

“LIGHTING THE WAY TO BETTER COMMUNICATION”



November/December
2013

Clermont County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

The Beacon

Honorable Mention for Honorable Work

When Clermont DD decided to take on the role of Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) whenever a disaster occurs in the county, we had no idea what that would hold in store for us. We had just taken our training to become a VRC eight short months before the 2012 tornado hit the southern half of our county. Our agency staff immediately sprung into action and, during just one week, registered over 1,100 volunteers who worked at two donation management sites as well as with large and small debris removal in Moscow, Tate, Monroe, and Franklin Townships. Going through an active disaster gave us the opportunity to learn about how devastating this can be for our community friends, how hard and how quickly our emergency services departments work to restore a sense of normalcy, and how many kind people come out of the woodwork to help wherever they can, for as long as we needed it.

In the months after the tornado, we continued to stay active with the Ohio Valley Long Term Recover Committee to offer assistance whenever a situation arose where we could help. It came as a huge surprise that Pam Broughton, Clermont County Emergency Management Agency Director, nominated Clermont DD for a FEMA Award. In September, we received notification that we received this very prestigious award!

Clermont DD was recognized with an Honorable Mention for Outstanding Local Citizen Corps Initiative in the 2013 FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Awards. From almost 200 nominations, a winner was chosen from each of seven award categories and twenty-eight honorable mention awards were given. Only two awards were presented in Ohio...Clermont DD was one of those two!

Pam attended the 2013 Good Fortune Recognition Dinner in October (pictured, far right). She presented the official FEMA notification to Superintendent Sharon Woodrow and staff who worked the VRC in 2012. Clermont DD is truly humbled to have been nominated for this esteemed award...to have received an honorable mention is AMAZING. Many thanks to Pam Broughton for submitting the nomination and for recognizing our hard work!



From the Superintendent

Sharon Woodrow

Happy Holidays!!! Thanksgiving is past and the December holidays are upon us. We at Clermont County DD hope that you and your family are enjoying this final month of the year. Where does the time go?

First of all, please let me express the thanks of our board, staff, and individuals and families served for the passage of our renewal levy. This .75 mil levy ensures that we do not have to drastically cut services in 2014; it was not designated to provide additional or new services.

However, as many of you know, we are changing our Adult Services Program to better ensure the fiscal health of our agency and increase our ability to serve more individuals who are waiting for some kind of support. We also are directed, through state mandates, to find more employment and community integration opportunities for our adults. Therefore for the past two years our board, through their strategic planning process, has been looking at ways to reduce the cost of providing adult services and to seek additional opportunities for the adults we serve.

We are so blessed in this community because there have been many providers of adult services open up their doors to individuals on Medicaid waivers. Every year there are more options and because of this our planning committees, made up of board members and staff, believe that it is not fiscally prudent for us to provide Day Array services for individuals who have an IO or Level One Waiver – there are many other entities that can do so. Financially, although the board still pays the match for the service, it makes better sense for us to reduce the size of our programs – ultimately closing another building and reducing facility and staff cost – while still ensuring that all individuals currently served can still attend a day array program. There are lots of choices.

If you have a waiver and desire employment assistance, or work or wish to work on a community focused enclave/mobile work crew, you may still receive services from Clermont DD. It's just the regular waiver day program – called for folks on waivers Day Array - which we are not going to be providing after **January 1, 2015.**

We do know and understand that this is a disruption and it is our hope that, by taking a year to make this transition, everyone affected will be happy and satisfied with their new program.

Because not all individuals currently attending Clermont DD's Adult Services programs have an IO or Level One waiver, we will still, for the foreseeable future, continue to offer a day program for those individuals only, but our emphasis for everyone, will be on the community.

Please don't hesitate to call your SSA for more information and assistance. There is plenty of time through all of 2014 to look at provider programs, interview providers and generally make good decisions about where you or the person you support will be happy. In 2014 we will be holding several Provider Fairs so that many providers can be in one place for you to speak with.

