

AUTISM NO BARRIER FOR X.C. RUNNER

For the other 79 members of the Bunsold Middle School cross country team, the meets are a chance to compete and display their athletic prowess.

For Garrett Stokes, however, each step along the two-mile course inches him closer toward a life his parents had only dreamed about.

"It's an amazing story," said Garrett's mother, Angie. "It's the first time in my life that I've been able to sit and watch my son participate in a sport."

Garrett is a 12-year-old seventh grader at Bunsold. He also is severely autistic and non-verbal.

Cross country takes individual effort, but it has been the team effort that has made Garrett's season a success.

Garrett has participated in Special Olympics and Miracle League baseball, but without great success. He had a difficult time understanding the concept of the sports and focusing his attention. Angie said she and her husband, Brian, were left with the difficult task of searching for an outlet for their son.



Garrett Stokes gets a hug from his guide, Peter Arbogast, after a meet.

CONTINUED: See Garrett, Page 4

UCBDD LAUNCHES REDESIGNED WEBSITE

RESPONSIVE WEB DESIGN • HLC CLASSROOM PAGES • MOBILE WEB ACCESS

The UCBDD recently launched its redesigned website - www.UCBDD.org.

The new, easy-to-navigate site provides individuals, families, community members and stakeholders with even more relevant and accessible information on services and current events at the Union County Board of DD.

"We are proud of our new website," said UCBDD Superintendent Kara Brown. "We believe it is the tool that will help individuals, families, and community members to easily find the information they are looking for."

The redesign project, which is part of the current strategic plan, was developed to be a useful tool to distribute information. The new site was created in a responsive web design. This approach to web design provides an optimal viewing and interaction experience — easy reading and navigation with a minimum of resizing and scrolling -across a wide range of devices, ranging from desktop computer monitors to mobile phones.



The new www.UCBDD.org includes such enhancements as:

- **Quick access to information:** The website was developed to focus on our visitors' wants and needs. Users will notice streamlined menus - Departments, Parents & Individuals, Providers, Community, Calendars, Forms & Links, Report an Incident and Request for Provider - simple navigation and easy access to information. At a glance, users can view the quick links on the home page. Users can get to where they want with one click.

CONTINUED: See Website, Page 2

INDEPENDENT PROVIDERS STILL A HOT TOPIC



Arlene Porter

I want to share the outcome of the two-year budget that the Ohio legislature passed at the end of June. And, in particular, what is happening with independent providers.

My column in the Summer Kaleidoscope focused on language in the budget bill that would have eliminated the option for independent providers to remain self-employed. Ohio has many independent providers that provide services to individuals with a developmental disability. A variety of these independent providers work right here in Union County.

These independent providers provide people with disabilities with vital homemaker and personal care assistance, such as help with bathing, dressing, cooking meals, and other household chores. People with disabilities choose from certified independent providers and certified agency providers based on personal preferences.

The budget bill did not eliminate independent providers in Ohio, but the topic is still very much alive.

A state workgroup is studying the initiative and will give recommendations to Ohio legislators on whether to eliminate independent providers, and, if so, how it should be done.

The Columbus Dispatch reported July 30 that there was speculation that the new legislation will

likely give individuals direct control over who cares for them and will also include wording that states the state of Ohio will not be the “employer of record” for independent providers.

“Employer of record” is a legal term indicating who is responsible for paying employees, submitting all local, state and federal taxes, and other legal requirements for Ohio employers. This is important to the state of Ohio because under federal labor laws Ohio does not want to be considered the “employer of record” for independent providers. As such, they could be required pay for additional compensation, such as overtime and travel reimbursement. and would be responsible for all employer obligations.

The individual who receives services, a family member, or another representative would likely be considered the “employer of record” instead of the independent provider being self-employed. The person designated as the “employer of record” would be able to use a specific company to handle human resources obligations. The workgroup hopes to complete its report by Dec. 31, with legislation expected to be introduced in early 2016.

If you would like more information on this topic, as well as other items in the budget bill (House Bill 64) that could impact individuals with disabilities, paste the internet address below into your internet browser. If you are receiving the Kaleidoscope electronically, please click below.

