



Ohio Association of County Boards

Serving People With Developmental Disabilities

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

OACB Welcomes Two New Board Members

The *Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities* (OACB) welcomed two new Trustees in January 2011.

Lisa Edris, currently the Board President in Sandusky County, was elected to represent the North Central Region. Lisa is the sister of an individual receiving services and also serves as a guardian for another individual. She is very active in the community and promotes community integration and public relations. Ms. Edris, who formerly worked in the developmental disabilities service system, is beginning her third term as a member of the *Sandusky County Board of Developmental Disabilities*.

Joseph Catalano is serving in his first term at the *Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CBDD)*, following several years of service on the *Wood Lane Industries Board*. Mr. Catalano, who has a strong business and manufacturing background, possesses strong organizational developmental skills and has extensive volunteer board experience. He is a Past President of *Wood Lane Industries* and was elected Vice President of the *Wood CBDD* for 2011 and represents the North West Region.

Annual Art & Product Show Continues to Grow!

OACB hosted the 4th Annual Art & Product Show on Thursday, December 2, 2010 during the 27th ANNUAL CONVENTION. This event afforded Convention attendees the opportunity to do some holiday shopping and purchase unique, artistic gifts while supporting people with developmental disabilities. Nearly 35 vendors participated in this year's event, marking the largest Art & Product Show to date!



Along with all the great items available, food and drinks were provided by *The Billing Connection* and *Primary Solutions*. Special thanks to *Norwich Consulting Services, Inc.* for sponsoring the slide show. Entertainment was provided by acoustic musician Derek Mortland.

If you have missed out on the Show before, you will certainly want to plan on attending in 2011. If you have attended in the past, we are planning on seeing you again!

OACB Ready to Seize Opportunity—With Your Help!

By Dean Fadel, OACB President



To kick-off the new year in these treacherous economic times and turbulent budgetary waters, it is my pleasure to make a major announcement to the 616 individuals who serve on *County Boards of DD* in Ohio. In 2011, your salary for serving on your local DD board will be doubled!

Obviously twice as much of zero salary is still zero salary – but from what I have learned from my *County Board of DD* Member colleagues and from my own experience is that there is a much greater reward to be gained in working with the many committed and competent professionals in our DD system. The satisfaction of playing even a small part in the delivery of vital services and providing quality living conditions to Ohio's most vulnerable population is worth more than any amount of monetary compensation.

Spare time is certainly becoming harder to find for most of us, and balancing the needs of your work, family and other obligations with community service on a *County Board of DD* is a task most individuals are unwilling to embrace. We are fortunate that Ohio is well-stocked with so many quality individuals who are up to the challenge and to all of you who offer your time and commitment in serving on a *County Board of DD* – THANK YOU!!

There is a bit more pressure than in the past accompanying community service in these economic recessionary times. It's no secret the state of Ohio's budget is in an unprecedented predicament. New estimates could reveal a state budget hole of up to \$10 billion. Any entity in this state which derives any state subsidy should expect some cuts, especially local governments.

But in these difficult times lies opportunity. It exposes both the need and urgency for eliminating unnecessary regulatory and bureaucratic burdens, removing costly barriers and implementing innovative and collaborative reforms that can help the state's DD programs operate more effectively and efficiently.

We are fortunate that the OACB is in a strong and stable position to seize much of this opportunity and achieve its mission – “To support *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* in providing services and supports to individuals with disabilities.”

Our association is financially sound and moving in a direction which I believe is directly aligned with both the mission and the vision of the organization. We are supported by a very dedicated and passionate staff at the OACB and effective representation at the statehouse. We are also fortunate that our organization has a cooperative working relationship with the *Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities* under the steady and compassionate leadership of Director John Martin.

With the collaborative work of the *Joint Leadership Team* and the cooperative spirit amongst the many forward-thinking *County Board of DD* Superintendents and other professionals from around the state who implement the DD programs, we are as prepared as we can be to meet the significant challenges that lie ahead. I believe our strengths will help all associated with the DD system in Ohio realize the OACB vision – “To promote self-directed and self-determined choices in programs, services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities.” (continued on page 3)

I would hope all individuals involved with the DD system in Ohio would embrace this vision.

We must also share all information and knowledge more than ever. If you are a *County Board of DD* President, do not assume your fellow-Board Members receive all of the information the *OACB* provides you. Copy your fellow-board members on important *OACB* communications and keep them in the loop as the *OACB* tries to keep you in the loop. The more Board Members we have who are knowledgeable on the issues at hand, the better we will be able to communicate with our policymakers and our communities.

By putting the words cooperation, collaboration and communication into action, we can continue to facilitate the enhancement of our DD programs, even in these most difficult economic times.

Save The Date...

Ticket to Work Training

February 3rd - 10- 11:00 am - *Hancock CBDD*
February 8th - 2 - 3:00 pm - *Franklin CBDD*
February 16 - 10-11:00 am - *Warren CBDD*
February 16 - 2-3:00 pm - *OACB Office*
February 22 - 10:30 - 11:30 am - *Summit CBDD*
February 28 - 10:30 - 11:30 am - *Athens CBDD*

Helping Youth Find and Keep Good Jobs
April 20 at *Xenos Center*

OACB Spring Conference
May 19 - 20 at *Hilton at Polaris*

OPAC/DD Golf Outing
September 22 at *Golf Club of Dublin*

OACB 28th ANNUAL CONVENTION
November 30 - December 2 at *Hilton at Easton*



Bridges to Transition Project to Add More Partners



The *Bridges to Transition* project is now into its second year. In September 2010, 16 *County Boards of DD* were added to the project bringing our total number of partners to 31. In the first year our goal was to develop Individualized Plans for Employment (IPEs) for 200 transition youth, and have those youth receive at least one service. In our second year we are striving to get 500 additional young people served! Our County Board Partners have done a great job with outreach to local families, schools, and businesses, letting them know about this great opportunity. At the end of February 2011 we will be adding five to ten more Counties to the project. We are excited about the level of enthusiasm for the project and for the opportunity for young people to explore a variety of work options in their communities.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the *Bridges to Transition* project, we will be adding new partners again in September 2011. For more information please contact Pete Moore, Director of Service Initiatives at 614-431-0616 or at pmoore@oacbdd.org.

