

# 2015

UCBDD ANNUAL REPORT

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE:

# UNION COUNTY HAS PROUD HISTORY OF SUPPORT



*Kara Brown*

Every day that we open our doors, the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities touches the lives of individuals. Children. Adolescents. Adults. They all benefit from the services we provide

We are, by definition, a human services agency. That's what we are, not who we are. Who are we? We are an agency of caring individuals who each day strive to improve the lives of those we serve.

You no doubt hear of the supports we offer people with developmental disabilities and their families. You hear about service coordination, pre-school, employment assistance, Medicaid waivers, adult day activities, residential supports and many others.

Our mission at the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities is to ensure services and supports are available for eligible individuals.

However, to ensure the availability of these services and supports, there is a cost attached.

The majority of funds used by UCBDD to support individuals comes from local tax levy dollars. We have been excellent stewards of those funds. In fact, UCBDD has not received an increase in tax millage since 2000 - 16 years! During that time we grew from serving about 320 individuals to more than 630, an increase of nearly 100 percent.

Our pre-school at Harold Lewis Center now has seven morning and seven afternoon classrooms. More than 240 adults work or attend day services.

So, how do we make the dollar stretch?

One way is to leverage tax dollars to bring additional federal funds to Union County. By doing this, we are able to turn \$4 of local taxes into \$10 of services for individuals. This occurs primarily through a funding stream available to individuals receiving assistance to attend day/work programs and assistance to live in the community. With careful planning, we have reduced the cost per individual by 24 percent without reducing services and supports.

We create opportunities at UCBDD to reduce costs by working in partnership with other Union County agencies, such as the Department of Jobs and Family Services, the Mental Health and Recovery Board, and the Commissioners. This helps other agencies reduce costs, reducing the overall bill to taxpayers. We have collaborated to provide for the needs of individuals served by multiple agencies, finding better services at a shared cost. We have shared personnel functions with the county, resulting in greater efficiency and less hiring costs.

Still, we continue to rely heavily on the support of Union County taxpayers. On March 15, UCBDD has 3.8 and 2.4 mil levies on the ballot for renewal. Because of our efforts to control costs, we are only asking for renewals, meaning **NO NEW TAXES** for Union County taxpayers.

We want taxpayers to feel good about how their money is spent. And, we want you to know that individuals with developmental disabilities live better lives, not only because of our efforts, but because of your support.

# 2015

## UCBDD BY THE NUMBERS

### SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Registered athletes



INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM A SERVICE CONSULTANT

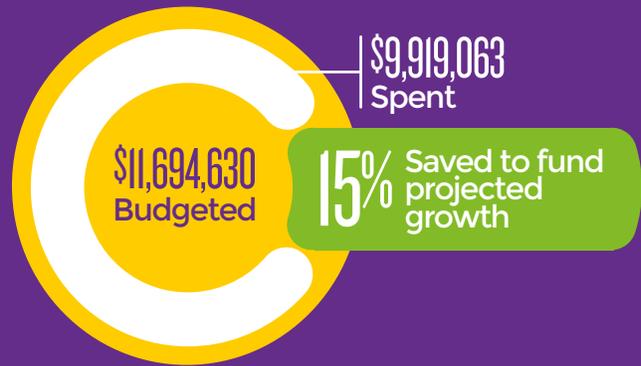
### WAIVER SERVICES



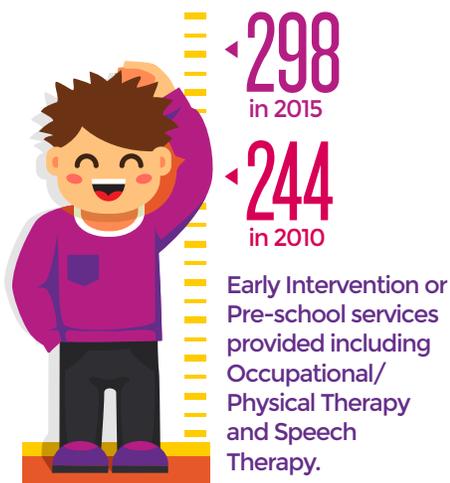
### INDIVIDUALS SERVED



### 2015 BUDGET VS MONEY SPENT



### CHILDREN SERVED



### WORKNET



### COST OF SERVICES



## MEET WYATT, A LITTLE BOY WITH A BIG FUTURE

Their story begins in April 2012 when Ross and Stephanie DeArmond's son, Wyatt, was born.