<http://www.oacbdd.org/members/state-budget-documents/>

WEBSITE *continued from pg. 1*

- Mobile web access: Visitors can access the website from their handheld mobile devices, such as smartphones or tablets. Mobile devices are becoming the preferred way to access the internet for a majority of people, so we integrated the mobile-friendly version into our new website.
- HLC classroom pages: Each preschool teacher at the Harold Lewis Center has their own classroom webpage, where they can share information about classroom activities and upcoming events.
- E-Communications: The new site now allows individuals served by the county board, families, guardians, providers, community members, and

other stakeholders to provide updated contact information. Through E-Communications, users have an opportunity to sign-up to receive the Kaleidoscope newsletter, closing alerts and text message alerts electronically.

Jen S., an HLC parent, said, “The website is great to quickly look at class newsletters and information. Unlike a piece of paper, the website will never get lost and is easily accessible!”

“We will continue to update and improve the site, so you’ll see more changes over the coming months,” Kara said. “To let us know what you think of the new site, and what more can be done to make the site easier to use, send an email to aporter@ucbdd.org.”

ON THE MOVE



RUSSELL BLANK

Russell is our new Lead Investigative Agent. Prior to joining UCBDD, Russell served as a Grandview Heights police officer. Russell enjoys running, golfing, and spending time with his family and friends.



DEBBIE HOLYCROSS

Debbie recently joined UCBDD as a Service Consultant. Before joining UCBDD, Debbie worked at Memorial Gables as an Activities Assistant. She has a bachelor's degree in human services from Urbana University and is currently working on a master's degree in healthcare administration with emphasis in community health. "I always dreamed of being in the job I am now," Debbie said. Debbie, her husband Jacob, and their 3-year-old daughter Ruby, live near Rushsylvania. Debbie enjoys spending time with family, hiking, biking and enjoying the outdoors.



KATIE MARTIN

Kate recently joined the SLP team at the Harold Lewis Center. She earned a bachelor's degree in speech pathology and audiology and master's degree in speech and language pathology from Kent State University. She recently moved to Westerville from Fort Myers, Fla., to be closer to her family, and is excited to raise her son Nolan as a buckeye!



CHRIS WALDRON

A newly hired Service Consultant, Chris graduated from Mount Vernon Nazarene University with a bachelor's degree in fine art and graphic design. Prior to joining UCBDD, he worked at Creative Foundations. Chris resides in Plain City and enjoys painting, critiquing artwork, solving philosophical and practical problems, and craft beers.



ALI GREENBAUM

Ali recently joined UCBDD as a Receptionist in Support Services. In high school, Ali was active in 4-H and served as the secretary of the Marysville FFA Chapter. She enjoys animals, sports, fishing, sewing, crocheting and music.



TRACEY LECHNER

Tracey is the new EI Speech Therapist at the Harold Lewis Center. She earned a master's degree in speech and hearing science from Ohio State University. She has worked as a private practitioner, providing services to children enrolled in Central Ohio early intervention programs, schools, hospitals and clinics, including her own, and Help Me Grow of Franklin County. Tracey has been active in Dublin City Schools, serving as a booster club president, PTO secretary, and PTO service committee chair. She also is on the OSU Alumni Association Arts and Sciences Scholarship Committee. Tracey and her husband Mark live in Dublin and have raised two successful daughters.



JULIA WALKOWICZ

Julia began her position of Business Office Administrator in August. She has worked for UCBDD for 10 years, most recently as a service consultant. Julia enjoys photographing abandoned places, live music and travel.



LAURA MICHALAK

Laura is the new Director of Operations for UCBDD. Most recently, Laura was the rec/ events coordinator for the City of Marysville. Prior to that she was vice president and branch manager for Liberty National Bank. Laura volunteers at the Personal Needs Pantry of Union County, is a lunch buddy through Big Brothers Big Sisters, is a committee volunteer for United Way of Union County and a member of the Rotary Club of Union County.



JENNIFER SITES

Jennifer began working at the Harold Lewis Center in August as a Physical Therapist. Jennifer has previous experience working in the acute care setting, as well as in the NICU at Ohio Health and at a follow-up clinic for premature infants. She has worked at the Brook's Yates School in Circleville, Ohio, and at Nationwide Children's Hospital. Jennifer enjoys spending time with her husband and six-year-old son. She is a graduate of Ohio State University.

