professionals were very interested in the reliable manpower that Wehr was offering.

"What we discovered is they need just as much support in the off season as prime season. They need help taking apart and refinishing ball washers, benches, break rooms, trash cans – you name it," Wehr said.

From painting tee boxes and markers to keeping general maintenance work completed, workers are in high demand. "This is productive, meaningful work," Wehr said.

Last fall, Wehr had a crew of 3-4 people working twice a week at the *The Highlands* in Pataskala. Because of the success of individuals there, the golf superintendent of *The Highlands* asked Wehr to present to other golf professionals in April.

While individuals with developmental disabilities received high marks for quality workmanship and reliability, golf superintendents were even more impressed with their attitudes and the atmosphere they create on the golf course. "The real story is how happy the owners and members are. The membership is so supportive. They are always saying, 'we love having the guys here'," Wehr said.

So how do people with developmental disabilities like working on golf courses? Here is what some individuals from the *Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities* say.

Drema Wiggin: "The reason I like going to the golf course is that I like working outside, and I like working hard."

Matt Andrews: "I like to work outside and learn new things."

Brent Voigt: "I like to do landscaping at the golf course, and I also like hard work."

And here's an added benefit – some individuals are learning how to play golf. In fact, there's a *Special Olympics'* division where an individual with developmental disabilities is paired with a typical athlete. Called "alternate shot," each golfer on the two-man team takes turns, playing nine holes.

Make your next “parent” meeting

A “family” meeting

By Dean Fadel, OACB President

The OACB's Immediate Past President, Bob Milliken of Stark County, came to serve in this capacity not as a parent of a child with a developmental disability, but as the sibling of two brothers who were developmentally disabled. In one of his articles as OACB President, Bob shared the responsibility that falls on siblings who are asked or choose to care for their brother or sister in need of assistance.



Dean Fadel

The OACB now has back-to-back presidents with the sibling perspective on the DD system. As medical technology continues to advance, people with disabilities now routinely outlive their parents and siblings are assuming a larger role in the lives of people with disabilities than in previous generations.

The current DD system was founded by parents and mostly run by parents for the past 43 years. There may be nothing more powerful than a group of angry moms! But times change, and our system must move in a direction to strengthen the services and supports for brothers and sisters to continue to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

Are we preparing typically developing siblings with the skills and know-how to advocate for their brothers and sisters?

Does our system allow parents to easily enter their senior years knowing that their children with disabilities will be cared for when they no longer can? Are our service providers who serve adults with disabilities fully benefiting from having siblings as active partners?

Siblings will be in the lives of family members with disabilities longer than any other person. Siblings of people with developmental disabilities also share most of the concerns that their parent's experience, including isolation, a need for information, concerns about the future and care giving issues.

While siblings may feel like parents in certain situations, I can assure you a sibling might react differently than a parent in many circumstances.

A sibling is more likely to allow their sibling with a disability to struggle more than a parent who is always trying to “fix” everything for their child. A sibling is also likely to allow a sibling with a disability to take on more personal responsibility than the “protective” parent may allow.

Generally, it would seem the integration of siblings would be a low-cost, high impact means of improving the lives of people with disabilities because supported, informed siblings are more likely to remain lovingly involved in their lives as adults-and when the parents no longer can.

Thanks to the leadership of Dr. Tom Fish of the *Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University*, much of the national research on this topic has been organized under the *Sibling Leadership Network (SLN)*. The SLN is responsible for the research behind much of the content of this article. The SLN has also put forth public policy recommendations intended to create opportunities for siblings to partner with government and service providers to ensure the highest quality of life now and in the future for entire families.

There is also an Ohio group organized as *Ohio Special Initiatives by Brothers and Sisters (Ohio SIBS)* which recently held kick-off meetings in Cincinnati and Columbus as part of an effort to provide adult brothers and sisters of people with developmental disabilities guidance, support, advocacy and education for the long-term care of their sibling.

Among the over 80,000 people served by Ohio's DD system, most have typically developing brothers and sisters who are too important to ignore.

Please contact the OACB office if you would like a copy of the SLN recommendations. Watch for upcoming announcements from *Ohio SIBS*, and consider making your next “parent” meeting a “family” meeting.

Lake County Earns Top 10 Recognition

Special People, Individual Needs, Inc. is a small nonprofit organization in Lake County working with young adults who have special needs.

This past fall, the group participated in the national *Make A Difference Day* volunteer initiative. Out of 1,100 agencies in Ohio that participated, *Special People, Individual Needs Inc.* were one of ten to be selected for a *Make A Difference Day Outstanding Project Award* given in March in Columbus.

