

# KALEIDOSCOPE

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### ► JUNE

- 1 – Field Day
- 6 – Last Day of Preschool
- 6 – Preschool Graduation
- 7 – Summer Break
- 8 – 6pm Wine & Jazz Fest
- 9 – 7pm Marysville Neon Glow Run  
runsignup.com/Race/OH/Marysville/MarysvilleGlowRun5k
- 22 – State Summer Games

### ► JULY

- 4 – 10 am Parade  
American Legion 500 Park Ave
- 4 – 10 am Rock 'n' Ribs Fest  
Union County Fairgrounds
- 4 – 9 pm Fireworks  
Union County Fairgrounds
- 8 – 1pm Tour of Gardens  
Union County Agricultural Center
- 12 – All day Steam Threshers  
Pastime Park
- 19 – All day Plain City  
Bicentennial Celebration
- 21 – 12pm Day in the Park  
American Legion Park
- 22 – Union County Fair  
Union County Fairgrounds
- 28 – Richwood Yard Sale Weekend

### ► AUGUST

- 1 – Meet the Teacher
- 2 – First Day of School
- 9 – 6:30pm All Ohio  
Balloon Festival  
Allohioballoonfest.com
- 11 – 8am Marysville Charity  
Car Show  
Honda Marysville Motorsports
- 11 – 8am Master Gardner  
Plant Sale  
Union County Fairgrounds
- 17 – 6pm Friday Nights Uptown  
- Blues & Brews  
Partners Park
- 25 – Plain City Classic Car Show
- 29 – All day Richwood  
Independent Fair

### ► SEPTEMBER

- 3 – Labor Day - HLC Closed
- 8 – 9am FestiFair:  
Arts & Crafts Festival  
Marysville Historic District
- 15 – 8pm Movie in the Park -  
Star Wars: The Last Jedi  
Partners Park
- 23 – All day Covered Bridge  
Bluegrass Festival
- 24 – Fall Parent/Teacher  
Conferences

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

## Harold Lewis Center Recognized by State

Many Union County residents have long known the Harold Lewis Center is a quality learning and development preschool. Now, the State of Ohio knows it, too.

In recognition of its commitment to quality and an ongoing dedication to the learning and development of children, the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities' Harold Lewis Center recently received a Five-Star Step Up To Quality Award from the state.

To receive a five-star rating, a program is reviewed, observed, and rated on a number of criteria that have positive impacts on the children and families served in the program. Step Up To Quality is Ohio's rating system for learning and development programs. Participating programs can earn a one to five star rating.

In addition to meeting all standards of a four-star rating, programs with five stars may also:

- Have lower staff/child ratios.
- Use child assessment results to plan activities that best support learning and development goals for each child.
- Share assessment results and create goals for children.
- Develop plans to support children as they transition to a new classroom or educational setting.
- Work with other organizations or businesses within the community to support children and their families.
- Have an active and organized parent volunteer group.
- Use input from families and community partners' to inform the program's continuous improvement process.
- Have accreditation by an approved organization.

"The Harold Lewis Center is proud to be a five-star program," said Sue LaMendola, Children Services Director of the Harold Lewis Center. "Children have approximately 1,892 days from birth until school starts, and every day matters. It is important to us that children develop their self-confidence, social and emotional skills, and a love of learning."

Research confirms that the first five years of a child's life has a direct impact on not only learning and social skills, but also develop emotional well-being.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Department of Education are committed to improving early childhood opportunities for all children in the state.

If you are interested in learning more, visit [www.earlychildhoodohio.org](http://www.earlychildhoodohio.org). If you have concerns about your child's development or if you are interested in volunteering at the Harold Lewis Center, call 937-645-6733, or send an email to [aporter@ucbdd.org](mailto:aporter@ucbdd.org).

## Route 33 Fitness Holds Fundraiser for Union County Special Olympics

For five weeks in February and March, members of Route 33 Fitness participated in the CrossFit Open, a competition and first qualifier for the worldwide CrossFit Games.

The CrossFit Open consists of five weekly workouts. Adam and Carrie Weigand, owners of Route 33 Fitness, hoped to foster competition while having fun by creating themes for each individual workout.

