

2016

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

UCBDD ANNUAL REPORT



L to R: Top Row: Jake Hoffman, LaShonda Wright, Anthony Cipriano and Jacob Vanscoy
Middle Row: Chris Waters, Clinton Taylor and Dylan Cook
Bottom Row: Jennifer Marks and Shannon Daniels



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE:

UCBDD GROWTH MIRRORS ALL OF UNION COUNTY



Kara Brown

It is an exciting time to be a resident of Union County!

Our county is experiencing unprecedented growth, bringing us retail outlets like Costco and Meijer; businesses like Bluebird Retirement Community and Moriroku; and new technologies, such as we will see along the 33

Innovation Corridor.

Great things are happening in our county. As more people call Union County home, the number of people with disabilities also has increased significantly.

Last year, growth at the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities accelerated considerably.

For example, our Early Intervention program served 27 children in January 2016. A year later, that number is 56 - an increase of more than 107 percent. During the same period, our pre-school program grew 17 percent as we added 17 students on Individual Education Plans and 10 peer models.

We also saw a 20 percent increase in adults being served by Support Services. On average, 17 students per year are entering adult services.

We also are adjusting to changes required by Medicaid and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. In 2015, the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services gave county boards of developmental disabilities until 2019 to privatize adult day services and community employment services. UCO Industries Inc. was privatized in 2013. We began privatizing community employment in 2016 and will complete the process in 2017.

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities unveiled a plan to move people with disabilities out of developmental centers and intermediate care facilities and into community housing. Additional waivers were created to meet those needs, and Support Services has been enrolling people.

Union County taxpayers continued to support people with developmental disabilities by voting to renew two tax levies in 2016. We believe this allows us to support eligible individuals through 2020. We watch these projections closely. Our projections are based on 5-percent growth, not the 8-percent growth we experienced in 2016. We remain optimistic about our long-term projections, but we must continue to plan carefully.

We do have our challenges.

Our Early Intervention and pre-school programs are running out of space at the Harold Lewis Center. In the past two years we converted a lunchroom and a conference room into classrooms.

Unfortunately, we have no more space for classrooms. We are working to address this unprecedented level of growth, and it remains a welcome challenge to assure supports for eligible individuals.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the creation of county boards of developmental disabilities. We will continue to support those eligible for our services into the future regardless of how many people seek our services.

Our county is growing and changing by the day. We look forward to the challenge as we move through 2017.

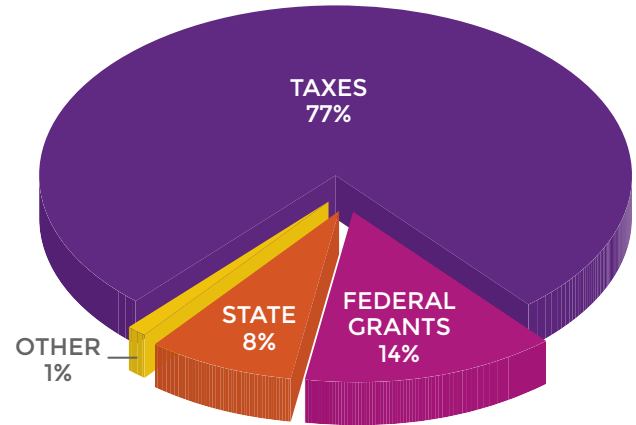
ALWAYS THERESM
50 YEARS OHIO COUNTY BOARDS OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

2016

UCBDD BY THE NUMBERS

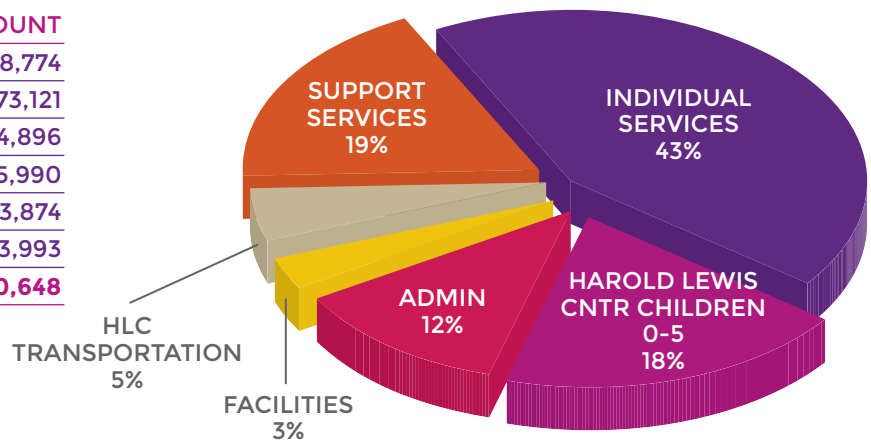
2016 REVENUE

ASSET TYPE	AMOUNT
TAXES	\$7,910,750
FEDERAL/GRANTS	\$1,410,339
STATE	\$798,846
OTHER	\$93,378
TOTAL	\$10,2113,314



2016 EXPENSES

EXPENSE TYPE	AMOUNT
ADMINISTRATION	\$1,398,774
SUPPORT SERVICES	\$2,073,121
HAROLD LEWIS CNTR	\$2,024,896
HLC TRANSPORT	\$555,990
INDIVIDUAL SERVICES	\$4,803,874
FACILITIES	\$343,993
TOTAL	\$11,200,648



SERVICES PROVIDED IN 2016

INDIVIDUALS SERVED	IND ASSIGNED TO A SERVICE CONSULTANT	CHILDREN AGES 3-5	EARLY INTERVENTION AGES BIRTH-3	COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SERVICES	SPECIAL OLYMPICS PROGRAM
684	515	252	73	74	64

“GHANAIAN PRINCESS” IS A BLESSING FOR LOCAL FAMILY

By any method of measurement, little Zuri Green has defied the odds.