HOLD ON TIGHT, HERE WE GO!!!!

By Dan Ohler, *OACB* Executive Director

Please sit up straight, with your head back, pull the harness down over your shoulders and secure your seat belt tightly around your waist. Push down, then up on the support bar to make sure it is securely in place. Pull on the red safety strap to ensure your seat belt is securely fastened. Keep your hands and feet inside the car at all times. Now, hold on tight and get ready for the wildest ride on the planet as we take you up 385 feet, drop you straight down at 82 miles per hour, twist you around hair-pin turns and flip you upside down a world record nine times in the next four minutes and twenty seconds. Hold on tight, here we go...



For anyone who has ever been on a roller coaster, you know no one really listens to those disclaimers before the adventure begins. That announcement, or one very similar to it, takes place in numerous amusement parks across the country every summer. Thanks to insurance companies, it probably takes place every single day in amusement parks all over the world! While coaster mania reached a peak in the early 2000s, our fascination with thrill rides remains at a fever pitch and those scream machines are literally at parks across the globe.

The same disclaimer could apply to the next five months at the Ohio Statehouse. If you were not aware, the *State of*

Ohio faces an \$8B budget deficit. Well, you either just woke up from a two-year coma (if you did, welcome back) or you spend too much time playing video games and not enough time keeping in touch with reality. Ohio's financial woes are old news. The news that is new is that there has been a shift in power on Capital Square. John Kasich is in office as our state's Governor, having been sworn in nearly a month ago by the time this article is published. The 129th *General Assembly* is already scurrying with activity as numerous bills have been introduced and are being assigned to committees for hearings and deliberations. Sometime in the next five weeks we will see the first version of the state budget bill. Brace yourself – because no one really knows what we will see when it is released, or how it might be revised in the three to four months that the *General Assembly* has to pass it and get it back to the Governor. It could be a wild ride!

Thank you Governor Kasich for appointing John Martin as Director of the *Department of Developmental Disabilities*! In making the announcement, the Governor referred to Director Martin as “the star of the show” and indicated he had the “toughest job in state government”. He was also clear that “this is not an area ripe for devastating cuts”. I have a passion for this. I think it is very important we get this right.” The Governor wants to ensure that state dollars actually get to people who need help and are not squandered in the bureaucracy. That is pretty hard to argue with. In fact, it is

something we should embrace. It gives us signs of hope that we can and will be able to continue to move our system forward in a positive manner. In mid-January, I had the pleasure of meeting with Representative Ron Amstutz, Chairman of the *House Finance Committee*. We talked about funding in the developmental disabilities service system, the impacts of tangible personal property tax if there is no replacement, as well as the waiver program. He shares the Governor's commitment to ensure state dollars get to the people that need help. He understands the role of *County Boards of DD* and the importance that each county have its own, independent seven-member board. It gives me hope that perhaps the ride might not be as wild as we are preparing for. That does not mean we are not prepared for a wild ride, only that a smoother one is welcome.

To be honest, I love roller coasters! The taller, the steeper, the faster, well, that all makes it that much more fun. But I expect that at *Cedar Point & Kings Island*, not at the Ohio Statehouse and not when we are developing what may be the most important state budget in a century. Our team at *OACB* will work with the Administration, the *General Assembly*, system stakeholders and certainly our membership throughout the state budget cycle. We will not get off the ride until it has come to a complete and final stop. Most of all, we will do all of that with the goal of enhancing the quality of life for Ohioans with developmental disabilities.

OACB Honors 2010 Award Recipients

Each year at the *OACB* ANNUAL CONVENTION the *OACB* honors people who have “went the extra mile” to improve the lives of those we serve. 2010 Award Recipients are:

Distinguished Service Award (This Award recognizes three Board Members - one from a large county, one from a medium sized county and one from a small county - for their outstanding service and commitment to their local *County Board of DD*.)

- Bill Ginter, *Summit County Board of DD* (Large)
- Bill Heidlebaugh, *Hancock County Board of DD* (Medium)
- DeEtte Zimmerman, *Huron County Board of DD* (Small)



OACB President Dean Fadel, Bill Ginter, *OACB* Executive Director Dan Ohler, *DODD* Director John Martin



OACB President Dean Fadel, *OACB* Executive Director Dan Ohler, Bill Heidlebaugh, *DODD* Director John Martin



OACB Executive Director Dan Ohler, DeEtte Zimmerman, Dick Zimmerman, *Huron CBDD* Superintendent Dee Zeffiro-Krenisky Ed.D.

Legislator of the Year Award (This award is presented to an elected or appointed official who has been duly nominated by the *OACB* Board of Trustees and exhibits high accomplishments in legislative leadership for people with developmental disabilities.)

