



DATES TO REMEMBER

► MARCH	
1-4	– Arnold Sports Festival http://arnoldsportsfestival.com/
3-4	– SO Round 2 of Area 6 Team Basketball Tournament
11	– SO Sectional Tournament for Team Basketball
16	– 7pm Marysville Winter Bluegrass Series First United Methodist Church Marysvillewinterbluegrass.com
17	– #StayActive 5K https://runsignup.com/Race/Events/OH/Marysville/StayActive5k
19-30	– HLC Spring Break
23	– 7:30pm Duo Baldo Marysville High School
23-24	– SO State Team Basketball Tournament
30	– Good Friday – HLC Closed
► APRIL	
10	– 7:30pm Hank and My Honky Tonk Heroes Bunsold Middle School
21	– Rock the Run Jim Simmons Trail uchd.net/wellness-consortium#UCGPS
25	– Spring Celebration Arts & Crafts Show Open House Marysville Art League
27	– 7pm Marysville Winter Bluegrass First United Methodist Church Marysvillewinterbluegrass.com
28	– 5pm Taste of Marysville Marysville High School Tasteofmarysville.com
► MAY	
11	– HLC Zoo Field Trip for AM Class
18	– HLC Zoo Field Trip for PM and All-Day Classes
18	– 6pm Friday Nights Uptown Partners Park
28	– Memorial Day – HLC Closed
► JUNE	
6	– HLC Last Day of School
6	– Preschool Graduation for HLC students going to kindergarten in the fall

- Harold Lewis Center
- Special Olympics (SO)
- Community Events
– Additional list of events visit www.ucbdd.org

“Coffee coming right up!”

By Samantha Cook

Whether your favorite drink is hot tea, hot coffee, cold brew, or a cafe mocha, students from the Marysville High School’s Continuing Achievement in Postsecondary Success (CAPS) program have something for you.

The group runs the CAPS coffee shop each week to give students and teachers a little morning pick-me-up while learning valuable skills.

The CAPS program is a transitional job training program aimed for students with disabilities. The program is designed for students who have completed all graduation requirements and would benefit from more occupational training. Now in its second year, CAPS is assisting six young men and women grow their employability and life skills while obtaining hands-on instruction.

The program uses a blended approach of classroom learning and community-based work experiences to create an engaging and fun educational environment where students are readied for the workforce. In his last year of the two-year program, Ivan Green works hard taking orders and running the register.

“The CAPS program has helped Ivan work more with people, money and technology by using the tablet for orders at the coffee shop,” said Ivan’s mother, Nicole Green. “The CAPS program has also let him work at various job sites to see what he would like to do.”

Participants do all the behind-the-scenes prep work such as cleaning, inventory and reordering so that the coffee shop can run smoothly. CAPS Program Coordinator Josh Montgomery said, “The students have to learn to work as a team and are doing such a good job feeling more comfortable around customers.”

The Marysville High School coffee shop is just one site students have worked through the CAPS program. Others sites have included Goodwill, The Golf Car Company, CrossFit 33, the YMCA and UCO Industries.



Ivan Green

DID YOU KNOW???

UCBDD Had Humble Beginnings 50 Years Ago

The Union County Council for Retarded Children first published its typewritten newsletter in December 1968. This initial newsletter was titled, simply, *Mental Retardation Newsletter*.*

This newsletter was a combined effort of the Union County Council and the Union County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. Its stated purpose was to, “tell you about what the Council and the Union County School for Opportunity are doing for our retarded citizens”.

In December 1968, the Union County School for Opportunity, which first opened in 1953 for eight retarded children, was operating in its third home at the Broadway School Building in Broadway in northern Union County. There were two full-time teachers serving children ages 6-21, and a part-time art teacher.

Teachers Genevieve Wood and Lowell Elliott wrote sections of the newsletter, describing their efforts to help the students reach their “optimum level” and encouraging community members to visit the school. A “guidance clinic” for the parents of preschoolers with disabilities was in the planning stage.

Finances were a concern, and the possibility of a local tax levy was being explored. Meanwhile, the school was in need of funds for materials. Local churches and businesses who had made contributions were listed in the newsletter, and a euchre party was held, raising \$190.

Letters from parents were included in the 1968 newsletter. Mrs. Harold Burns, parent of a child attending the School of Opportunity, ended her letter by saying, “Thanks to the teachers for their patience and understanding.”

If you enjoyed reading these excerpts from the first newsletter, you are in luck! Highlights from other historical newsletters will be shared throughout this 50th anniversary of the Kaleidoscope.