Teams designated by the Weigands competed against each other to earn points. One way to earn points was to create a fundraiser and raise money for Union County Special Olympics.

Fundraisers organized by participants included a bake sale, sold tickets to throw pies in their trainers' faces, held a silent auction, and organized a paint night. At the conclusion of the CrossFit Open, Route 33 Fitness and its members were able to donate \$4,000 to Union County Special Olympics.

"Our goal for the Open was to inspire," said Carrie. "Competition helps to inspire. The pressure to perform pushes you to train harder. Having dozens of your best friends cheering for you will help you reach a higher plane. This past year we have added a new inspirational group to our community here at Route 33."

That group is the RISE UP program, which has been going strong for almost a year. More than 30 individuals with developmental disabilities have participated in the fitness program.

"These individuals are so inspiring," Carrie said. "I have had the opportunity to attend a few of their sporting events through Union County Special Olympics. Seeing the look on their faces when they make a basket or make a catch for an out, or finish a swim just warms your heart."

Union County Special Olympics athlete Shannon Daniels competed in the CrossFit Open as well as participated in the fundraiser. Shannon said, "I really like the people at Route 33 Fitness. They have become mentors and even friends. Working out there is a lot of fun."



**"Watching Jake and Shannon complete the 18.4 open workout literally brought me to tears. It makes my heart so happy to see how they've grown. I love that they are part of the Route 33 family!"**  
- Kendra Burris

# Harold Lewis Center graduates its largest class ever

By Martha Rockwell

## Our Harold Lewis Center graduates said ...

### What did you like about coming to HLC?

*Olivia Standish:* Playing in the gym; *Peyton Bremner:* Playing with my friends on the playground; *Connor Ross:* Having snacks and doing art; *Brady Beasley:* Everything!

### What did you learn at preschool?

*Caleb Mize:* How to write my name; *Duane Robinson:* moons; *Waylon Damron:* Listening ears; *Case Thompson:* Butterflies

### What are you excited to learn in kindergarten?

*Starr Island:* Working and playing; *Kalla Hill:* Putting my bookbag away; *Duane Robinson:* Climbing up ladders; *Gunnar Lowe:* I am excited for lunch

### What do you want to be when you grow up?

*London Palesano:* dancer; *Joe Peirstorf:* a dad; *Minna Clark:* chef; *Bryson Bechtol:* bus driver; *Elena Price:* just a normal person; *Onalee Casperson:* police officer; *Serena Rice:* guitar teacher; *Max Barton:* firefighter; *Mason James:* sell popsicles; *Zoe Barrett:* a superhero; *Ryder Holbrook:* a doctor; *Christopher Roe:* a cowboy!

## Harold Lewis Center families said ...

### What have you enjoyed about your child's experience at HLC?

*Adriane and Kevin Cole:* The personalized care that he received from all staff, like he is the only child in their care; *Katie and Jason Damron:* The amazing staff who have worked so hard to give Willow a great start for kindergarten; *Angela Lowe:* Teachers, aides, bus drivers, students, and other parents!

### What will you or your child miss the most about HLC?

*Joe and Carrie Mize:* Small classes and friendly staff; *Lacey Wantland:* We will miss the warm smiles.

### What is your hope for your child in kindergarten?

*Scott and Lindsay Beasley:* Our hope is that Brady will be ready for a full day of learning new things and hopefully starting lifelong friendships.



**Top Row:** Teegan Gecewich, Lexie Slone, Turner Yirak, Holden Walters, Eli Cordell, Gianna Davidson, Garrett Kandel, Claire Norman, Piper Fitzpatrick, Harlow Wickham, Daniel Slater, Leila Schafer. **Middle Row:** Joe Pierstorff, Trulee McNamee, Lillian Gansheimer, Sage Vicari, Zoe Barrett, Eliza Thrush, Sadie Norman, Christopher Roe, Zane Shoemaker, Bryson Bechtol, Ryder Holbrook, Harrison Hodges, Minna Clark, London Palesano, Bryson Gamble, Kalla Hill, Isaac Rigali, Waylon Damron. **Bottom Row:** Willow Damron, Liam Rogerson, Kelly Myers, Gavin Dellifield, Reid Thaxton, Sophia Standish, Marley Cunningham, Hailey Garner, Duane Robinson, Hadley Palesano, Brayden Jordan, Connor Ross, Case Thompson, Olivia Standish, Gunnar Lowe. **Not Pictured:** Wyatt DeArmond, Cayden Counts