- The Honorable Shannon Jones, State Senator
- The Honorable Debbie Phillips, State Representative



DODD Director John Martin, *Warren CBDD* Superintendent Megan Manual, *OACB* President Dean Fadel, Honorable Shannon Jones, *OACB* Executive Director Dan Ohler, *Warren CBDD* President Eugene Rose



Athens CBDD Superintendent Eric Young, Honorable Debbie Phillips, Dan Schoonover, *OACB* Executive Director Dan Ohler



OACB Executive Director Dan Ohler, Honorable Debbie Phillips, *OACB* Board President

Kenneth Legats (The *OACB* Board of Trustees, in conjunction with Region V Superintendents, has commissioned the Kenneth Legats Award for Visionary Leadership in Administration. This award is presented to an executive who has been duly nominated by the Board of Trustees and who over a career of more than twenty years has shown high ideals, vision, and moral leadership in administration of programs for people with developmental disabilities.)

- Robert Morgan, *Delaware County Board of DD*



Pictured Right: Robert Morgan with Delaware County Board of DD Members and Staff.

Pictured Left: 2009 Legats Award Winner Monty Kerr (Superintendent *Belmont, Harrison and Noble CBDDs*, Lynn Morgan, *Delaware CBDD* Superintendent Robert Morgan, *OACB* Executive Director Dan Ohler



OACB Honors 2010 Award Recipients (continued)

Macintosh Award (The OACB Board of Trustees has commissioned an Award in memory of Betty Macintosh, to be presented to a professional in the DD service delivery system who exhibits extraordinary accomplishments in professional leadership and advocacy for individuals with developmental disabilities.)

- John Martin, *Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities*



DODD Director John Martin, OACB Executive Director Dan Ohler

Partners in Excellence Award (This Award is presented to a *County Board of DD* staff member who demonstrates exemplary service in offering his or her expertise to a workgroup or specific project that benefits the system as a whole.)

- Bill Angel, *Montgomery County Board of DD*
- Bob Beavis, *Miami County Board of DD*



DODD Director John Martin, Bill Angel, OACB Executive Director Dan Ohler



Bob Beavis, OACB Executive Director Dan Ohler



Bob Beavis and his wife.

Congratulations to all of our 2010 Award Recipients!

Positive Culture Initiative Training

Kathy Phillips of *Turning Point Residential* recently had this to say about Positive Culture Initiative Training provided by OACB staff:

1. The training has helped our agency create new avenues in hiring staff. We have also created a new hire video to let people know what we are looking for before we interview them.
2. Our employees have become a bigger voice within our company; they feel more secure in talking with other employees about our companies positive philosophies.
3. We felt like a family before the training but sometimes after time as the owner of the company I got so busy with the rules that I forget how to listen; it was like a breath of fresh air to see that there are programs out there to maintain the focus on why we all do what we do. It is very easy to focus on the mandated services and lose some of the heart as to why we (*Turning Point*) started. As the head of my organization it helped me to maintain my goals and focus in a sometimes negatively set up system. We tend to focus on what is not done rather than how many smiles someone gives you during a visit or how many positive words a individual may say about there staff.
4. WOW new practices are still happening . Individuals now review staff applications and complete the interview process. We have revamped our QA person to look at the choice of words used and program documentation second. We have set up a staff suggestion box. We just listen differently and it shows.

To schedule Positive Culture Initiative training for your agency contact Willie Jones at wjones@oacbdd.org.

Spotlight on Lisa Edris

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 Lisa Edris of the *Sandusky County Board of Developmental Disabilities* and Board Member of the *OACB*.



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

How long have you served as a trustee on the OACB? Just beginning my term.

My family: Husband Brian; Dustin 29, former Marine and now working in CAD; Brianne 24, Special Education teacher; Melanie 16, sophomore at *Fremont Ross High School*.

Occupation: Homemaker. Formerly worked as a *Sandusky County Board of DD* employee and have coached volleyball at middle and high school on and off for over 25 years.

Education: Attended *Kent State University* majoring in Behavior Disorders.

Proudest moment as a Board Member: *Sandusky County Board of DD* has the BEST staff members! I am the most proud when I can recognize their accomplishments!!

Three people I would like to have dinner with: Moses, Laura Ingalls Wilder and LeBron James because they would all have great stories to tell!

One thing I would like to accomplish: To be a constant source of encouragement to others.

People would be surprised to know that: I can whistle really well.

My favorite thing to do is: Travel with my family.

My favorite snack food is: Popcorn.

This irritates me: Parents who show poor sportsmanship at their children's sporting events.

Last book I read was: *Half Broke Horses* by Jeannette Walls.

My favorite movie is: *Forrest Gump*.

Meet OACB Staff Member Teresa Kobelt



Family: My husband Jeff and I have two adorable boys ages three and 20 months (and we did that on purpose).

What I do when I'm not working: Play with the two cutest kids in the world – outside if possible; read; hang out with my husband; spin; sleep.

Favorite restaurant: I don't know if it's my favorite, but it's certainly where I go most often...North Star Café.

Favorite song or musical group: Almost anything "folk-ish." Right now it's The Avett Brothers.

Guilty pleasure: Dark chocolate and red wine.

My favorite moment of working with individuals with developmental disabilities: I was a *BVR* counselor for several years. One day after leaving *BVR*, I saw the first individual I ever served leaving the job he got while I was working with him.

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.

Expanding Your Horizons

Taking a cruise along the beautiful Ohio River on the Valley Gem Sternwheeler, cheering on the Buckeyes at Ohio Stadium, riding on the Hocking Valley Scenic Railroad, watching your favorite Reds player hit a homerun out of the ballpark, singing along with country music stars Alan Jackson and Carrie Underwood, and meeting TV celebrity Theo of the *Cosby Show*; these are events that many people would consider “once in a lifetime” opportunities and may even have them on their bucket list. For individuals who have chosen to receive services from *Expanding YOUR Horizons (EYH)*, these events represent a normal month of fun and excitement!