Individuals with developmental disabilities participated in a “Sharing Baskets and Smiles Project,” in which they shopped for, assembled, and donated Halloween gift baskets to children with special needs at *Broadmoor School* and *Deepwood Children's Residence Center*, and donated fall gift baskets to senior citizens at a *Mentor Way Nursing Home*.

Special People, Individuals Needs Inc. noted they thought it was appropriate too that receive this award during March, which is *Developmental Disability Awareness Month* in Ohio. For more information, contact *Connie Janes-Lewis* at 440-289-0227.



Spotlight on Steve White

In an effort to become better acquainted with the volunteers who serve on the OACB's Board of Trustees, we are profiling County Board of Developmental Disabilities' Board Members who are appointed to trustee positions. Profiled this month is Steve White.

How long have you been a Clark County Board Member: Eight years. I just started my third term.

How long have you served as a trustee on the OACB? Since 2006.

My family: My wife of 32 years, Lillian, and our 30-year old son, Justin.

Occupation: Psychotherapist at *Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley*.

Education: MSW, 1975, The Ohio State University (I really do bleed scarlet and gray!)

Proudest moment as a Board Member: The way the *Clark County Board of Developmental Disabilities'* community came together, to support one another, and the victims and their families and friends, after the bus accident this past winter involving a private day hab site in Clark County.

Three people (living or dead) I would like to have dinner with: My wife, St. Francis of Assisi, and Archbishop Fulton Sheen - imagine the lofty conversation!

One thing I would like to accomplish: Return to Italy, with Lillian, for another visit.

People would be surprised to know that: I have been a volunteer for Special Olympics, at the local, State and National levels for 22 years – and I have as much fun as the athletes.

My favorite thing to do is: Spending time with my wife, doing just about anything!

My favorite snack food is: Anything crunchy, chewy, sweet or salty – that pretty much covers it, yes?

This irritates me: Labels for persons.

Last book I read was: Several different ones by my favorite author, who happens to have the same name as I. The author, Stephen White, is a psychologist in Colorado, and writes about a fictional psychologist, Alan Gregory, who gets himself tangled up in murder investigations. My work is much more mundane than that, and I pray it stays that way!

My favorite movie is: The Lord of the Rings Trilogy, hands down. My favorite actor in the Trilogy is Sean Astin, who played Samwise Gamgee. I can relate to Sam.

Meet OACB Staff Member Kim Linkinhoker



Kim Linkinhoker is the OACB Associate Director. In addition to handling administrative duties, Kim also is involved in trainings and program reviews throughout the state.

Family: I live with my wife in Gahanna. Ann is Director of Enrollment for *OSU-Newark*. We have been married for 25 years and actually met each other in 9th grade of high school. Our daughter Laura is a student at *Auburn University* in Alabama. She just finished her freshman year and loves being part of university life and an SEC school. (That part is hard for me to swallow. GO BUCKS!) Presley is our very cool Bassett hound.

What I do when I'm not working: I'm a little obsessive about my yard so I spend a lot of time doing yard work in the

summer. I love my Wii and play a wide variety of games including espionage and the usual sports games. We go to a lot of concerts and love to travel when we have the time. I do some city cycling and work out a couple of times a week at a gym.

Favorite restaurant: Any *Cameron Mitchell* restaurant in Columbus.

Guilty pleasure: Reading books all day on the beach.

My favorite moment of working with individuals with developmental disabilities: Not one moment but watching the progression of one individual who I've known for more than 30 years. With the help of parents, a lot of friends and staff from a County Board, she has a great life in her community. I have seen her grow up from a County Board-operated school to a sheltered workshop to a real job in the community, her own apartment and a great group of friends.

From the Desk Of

Dan Ohler
OACB Executive Director



By the time this Newsletter is published, Ohio will be almost exactly two months from Election Day in a year where every statewide office is up for grabs. Typically in a year like this there is not much going on at the Statehouse. However, 2010 is an exception. While regulation for Ohio's new casino industry and alternative energy grab the most headlines, there are some exciting initiatives taking place in the developmental disabilities system.

OACB, along with leadership from the *Superintendent's Association* and Business Managers, have worked with the *Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD)* to develop a new formulary for Tax Equalization Funding, as well as the legislative language to implement it. We have also been pleased to have the opportunity to work with the *DODD* on rules for cost projection tool implementation; financial hardship; and, remote monitoring. We are excited about our role in helping to develop the leaders of tomorrow with 50 people in the 2010 Executive Development Program and assisting four counties in their search for a new Superintendent.