We want to provide all the support you need. Most important, we want to continue to work toward good stewardship of the local dollars that the taxpayers entrust us with through the levy process, and we intend to stretch those dollars as far as they can go. Thank you for understanding.

Happy New Year and please accept our wish that it be a safe and prosperous one for you and your family.





ACTIVITY UPDATE

12/10	Movies	TBA	\$5.25	Milford Cinemas
12/11	Christmas Dance	7-9:30 p.m.	FREE	Mt. Carmel American Legion
12/18	Lunar Golf	5-6:30 p.m.	\$8.00	Eastgate Mall Next to Dillards

**If bad weather please call to see if activity is cancelled.
Angie Stanton 513-732-4923.**



On October 26th 4 teams from CCDD participated in the Special Olympic bowling tournament in Columbus... Jackie Foy and Cathy Mooi, received a silver medal.... Tammy Carpenter, Candy Ison, BethAnn Welch, Margo Atkins, Amanda Haynes and Emily Flemming all received bronze medals. Rebecca Baker went as a volunteer coach. Congratulations to all the bowlers, they did a fantastic job representing Clermont County.

Spring and Fall Bowling Banquet

Our annual bowling banquet took on a new look this year, as we celebrated the accomplishments of the participants at Suburban Bowl. While everyone networked with friends and family, they bowled one last game before enjoying a pizza party and award ceremony. Angie Stanton, Activity Coordinator, presented Kristin Ayler of Suburban Bowl with a plaque for her dedication and support of the Clermont DD program throughout the years. Awards were given to all those who participated in the Spring and Fall Bowling Leagues, with Jackie Foy and Harvey Troxell receiving special trophies for having the Top Scores overall. It was a great event, and we hope to see everyone back in the spring!



Annual Halloween Events

Many thanks to everyone who made the end of October such a great time for the individuals we serve. There were pumpkin decorating contests in the Adult Programs, Trick or Treat for the students in the Wildey School, a dance at the Mt. Carmel Legion with over 250 people in attendance, Fear Factor (and appetizing treats), and a Costume Contest at Grissom (judged by volunteer Matt Stricklin, Adam Baker, and Tracey McCullough from the Clermont County Public Library). Even the Maintenance Department got into the swing of things by building a spooky tunnel for the Wildey Students. It was a great ending to a great month...THANK YOU to everyone who made it special!



National Disability Employment Awareness

Clermont DD is so very appreciate of all the employers who hire individuals served by our agency. We celebrate October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month, but our employers celebrate all year long by hiring individuals, helping them with community-based work assessments, holding appreciation parties for them (like the summer picnic at the Clermont County Records Department – thanks, Barb Brown and staff!), and the list goes on. Here are just a few of the exciting things that took place to celebrate the accomplishments of people with disabilities in the workplace.



Records Department Summer Picnic

Members of the PRIME Group took a tour with Andrea Bryant and Howard Daugherty of the Veterans Services Commission. They presented a basket of dog goodies for Atlas, the Grand Marshall of the 2013 Veterans Day Parade.





Batavia Township recognized the Clermont DD Lawn Crew at the end of a successful mowing season.

Sam's Club Eastgate hosted a Mentor Day for members of the PRIME group to shadow Sam's employees. It was a learning day that turned out to be FUN!



Big Lots Beechmont was awarded the Business Advisory Council's Employer of the Year Award at the October 11 Clermont Chamber of Commerce Monthly Luncheon. Pictured from left: Warren Walker, Duke Energy; Dan Ottke and Scott Brown, Clermont DD; Lt. Governor Mary Taylor; Doug Barr and Nancy McInturf of Big Lots; State Senator Joe Uecker; Michelle Dool, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities; Gene Johnson and Roger Moning, Clermont DD.

Matt Stricklin, Dan Ottke, and Nicole Webb after the Clermont County Commissioners Proclamation Presentation.