SUPPORT SERVICES

GARRETT *continued from pg. 1*

Last year, Garrett's older sister, Kylie, went out for the Bunsold cross country team and Angie saw an opportunity.

She approached the school district seeking an opportunity for Garrett to participate. She knew he would need an aid to help him through the course. "I doubt Garrett understood what cross country was until he did it," Angie said. "There was no way to explain to him that he would be running two miles."

Head cross country coach Chip Kunkler had worked with runners with autism before, but none as severe as Garrett. He ultimately recruited long-time friend and fellow distance runner Peter Arbogast to be Garrett's guide. Peter is the head coach at Wing and a Prayer Running in Marysville.

Every day at practice and at meets, Peter is by Garrett's side, running alongside him as needed over the course.

"Garrett's relationship with Peter has been the most amazing part of this," Angie said. "It's beyond anything I could have ever imagined."

Coach Kunkler said it was a big commitment on Peter's part. Practice began the last week of July and continues through Oct. 10. Peter commits two hours every afternoon for practice and attends meets on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

At first, Garrett was standoffish and would not participate with the other runners in pre-running

stretching. He would not run alongside his teammates and preferred to lag at the rear of the pack. He was then running the two-mile course in 34:29.

Coach Kunkler said he now enjoys the company of his teammates and the camaraderie of a team sport. Coach Kunkler said he participates in the stretching and likes running in the pack with his teammates. He also has trimmed his time by more than five minutes to 29:21.

"He's really come a long way in a short period of time," coach Kunkler said. "It's all pretty amazing."

Trimming the time is not as important to Angie as seeing how the other members of the cross country team all run out on the course to encourage Garrett down the home stretch.

"It's been so rewarding that I just can't find the right words to describe how great this has been for our entire family," Angie said.

At the end of each practice, the team gets in a big circle while the coaches talk to them. At first, Garrett would see his mother coming to pick him up from practice and break out of the circle. She worried that she would have to stay away in order to keep him in the circle. However, as Garrett acclimated to his teammates and surroundings, there is no leaving the circle until the coach breaks practice.

"It's all so wonderful," Angie said.

SUPERINTENDENT *continued from pg. 8*

They have many of the same hopes, fears, joys, problems and needs as anyone else. Given adequate support and opportunity, people with disabilities lead full lives within their communities.

Mental illness is characterized by disturbances in thought processes and perception and may be temporary, cyclical or episodic. Symptoms of mental illness may occur at any stage of life. Many times, medication can be prescribed to control the symptoms.

Some mental illnesses, such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, have strong biological or genetic components. Having a family history of these conditions is a strong predictor of developing the disease. The presence of the illnesses among family members is often part of how we diagnose the conditions.

Still, the most severe mental illnesses usually respond to medication and therapy. In some cases, it is possible for the person to make a full, sustained recovery.

A biological history isn't a prerequisite for developing a mental illness. Traumatic experiences may be influential. Experiences of abuse or sudden changes in one's life, can trigger mental illnesses.

No one is completely immune. There is still a stigma around mental illness. We often think that if people were only stronger or would just move on and "get over it," then they wouldn't be depressed. No one would ever think of telling a cancer patient to "just get over it!"

Interestingly, people with developmental disabilities may also experience mental illness. In these cases, it is imperative that we work together – the developmental disabilities system and the mental health system – to address the unique needs of the person in order to help them live the best, most productive and happiest life.

Isn't that what everyone wants?

KOLBY IS A CHAMPION IN MANY RESPECTS

The Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & Half Marathon is the most meaningful marathon in the country!

Each mile is dedicated to a Patient Champion, including 24 individuals who have shared their story to inspire the runners and walkers.

More than 180 families applied for their child to be chosen as a Patient Champion. Kolby Sherick, a preschooler at The Harold Lewis Center, was chosen to represent Mile 10.

During her stay in the NICU post-birth, Kolby was diagnosed with Langer Giedion Syndrome, also known as Tricho-Rhino-Phalangeal syndrome. She is such a rare gem as there are fewer than 100 documented cases in the world.