Through our involvement with the *National Association of County Behavior Health and Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHDD)*, we also continue to monitor and influence federal policy. The passage of National Health Care Reform will have impacts on *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (CBDD)* and OACB's Affiliate Members as employers, and more importantly on the individuals all of our members serve.

In late May, we published a [NewsAlert](#) that contains key dates regarding the implementation of National Health Care Reform. We hope this is helpful to all members of OACB in crafting strategic plans and future budgets. The other major federal initiative is passage of legislation to extend the enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage by at least six months, which would coincide with Ohio's FY 11 budget.

Perhaps the most exciting development of all is the Flexible Supports Waiver. Ohio is closer than we have ever been to fulfilling the dreams and hopes of many by aggressively pursuing a Self-Directed Waiver. Not a CBDD-Directed Waiver or a Provider-Directed Waiver, but a Self-Directed Waiver. CBDD will retain the Service & Support Administration function exactly as it exists in OHIO REVISED CODE Section 5126.15. However, control will lie in the hand of individuals receiving services and the options available to those individuals will be broader than we have seen in the past. The Administration from the Governor's office, to the State Medicaid Agency, to Director Martin is committed to making this waiver a reality. OACB is proud to be participating in this process, working with our members, the DODD and other stakeholders going forward to make the Flexible Supports Waiver a successful reality.

In closing, I am going to break a professional rule of my own and insert a personal comment. On April 25, following a brief and unexpected illness, I lost my mother. I continue to be absolutely humbled by the overwhelming support and compassion that my family and I have received from so many of you. It makes me even more appreciative than I already was to be a part of this service system. On behalf of the family of Nancy J. Ohler, thank you all so very much.

Have a great summer and please know that many appreciate you for all you do to enhance the lives of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities.



Perry County Board of DD “Growing Green”

The *PerCo Greenhouse* is the buzz around Perry County recently holding a kick – off celebration. Ron Spung, the director of *PerCo, Inc.* (adult vocational center for people with developmental disabilities) in Perry County, recently invited the *Perry County Commissioners, Perry CBDD*, and with various government /political representatives, along with the community members to join the event.



The *PerCo. Greenhouse*, located at 5730 St. Rt. 345. It is a hydroponic greenhouse that grows tomatoes in a sterile environment without the introduction of dirt.

Under the direction of the *PerCo* Board of Director’s and *Perry CBDD* staff, the employees of *PerCo, Inc.* have cared for and managed the growth process of the tomatoes. Spung stated, “we are proud of the development of the business and look forward to increased employment opportunities for people with disabilities in the years to come.”

If interested in learning more about the “growing green” project or purchasing tomatoes, contact Ron Spung @ 740-342-5156 or r.spung@perrymrdd.org.



To get further information about the business opportunities of people with disabilities around Perry County, and to view photos from the kick-off celebration please visit perrydd.org.

Mrs. Strickland Visits Athens To Celebrate Artists’ Successes

On April 26th, *Passion Works Studio* in Athens County presented their short, stop-animation film, *Motorcycle Dreams* at the 37th Annual 2010 Athens International Film and Video Festival. The screening was fabulous and described as “visually stunning” in the film festival catalog!

Many *Passion Works* artists and staff attended. The crowd was enthusiastic and responsive! Academy Award nominee/documentarian/filmmaker and *Ohio Arts Council* Visiting Artist Melissa Godoy paired up with *Passion Works Studio* to produce this exciting film that brought the artwork of our artists alive.

Many thanks to a supportive crowd and to Melissa for collaborating with *Passion Works* to produce this enduring piece.

First Lady of Ohio Frances Strickland visited our *Passion Works Studio* and new Fine Arts Gallery. Many of the artists and their families stopped in to meet and welcome her. During Mrs. Strickland’s visit, artists shared stories about their fine art and had questions for Mrs. Strickland, as well.

The visit was comfortable and the First Lady’s genuine appreciation of the artists and their fine art was evident. It was a quiet visit with the focus on taking in the atmosphere of a place she says she has admired for quite some time.

The *Athens CBDD* is grateful to Frances Strickland for setting aside quality time with all of us. It was a warm and memorable experience especially since Mrs. Strickland commissioned a portrait of herself, which she plans to

hang in the
Governor’s
Mansion.



Artist Jason Douglas (already making some drafts of the portrait), Mrs. Strickland, David Barba (*Passion Works* Director), and

Artist Alexis Rhinehart.

Parents Make A Difference In Children's Lives

Tim Pfister, Communications Director for the *Montgomery CBDD*, sent the following letter to the *OACB* by. It was written by Kelly Paxton (who gave us permission to reprint it) who submitted it in a contest held by the *Dayton Daily News'* columnist Dale Huffman.