EYH participants from Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Vinton, and Washington Counties pose for a picture at the Newport Aquarium in Kentucky.

Founded in April of 2009 by Steve and Mary Beha, *EYH* is an agency dedicated to providing unique and exciting services for children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families. *EYH* provides

Level I and IO Medicaid Waiver services, Supported Living services, respite services, and non-medical transportation for day habilitation; but the main focus of *EYH* is providing exciting day habilitation options for individuals who may not otherwise have those opportunities.

One look at the *EYH* calendar of events is proof that *EYH* is fulfilling their mission of developing a day habilitation service that is personal, flexible, therapeutic, and fun! *EYH* allows individuals the opportunity to choose the events they want to attend every month, provides door-to-door transportation to the event, and adds new events based on the feedback and requests of the people whom they serve. *EYH* meets individuals’ recreational and social needs by scheduling events throughout Ohio and West Virginia during the day, in the evenings, and on the weekends to provide as much variety as possible.

Currently, *EYH* is providing services in six counties throughout southeast Ohio and is exploring interest from other counties. One benefit of having such geographic diversity is the friendships that have been made between participants who live in differ-

ent counties. *EYH* continues to foster these friendships by organizing social events such as monthly birthday parties, summer cookouts, and fall bonfires.

A nurse and Program Coordinator with a residential agency had this to say about *EYH*: “*EYH* has enriched the lives of those they serve and brought them joy, entertainment, learning activities, and the opportunity to travel and have fun with their friends.”

In the short time *EYH* has been serving individuals with developmental disabilities, they have provided over 400 opportunities for over 130 individuals to make new friends, attend exciting events, exercise self-determination, and expand their horizons.



EYH participants from Hocking, Meigs, and Washington Counties at the OSU Spring Game.

Contact *EYH* through their web page at www.EYHservices.com and link to their Facebook page to learn more about their exciting services.

OACB Becomes an Employment Network

The *OACB* has become an Employment Network (EN) through the *Social Security Administration's* Ticket to Work Program (Ticket to Work). Ticket to Work is a voluntary program offering beneficiaries age 18 through 64 who receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) based on disability, expanded opportunities to obtain the services and supports they need to work and achieve their employment goals.

SSA does this by paying ENs for helping beneficiaries reach designated Milestones and Outcomes associated with achieving self-supporting employment. The ultimate goal of the program is to reduce reliance on Social Security disability benefits and to promote increased self-sufficiency for beneficiaries with disabilities through work.

In Ohio, there are approximately 486,741 individuals who have Tickets, but only 1,232 have been assigned to an EN. The majority of individuals served by *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (CBDD)* are Ticket holders, but have not assigned their Ticket. Additionally, there are only a few *County Boards of DD* that have become ENs. Many of our members have expressed interest in the Ticket program, but do not feel they have the infrastructure or administrative support to complete the application process, become an EN, complete the necessary paperwork, or track Ticket payments, particularly because they may only have a handful of individuals served through their *CBDD* who would ever achieve self-supporting employment (\$0 cash benefit status).

As a result, many *CBDDs* have chosen not to become ENs. When *OACB* became aware of this, we decided to become an EN and offer our members a new service. We filled out the application and all the respective paperwork, and will partner with our members to provide the actual services (which you are already doing, but not getting paid for). *CBDDs* will provide the direct services, and *OACB* will process the paperwork. In exchange, *OACB* will maintain an administrative fee, and forward the rest of the Ticket funds to the *CBDD*. These funds are discretionary.

Throughout the month of February, *OACB* will be hosting statewide informational events on Ticket to Work and *OACB* as an EN. Events will take place:

February 3rd - 10- 11:00 am - *Hancock CBDD*

February 8th - 2 - 3:00 pm - *Franklin CBDD*

February 16 - 10-11:00 am - *Warren CBDD*

February 16 - 2-3:00 pm - *OACB Office*

February 22 - 10:30 - 11:30 am - *Summit CBDD*, Conference Center

February 28 - 10:30 - 11:30 am - *Athens CBDD*, Personnel Plus Office

Please log on to oacbddd.org for more information and to register. If you have any questions about using *OACB* as an EN, please contact Teresa Kobelt - 614.431.0616 or tkobelt@oacbddd.org.



Don't forget to visit our website at www.oacbddd.org to update your Board Member Roster.

Across Ohio - News In A Nutshell

Adams CBDD's Adult Program, Venture Productions Inc., organizes the Christmas Sharing program; providing toys to more than 300 needy children in Adams County. *Venture* staff, families, and individuals in the community donate new toys. In addition, *Venture* purchases toys at our local *Wal-Mart* with the assistance of local high school students. This project is a coordinated effort between *Venture* and the local *Marine Corps League*.

Allen CBDD has been offering Family, Food and Facts on a quarterly basis for more than a year. This is a networking and educational opportunity for the families we serve. We begin the evening with a light meal and networking and then follow-up with an informative presentation designed to give families more tools to meet their needs. On February 3, the topic will be "Residential Services - Past, Present and Future." Childcare is provided to make the evening even more accessible to families.

