

COUGARS COMPLETE INAUGURAL SEASON

The Union County Cougars, a Special Olympics softball team, recently completed its inaugural season. Practices began in early July at Millcreek Township ball field in Marysville and continued through the first weekend in September. For many of the athletes, it was their first time playing competitive softball. Throughout the season they enjoyed playing several com-

petitive games against other local programs, including teams from Columbus, Marysville High School and Logan County. They also enjoyed playing in their very first softball tournament, where they played a close game against a well-matched team, the Columbus Comets. Everyone is looking forward to next year as the team continues to develop its softball skills.

Bottom left:
J.L. Thompson, Dylan Cook, Shannon Daniels, Chris Waters, Clinton Taylor
Top left:
Jake Hoffman, Anthony Cipriano, Steve Humble, Jake Vanscoy.
(Missing from the photo are Jenna Marks, and Katie England).



ANNUAL GOLF OUTING A GREAT SUCCESS

The Citizen's Committee for People with Developmental Disabilities, Friends of Senior Services and Friends of the Union County Health Department would like to offer a big THANK YOU to the 118 golfers who participated in this year's golf scramble, which was held Sept. 9 at Darby Creek Golf Course. This year's event was fantastic. The support from our sponsors and volunteers was affirming and a real testament to the growing success of the event.

Clemans Nelson & Associates Inc. took home the winner's trophy for a third consecutive year with a winning score of 56, 16 under par.

Additionally, due to the wonderful positive response of this year's outing, we will be holding our golf event at the same location next year on Friday, Sept. 8. Please mark your calendars.



Winner's trophy went to the Clemans Nelson & Associates team.

L to R: Drew Esposito, Brian Butcher, CJ Fultz and John Krock.

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

THE RULES HAVE ALL CHANGED!

For many people with developmental disabilities, a waiver is an important funding stream for them to receive support to manage their day-to-day activities.

A waiver is a Medicaid funding stream administered by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. While a waiver can be an important tool, it also has rules and limitations that take into account a person's assets. Until recently, a person receiving a waiver could have up to \$2,000 in assets as part of the financial eligibility for a waiver.

The Ohio Treasurer's Office has created an option called a STABLE Account. This account creates tax-advantaged investment accounts for people with disabilities. What this means is that the assets in the STABLE Account do not affect eligibility for federal or Ohio means-tested benefits programs, like Social Security income or Medicaid. The STABLE account is similar to the 529 College Savings Accounts that are available to parents who are saving for their child's college tuition.

The benefits of STABLE Accounts are many. Some of these benefits include:

- Providing a vehicle for financial independence for people with disabilities.
- The account is owned by the individual with the disability.
- It dramatically increases the ability to save.
- It provides new investment opportunity.
- It offers tax free earnings.
- A \$2,000 Ohio state tax deduction.

A person can fund their account electronically and put up to \$14,000 annually, or \$426,000 over a lifetime. Those amounts do not include any earnings on money deposited. A person can choose several different investment options, from very conservative with minimal risk, to aggressive with more risk. It even comes with a loadable Visa card.

The STABLE Account enrollment is done on the internet and is free. It takes about 20 minutes to complete. Below are resource links for more information on the STABLE Account. The STABLE Account is a great tool for improving the quality of people's lives and offers the account holder a mainstream way to use and save money.

www.stableaccount.com | Call: 1.800.439.1653
Email: team@stableaccount.com

Family Involvement Dates to Remember:

October 12	Parent Information Night – How local schools and the county board support children through their school career
November 11 – 12	Ohio SIBS Conference at Embassy Suites in Dublin, Ohio

SUPERINTENDENT *continued from pg. 8*

acceptance on many levels.

At the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities (UCBDD), we have an awesome responsibility to some pretty amazing people. Our responsibility is to facilitate supports and services that respect people and their choices.

We believe in a future with a culture of community acceptance and inclusion that provides everyone an equal opportunity to pursue a fulfilling and meaningful life. As I reflect on these words, they not only apply to those receiving support from the county board, they apply to what most of us want for our loved ones. They apply to what I want for my children and what many of our friends and neighbors want for their children.