While Kelly's letter didn't win the Mother's Day contest, we thought she did a wonderful job expressing the thoughts and feelings of many individuals with developmental disabilities that we know and have worked with.

With Mother's Day just a few weeks ago and Father's Day on the horizon, we thought it was appropriate to remind people that while Staff and Board Members at *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* work day in and day out to help individuals, there are family members who have even more heart and soul poured into making certain their children lead happy, successful lives.

We hope you find the same inspiration and warmth reading Kelly's letter that we did.

Dear Mr. Huffman,

My name is Kelly Paxton. I am 31 years old. I am writing to you to nominate my mother, Susan Paxton, for Mother of the Year. She has been my "Mother of a Lifetime". For all of my 31 years, my mother has helped to take care of me. Most mothers probably expect their children to outgrow their dependency on them, after they master the basics, like bathing and dressing. Most mothers move from caregivers to transporters....driving kids to soccer and Brownies. Most mothers fade into the background as their children grow less dependent on them as the kids move into driving and dating and working.

My mother still helps me bathe and dress. My mother still drives (me) around. My mother is still active in helping socialize, linking me to my friends and coworkers. Even though I am 31 years old, I still depend a great deal on my mom. I believe she is the greatest mom ever because she helps me everyday. I was born with Spina Bifida, a neurological birth defect that paralyzes me from the waist down. Now, I can do a great deal for myself. I can get around fairly well in my wheelchair, I can work, and I can play sports. But, I rely heavily on my mom to help support me all the things I do.

My mom found it difficult to work only because my needs interfered. I have had multiple surgeries over my lifetime on my legs, back, and bladder. Mom was always by my side. She shuttled me to every doctor's appointment, kept my schedule, insured all my treatments were completed. There were a lot of activities I think my mom would have dreamed of doing over her lifetime, but she sacrificed to devoting her life around me.

I would not be the person I am today without her. Where my life falls short, she steps in to make it more complete, so that I can live a healthy and more fulfilled life. I know she is proud of me and loves me, but her devotion to me helps me to be the best person I can be. Despite my disability, she makes me feel able. Please consider my mom for Mother of the Year, because I do, already.

Sincerely,

Kelly Paxton

Across Ohio – News In A Nutshell

Adams CBDD continues its partnership with the *Ohio State Extension Office* and the Master Gardener's program. Plans for this season are to add wheelchair access and raised beds.

Allen CBDD using VRP3 direct service dollars is going to provide a summer youth work experience program. There will be three different work sites and each participant will work three weeks at each site. The sites include maintenance in city parks, custodial in a nursing home and assembly in a factory.

Ashland CBDD is conducting a fund raising campaign for the construction of an Outdoor Activity Area. This area will provide recreational, leisure, and exercise opportunities for adults and students at *Dale Roy School*.

Ashtabula CBDD has partnered with Ashtabula County Emergency Management and other area agencies to establish a special needs shelter to be used in the event of a major emergency. The *CBDD* has agreed to be the shelter site for all individuals with special needs. The special needs shelter will provide a safe environment for individuals unable to remain safely in their home in the event of an emergency.



Spring is in bloom at the Ashtabula County Board of DD. Donnetta is assisting a customer while Jerad and Richard are tending to the flowers at the Ash/Craft Greenhouse.

Athens CBDD's, *Beacon School* had 50 athletes participating in Area 8 Special Olympics at *Alexander Local High School*. It was fun to see all the kids who won, but it was even better to watch the good sportsmanship that all kids displayed by helping each other and cheering for one another. *Beacon*

School received a \$3,000 grant from the *Nelsonville Elks Lodge* and *United Cerebral Palsy* to be used for adaptive and therapy equipment.

Auglaize CBDD staff and individuals at the sheltered workshop have been busy in the past few weeks. In conjunction with the March observation of Disability Awareness Month, staff and individuals of *Auglaize Industries* conducted one-hour classroom presentations in several Auglaize County schools. Members of the *Aktion Club*, in conjunction with the *Kiwanis*, recently held a pancake breakfast.

Butler CBDD's *InsideOut Studio* recently celebrated great success. The studio exceeded their goal in retail sales by 100% during the first quarter. Artwork has been featured in four exhibits: *The Inner I Gallery* in Xenia, the *Pendleton Gallery* and *Venue 222* in downtown Cincinnati and an art show at the *Art Academy of Cincinnati*. *InsideOut Studio* recently hosted Diane Fishbein, a clay and ceramic artist, through a grant from the *Ohio Arts Council*.