**Top Row:** Darrian Ruck, Carter Hedges, Elex Lewis, Gage Tabor, Lizzy Knipp, Kaelyn Seely, Jacob Lambert, Avri Iannantuono, Ruger Wojton, Mason James, Cayden Singnysane, Steven Nolan, Onalee Casperson, Luis Rodriguez, Serena Rice. **Middle Row:** Tadan Ratliff, Presleigh Edie, Parker Kracji, Elana Miller, Jameson Bodine, Camdon Roshon, Ryan Barlow, Cameron Erdy, Lincoln Garrett, Leah Metzger, Deakan Henderson, Dawson Smith, Brilee Smyth, Sunny Remich, Hunter Zehnder, Cate Carter. **Bottom Row:** Jake Johnson, Nolan Parrish, Caleb Mize, Roman Cole, Elena Price, Peyton Bremner, Starr Island, Brady Beasley, Harper Sassen. **Not Pictured:** Ariel Huang, Maxwell Barton, Avery Whitehurst

## Adaptive Sports provide summer fun

If you haven't scheduled any summer plans yet or are just looking to add some new experiences, here are some ideas that may interest you.

The Adaptive Sports Connection (previously known as TAASC) empowers children, adults, and veterans with disabilities through sports and wellness programs. Founded in 1992 in Columbus, the Ohio Adaptive Sports Connection helps those with disabilities and their families stay active. Some of the sporting opportunities offered by the Adaptive Sports Connection are:



- ▶ Cycling
- ▶ Kayaking
- ▶ Wall Climbing
- ▶ Paddle Boarding
- ▶ Small Boat Sailing
- ▶ Big Boat Sailing
- ▶ Water Skiing

Contact information: Adaptive Sports Connection  
Email: info@taasc.org; Phone: 614-389-3921

### Below are some camp resources you may want to explore.

**www.summercamps.com:** If summer camps are what you are looking for, there are many within central Ohio. One way to search for summer camps is to use the website. www.summercamps.com: This all-inclusive website enables you to search for a camp based on interest or zip code.

**Cincinnati Children's Hospital Summer Camps Resource Directory:** This website gives access to a variety of summer camps.

**Camp Nuhop:** Located in southern Ashland County, Ohio, Camp Nuhop is a residential summer camp for children with learning disabilities, attention deficit disorders, Asperger's Syndrome, and behavioral nuances. The mission is to provide a safe, nurturing, dynamic, and learning environment where people are empowered to succeed.

**YMCA Camp Willson:** A YMCA camp located in Bellefontaine that offers outdoor education, camps, equestrian Programs, and year-round camps.

### ON THE MOVE:

**Arlene Porter** has been named to the newly created position of the Preschool Operations Coordinator at the Harold Lewis Center. The post was created in response to the rapid growth at Harold Lewis. Arlene previously worked in UCBDD administration as the Communication, Family & Outreach Coordinator, where she collaborated with community partners, and managed the website and social media for the agency. Arlene is looking forward to working with the preschool staff in support of the students attending the Harold Lewis Center and their families.



**Cayla Warnock** will take over the responsibilities as the new UCBDD Business Manager on Sept. 1. Cayla's position will be shared with the Hardin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. She is presently training with UCBDD's current business manager, Cheryl Gugel, who will retire in August. Cayla previously served as a service consultant with UCBDD. Prior to her new position with the agency, she worked at the Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency and FirstMerit Bank. She earned her bachelor's degree from Shawnee State University, where she also played softball. She holds a master's degree in public administration with a governmental track. She is the assistant varsity softball coach at Grandview Heights High School. She enjoys spending her free time with her family, traveling and volunteering.



Citizens Committee for People with DD and Friends of the Union County Health Dept. Levy Committee present

Save The Date

## 19TH ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2018, DARBY CREEK GOLF COURSE  
19300 ORCHARD ROAD, MARYSVILLE, OH



BREAKFAST SPONSOR:  
MARYSVILLE BURGER KING



# Chris Serafini enjoys a trip of “firsts”

By Samantha Cook

Twenty-five-year-old Chris Serafini doesn't communicate with many words, but he expresses himself in other ways. While Chris and I looked at pictures and videos of his recent vacation, he was full of smiles and laughter.