Athens CBDD's Passion Works Studio & Gallery will be featuring new creations on the first Saturday of each month. Make it a point to see what's new at these Super Saturday events! On February 10, *Passion Works Gallery* welcomes a flurry of whimsical soft sculpture. Rich in color and imagination, these art pieces promise to delight art collectors of all ages. You'll be enthralled by the art-dolls, textile wall-hangings, sofa-art, hand painted upholstered furniture and more! Don't miss this innovative show! 2010 was our best year ever and it's because you believed in our mission, collected our art, purchased that unique gift and spread the word about *Passion Works Studio* to friends and family. This past year we introduced many new fine art creations and continued to offer the gifts you've grown to love. We're keeping it fresh and new for 2011! Don't go to long without dropping by the store or going to our website to say hello, check out the latest and share your ideas with us! We're also on Facebook & Twitter!

Auglaize CBDD's Auglaize Industries hosted the annual Christmas party for the clients and their families on Friday, December 17th. The party was held the *American Legion* in New Bremen. There was music, singing, dancing, gift giving and a wonderful lunch. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Butler CBDD's Adult Services department began offering non-medical transportation to individuals in their Board operated day-habilitation programs. This has enabled the Board to utilize their current resources to bring the costs of both their day habilitation and transportation in line with the revenue base.

Carroll CBDD lost a \$266,000 contract with an Intermediate Care Facility (*Countryview Manor*) on January 1, 2011. Due to this loss the *CBDD* laid off 7 workshop specialist, a job coach, a mechanic, and non-renewed a management contract. The only positives from this situation is the *CBDD* no longer has a waiting list and was able to reorganize and improve service options for the remaining individuals. The workshop now serves 70 individuals.

Clark CBDD began offering three health insurance options: traditional PPO plan, a Health Savings Account and a Health Reimbursement Arrangement as a cost control measure and a way to create ownership for employees' health care. Approximately 50% of the work force took advantage of the HSA and HRA options. The *CBDD* is also promoting Health and Wellness benefits by offering employees onsite volleyball practice during Friday lunch hours, Weight Watcher classes and Zumba (after work hours). The goal is to make employees healthy and feel ready to meet upcoming challenges.

Clinton CBDD's Adult Program, *Nike Center*, recently celebrated with an end of the year bash. One of the highlights was the annual "*Nike Center's Got Talent*" show. This year's show didn't disappoint. The audi-

ence enjoyed many performances, including dancing, singing, piano and guitar playing, etc. It is clear there is much talent right here in Clinton County!

Columbiana CBDD's Beaver Creek Candle Company is a unique organization, the candles are handcrafted by people with developmental disabilities in Columbiana County. Every candle purchased from the *Beaver Creek Candle Company* fully supports the inspiring people who hand-crafted the candles. People working at the *Beaver Creek Candle Company* take pride and have a sense of ownership in the business. Website: www.beavercreekcandle-company.com

Coshocton CBDD, in collaboration with Children Services, has been able to serve some difficult children by jointly funding some placements that have been very successful for the children. We realized that not one agency could serve these kids and through team planning and partnering those difficult children are able to have more successful structure in their environments and a brighter future.

Cuyahoga CBDD's winter card contest was won by Damon Fincher, with his mixed media scene of evergreens on a bed of snow topped by bright stars in a sparkling sky. In addition to gracing the annual agency



card, his artwork will be framed and added to the permanent collection of artwork by artists with developmental disabilities housed at the Donzella Administration Building. This was Damon's first entry into the contest, and he says winning it is "a dream come true." The aspiring artist enjoys coloring, collages, painting and crafts. Besides his art,

Damon enjoys playing bingo and taking part in Dancing Wheels, which unites the talents of dancers with and without disabilities. He is a self-proclaimed "sports dude," who likes football best, but also enjoys basketball, boxing, baseball, wrestling and race cars. He is an active member of the *Beachwood Adult Activities Center's* Worker Council and a valuable participant in his work group. He participates in the Move® program, where he uses special devices to help increase his mobility.

Darke CBDD's Adult Services staff and those serviced raised money for the Employee Council chosen agency, *Darke County United Way*. In 2010 many activities were planned for the purpose of fundraising. Some of these activities were: pizza movie nights-dances-staff blue jean days-lunches-car washes-pie sales. In November *Wayne Industries* Employee Council donated \$3,117.52 to the *Darke County United Way* as a way of giving back to their community.

Delaware CBDD's Superintendent, Robert Morgan, received the Kenneth Legats award for visionary leadership in administration from the *OACB*. The *Ohio Self-Determination Association* recently announced Brad Whitmoyer as the 2010 recipient of the EDSY award. The award recognizes individuals who have played a vital role in advancing the concepts of self-determination: freedom, authority, support, responsibility and confirmation. Nominees were evaluated based on creativity, how they have supported the principles of self-determination, and their contribution towards systems change.

Erie CBDD unveiled a new logo and newsletter in December. The logo features a bridge, which relates to their mission of "building bridges." The newsletter is called *The Cable*, which relates to the strong cables needed to support bridges, and the shortened version of cablegram, which was a message sent over long cables.



Brad Whitmoyer

Fairfield CBDD hired Ron Swain as Senior Benefits Analyst. Ron brings 17 years of experience in work incentives/benefits analyses. A board member of the National Association of Disability Benefits Specialists, he looks forward to continuing meeting the needs of those served by *BVR*, *BSVI* and/or *CBDD's* throughout the state. Ron can be reached at rswain@FairfieldDD.com.

Franklin CBDD recently received a grant that will allow them to install GPS technology on all of their buses to enhance safety and assist with more efficient bus inspections using radio frequency and cellular networks.

Fulton CBDD - Fulton CBDD recently received a four-year accreditation.