A Night of Good Fortune

Clermont DD’s annual recognition dinner took on a Chinese theme this year, as we celebrated our “good fortune” in our relationships with so many people who do wonderful things for our agency and the people we serve. Below are the highlights of the October 22 event.



Board members and guests enjoy dinner before the awards. From left: Tom and Kim Pellington, Rebecca and Bob Proud, Jeff Weir.

Providers were honored for providing excellent services to people with disabilities. From left: Carolyn Fry, Jerome Johnson, Evelyn Johnson, Andy Vogel of REM Ohio, Kathryn Gerhardt, Joan Arthur, Linda Delahanty, Joyce Conover, Emma Brown, Kim Pyle of Community Concepts, and Kathy Lee.



Judge Kathy Rodenberg (right) prepare for the award ceremony with Sheriff A.J. (Tim) Rodenberg and DD Volunteer Millie Apgar.

Providers of the Year – Extended Family



The night’s emcee was Batavia Township Trustee Bill Dowdney.



Triumph Award Winner – Kristina Breig (pictured with Superintendent Sharon Woodrow and emcee Bill Dowdney.



Self Advocate of the Year – Matt Stricklin



Staff who were recognized as nominees for the Clermont DD Triumph Award (from left): Jay Williams, Elizabeth Moran, Cathy Marshall, and Kristina Breig. (Those who could not attend were Greg Baker and April Harrington.)



Josh Rowland and Gail Troxell were recognized for their work as Self-Advocates in 2013.



Foster Parents of the Year --
Linda and Derrell Dick
(and their family)



Rajeon Oder of Kroger Eastgate,
Joann Kiser of the Milford Miami
Township Library, and Bill Deimling
of Deimling Jeliho were honored for
employing individuals with
disabilities within their respective
businesses.



Meteorologist Steve Norris (left) was recognized as Advocate of the Year for his dedication to people with disabilities at Clermont DD and across the Tri-state. Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries was recognized as Business Partner of the Year for their relationship with Clermont DD's Adult Services Program. President and CEO Joe Byrum (center) accepted the award. Clermont County Sheriff A.J. (Tim) Rodenberg was recognized as Community Leader of the Year for his outstanding efforts in working with those served by Clermont DD (including his yearly basketball game against the Wildey Comets and his participating in Dancing with the Stars fundraisers).



Sharon Woodrow made a special presentation to outgoing Board members Greg Carson and Sheila Madden, who will leave the Clermont DD Board in December.



Employer of the Year Honorable
Mention – St. Louis School
(Principal Peggy Hunsberger is
pictured with Assistant
Superintendent Dan Ottke)



Friends of DD Group Award – Steve Inkrott,
Gunny, and Duffy

Employer of the
Year – Danbarry
Cinemas (Stacie
Mills accepted the
award)



Friends of DD Individual
Award – Jeff Diesel



Volunteers who made a difference in our lives in 2013 are, from left: Toly Suttchenko, Jeff Weir, Jay Williams, Julie Schumacher, Mary Suttchenko, Karen Habetz, Matt Stricklin, Kim Pellington, Sheila Madden, Cynthia Crews, Michelle Dool, Millie Apgar, Mike Chapman, Sondra Bainum, Greg Carson, Harry Snyder.

Clermont County
Board of DD
2040 US Highway 50
Batavia, OH 45103

Board Members

Harry Snyder - President
Laurie Benintendi - Vice President
Kim Pellington- Secretary
Greg Carson
Robert Grant
Sheila Madden
Jennifer Mailloux

Superintendent
Sharon Woodrow



Many thanks to the voters of Clermont County who so graciously passed our Renewal Levy on November 5! Your support is greatly appreciated by the children and adults who are served by Clermont DD.

*This half page ad is paid for by: The Committee to Support People With Disabilities,
Gerald Werring, Treasurer,
2371 Whitmer Road, Batavia, OH 45103*

THE BEACON is published monthly by the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Please direct any questions or send your press releases to: Lisa Davis, Community Relations Director Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities 2040 US Highway 50 Batavia, OH 45103



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