Carroll CBDD is supporting the start of a self-advocate advisory council this month. Local school districts have just agreed to start paying all school age therapy services starting July 1.

Champaign CBDD had more than 200 people attend the 19th annual *Lawnview Industries* awards banquet. Awards were presented to "employees of the year" in six categories. Employees working on current contracts explained their work to the crowd and explained their daily routines. The meal was great and a good time was had by all!

Clark CBDD successfully completed its early retirement incentive program allowing the *CBDD* to restructure. Approximately 80 employees retired with only five positions still unfilled.

Clermont CBDD made headlines during Awareness Month by hosting a "Dancing with the Stars" Extravaganza. Local celebrities (County Auditor, County Sheriff, business owners) took

Swing and Cha Cha lessons in February from *The Dance Club Studio*. More than 260 people watched 12 couples compete for the coveted mirror ball trophy.

Clinton CBDD, through the efforts of the *Southern Ohio Council of Government*, a part-time Behavior Support Specialist position has been created. Clinton County is one of the counties contracting for this new service. Jane Williams Burdett was hired to fill this position.

Columbiana CBDD has a new contract with its workshop and bus drivers, and work has been rapidly increasing. They just received an on going job with *Glass America* that keeps 40 individuals working on a daily bases. They also received a large job from the *PA Cyber School* for back-to-school packs for more than 10,000 students.

Crawford CBDD is participating in a project called Project STIR, which stands for Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility. Project STIR is a training program for self-advocates and their supporters designed to provide individuals with the tools to advocate for themselves, mobilize others in advocacy and gain leadership experience.

Cuyahoga CBDD had more than 200 people gather for brunch at the 100th *Bomb Squadron* restaurant near the airport for the *Cuyahoga CBDD* annual volunteer recognition event in April. The *CBDD* had 225 volunteers who reported more than 16,000 hours of service. According to *Independent Sector*, the average current value of a volunteer hour (including benefits) is \$20.85, so that means volunteers contributed \$335,414 worth of time and services to the *CBDD* in 2009!

Darke CBDD has been awarded a grant from the *Ohio Department of Development* in the amount of \$160,248 to install energy efficient lighting and upgrade HVAC systems in the preschool and adult facilities operated by the Board. This grant is Federally funded through an ARRA Block Grant and is

part of the total \$25 million allocated to the *State of Ohio*.

Delaware CBDD has been working the past year to create a new logo. They selected a compass as an image that represents the many options individuals with disabilities have in Delaware County today. Services provide consistent and positive direction while the individual and their families chart the course that is right for them.

Erie CBDD and "Team Erie County", along with many other county offices, raised more than \$3,200 for the *March of Dimes* over the past few months. Fundraising activities included bake sales, breakfasts and lunches, a "dog dash" raffle in the dog park and a benefit walk.

Fairfield CBDD purchased *Art & Clay on Main*, a retail ceramic art studio and consignment gallery representing local and national artists. The downtown Lancaster location will also become the home of *Blue Shoe Arts*, Fairfield County's studio and gallery for artists with disabilities.

Fayette CBDD applied for funding through a private foundation to extend its summer preschool from four to six weeks. This program targets children with autism and other severe disabilities.

Franklin CBDD: Commissioners and Board Members participated in a ribbon cutting for the *CBDD's* new Service Coordination Building, located at 1600 Watermark Drive.



Pictured left to right: Board Member Dean Fadel; Commissioner Marilyn Brown; Patricia Ann Thomas, Service Recipient; Commissioner John O'Grady; and Board Members Helen Ninos, Renee Stein, Lito Ramirez, and Jean Williams.

Gallia CBDD recently announced plans to relocate its adult program, *Gallco*. Because the *Gallia County Sheriff's Department* plans to locate a Work Release Center near the current location,

the Board has addressed concerns of parents and staff and decided to make this move. The result will positively impact the Adult Program as the new location will allow adults to become a more integral part of the community and will reduce ride times.

Geauga CBDD announced that the 5th annual *Metzenbaum Center Golf Outing* will be held on June 26th at the *Tanglewood Golf Course* in Bainbridge. For more information, contact Carol Brill at (440) 729-9406.

Greene CBDD's new Adult Service building, the Atrium, has incorporated new activities into its program, such as cooking classes, Zumba, as well as pet, music and art therapy. All of these programs have been popular and successful.