Empowering Life Without Limits (ELWL) is a non-profit organization founded in 2015 that is owned by Person Centered Services (PCS), a local waiver provider that operates 13 day programs across the state of Ohio and offers residential services for people with special needs.

Each year, ELWL selects 2-3 people who attend PCS day service for an all-expenses paid trip to a location of the winner's choice. Out of 26 nominees across 13 counties, Chris was one of the trip winners.

ELWL's mission is to “enrich the quality of life of adults with disabilities through travel and exploration that empowers them to build friendships, conquer life skills that result in a sense of worth, and maximize their excitement and wonder of the world around them.”

Chris and his provider, Robin Price, traveled to Savannah, Ga., early April after Chris selected his trip by pointing to pictures of the beach and water.

“Chris likes to be social with others while attending PCS,” said Darby Chapman, director of the Union Career and Life Enrichment Center, PCS's Union County location. “He enjoys music – listening and singing on the karaoke. Chris also has some awesome dance moves!”

The trip would be exciting for many people, but for Chris it was a trip of firsts - his first time on an airplane, his first time seeing the ocean, and the first time vacationing outside of Ohio. He and Robin stayed near Tybee Island, just east of Savannah, and spent time walking on the beach. He also enjoyed dolphin watching on a boat tour around the Island.

Although the weather was a little chilly and raining, it didn't stop Chris from having an awesome time. A highlight of his trip was having a shrimp dinner at a local seafood restaurant. He also enjoyed the cozy beds in his hotel room.

Robin was eager to share the wonderful experiences she and Chris had while on their long weekend getaway. She noted that Chris is typically a homebody and this trip pushed him outside of his comfort zone. However, she could tell that he was having the time of his life. He was giggling and happier than she had seen him in a long time.

“Chris puts a smile on anyone's face, and I was excited to go with him on this trip.” Robin said.



## PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT

Agency Name:  
**Friends of  
Leroy Brown/  
Innovative  
Opportunities**



Address:  
1458 W Sandusky Ave.,  
Bellefontaine OH 43311

Phone: 567.940.1337  
E-Mail: [jseward@innovativeopportunities.org](mailto:jseward@innovativeopportunities.org)  
Website: [www.leroybrown.org](http://www.leroybrown.org)

### What differentiates your agency?

Our mission is to provide the quality supports people need by being a part of our community and giving back to the community. Participants gain life and employment skills, including decision making, personal presentation in social settings, communication and responsibility. Our services provide people with training and education with our dogs at Friends of Leroy Brown. There are many opportunities and activities that take this training into the community each week.

### Provider activities and services provided?

Friends of Leroy Brown, a program of innovative opportunities, serves Union, Logan, and surrounding counties. We focus on training participants to become effective dog handlers and trainers using AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) titled dogs or candidates. As effective dog handlers, we demonstrate responsible leadership, decision-making skills, and positive support to enable our CGC dogs to interact with people in the community. Dog teams give back to the community by visiting such places as nursing homes and the local humane society. We also participate in clinics and are involved in the planning for a new dog park in Bellefontaine. Our participants enjoy learning about the different dog breeds, arts and crafts activities, and bowling.

### Share a memorable activity or event from this past year.

Leading up to Aug. 21, 2017, our participants were very excited about the solar eclipse. We did our research and had the proper glasses to safely watch it. To this day, everyone talks about watching it together and how cool it was.

### Staff's experiences working with individuals

Jessica Houston is the coordinator for the Friends of Leroy Brown program in Bellefontaine. She has been a dog lover all of her life and has worked with individuals with developmental disabilities for at least 10 years. Her laughter is well known by all and is an advocate for everyone with whom she works. Dan Houston has worked with dogs for many years and has worked with people with disabilities for three years. Together they strive to provide a very person-centered approach that makes sure that each participant is part of planning each day at the Friends of Leroy Brown.



Parker is all smiles while sitting with Patsy Jones

## DISCOVER “DISCOVERY”

# New service offers individuals chance to identify different career options

By Nick Bowsher

Waiver-funded employment services for people with disabilities in Ohio were modified in April 2017.