TRPS Type 2 is a skeletal dysplasia syndrome. Kolby will grow to be an average height of 5-feet. However, it may take years to do so! Her bones grow very differently than ours. The ends of her bones grow with rounded edges and she has boney growths on her bones. Her future will require surgeries as those growths cause limited movement, pain and other complications.

Having been through numerous surgeries, therapies, hospital stays and clinic appointments during her first few years of life, Kolby is now an energetic and happy 4-year-old who likes to play soccer and is going to try tap and ballet this fall.



What does a Marathon Patient Champion get to do?

If you know of a small business or individual that would like to be a sponsor for Team Kolby, you can email Jennifer_sherick@hotmail.com!

Donate online at: Nationwidechildrens.org and search for Marathon Miracle Mile Patients/Kolby/ Team Kolby or ask for a print donation form that can be mailed directly to NCH Foundation in honor of Kolby.



2015 GOLF OUTING ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS.



The Union County Board of DD and Senior Services would like to offer a BIG thank you to all the golfers who participated in this year's golf scramble Sept. 11 at Buck Ridge Golf Course. The participation of the golfers, sponsors and volunteers make the golf scramble an enjoyable and first-class event.

Congratulations to Clemans Nelson & Associates, Inc. as they took the winner's trophy back home again with a winning score of 54.

Be sure to save the date for next year's event. The 17th annual outing will be held Friday, Sept. 9

Harold Lewis Center Dates to Remember:

September 11	Grandparents Day
September 21-25	Book Fair
September 21-25	Parent Teacher Conferences
October 2	Pumpkin Patch

October 5-16	Fall Break
November 11	Veterans Day
November 23-27	Thanksgiving Break
December 21 - Jan 1	Winter Break



DOWNSIZE FARM OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES

Oh, Downsize Farm! I've seen your vans everywhere!

That was the first hint of excitement as Downsize expanded into Union County.

Downsize Farm offers both community integration (day habilitation) and employment services in a dynamic format that keeps people engaged in what they enjoy.

Downsize Farm is currently offering services on Wednesdays and Fridays with targeted interest activities in and around the Marysville community. Keith Knutson, a Union County resident, is leading the program as it grows to be deeply embedded in relationship with businesses and community. The Union County program is taking shape with purpose-driven activities in the morning, followed by individualized "finish well" activities that help individuals reduce stress, focus and process information.

Currently, Downsize Farm volunteers at the non-profit Hope Center while learning relationship and work skills. Through the community-centered Friday Equine Activities program, Downsize Farms supports horse interaction at the interest level of the participant.

We are also developing a connection with All-Ability's

new activity center. You may notice that we did not mention a program building. That's because we are not located there. Our 'hub' is a place to plan and launch the day. Very few activities will be housed there.

Downsize Farm is a Supported Employment and Employment First Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) provider, and all the relationships and skills we weave into our programming help carve out jobs as we meet and introduce our people to businesses. Our goal is to ensure that the DD employee is a true benefit to his employer and promotes a satisfying experience for both. We also know that a job is not a life, so we extend program opportunities to allow 'wrap-around' services for workers to continue learning and enjoying with their peers and their community.

Downsize Farm will also begin recruiting for Ohio Shared Living homes in Union County as well as looking for more community program locations.

So watch for more Downsize Farm vans as we bring exciting new choices to the Union County community!

If we can be of service, call us: 937.653.4798.

Pearl Cline, Administrative Director, Downsize Farm

PROJECT SUCCESS WRAP UP

As summer concludes, so does the annual Project Success initiative supported by WorkNet and funded by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities.

This program educates adolescents in various aspects of the professional world via a classroom setting and real work experience. The classroom portion of the program took place the first week of Project Success.

Emily Sattler taught the individuals vocational skills imperative to professional success. Topics included communication skills, networking, and having a positive, persevering work ethic. The classroom portion also included mock interviews where individuals received immediate feedback.

The latter half of the program lasted up to five weeks and included job-site tryouts for the individuals. Participants were asked to commit to 80 hours of work throughout the summer.

Rich Cencula, manager of Minit Lube, said he enjoyed "seeing the kids discover themselves."

"The program gives back more than it takes," said Joni Clayton, owner of The Copy Source. "We would need to do the tasks that the kids are willing to do. It endears a confident feeling that they've given back. It's goodwill."