Geauga CBDD announced the retirement of Carol Brill (Assistant Superintendent) after 30 years of public service. *Geauga CBDD* thanks her for her service and wishes her all the best in her future endeavors.



Carol Brill

Greene CBDD is working on a new strategic plan, which will carry the Board through its 2013 levy.

Hamilton CBDD is kicking off March as DD Awareness Month with its 10th annual awards banquet on March 7th. Several advocates, family members, community organizations, volunteers, staff and providers will be honored for 2010 accomplishments. The banquet theme - "It's all about relationships" - is a phrase regularly used by Hamilton County advocates.

Hancock CBDD's *Kan Du* art studio artists are moving on up, or should we say, down; to downtown Findlay, that is. *Kan Du* manager, Regina Stewart reports that the new art gallery/sales space will be located at 329 South Main Street in Findlay. This new location will enhance the opportunities for the artwork and artists as well. *Kan Du*, whose signature piece is the star, also makes lapel pins, garden art, pinwheels

and magnets in various shapes, such as flowers, lizards, snowflakes, and butterflies. All artwork is hand painted in a Key West art deco



style and emphasizes using recycled items. There are currently between 15 - 30 artists who collaborate their talents to make *Kan Du* so successful.

Highland CBDD's Hills & Dales School & Training Center students love to learn, using the large touch screen computer monitor and a variety of educational software, with funding obtained from the *Ohio Department of Education*. Pictured below is Nicole Brinkley, working on the touch screen with eye-hand co-



ordination while drawing a picture. Please feel free to come and tour the school and see how we are helping children with disabilities learn as much as they can!

Holmes CBDD - Myron Stutzman was elected chairperson of the *Holmes CBDD*, Jay McCulloch was elected Vice-Chairperson and Chris Goines was elected secretary at the organizational meeting on Jan. 20, 2011. The Board will have a renewal levy on the ballot in May and a four year accreditation from *DODD* has been received.

Huron CBDD - The second Annual *Christie Lane* 5K Walk & Run will be held on Saturday, March 26, 2011 at 9 a.m. Walkers and runners can print a registration form at www.hurond.org and pre-register for \$15 until March 5, 2011. Race day registration, which costs \$20, begins at 8 a.m. at Christie Lane, 306 South Norwalk Road West, Norwalk. Entrants receive a race T-

shirt while supplies last. For more information, contact Holly Binkley at 419.668.8840 ext. 124.

Jackson CBDD's third Annual Amy Duggan Memorial Basketball Game & Auction was a huge success again this year. The brainstorm of *Special Olympics* Players, Ian Haag and Michael Jarvis, the event was established as a Memorial for their fellow team member. The "Jackson County Trotters" compete against the "Playground Legends", a team of local celebrities. Proceeds are used to support *Special Olympics* and *J-Vac Aktion Club* Projects which have included the *American Cancer Society* Relay for Life, *Help Me Grow* Children's Book Collection, and several other community service projects. This year's event raised nearly \$4000.00.

Knox CBDD received funding to purchase a property through the Neighborhood Stabilization Funds Program. The home is being renovated with those dollars and a new roof, siding, windows, doorway, accessible showers, etc. The hope is the home will be completed in April and three people from *Mt. Vernon Developmental Center* will move into their new home. This program was a great way to access funds at no cost to the *CBDD*.

Many different organizations came forth to brighten the holidays for those served by the *Lake CBDD/Deepwood*. Two such efforts were the holiday fair produced by *Lake Catholic High* for *Broadmoor School* and the visit of Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus and Mason the elf volunteers from *Hospice of the Western Reserve* to the residents of the Adult Residence Center. For more than twenty years the students of *Lake Catholic High School* have kicked-off the holiday season by transforming their gymnasium into a winter wonderland carnival for *Broadmoor School* students and their families to attend. This year, 200 juniors and seniors donned Santa hats and provided games, music, prizes and food at the carnival. Laughter, music and conversation rang out while the students of both institutions enjoyed themselves. *Hospice of the Western Reserve* staff commandeered several

special volunteers including Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus and Mason the elf to bring cheer and gifts to a patient and others living at the Adult Residential Center on the Deepwood Campus. Santa serenaded while Mason the five year-old elf presented stuffed reindeer toys to everyone. The meaning of the holidays were captured by the of special efforts made by *Lake Catholic High School* students, *Hospice of the Western Reserve* staff and volunteers and numerous organizations to enrich the lives of people with developmental disabilities. *Lake CBDD* is fortunate to be affiliated with a community who cares.

Lawrence CBDD residents Sarah Dixon and Ben Slone have gotten engaged to be married. Congratulations and best of luck to Sarah and Ben!

Licking CBDD is planning their DD Awareness Month activities for March. It's too early yet to announce specifics, so please watch their website in the coming weeks (www.LCountyDD.org). *LICCO Inc.* has announced Saturday April 23rd as the date for the third-annual 5K Spring Fitness 5K Walk/Run to benefit *Citizens for Developmental Disabilities*. Race and registration details will be on their website soon, or for more information call Debbie Pound at (740) 522-8345.

Lorain CBDD is again providing the opportunity for students with various developmental and physical disabilities at *Murray Ridge School* to learn the art of dance through *Dancing Wheels*, a non-profit organization dedicated to making dance accessible to persons of all abilities. Once each week, approximately 20 students practice swaying, clapping, waving, turning, and reaching with the guidance and direction of a professional dance instructor. This class, which is provided free-of-charge to the school, is a wonderful opportunity for students to gain positive exposure to the performing arts, while also engaging in physical activity and social interaction.