Hamilton CBDD held an informal discussion at a community event between Hamilton County Advocate Diana Mairose of the Advocacy Leadership Network and Commissioner Todd Portune quickly resulted in a "small but mighty" (Diana's words!) countywide word change reflecting People First Language. The Commissioners adopted a resolution that changes the term "handicapped" to "accessible" for parking, restroom, and entrance signs in all new construction, including the highly anticipated and visible Banks project on the riverfront between the Bengals and Reds stadiums.

Hancock CBDD had more than 70% of the voters supported *Blanchard Valley Center* by approving a renewal of 1.9 mill levy. The Board and Staff appreciate all the hard work and dedication of individuals, families, staff, service organizations, and many others in making this success possible. The levy passage was celebrated with a picnic complete with hot dogs, chips, side dishes and root beer floats.

Highland CBDD expressed its appreciation to all of Highland County in a picture in the newspaper, for their support of the program. They did this by having the children, adults, and staff standing on the words:



"Thank You!" spelled out on the parking lot - all seen from an aerial photograph with the pilot time and picture cost donated.

Holmes CBDD is grateful for the passage of its renewal levy on May 4 by 62%. The parents association had a very successful 34th annual Spring Festival with 42 volleyball teams participating Friday night, and 120 quilts and comforters were auctioned off on Saturday. The weather caused us to cancel the train rides and lemonade, but it probably helped the craft auction, the bake sale (sold out at 10 a.m.) and the chicken barbeque (sold out).

Huron CBDD's *Christie Lane* participated in the Erie County's "Earth Day Extravaganza" in the Sandusky Mall and in Norwalk's "Green Fair" in uptown Norwalk. Their contribution was to help citizens make their own art using clay and recycled glass.

Jackson CBDD held its Annual Spring Prom with a Luau Theme. The Fourth Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser for *J-Vac Industries, Inc.* and its subsidiary "ART in the heART" was held May 8. Both were a huge success in attendance and enthusiasm.

Knox CBDD provided leadership in forming a Dual Diagnosis Interdisciplinary Team with representatives from Mental Health, Substance Abuse and the criminal justice system and received a Coordinating Center of Excellence in Dual Diagnosis grant. With this grant and the support of the local hospital, the *Knox CBDD* provided a series of dual diagnosis trainings.

Lake CBDD had about 70 youth including six graders and high school students of Leadership Lake County's Junior Leadership Academy and Youth

Program and welding students from *Willoughby-Eastlake Technical Center* converged on the Deepwood Campus of the *Lake CBDD* to learn from one another about community service. They worked side by side beautifying the agency grounds. Elfie Roman, Lake County Board Superintendent, expressed her enthusiasm in having Ryan Eubank and the welding students return. "Our experiences last year have created a bond for life."

Lawrence CBDD's Bob Justice, custodian for 18 years at this County Board, retired May 17. Good luck to Bob in his endeavors.

Logan CBDD's *The Discovery Center* hosted its annual spring program "Under the Sea" at the Bellefontaine High School. Each evening's performance culminated with almost 200 children on the stage for a grand finale of "sea worthy" songs learned during this school year. *The Discovery Center* is a collaboration of *The Logan CBDD*, *Bellefontaine City Schools*, *Ben Logan*, *Indian Lake*, *Riverside*, and *West Liberty-Salem school districts*.



Lorain CBDD's Four *Murray Ridge Center* Special Olympians will compete in the *Special Olympics National Games* this July 18-23 in Lincoln, NE. Annually, each state is allowed to send a designated number of athletes to compete in specific sports at the National Games. Because of the exceptional performances by *Murray Ridge* Basketball and Volleyball teams in 2009, *Special Olympics Team Ohio* reserved two slots each on the Team Ohio Basketball and Volleyball teams for *Murray Ridge Center* athletes.

Madison CBDD is celebrating the passage of a 1.3 mill five-year Operating Levy renewal. Madison County residents once again showed their support for the *Madison CBDD* program, passing the measure by the largest margin of victory (64.8%) ever experienced by the County Board. *Madison CBDD* appreciates the ongoing support from their community.

Mahoning CBDD during the month of March, collected nonperishable food items for the *Second Harvest Food Bank* as part of a Food Fight with *Columbiana CBDD*. According to the Second Harvest Food Band, the *Mahoning CBDD* collected 1,943 lbs. of food that equals almost 1,270 meals for those in need. They also collected \$522 in cash donations that can be used by the Food Bank to purchase \$7,830 worth of additional food.

Mercer CBDD's Crystal Secest, a provider of recreation/leisure services to adults in Mercer County, recently administered the Heimlich to an individual who was choking on some food while on a community outing. Crystal's quick, effective efforts potentially saved the individual's life and prevented any serious injury. Kudos to Crystal!