Working and planning for our future, we recognize the responsibility the UCBDD has to those we support and to our community to expand our efforts and our thinking about what it means to be part "of" a community rather than being "in" a community. Being part of a community implies relationships, connections, and support.

During the next three years, we will be focusing on breaking down barriers to community membership, expanding collaboration within our community, creatively addressing needs, and proactively managing an ever-changing environment within our world. This is no small task we have outlined for the UCBDD, however, we feel a deep responsibility to make it a reality.

ON THE MOVE



CHERIE HAYES

Cherie is our new Lead Investigative Agent for the UCBDD. Before joining UCBDD, Cherie worked as a program director in a residential setting for five years. She has a bachelor's degree in education from Bowling Green State University. Cherie is relocating from Dayton to Bellefontaine. She has two boys, ages 8 and 5. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, and watching football.



AMANDA FISHBAUGH

Amanda is an Instructor Assistant at the Harold Lewis Center with the Owl class. She is married with two children - a 6-year-old son who is in kindergarten and a 4-year-old daughter who attends the Harold Lewis Center. "I am excited to watch your children grow and learn this school year," said Amanda.



LISA HUGGINS

Lisa is a Preschool Teacher in the new Owl classroom at the Harold Lewis Center. She is no stranger to Harold Lewis, where she has been a substitute teacher for the past two years. She also taught kindergarten in the Cleveland and Columbus areas. Lisa lives in Plain City with her husband, Brian, and their two teenage boys, Alex, 16, and Zach, 14. They have two dogs, Lucky and Onyx, and four hermit crabs. In her spare time, she loves going out to dinner with her family.



KARRIE LEGRON

Karrie, an Instructor Assistant at the Harold Lewis Center, is a graduate of Marysville High School and Urbana University. She brings experience, humor, and energy to the classroom. In her free time, Karrie enjoys spending time outdoors and loves her pet chickens. She likes to eat at Mexican restaurants and coloring at home and at school with her students.



TARA SHARP

Tara is the new Instructor Assistant in the Giraffe room at the Harold Lewis Center. She started at the Harold Lewis Center last school year and looks forward to working with the students in her classroom, along with staff at the UCBDD. She previously worked in the Marysville School District as a program assistant. Tara has resided in Marysville for the past 13 years with her husband and three children. Tara said she is excited for this opportunity to serve the individuals of Union County.



ALLYSON GRAVES

We welcome Allyson Graves as a new Instructor Assistant at the Harold Lewis Center. Allyson and her family moved to Marysville five years ago from Toledo. She has been married to her husband Eric for 10 years and they have three boys - Brayden, Owen and Tyson. Allyson enjoys watching her boys play various sports on the weekends and spending time at the lake when the weather is warm! They have a dog named Wolverine and enjoy cheering for Michigan during football and basketball season.

Over the past several weeks, I have had the opportunity to talk one-on-one with some of the people we support. I am excited to share some of the many ways individuals have chosen to become part of their community. Some have chosen to work locally, while others are volunteering at daycare centers and food pantries, and many have enjoyed activities like the county fair, local craft shows, and the recent Union County Covered Bridge Bluegrass Festival.

This information lets me know we are making progress, but are nowhere near our vision for the future.

I want to leave you with two questions along with my version of an answer.

- Are we there yet?
- How will we know when we are there?

I believe we are never there unless we can definitely say several things. We will not be there until we no longer need a Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities. We will not be there until all parents truly believe their child will have all the same opportunities in their communities as other children. We will not be there until we see all people for their abilities rather than their disabilities.

We must bring our community along in the process and encourage everyone around us to open their minds and welcome fresh ideas to embrace the opportunities that are presented.

GRADUATES FIND COMMON GROUND

Graduation is an exciting time for many young adults. But, transitioning from those safe, protected school environments out into the real world can be a scary time for some. However, for many, graduation is a time to step back and reflect on all the things accomplished in life to that point, while pondering the move into the next adventure.