One change was the unveiling of a new set of “Career Planning” employment services.

Within the Career Planning umbrella lies multiple services, including Assistive Technology Assessment, Benefits Education and Analysis, Career Exploration and Career Discovery.

If you want to work in the community, but are not exactly sure what you want to do, then Career Discovery could be a great option.

Often times, people jump into something without knowing enough about it or enough about themselves, which does not lend itself toward achieving a successful employment outcome. Utilizing the Discovery Service can allow an individual who has never worked before, or who has worked somewhere for a long time and wants to explore something different, a chance to check out different career options before going to Job Development service.

Career Discovery as defined in rule is an “individualized, comprehensive process to help a job seeker, who is pursuing individualized integrated employment reveal how interests and activities of daily life may be translated into possibilities for integrated employment.” The Career Discovery process allows an individual to meet with a selected provider on several occasions to research and explore different career options, as well as allowing the provider to assess the individual's strengths, interests and desires to counsel the individual on possible viable career options. At the conclusion of the entire process, the provider submits a written report to the individuals' team, identifying some of these possible options.

Recently, an individual served through UCBDD worked with Capabilities, a local employment provider, to complete a Career Discovery Profile. She said, “I really liked the discovery process. They got to know me, asked a lot of questions, and took me to several different places to check out. I discovered many jobs I have never heard of and ultimately was able to select a couple jobs that we are going to pursue further. It was a great learning experience.”

Initially, not many provider agencies offered the employment services. However, recently several providers are now making it available to individuals. To learn more about Career Discovery or other employment services, contact UCBDD's Community Employment Division at [nbowsher@ucbdd.org](mailto:nbowsher@ucbdd.org)

## INSIDE!

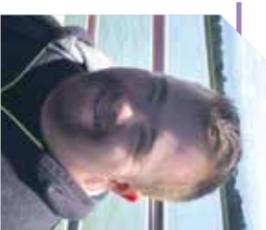
▶ **Route 33 Fitness Holds Fundraiser for Union County Special Olympics**

See article on page 1



▶ **Chris Serafini enjoys a trip of "firsts"**

See article on page 2



### DID YOU KNOW???

**Community Stays Involved With Harold Lewis Center**



**SPRING 1989 - Police Chief Larry Bunsold visits students from the Harold Lewis School. The students also enjoyed visits from a firefighter, baker, and a pet shop owner.**



**SPRING 2018 - Local community members spent time at Harold Lewis Center teaching the children about various aspects of their work. The children enjoyed learning about the jobs of a police officer, teacher, farmer, jazzercise instructor, x-ray technician, garden center, employee, vet tech/dog groomer, nurse, and a pizza chef.**

### SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE

## Our relationship is there, whatever the funding source

Remember the television commercial in which you were told, "This is not your father's Oldsmobile?"

I am reminded of that commercial when I think of the ways county boards of developmental disabilities have changed since our agency opened its doors in 1967. In those days, we offered a finite number of options and the individuals we served had far fewer choices in the services they desired. Today, we manage a system that distributes funds in a manner that provides more choices for those individuals. The funding flows through UCBD, but our role goes well beyond the money.

Our biggest role is to help people identify available resources. Each person we serve is unique. They have varying needs, desires, and degrees of complications in their lives. We work with them to build their confidence, knowledge base, and increase their awareness of the resources available to them and their families. Fortunately, we now have many more resources available than we did a half-century ago. Medicaid Waivers were once seen as a golden ticket that would provide continuing funding for individuals with disabilities. They are still prized, but they are not a panacea. Waiver funding helps purchase services, but it doesn't fix such problems as behavioral concerns, homelessness, a direct-care provider shortage, and interpersonal difficulties. We can offer more than waiver dollars to meet these needs. Technological advances, such as remote monitoring, give individuals more freedom at less cost than a full-time caregiver. We listen to individuals and their families to understand their needs and desires, then collaborate with other entities to build systems to support them. A critical aspect of this approach is the ability to help break down barriers in our community so that people build real relationships. We offer so much more than a funding source or a Medicaid Waiver. We offer to be a partner in the journey.

### 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.

Kara Brown