Madison CBDD - Clayton Conley is all smiles as he gets to play catch with his idol - Santa Claus - during the annual holiday celebration be-

tween *Jonathan Alder High School* and *Fairhaven School*.

A Candy Land Christmas



We all wish we had a chance to meet our idols. Clayton Conley gets to do it annually. You see, Conley has a special place and his heart for Santa Claus. Each year, *Jonathan Alder High School's* FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) group gives gifts to the students of *Fairhaven School*. While Conley and the other *Fairhaven* students get excited each year, it was especially memorable this year as Santa took the time to ask many of the children how they liked their gifts. When Santa got to Conley, someone suggested that the two toss a ball back and forth that Conley got as one of his gifts. The youngster's face beamed with excitement and he couldn't stop laughing as the two tossed a ball for that special amount of time. "*Fairhaven* day is my favorite day every year," said FCCLA co-advisor Susan Lee (along with Anne Holben) to the Alder students before their guests arrived. "This makes the holidays special." And it has been a great friendship that has lasted almost 40 holiday seasons.

Maboning CBDD - As part of our ongoing campaign of giving back to the community, the *Maboning CBDD* coordinated with several local charities to brighten the holiday season for families in need. The Adult Services, Transportation, and Community Services Departments spread holiday cheer to nearly 50 families by collecting toys and gift cards. The gift packages were holiday wrapped by *MASCO* employees and volunteers from the community.

Medina CBDD hosted its fifth annual "Baby It's Cold Outside" clothing drive. People receiving services, staff, students and members of the community donated over 800 hats, gloves, mittens and scarves to distribute to local charities.

Mercer CBDD is happy and sad because Cindy Shaffer, their Community Employment Coordinator, who created *Mercer CBDD's* Community Employment system and grew it for the last 20 years has retired. They are happy for her and want her retirement to be good, but they are sad to see her go.

Miami CBDD's Adult Services non-profit component, *RT Industries*, the Adult Services non-profit component of the Miami CBDD, became a member of *Aileron*. *Aileron's* mission is to create an environment for private enterprise to implement professional management and to be a catalyst for raising the quality of life through professionally managed organizations. This membership provides an opportunity for the leadership of *RT Industries* and the *Miami CBDD* to get away and concentrate on working on the "business" as opposed to working in the typical spaces at the *CBDD's* facilities where interruptions are inevitable. *Aileron* was founded by Clay Mathile, a regional leader, who believes that participation in *Aileron* will take organizations and their dreams to the next level.

Montgomery CBDD opened their newest Adult Services Facility, Liberty Center, January 3rd. The facility is located in the southwestern part of Montgomery County and will primarily serve individuals residing in that section of the county. This is the first new facility in that County in twenty-five years and is designed to accommodate both habilitation and work activities. Additionally, *MONCO Enterprises, Inc.*, the Board's non-profit Employment Services program assisting individuals to develop work skills and find employment, has relocated their Secure Document Destruction and scanning operations to Liberty Center. The facility provides habilitation services for 160 adult individuals with disabilities with a staff of forty-seven. *MONCO* serves twenty-five individuals with a staff of four.

Morgan CBDD - For the past 5 years the *Morgan County Habitat for Humanity* has conducted a Christmas tree auction at the scenic Stockport

Mill. Those served by The *Mary Hammond Adult Activity Center* have been proud to donate a decorated tree or other handmade items to be auctioned. This year they donated a 7-foot slim tree decorated with wallpaper bead ornaments and garland and a beautiful crocheted tree skirt. The tree was valued at \$300 and sold for \$450!

Muskingum CBDD's Heart of the Art Studio has joined the *Artist Colony of Zanesville (AZC)*. The *AZC* was formed by community leaders who were interested in revitalizing Zanesville's downtown. The *AZC* promotes member artists among tourists and prospective buyers through special events. The *Heart of the Art Studio* joined other *AZC* artists in the monthly downtown First Friday Art Walk and featured Susan Cornell's paintings at the *Starlight Café*. Visitors were served refreshments made at the *Café*. Community members and tourists can walk or ride a bus to the many artists' studios and galleries in downtown Zanesville. *Heart of the Art Studio* artists are looking forward to the next First Friday Art Walk which will be held on February 4, 2011 from 5:00 - 9:00 pm.

Ottawa CBDD's REC program has expanded greatly in the last year, providing increased numbers of community activities to a broader number of people served by the Board. The REC program, previously named the Senior & Wellness program, was renamed last fall to the "Recreational Experiences in the Community" by people served by the Board. During December the REC program participated in the following activities: a *Toledo Walleye* game, the *Harlem Globetrotters*, Lights at the *Toledo Zoo*, swimming, water aerobics, sleigh rides and Christmas caroling. The group has planned a January trip to the *Great Wolf Lodge* and to see a rodeo.

Perry CBDD's PerCo Greenhouse recently celebrated their one-year anniversary. Due to such a strong local market demand, *PerCo* is adding a second greenhouse with a goal to open in the Spring of 2011. In addition to tomatoes, it will grow and house annual plants, hanging bas-

kets, and herbs. For more information contact *PerCo, Inc.* at 740-342-5156.

Preble CBDD welcomed three new Board Members at its January meeting, Joseph DeLuca, PhD, Eva Howard, PhD, and Eddie Mowen. Mr. DeLuca served as Superintendent at *Eaton Community Schools* before retiring a few years ago. Dr. Howard is the middle school principal at *Twin Valley South Schools* and Mr. Mowen is the editor of Preble County's largest newspaper, *The Register-Herald*.