Throughout the tryouts, participants were stretched out of their comfort zones. They learned how to assess the quality of their work and ask a manager what needed to be done.

The mother of participant Anthony Paul said, "He learned the importance of being on time to work and that some jobs required a dress code. Socially, he was able to meet an entire group of people that he had never interacted with."

CONTINUED: See *Project Success*, Page 7

GRAYSON MAKES A BIG SPLASH WITH CITY POOL

As an adolescent in Union County, there is no better place to spend summer days than the city pool - sunshine, smiling faces and all the nachos and candy you can eat.

The only thing better would be getting paid to enjoy all those things.

This summer, 18-year-old Grayson Green was lucky enough to be that person!

When WorkNet began seeking summer employment for Grayson, the city pool was an obvious choice. Nick Bowsher, Job Developer at WorkNet, said, "Grayson brightens everyone's day. His bubbly personality and sense of humor make him a perfect fit for a customer-service type of job. Plus, he loves food!"

As a result of a partnership between WorkNet and the City of Marysville, and funded by Opportunites for Ohioans with Disabilities, Grayson was able to secure a job as a concessions worker at the Marysville Municipal Pool.

Some of Grayson's job responsibilities included taking food orders and operating the cash register, as well as general food preparation. He also had cleaning duties at the concession stand and throughout the pool complex.

Dawn Burns, a member of the management staff at the pool, said, "Grayson's presence at the pool was benefi-

cial by boosting the morale of our entire staff. His infectious smile made the entire pool a more positive place to work." Burns also noted that Grayson, "built a strong connection with the customers."

Pool Manager Scott Hamilton added, "Grayson brought a smile to not only the patrons of the pool, but to the staff as well. I believe we learned as much from him as he learned from us."

When asked about his summer job, Grayson said he "liked meeting new people and preparing food."

On behalf of Grayson, "WorkNet would like to thank the City of Marysville for a great summer! Grayson truly enjoyed his summer job and as a wise man once said, 'If you enjoy your job, you will never work a day in your life.'"



Grayson Green and his job coach Hannah Heifner.

PROJECT SUCCESS *continued from pg. 6*

The participants also were paired with a job coach. The coaches served as the liaison between management and

program participants to ensure work tasks were communicated correctly and efficiently.

WorkNet would like to thank the following businesses for their support in Project SUCCESS 2015:

Dairy Queen; Minit Lube; The Copy Source; Donato's Pizza; Monarch Sports; McDonald's; Roosters; Law Office of Allen, Yurasek, Merklin & Owens-Ruff; Big Lots; Mitchell's Berries; St. John's Lutheran School Latchkey; Burger King; Little Tony's Pizza; Timberview Golf Club; Fit & Fluffy; Union County Humane Society; Seeka Designs; JS Snack & Beverage; Lovejoy's IGA; Plain City Lanes; Sunrise Sanctuary; Community Market; City of Marysville - Marysville Pool; Amish Heritage Country Market; Buck Ridge Golf Club; and Holiday Inn Express.

WorkNet Dates to Remember:

October 1	Columbus Day*
November 11	Veterans' Day*
November 26-27	Thanksgiving Break*

December 24-25	Christmas Break*
January 1	New Year's Day*
*WorkNet offices closed	



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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

DIFFERENTIATING THE DIFFERENCES

Note: This column was co-authored by Kara Brown, Superintendent of the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities, and Philip Atkins, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Union County



Kara Brown

Many things in our world look similar, but are very different. Some caterpillars become butterflies, while others become moths.

Such is the case with developmental disabilities and mental illness. The two descriptions are often used interchangeably and can appear similar. However, developmental disabilities and mental illnesses originate from different places.

A developmental disability is characterized by limited cognitive ability and understanding identified before age 22. Some disabilities are physical in nature, such as cerebral palsy. Common diagnoses of developmental disabilities include autism, Down syndrome and cerebral palsy. Medication cannot typically restore an individual's abilities limited by a developmental disability.

A developmental disability will be identified early in life. He or she may show signs of developmental delays, such as being late to dress or feed him/herself. Reading and writing also may prove to be more difficult.

CONTINUED: See SUPERINTENDENT Page 4