* *The removal of “mental retardation” occurred in 2009, but for historical reasons, we wanted to share original excerpts from earlier newsletters.*

Kaleidoscope is published by the UCBDD, 1280 Charles Lane, Marysville, Ohio 43040. To receive the newsletter, or if you have any questions, comments or story ideas to share, please call us. If you would prefer to receive our electronic edition, please email Carol Scheiderer at cscheiderer@ucbdd.org or visit www.ucbdd.org and click on e-communications.

Volunteers Offer Support and Hugs at Harold Lewis Center

By Martha Rockwell



Lynn Dresback and Elaine Taylor

One of the greatest gifts you can give is your time, and these gifts come back to you in the most wonderful ways!

This perfectly describes the experi-

ences of Lynn Dresback and Elaine Taylor while volunteering at Harold Lewis Center.

Elaine has been volunteering a day each week in Nikki Lambert's classroom since 2014 when her grandson attended preschool at Harold Lewis. Nikki enjoys having the added support, as well as the ability to observe how her students interact with other adults.

"It's been neat to see the connections that Elaine has made with the children," Nikki said. "The benefits are plain to see as soon as you walk into the classroom and watch Elaine reading or doing activities with the children."

Elaine said, "It's just so rewarding, and you learn so much!"

It took the children a while to learn her name. However, now when she arrives at school the children ask for her by name, which makes her smile.

Lynn began volunteering nearly four years ago when she was helping care for a friend's daughter

who attended Harold Lewis. She would drop her off and pick her up at school one day a week. Soon, she began volunteering during her time between drop-off and pick-up.

Lynn enjoyed volunteering so much that she transitioned to a full-time substitute teaching assistant. Lynn loves giving hugs when students are having a rough day, but her favorite moments are when a child comes up to her and out of the blue says, "I love you!"

"I've been trying to get more people to volunteer," Lynn said. "You don't have to be there all the time, just a few hours."

The staff and students of Harold Lewis appreciate the gifts of time offered by Elaine and Lynn. They are very special people who truly know what it means to give back!

If you also enjoy spending time with young children (ages 3-6), and would like to volunteer in a classroom setting, we would love to hear from you!

Along with working with children, the Harold Lewis Center needs volunteers to help maintain the school gardens, reading to the children, or preparing classroom materials.

Our sports programs also appreciate volunteers. Union County Special Olympics provides athletic opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The Adaptive Sports Coalition helps individuals with disabilities participate in outdoor sports.

To offer your time as a volunteer, please contact Arlene Porter at aporter@ucbdd.org or 937.645.6709.



Elaine enjoys reading to children in the Hoppity Frog classroom.

Pictured left to right: Sophia Standish, Marley Cunningham, Elaine Taylor, Kelly Myers, and Haley Garner



Students from the Monkey classroom love playing with Miss Lynn!

Pictured left to right: Faith Smith, Kyah Angelbeck, Flynn Kimble, Lynn Dresback

A New Special Olympics Coordinator Brings New Sports



Greetings, Union County.

As a matter of introduction, I am Logan Plumb and I was recently hired as the Special Olympics and Community Integration Coordinator for the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

I am a graduate of Marysville High school and a proud alum of Bowling Green State University. I currently live in Marysville with my fiancé, who is an elementary school teacher.

I have more than five years' experience in the field of developmental disabilities and am very excited to expand and improve Union County's Special Olympics program.

Union County Special Olympics will strive to provide year-round sports training and competition in Olympic-type sports for adults with intellectual disabilities, providing opportunities to develop physical fitness, inclusion, and mental fortitude while competing within the community.

I'm excited to announce that the Union County's Special Olympic program will be adding two additional sports to the 2018 program.

Powerlifting will be added to the spring schedule with track and bocce ball. In powerlifting, every athlete aims to lift more weight than their opponents, utilizing the squat, bench and deadlift. Special Olympics powerlifting focuses on improving the athletes' physical strength while also improving their mental fortitude, determination and attitude.

The second program will be flag football, which will be played during the fall with swimming and bowling. Flag football is based on the rules of American football. It is played in a way that avoids the full-body contact of tackling and blocking.

In addition to powerlifting and flag football, Union County Special Olympics will also be adding unified sport competitions to programs previously offered. Union County Special Olympics will offer unified track and swim relays, unified team bowling, and unified team bocce ball.

Unified sports aims to promote social inclusion through shared sport training and competition experiences for individuals with and without intellectual disabilities.



Union County Special Olympics Basketball Team attended the Ohio State Men's basketball game versus the Indiana Hoosiers.