For the last two years, the transition team at UCBDD Support Services has thrown a small graduation celebration honoring our seniors who are moving on to the next big stage of their lives. Some of our students are going back for more schooling, other students are moving on to jobs, while others are just taking a long awaited break!

On June 1, three young men came to celebrate with their families and some staff at UCBDD with food, fun and fellowship. Caleb Smith, Noah Hendrickson and Samuel Files did not know each other coming into the graduation party, and neither did their families. After food and a presentation of gifts, and while many of the parents and service consultants were talking with each other, the gentlemen stepped out of their comfort zones and asked for the contact information of their new friends. Within minutes, smart phones were blazing with Facebook requests and phone numbers were being exchanged.

It's often hard to gain perspective on how much our young ones grow until you watch them in action and realize how much they've transformed from those little guys who hid behind the legs of their parents when they talked to someone at the grocery store, into nice, mature young adults.



L to R: Caleb Smith, Noah Hendrickson, and Samuel Files

Three young men stepped into the real world. It is obvious that during their high school education, they learned a whole lot more than is taught in the common curriculum. They learned that when you share a common achievement, perhaps it's ok to reach out and take a chance. It started with, "Hey, would you like to hang out sometime?" and ended with plans to form a group. Not many of us feel comfortable doing that. These guys taught everyone in the room that day that with a little courage, and a common goal, new friendships can be forged.

Congratulations to all of the 2016 graduates. You bring hope to those of us who have been around for a while that the next generation demonstrates that life is not about focusing on our differences, but finding common ground.

We are proud to have watched you grow. Good luck in all your future endeavors!

A CHANGING OF THE GUARD AT UCBDD

The Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace is the ceremony where one regiment hands over the responsibility for protecting Buckingham Palace to another regiment.

Here at the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities (UCBDD), we have experienced a similar change.

For the past 28 years, **Mike Heifner** has been employed by the UCBDD as the Employment Services Director/Vocational Coordinator/Supported Employment Manager.

On July 1, **Nick Bowsher** assumed the role of Supported Employment Manager.

Nick began his career with the UCBDD in 2014 as a job developer and the instructor for

Project SUCCESS. He previously served seven years as an Intervention Specialist for Marysville Schools.

"Nick is a very talented young man, who will carry on the tradition of excellence in Union County," said Mike. "I ask you to continue to support him in his quest to make all people served by the UCBDD be a part of the community through employment and inclusion."

Mike will continue to have an impact in Union County as he takes on the role of a job developer for the UCBDD.



Mike Heifner



Nick Bowsher

PAC HOSTS ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

I scream! You scream! We all scream for ice cream!

As another school year begins at the Harold Lewis Center, the sounds of children’s laughter and friendly parent conversation fill the air at the annual ice cream social hosted by the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC).

Chocolate Sauce! Sprinkles! The children were delighted to add their favorite toppings to their vanilla ice cream as they played alongside new classmates and old.

The ice cream social is just one of the entertaining monthly events hosted by the PAC. These fun, family-oriented activities would not be possible without the assistance of the dedicated volunteers who donate their time for the enjoyment of the Harold Lewis Center students, staff and families.

“This is an active parent group that organizes a yearly fundraiser to provide financial support for these activities,” said Nici Crosby, the PAC coordinator. “These activities come at no cost to the students or families. Activities include ice cream socials, scarecrow building, movie night and flower planting.”

Nici stressed that PAC-sponsored events are not just for Harold Lewis Center students. It also provides parents with a opportunity to socialize.

“The PAC is not just a means of encouraging parental involvement,” said Children Services Director, Sue LaMendola. “These activities provide parents of students with developmental disabilities and peer models the chance to connect and interact with fellow parents and Harold Lewis Center staff in a supportive and fun environment.”

In the past, PAC fundraising also has helped give back to the school. The PAC donated much needed classroom supplies, such as die-cuts for the Ellison machine, cameras and paint.

In addition to school donations, the volunteers of the PAC have organized Teacher Appreciation Week in recognition of the staff’s hard work and dedication to their students.