She was born with profound physical and mental disabilities. When she was just a few months old, she was left to die in a ditch in her native Ghana. Fortunately, a passerby picked up the infant and took her to a local orphanage.

From there, Zuri began a journey that ended in rural Union County.

Zuri, who is five, is a member of the remarkable Green family, and was No. 32 of their 33 biological and adopted children.

Many in Union County are familiar with Kevin and Polly Green, who after having two biological sons have completed 31 international adoptions, including four with developmental disabilities. They live in a 13-bedroom home in the Fairbanks School District.

On Dec. 9, 2011, the Greens received an email from an orphanage in the African country of Ghana. It contained a photo, Polly said, “of the most beautiful little African baby girl,” who was in need of adoption. The orphanage sent out 1,500 emails, but due to the girl’s extensive healthcare needs, only one family responded: The Greens.

Zuri was two-years old when she arrived at her new home on July 25, 2013. During a hospital stay, she also was found to be non-verbal and have very limited vision. She needed to be tube fed, and suffered from cerebral palsy, epilepsy, asthma and a host of other medical issues.

“She is a joy and we can’t imagine our lives without her,” said Polly, who refers to Zuri as her, “beautiful Ghanaian princess.”

“She brings pure joy to our family. Zuri is blessed with many siblings who adore her. Rarely do you find her not being held or loved on.”

Last October, with the assistance of the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities, the Greens created a sensory room for Zuri. Her neurologist made the recommendation to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which provided funds for the room.

“Union County Board of DD was instrumental in helping us outfit the room,” Polly said. “Zuri attends Harold Lewis School and they were able to relate to us what would be the most beneficial to her.”

The sensory room includes a water bed, surround sound speakers under the bed to project vibrations, a platform swing, another swing, mats, and a light board.

“Zuri can see lights and shadows, so as soon as we put her in the water bed her head immediately turns to the light board,” Polly said. “The room has benefited Zuri in many ways. It helps expose her to the things that bring her joy, such as the lights, music, movement and swinging. Her room has opened new areas of stimulation. We are so thankful that the staff at The Harold Lewis Center provided input as to what would benefit Zuri via her wish.”



WE ARE THE COUGARS...HEAR US "ROAR"!!

To simply say that Union County Special Olympics has "taken off" is a gross understatement. It has taken off like a Titan Rocket, like a cheetah after prey, like the Batmobile.

In just two years, Union County Special Olympics bloomed from a small program with poor participation to a robust program with 50 athletes participating in a total of seven sports.

"Before I arrived in the fall of 2015, we didn't have any team sports, just individual sports," said Nick Miranda, Union County Special Olympics Coordinator. "Today, we offer four team sports - basketball, softball, swimming, and bocce - as well as the individual sports of basketball skills, track, and bowling. Individuals learn a lot from participating in a team sport. We can see the level of participation increase with the creation of our teams. People want to be part of a team and feel the thrill of winning and succeeding with their friends."

In 2016, Union County Special Olympics, whose teams are known as the Cougars, not only added four new sports, but it also added 14 athletes to the program who had not participated before.

Along with the competition, the program kept the athletes active. Last year, along with their games, the athletes participated in 160 hours of practice.

It has made a huge difference in the lives of individuals, such as Jake Hoffman. "I enjoy Special Olympics because it allows me to be a part of a team and spend time with my friends," said Jake. "I like to participate in Special Olympics because it's a lot of fun and it gives me something to do besides work. Special Olympics has helped me make new friends and has taught me a lot. I've learned how to pick myself back up after I get knocked down."

At one point, Jake's parents were considering moving from Union County to give Jake the opportunity to participate in Special Olympics.

"Not anymore," Jake said. "Now I can play right here in Marysville with my friends."

Nick said his goal was to get the program up and running as soon as possible. He is a basketball enthusiast and his first mission was to create a basketball team. The Cougars basketball team was the first competitive Special Olympics team sport in Union County in about 30 years.

At first, the basketball team was made up of athletes who had been participating in the basketball skills program. However, once the program got off the ground and the enthusiasm grew, many athletes who had participated in the past, but quit, came back to the program.

"I haven't been able to play sports since high school in the 90s," said Jason Sinden. "Now I am on a basketball team, swim team, and the track team. Special Olympics gives me an opportunity to exercise while making new friends."

When he took over the program in 2015, Nick said his original goal was to improve the quality of the program. In 2016, four new sports were added. As the program continues to grow in 2017, Special Olympics will seek more community involvement.

"We are looking forward to getting the community involved in Unified Sports," Nick said. "This is an opportunity for members of our community to train and compete with our athletes. We hope to have support from our community in such individual sports as bocce, track, swimming, and bowling."

Union County Special Olympics continues to shine and climb, and the athletes who benefit are the most grateful.

"I feel as though I finally have the opportunity to participate in the activities I want to be involved in," said Danielle Hamilton. "Special Olympics is important to me because it gives all of us a chance to do something we couldn't have done before."

UCBDD

1280 Charles Lane
Marysville, OH 43040
Phone: 937.645.6733
Fax: 927.642.8427
www.ucbdd.org

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