ON THE MOVE:

Mark Watson was recently hired as a Service Consultant. Mark attended Kent State and graduated from Otterbein University with a bachelor's degree in psychology. Mark previously worked 10 years in the community mental health system and for the past 20 years has been working in the DD system. Mark lives in Marysville with his wife, Sheri, and their children, Isaac, Olivia and Audrey. His free time consists of spending time with his family and watching cartoons.



Kristen Decker recently joined the Service Consultant for the Family and Transition team. She attended Ohio University, and earned a bachelor's degree in nutrition and biological sciences. Kristen previously worked for Delaware County Board of Developmental Disabilities for 11 years in the same position. She lives in Marysville with her husband and two boys. In her free time, she enjoys hiking and camping with her family, reading, crafting and playing volleyball. Kristen is very excited to join the team at Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities.



Service Consultant **Ilene Micha** retired from her position Dec. 17. She began her career with the Union County Board of DD in 2002. Ilene worked with children and their families offering her expertise and guidance.

We thank Ilene for her 15 years of service and wish her well in her future endeavors.



Effort Launched to Fix Waiver Waiting List

By Arlene Porter

For many individuals and families that are supported by the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities, the Waiver Waiting List is at the same time a source of hope and frustration.

A “waiver” is a source of funding that can help pay for services that support a person with a developmental disability to live in their community. Within the Ohio developmental disability world, there are three different waivers:

- ▶ A Level One Waiver;
- ▶ An Individual Options (IO) Waiver; and
- ▶ A Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waiver.

There is a waiting list for waivers. And, it’s not unusual to get on the list and find your name isn’t getting any closer to the top. Factors such as relocation and status changes frequently push names further down the list.

If you are one of these frustrated individuals, your voices have been heard! There is important work going on to fix the list. A coalition charged with repairing problems with the list has been created. It consists of parents, families and advocates of individuals with developmental disabilities, county boards of DD, providers, and the State of Ohio. The ARC, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, the Ohio Association of County Boards and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities are supporting the work.

We’ve included a link below for your questions. Visit FixTheList.info for the most up-to-date information

Waivers are just one source of funding available to meet a person’s needs. If you have a need, talk to your Service Consultant or your main contact at UCBDD. A Service Consultant is much like a facilitator. They can identify and coordinate resources to help individuals and families.

In Ohio, we are fortunate to have many informational resources available for families. Many of these resources work together and share information to make it easier to find the answer to questions or to learn about available resources.

For access to various resources for individuals and families, visit:
<http://dodd.ohio.gov/IndividualFamilies/Pages/Supporting-Families.aspx>

Resources available are:

Family Connection – Family Centered News

Family Advisory Council - Led by the Family Liaison Kim Weimer, Family Advisory Council meetings take place quarterly and provides a forum for the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to hear directly from family members about issues impacting their lives.

Family Resource Network – Calendar of family oriented events in Ohio

FamilyTalk – This is an informal discussion on family topics. The live chats are hosted on the Ohio DODD Facebook page.

Family Outreach – This is a list of organizations and links that support families.

Community of Practice for Supporting Families - This involves working to develop systems of support for families throughout the lifespan of a family member with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

UCBDD forging a new path for community employment services

By Nick Bowsher

Note: This is an update of the Winter 2017 Kaleidoscope article, “More Community Employment Options Coming to UCBDD”

WorkNet, the employment service division of UCBDD, has successfully completed a critical transition.

In order to comply with law changes set forth by the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services, as of Jan 1., WorkNet was no longer a provider of supported employment services. This shift adheres to the Conflict-Free Case Management part of the law, which states that county boards of developmental disabilities cannot provide services for which they also are authorizing funding.

Throughout 2017, steps were taken to ensure the employment service needs of individuals continued to be met after the transition was completed.

Meetings took place for individuals served through WorkNet to help select a new provider for their employment services. WorkNet staff assisted each individual and their team with selecting a new provider. Additionally, Nick Bowsher, Community Employment Manager for the Union County Board Developmental Disabilities, has been facilitating meetings of a collaborative group of employment providers – the Central Ohio Employment Partnership. Most of the providers were new to Union County last year.

The group meets monthly to discuss various topics related to community employment and assists each other by providing information on potential job leads.

Moving forward, the roles of the former WorkNet staff will be changing slightly. Staff will support individuals served and their teams in many different ways related to community employment, including assisting with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities services, coordinating transportation and supporting individuals with selecting an employment provider.

“We are looking forward to taking on a little bit of a different role moving forward,” Nick said. “We will strive to continue the success built by WorkNet and support individuals served by UCBDD in finding employment in the community. We are extremely grateful for all of the wonderful employers we have in this community and look forward to many more years of successful employment for our individuals.”