Miami CBDD's individuals comprising the *Miami CBDDs* Service and Support Administration team, for 2010, have taken on the additional goal of becoming educated in either a developmental disability topic or a topic to improve themselves or the team, or completing a service project that either directly benefits someone we serve or an agency that provides service to the individuals who are board-eligible. Everyone is excited about the outreach and education that this opportunity provides to all involved.

Montgomery CBDD's, *MONCO* Free Shred Day, attracted 75 vehicles carrying many varieties of paper documents. Seven cars were waiting when the doors opened at 9 a.m. Approximately 2.5 tons of recyclable paper was donated. *MONCO* offers this

activity twice a year and uses the publicity to generate additional business customers.

Morgan CBDD continues to work with the *Southeastern Ohio Joint Solid Waste Management District* to provide recycling opportunities for the citizens of Morgan County. Each year in May the *Morgan CBDD* hosts a collection day for unwanted household appliances. Individuals served by our program help with this project each year.

Muskingum CBDD's *Starlight Industries* will soon be opening a restaurant in conjunction with the local transportation authority at the downtown bus station. This venture has been in the planning stages for several months and will open this summer. Besides providing employment in food service for several individuals, it will provide a venue for art and handmade crafts through the *Heart of Art* venture of the non-profit.

Perry CBDD's, *PerCo* Greenhouse is the buzz around Perry County recently holding a kick-off celebration. Ron Spung, the director of *PerCo, Inc.* (adult vocational center for people with developmental disabilities) in Perry County, recently invited the *Perry County Commissioners*, *Perry CBDD* Board, and various government/political representatives, along with the community members to join the event.

Pickaway CBDD revamped and adopted the new version of its mission statement to more accurately reflect what it is doing and to help evaluate decisions that will be made in the future. "Mission (is to) To support people with developmental disabilities to live, learn, work and play in the community.

Pike CBDD congratulates Bryce Bailey, who recently participated in the Challenger Football Competition. *United Cerebral Palsy of Central Ohio* teamed up with *OSU* football players and cheerleaders for their second annual football competition. Bryce was able to team up with and play with Terrelle Pryor, Buck-I-Guy, Brutus and more.

Portage CBDD, since 2003, *Family & Community Services of Portage County* has been providing, through a contractual relationship with the Board, recreational, social, and leisure activities for eligible adults through an *AmeriCorps* program called *POWERcorps*. *POWERcorps* is a community service program of *AmeriCorps*, a National Service initiative started in 1993. A new program called *Jr. POWERcorps* has just been initiated to provide recreational, social, and leisure activities to the youth of Portage County ages 14-22 eligible to receive Board services. We anticipate more than 100 youth participating in this program.

Preble CBDD Individuals gathered with community leaders, contractors, Board Members and staff to break ground for the A.S.K. Playground. To date, more than \$130,000 has been raised in less than 15 months to build the county's only totally handicapped accessible playground for individuals of all ages and abilities.



Pictured is Robert Wilson as he digs in for the new playground. The first phase, swings and hopefully two other pieces of equipment, along with a poured rubber surface, will be installed beginning in mid-May. More details about this exciting project will follow in the next few months.

Putnam CBDD Board has chosen to expand habilitation options in Putnam County that will include more sensory motor type of activities to better meet the needs of those who are more difficult to serve.

Richland CBDD has started an Early Childhood Internship and Training Pilot Program for individuals with developmental disabilities who are interested in working with children. The program consists of two levels that will ultimately result in the students becoming certified to work in day care facilities in the community.



Landon Harvey, 3, enjoys activities led by intern Kim Taylor at Richland Newhope's Early Childhood Center.

Ross CBDD's Pioneer Center has started a spring program of equestrian therapy for students attending the *Pioneer School*. We have noted that students with autism (as well as others) have really responded well to the horses they ride!



Scioto CBDD had its most successful open house ever, a local celebrity basketball game, and a community employment recognition banquet featuring First Lady Frances Strickland as speaker. (Did you know she worked as a counselor at a special needs summer camp during her college years?) They also welcomed two new board members - Jeff Kleha and Bill Rockwell.

Shelby CBDD's Eric Marshall – employee at *S&H Products* in Sidney – recently wrote a letter to President Obama and was extremely pleased to receive a response signed by the President himself! Eric wrote about his concern for the economy and job losses in Shelby County. The President responded, in part; “Thank you for writing me. Each day, I hear from concerned Americans who are

struggling in this economy, and I appreciate your perspective.... I am working every day to strengthen our economy so that all Americans can reach their highest aspirations and potential. Thank you again for contacting me.”