Ultrasounds were performed during the pregnancy, and nothing was identified that would cause concern.

But seconds after he was born, every medical professional in the delivery room knew there was a problem. Ross and Stephanie were only able to see their son briefly before he was whisked off to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for further evaluation.

Wyatt DeArmond was born with a disability that is rare, difficult to spell, and has forced him to undergo more than 20 operations in the first three years of his life. And, there are many more on the horizon.

Still, when Ross and Stephanie talk about their son and his prospects for the future, it's nothing but positive.

"You have to keep a positive outlook," said Ross. "That's important for us and for Wyatt. We look at the future and it looks so promising for our son."

Wyatt was born with hemifacial microsomia. The left side of his face failed to properly develop in the womb, causing vision and hearing loss, and other challenges. As with many other birth defects, the cause of hemifacial microsomia is unknown.

Doctors in Columbus and Philadelphia work in conjunction to help reconstruct Wyatt's facial structure. Craniofacial reconstructive surgeons will perform another major surgery in March at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The goal is to progressively correct the symmetry of the left side of his face to keep pace with his overall growth.

Wyatt has an older brother, Ethan. "It wasn't our first lap around the track, and we thought we knew what to expect with Wyatt's birth," Ross said. "But, sometimes things don't unfold exactly the way you



plan. We had to overcome the early uncertainties together. However, our eyes are now firmly on the future. We are thrilled each time Wyatt meets a new goal and shows us all that he can do. We try not to dwell on the 'what ifs.' Rather, we focus on how best to prepare our son for his future."

To help meet that end, Wyatt receives services at the Harold Lewis Center at the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Wyatt attends school four, half days a week and receives speech, vision, occupational, and physical therapy services.

"Those are the life skills he will need to succeed in life," Stephanie said. "They have a wonderful staff at Harold Lewis; it's definitely a family atmosphere. The teachers love their students and really care about their welfare. We couldn't be happier with the services we receive. We have relied greatly on the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities and the Harold Lewis Center."

Ross and Stephanie know Wyatt has a long road ahead of him, but they are encouraged by what they see from him each day.

They look at the future, and it is so very promising for their son.

## ANDREW WINS BIG - ON AND OFF THE FIELD

By any measure, Andrew Wright is having a great senior year.

As a member of the Marysville High School football team, he scored a touchdown. He also was voted homecoming king. He is popular and has lots of friends.

With a senior year like that, some people might like to stay in high school.

Not Andrew. The 19-year-old already has his sights set on bigger things.

"It's been a fabulous year for Andrew, but he's ready to move on," said his mother, Robin Wright. "I think most seniors are ready to move on, and he's no different than any of his classmates."

Andrew is different in one way. He has Down syndrome and has received services from the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities since birth.

But, that's pretty much where the differences stop.

Troy and Robin Wright have pushed their son and worked diligently to not treat him any differently than their other two children. He has an older sister, Caila, and a younger brother, Jacob.

"When Andrew said he wanted to play football, we didn't want him to be a distraction," Robin said. "We wanted him treated like the other kids."

He has responded.

"He's just like any other kid," Robin said. "When he was elected homecoming king, I showed him his photo on the front page of the Marysville Journal-Tribune and said, 'Hey, Andrew, look at this.' He just waved his hand at me and said, 'Yeah, yeah.' I can tell you for a fact that scoring that touchdown meant more to him than being homecoming king. He likes to talk about being a football player."



Andrew, who was a member of the Monarchs varsity football team his junior and senior years, went into the game in the fourth quarter against Central Crossing High School, took a handoff and ran 62 yards for a touchdown.

As his senior year winds down, Andrew is looking forward to college. He has visited Ohio State University and Columbus State Community College to explore their programs. He is still considering his options, but knows that he would like to work in a fitness center or a hospital.

Andrew did an internship at an assisted care facility and responded well to helping the residents. He also enjoys lifting weights with the football team.

"When Andrew was young, we had a psychologist tell us she had never seen a kid with Down syndrome like Andrew," Robin said. "She said he was an exceptional kid. That always gave me hope that he could go to a regular classroom and simply be one of the kids."

Andrew has certainly done that...and much, much more.

# UCBDD

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WHERE OPPORTUNITIES MAKE A DIFFERENCE