UCBDD is committed to building and maintaining strong community partnerships. If your business is interesting in learning more about employment for people with disabilities and how to access a pool of excellent employees from a reliable workforce, please contact Nick Bowsher, Community Employment Manager of UCBDD at 937.645.6771 or nbowsher@ucbdd.org

PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT

Agency Name:
all R friends



Address:
5950 Wilcox Place, Dublin, OH 43016

Phone: 614.357.1414

E-Mail: ryan@allRfriends.com

Website: www.allRfriends.com

What differentiates your agency?

all R friends is a family owned and operated business that was started in 2009 in memory of Ralphie, the younger brother of Kathy Cook, the CEO of all R friends. Ralphie endured multiple disabilities and many challenges in his life. The ‘R’ in all R friends was Ralphie’s legal signature and the picture in the logo was the last picture he drew for Kathy before he passed away. Just like Ralphie, many of our friends want a place they can call their own where they feel safe and loved and are able to make friends. We help individuals learn skills so they can become more independent.

Provider activities and services provided?

all R friends is the premier day support/supported employment provider in Central Ohio. With locations in Dublin, Lewis Center, Westerville, Gahanna, and Upper Arlington, all R friends has a location for you! Non-medical transportation is provided to and from the facilities. With the goal of helping each individual become more independent, all R friends works on employment skill, life skills and everything in between. As a continuing education program, all R friends helps individuals find employment and prepares individuals with the skills necessary to live on their own with staff assistance. all R friends is a very social setting and community integration is an integral part of the program.

Share a memorable activity or event from this past year.

So many activities come to mind, but one that stands out for our friends is the annual Christmas Show, performed for an audience of over 700. Our friends absolutely love performing with professional lighting, sound, and special effects such as snow machines that produce snow throughout the songs, giving an experience of feeling like stars! all R friends’ also host several free events after hours such as the spring dance and Halloween dance at the Dublin Rec. Center.

Staff’s experiences working with individuals

Staff members at all R friends come from a wide array of backgrounds; some have backgrounds in speech and occupational therapy, special needs education in schools, experience at other programs, or degrees in special education. However, many staff members who work at all R friends grew up with a family member with a developmental disability and are very passionate about what they do. The main attribute that all R friends looks for in staff members is a strong passion for this field and enthusiastic about what they do!



Pictured left to right: Aaron Luebbers, Lindsay Chamberlain and Donna Trudeau

INSIDE!



Volunteers Make A Big Difference

See article on page 2



New Coordinator, New Special Olympics Sports

See article on page 2

U.S. Postage Paid
Standard Mail
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Marysville, Ohio
43040

SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE

Celebrating our Union County Community



Kara Brown

We find ourselves in a world where we spend much time focusing on how we are different from those around us – how we differ on politics, how we differ on core beliefs, how we differ on what the weather will be like tomorrow.

We are bombarded with more information than we can handle. What if we spent our time focusing on how we are all similar – how we crave love, acceptance and belonging?

People with disabilities know this landscape all too well. Many times, friends, neighbors and community members focus on what people with disabilities struggle to do and how they are different rather than

how they are similar. At the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities we believe our community is up to the challenge of seeing all people for what they bring to our community.

We believe people with disabilities teach us how to see the world differently and push us to examine our thinking. In other words, they strengthen the fabric of our community.

Most of us take pride in our community and identify closely with it. Our chests swell when we say we are from Union County, Marysville, Richwood, Plain City and our other local communities.

This year's theme for developmental disabilities awareness is "Celebrate Community." I challenge all of us to Celebrate Community by seeing each of our community members, whether they have a disability, struggle with mental health concerns, have a medical issue, or nothing at all, for what they contribute to our lives and our community, for the whole is greater than the sum of its parts!



QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

An open line of communication is the key to providing excellent services to the citizens of Union County with developmental disabilities. Persons with any questions or concerns about programs/services being provided by the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities are urged to contact the program. Please feel free to contact Kara Brown, Superintendent.



After 50 Years, It Was Time for a New Look!

The Kaleidoscope, a newsletter produced by the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities, turns 50 this year, and it is getting a fresh, new look!

The format of The Kaleidoscope has seen many changes throughout its 50-year existence, just as the services and structure of the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities has changed with the times. Throughout the last half-century, the purpose of the newsletter has remained the same – to share with the community the successes that people with disabilities can achieve given the appropriate care and support.

We hope you enjoy the new look!