The PAC always welcomes new volunteers. For more information, contact Nici Crosby at the Harold Lewis Center – 937.645.6733.



Ethan Bauer and his father, Matthew



Kylie Jacobs



Avery Whitehurst



Dean McDermott



Annabelle Curtis

Harold Lewis Center Dates to Remember:

October 6	Pumpkin Patch Field Trip	October 28	Costume Parade
October 6	PAC Family Night-Erica Carlson	November 1 – 2	School Pictures
October 10 – 14	Preschool Fall Break	November 11	Veteran’s Day-No School
October 27	PAC Family Night-Scarecrow Making	November 21 – 25	Thanksgiving Break
		Dec. 19 – Jan. 2	Winter Preschool Break
		January 16	Martin Luther King Day



CRSI OUTING TO CEDAR POINT A BIG HIT

Editor's Note: Each month, Kaleidoscope offers a Union County day provider the opportunity to share with readers about events and their organization. This article was provided by Linda Barker of Champaign Residential Services, Inc.

The Champaign Residential Services Inc. (CRSI) mission and philosophy is to empower and support individuals with challenges and provide an opportunity to develop their maximum level of independence. It is the intent of CRSI to value lifestyles and choices of all individuals served.

Our consumers love to take trips to such venues as Cedar Point, Columbus Motor Speedway and movie theatres. They also enjoy dining out. We always have a great time.

Our goal is to provide exceptional personalized services and assist all individuals in the pursuit of a valued and meaningful life. We acknowledge the rights of individuals to participate in the planning and decision making process regarding their interests.

In May, CRSI organized a trip to Cedar Point. Everyone had a great time. Fun memories are made each year at Cedar Point. For some, it is the only time all year they can drive a car. The antique cars are an annual favorite. Driving their staff around the track and watching their heads bobble as they hit the brakes is a real treat. Riding Cedar Point Railroad, hearing the whistle blow

and seeing the frontier skeletons also is a favorite. The consumers may not venture onto the giant roller coasters, but they love watching others take the dare.



Tim Riebel & Kim Hogle Leanna Barker, staff



Carl Cosgray and Kelsey Regula, staff



Rodney Newman and Randy Davis, staff

UCBDD SPECIAL OLYMPICS ENJOYS SUCCESSFUL YEAR

UCBDD hired its first full-time Special Olympics coordinator last year, and he has brought big ideas to the program.

Last year, Union County Special Olympics had 25 active participants and offered just three sports - basketball skills, track and bowling.

Our program has added four additional sports, including our first basketball team in 30 years, bocce, softball and swimming. As the program offerings have grown, so has the participation. There are now 50 athletes participating.

"Community support and involvement continue to be crucial as our program continues to grow," said Nick

Miranda, the Special Olympics coordinator. "The demand for new coaches and practice sites depends on the generosity of our community. We are always in need of great coaches in a variety of sports to provide the best training opportunity for our athletes."

Nick said he is looking forward to offering additional programs in 2017. We'd like to extend a big "thank you" to all of our athletes, parents, and other supporters who made this year a success. It couldn't have been done without you.

If you are interested in volunteering as a coach, contact Nick at nmiranda@ucbdd.org.

Special Olympics Dates to Remember:

October 22 - 23 State Bowling Tournament

October 29 Regional Swim Meet

December 3 - 4

State Swim Meet

UNION COUNTY YOUTH GAIN VALUABLE WORK EXPERIENCE

Another year of Project SUCCESS has come to a close, and this summer proved once again to be a great learning experience for the young participants.

As in years past, participants got the opportunity to “try-out” many different types of jobs over the course of their four weeks of work experience. One of WorkNet’s core philosophies is to allow students the chance to try a lot of different jobs.

Sometimes the participants end up liking a job they didn’t think they would like. And, sometimes they don’t care for a job they thought would be a home run. This year, we had more than 20 businesses partner with WorkNet to provide a wide range of employment opportunities to participants.

In addition to their work experience, students took part in a one-week class taught by UCBDD Community Employment Manager Nick Bowsher.