Stark CBDD's graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2010 will take place in both *Stark CBDD* schools. On June 4, 11 young men and women will receive their high school diplomas from the *Rebecca Stallman Southgate School* during the evening ceremony in Canton. Earlier in the day, senior high school students were recognized for their achievements during a student awards ceremony.

Summit CBDD's Volunteer Team is comprised of people who receive services from the agency and staff members, who helped the Downtown Akron Partnership during Green and Clean Day 2010 to achieve the goal of a vibrant Downtown! The video shows the team put a clean on the Lock 3 Park! <http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=117197494979560&ref=mf>

Trumbull CBDD recently began hosting "Fairhaven Fridays"- a once a month Friday evening event intended to provide both a social, non-vocational outlet for adult consumers and their families and to expose their Adult Services program to the local community. The first "Fairhaven Friday" was a lively demonstration by the *Niles Police Department K-9* unit. Light refreshments, jukebox songs, air hockey, foosball, ping-pong and other games rounded out the evening.

Tuscarawas CBDD's Individual artists from the adult program were invited to adorn the showroom windows at a local Honda dealer with images of spring created with paint pens. The construction project for the new Service and Support Center (which will allow the agency to reside on a single campus by early 2011) is rapidly progressing. *Tuscarawas CBDD* was named an Employer for the Planet by *Lights Out Ohio/The Sierra Club* for their participation in Earth Day activities and steps taken for energy efficiency.

Union CBDD is proud to announce that *U-CO Industries Inc.* was recognized by *Honda of America Mfg. Inc.*, *Honda of Canada Mfg.* and *Honda Manufacturing of Indiana, LLC*, at *Honda's Supplier Conference*. The recognition was given for *U-CO's* continuous dedication toward the achievement of quality and delivery for the calendar year 2009. *Honda's* first tier supplier base includes approximately 700 manufacturers. Only 13 received the coveted quality and delivery performance award. Congratulations *U-CO!* Super Volunteer Dorothy Garrett was honored at the *Union CBDD* April Board Meeting for volunteering more than 8,800 hours to the Foster Grandparents Program.



Pictured above, from left, UCBDD Superintendent Kim Miller, Marysville Mayor Chris Schmenk, Mrs. Garrett, UCBDD Board President Steve Streng and HandsOn Central Ohio Program Coordinator Janice Jones.

Warren CBDD in preparation for the Kentucky Derby, this County Board and Staff celebrated its annual "Derby Day" race in the adult program. Ten people participated in a race to the finish! They are also starting to ramp up for summer activities, including kick ball and wiffle ball to be held at the new Miracle Field.

WestCon COG received a grant from the DODD for the provision of autism services through the P.L.A.Y. project. *WestCON* is doing a demonstration project around autism. The grant provides seed money to make available a service through the COG that is not currently available in individual counties. For a fee, staff with training and certification as a Home Consultant in the P.L.A.Y. approach can be utilized by families.

Wood CBDD and all affiliate Boards participated in a "Boards are Us" get together. Each Board described its purpose, introduced members and highlighted some of its activities in the last 12 months. Almost 50 people attended, representing the *Wood CBDD*, the *Consumer Advisory Board*, *Wood Lane Foundation, Inc.*, *Wood County Special Olympics*, *Wood Lane Industries* and *Wood Lane Residential Services*. Attendees noted that it was beneficial to learn of each Board's purpose and activities, and to meet others who give countless hours to their Boards.

Happy Dog Happy Customers

Creative Renovations recently installed a power door opener for one of our customers to activate from her wheelchair. However, her service dog was unable to get out of the apartment on her own.

Creative Housing staff worked to attach a sensor to the dog's collar. When the dog approaches the apartment door it unlocks, opens, and closes behind her.

Creative Renovations is a non-profit organization that is committed to providing renovations that allow for the most safe and innovative barrier-free living. For more information about the accessibility renovations visit

www.accessibilityrenovations.org or
<http://www.accessibilityrenovations.org>



News Morgan County



Morgan CBDD chose to involve the art students from the *Morgan Local School* system in celebrating Disabilities Awareness Month this year. Art students from the elementary, junior high school and high school classes throughout the county participated. Individuals served by *Morgan CBDD* served as the judges for the contest. Eleven winners were chosen from the 1,070 posters entered in the contest. Posters were displayed through out the county at area business and agencies. The contest was a lot of work, but so rewarding.

Charles O'Brien is judging a poster and *Workshop Specialist Susan Coler* is assisting him.