Richland CBDD's Tammi Eder marked the fourth anniversary of her business, *Treeder's*, on January 5th. Ms. Eder began her microenterprise business at the Richland County Administration Building in 2007, receiving assistance from the *Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired, Enterprise Works*, and *Richland Newhope*. She sells various snack foods, juices, and sodas. To celebrate her anniversary, Ms. Eder polled her customers to find out their favorite cake and then offered the top two choices to customers on January 5th to show her appreciation for their support. The anniversary celebration received coverage by *WMFD-TV* and the *Mansfield News Journal*.

Ross CBDD's Pioneer Center is a Community Partner in a Women's Health Week program sponsored by the *Ross County YWCA* Health and Wellness program. An event is being planned for early May and will focus on the health of women between the ages of 10 and 44. Programs will include prevention and wellness, awareness and prevention of violence against women, chronic disease prevention, and reproductive health issues. The Service and Support Administration of Pioneer Center will staff one of the sessions for this event, and the *Pioneer Center* will help girls and women attend the event.

Scioto CBDD's Early Childhood Intervention is stepping up its 'child find' activities. The Adult Services program hosted carpenter Jeff Dorsey, who designs and makes jigs

that make wood working more accessible for people with disabilities. In one day about 80% of the Adult Services participants were able to craft melodious train whistles! *Special Olympics* athletes attended a basketball clinic given by the *Shawnee State University* men's team. Valuable lessons were learned by all. New superintendent Ben Hollinger has jumped in with both feet meeting program participants, staff and the community and setting goals for 2011.

Seneca CBDD's self advocates are assisting and attending the *Project Stir* training at *Mobican State Park*.

Shelby CBDD - The *Shelby CBDD* recently received a five year accreditation award from the *DODD* for the quality services and supports it provides to people with developmental disabilities.

Stark CBDD's welcomes Ms. Carmen Crum as the new Director of Adult Services. She begins her duties in early February. *Stark CBDD* has added a web-based provider search tool as an additional means of support to people served by the *CBDD* and families searching for a provider. The tool also allows providers to view profiles of services needed by individuals. *Rebecca Stallman Southgate School* has received a \$4,000 *Arts in Stark* grant. With the supporting grant, students will create visual stories through learning how to use digital cameras, and then using computer programs to transform their images into unique story boards. The project will include field trips to the *Canton Art Museum*, collaboration/team teaching with *Glen Oak High School*, and culminating with a community art show at a local gallery.

Summit CBDD has just launched a new homepage that now provides a central location for dynamic social media messaging. www.SummitDD.org now provides real-time feeds to the agency's Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and YouTube channels as well as the agency blog and press room.

Trumbull CBDD recently started two new programs that provide

employment opportunities for adults receiving services. The first program is a document management service that offers customers a confidential and secure document scanning service that stores documents electronically. This program employs adults receiving services and educates them on the process of sorting, scanning, storing, and shredding documents. The second program involves a new partnership between *Trumbull CBDD* and the *Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC)* to provide community employment opportunities to adult's eligible for county board services. *Trumbull CBDD's* Direct Link program provides community employment services such as job development, job coaching, and ongoing follow-along and is a great employment resource for local businesses. This new program has already received several referral's from *RSC* and is working diligently to develop community employment opportunities for these adults.

Tuscarawas CBDD has been approved as one of the partners in the new *ASCEND* project for finding employment for persons with disabilities in larger corporations. *Tuscarawas County*, as a rural county, is also pleased to announce that 14 job placements have been made through their Vocational Rehabilitation Public and Private Partnerships Program under *RSC*.

Union CBDD is hosting an adult siblings gathering. Did you know that brothers and sisters of a person with a developmental disability will probably have the longest lasting relationship with them? On Saturday February 12th from 8:30 - 10:00 a.m., the *Houston House* at 264 West 5th St. in Marysville will play host to a "coffee break" for adult siblings of individuals with disabilities. Come enjoy a hot drink and pastry and spend some time with others who share a common bond.

Warren CBDD's 2011 Agency Calendar was published and distributed in January. If you would like a copy, please contact Dawn McKenna at Dawn.McKenna@co.warren.oh.us. Ed Rainey, an employee of *Production Services Unlimited, Inc.*, received

the 2010 Thomas Garman Employee of the Year Award. The Adult



Services annual talent show was held at the *PSU* building on Wed. January 26, 2011. This annual event is always a fun time and gives each participant a chance to 'show off their abilities'.

Washington CBDD's David Brown is VERY proud to announce that he just purchased his first home. *Ewing School* and *Wasco Inc.* will host a spaghetti dinner to raise funds for 2011 summer camp on April 1, 2011. There will also be a 50/50 drawing and silent auction held during the dinner. Several students at *Ewing School* have been carrying trays of books, doing push-ups against the wall, and adding weights to their backpacks as part of a therapy technique called "Heavy Work." *Washington CBDD* has found this therapy to be very successful in helping children who are on the Autism Spectrum remain calm and focused.

Wood CBDD - Fourteen men and women are in the process of moving into their new one-bedroom apartments in Bowling Green. The apartment construction was funded through a *HUD* grant. Tenants will receive services and supports as in the past by their residential providers. The *Wood Lane Residential Properties* Board has hired an on-site care taker who will oversee the day to day operation of the building. A dedication ceremony is planned this spring and will be named to honor the late Nancy Ullum. Nancy devoted her entire twenty-nine year career with the *Wood CBDD* and *Wood Lane Residential Services, Inc.* The dedication date will be posted at www.wlrs.org and www.woodlane.us. Those who wish to receive information when it becomes available can contact Debbie Leibig at dleibig@wlrs.org.