Nick explained, “We have seen many great results of Project SUCCESS over the years. Numerous adults employed in the community today have competed at least one year of Project SUCCESS. The skills they are gaining at this pivotal young age is of the utmost importance.”

First year participant Ben Alexander said, “I had amazing job coaches who encouraged me to try new things. We had great conversations while we worked. The WorkNet staff taught me the skills I needed to get and keep a job, and I most liked being able to try out very different types of jobs to see what I liked best.”

Project SUCCESS has a long history of great results for participants. Many families look forward to their child being able to participate.

Kathy Karcher, mother of Riley, who also was a first-year participant, said, “I knew this would be a great program for Riley to participate in, but I was unsure about how she would handle all of the new people, situations and settings she would be in. I am happy that she enjoyed everything about this program, and my worries were pointless. Her job coaches were so friendly and the job experiences made her feel successful and proud of herself. This experience really helped us to see a little better what her future might look like after high school, and that is a huge blessing.”

Audrey Hazelbaker, first-year job coach said, “Working with Project SUCCESS this summer was life changing. I was able to work with someone that I now talk to



Cutline: Front Row - Patrick Kruse*, Hannah Heifner*, Sharon Vernon*, Mikayla Knox*, Riley Karcher. Back row - Ben Alexander, Caleb Wears, Devon Peraino, Josie Pell, Connor Richardson*, Jevon Knox*, Audrey Hazelbaker *

* Job coach

nearly every day because of the friendship we formed over the summer. I know that while we as job coaches are helping them change their lives with the work experience that they are getting, the participants changed my life just as much!”

WorkNet would like to thank the follow businesses for their participation in Project SUCCESS 2016:

Burger King	Ohio Hi-Point
Minit Lube	JS Snack & Beverage
Holiday Inn Express	Mailings by Brooke
The Copy Source	Amish Heritage
Monarch Sports	Buck Ridge GC
Seeka Designs	Timberview GC
Sunrise Sanctuary	Salon 122
Fit and Fluffy	Big Lots
Union County Treasurer	McDonald’s
Dairy Queen	Little Tony’s Pizza
Plain City Lanes	Der Dutchman
	Worth Repeating



1280 Charles Lane
Marysville, OH 43040

U.S. Postage Paid
Standard Mail
Permit #58
Marysville, Ohio
43040

An old man was walking an ocean shoreline littered with hundreds of starfish. He observed a young boy attempting to save them all by throwing them back into the water.

"You can't save them all," said the old man. "And besides, what difference will it really make?"

The young boy picked up another, threw it in the water and said, "I'm not sure, but I think it will make a difference to that one!"

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MISSION

"To ensure services and supports are available for individuals with developmental disabilities."

VISION

"To be a primary community force that ensures a consumer-driven system and that assists eligible individuals to become full citizens within the community."

CORE VALUES

EXCELLENCE is exceeding the high standards we set for ourselves.

CUSTOMER DRIVEN is identifying and meeting the needs of our customers.

COLLABORATION is partnering with internal and external stakeholders.

INTEGRITY is doing the right thing...period.

STEWARDSHIP is the efficient and effective use of people, time, facilities, money and other resources.

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.

QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS?

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities:
1.877.464.6733 • 1.800.228.5405 (TDD)

Ohio Legal Rights Service: 1.800.282.9181

DIVERSITY: A THOUGHT, NOT AN AFTERTHOUGHT; AN ACTION, NOT A REACTION

"We are all different, which is great because we are all unique. Without diversity life would be very boring."

– CATHERINE PULSIFER



Kara Brown

Diversity can be defined as people coming together from different races, nationalities, religions and abilities to form a group or community.

I believe a diverse community is one that values the differences in people. It is one that recognizes people with different skills, backgrounds and experiences and brings fresh ideas and perceptions.

Diversity among people with disabilities is undoubtedly vast. Acknowledging diversity requires education, training, and

CONTINUED: See Superintendent's Message, Page 2



WHERE OPPORTUNITIES MAKE A DIFFERENCE