

HLC LAUNCHES NEW SCHOOL YEAR



Another school year started Aug. 3 and the Harold Lewis Center (HLC) welcomed 146 children to their first day of preschool.

The Harold Lewis Center has seen tremendous growth in the last several

years. In 2012, HLC had 97 preschoolers. In 2015, that number increased to 110.

As we added more children, we added more classrooms. We have nine classrooms at the Harold Lewis Center and one itinerant teacher, which enables us to reach more children in the community, despite being out of classroom space.

Martha Rockwell is our itinerant teacher. She has 26 years of teaching experience teaching and has taught at the Harold Lewis Center for 22 years.

Educating Children with Disabilities in the Least Restrictive Environment

Union County children aged 3-6 who have a disability in one or more areas of development are eligible to receive services through the Harold Lewis Center in the Least Restrictive Environment in which their needs can be addressed.

Each student has an Individual Education Plan, which contains goals and objectives, supports or services that are needed. A support team determines the most appropriate Least Restrictive Environment for the child. Itinerant services may be provided in such locations as preschools, childcare centers, Head Start programs, in the home, or in a clinic/hospital setting.

What do Itinerant Services Include?

Itinerant services provided through the Harold Lewis Center are designed to assist preschool

CONTINUED: See Harold Lewis, Page 3



"BUILDING STRENGTH THROUGH COMMUNITY"

By Carrie Weigand, Route 33 CrossFit

In the summer of 2016, Brooke Widmer joined the Route 33 CrossFit teen fitness program.

She quickly became a class favorite with the other teen athletes, as well as the coaches. This did not occur because Brooke has Down syndrome, but because she always comes to class with a smile on her face, ready to work hard and encourage others.

She is often the last to finish a workout, but the first to dish out high fives. After six months of attending classes, Brooke had lost weight, built muscle, and most importantly gained a great deal of self-confidence. It was a blessing to so many that Brooke walked into the doors at Route 33 CrossFit as it was the beginning of the new RISE-UP fitness program for individuals with disabilities.



Top row, from left: Bo Owens, Clinton Taylor, Lindsay Beasley, Ann Rausch, Jake Hoffman, Autumn Bumgarner, Riley Karcher, Andrew Wright, Carrie Weigand; Middle row: Hannah Willson, Brooke Widmer, Derek Wallace; Bottom Row: Jesse Ramirez, Kendra Burris, Shannon Daniels, Patrick Malloy

CONTINUED: See Building Strength, Page 6

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

BEING A GUARDIAN CAN BE DEEPLY REWARDING

There are many things I take for granted.

One of those is the ability to speak and make decisions for myself. Of course, like most of you, some of my decisions are good ones. Other times, I make choices that, in hindsight, I may have made differently. Much is the same with many of the individuals we support with a developmental disability.

Sometimes a person struggles to make decisions that impact their lives, even when those decisions are in their best interests. When that happens, the topic of guardianship often comes up in a conversation.

Guardianship is the legal process that takes place when a person can no longer make or communicate safe or sound decisions. This is not something to be taken lightly. Establishing guardianship for a person often removes considerable rights from a loved one.

Guardianship does not mean that the individual will comply with the decisions a guardian may make on their behalf. A parent may seek information on guardianship and be surprised to learn that being a guardian is much different than being a parent.

A guardian is appointed by the probate court and assumes responsibility for the care and management of the person, their estate, or both, of an incompetent person. Reasons why a person may be declared incompetent are mental illness, dementia, alcoholism, medical issues, traumatic brain injury, autism, or other debilitating conditions. For guardians, there

are mandatory trainings, reporting requirements, and other rules.

In Union County, we are fortunate to have guardianship services in the form of Union County Guardianship Services. The Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities partners with this organization to best support our individuals in need of a guardian.



Being a guardian is not easy. Linda Fisher, a Union County guardian and the executive director of Union County Guardianship Services, shared her perspective on being a guardian.

“I find being a guardian deeply rewarding. I am honored to be trusted to safeguard the rights and look out for the best interests of an individual who may not be able to speak for him/her self. Even in challenging cases, I enjoy helping an individual evaluate the risks and rewards of their choices and hopefully learn and grow. I know that my involvement in the lives of my wards makes a difference in their quality of life.”

To learn more about being a guardian, or Union County Guardianship Services, visit their website at www.ucvgp.org or contact Linda Fisher at 937.209.2275.



GOLF OUTING DRAWS 108 PARTICIPANTS

The 18th Annual Golf Scramble hosted by The Citizen’s Committee for People with DD and Friends of the Union County Health Dept. Levy Committee is in the books now! 108 golfers participated in this year’s outing held Friday, Sept. 8 at Darby Creek Golf Course. The growing support from the golfers, sponsors and volunteers, was exciting and a real testament to the success of the event. A special “Thank You” to all! The team of John Henry Ward, Elliott Ward, Justin Krock and Kelly Dee were presented with the Winner’s Trophy for finishing with a low score of 54.



UCBDD Supt. Kara Brown, Elliott Ward, Kelly Dee, John Henry Ward, Justin Krock and Jason Orcena, Union County Health Commissioner

ON THE MOVE



STEPHANIE BRICKNER

Stephanie was recently hired as the new Preschool Coordinator at the Harold Lewis Center. She has a bachelor's degree in special education and a master's in education as an early childhood intervention specialist (Pre-K – 3rd grade) through Ohio State University. She also has a gifted endorsement (K-12) and principal program (Pre-K – 6th grade) through the University of Cincinnati. Stephanie loves spending time with her family, volunteering with the Boy Scouts and at her sons' schools. She also enjoys gardening, reading and hiking.



LAUREN JEFFRIES

Lauren was hired as a Speech and Language Pathologist. She is a graduate from Ohio University with a master's of speech language pathology and a bachelor's of communication sciences and disorders. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, trying new restaurants and spending time with family and friends. Lauren is looking forward to collaborating with teachers, therapists, and parents while working with children and their families.



KATIE MCMAHON

Katie is the new preschool teacher in the monkey classroom. She previously taught second grade at Northland Prep and Fitness Academy and taught a year in Uganda, East Africa. She majored in elementary education P-5 and special education (learning and behavioral disorders) P-12 from Asbury University in Lexington, KY. Katie has spent years working for the Hilliard free summer lunch program and ESL (English As A Second Language) program. She has many fond memories traveling and living in Uganda.



LISA MULLER

Lisa is a new preschool teacher in the giraffe classroom. She brings 18 years of experience and was previously employed with South-Western City Schools. She has a bachelor's and master's of education/special education from Ohio State University. She and her husband Robb have called Marysville home for the past 16 years. They have two sons - Donovan and Riley. Lisa loves spending time with family, singing, reading, and scrapbooking.

HAROLD LEWIS *continued from pg. 1*

students with disabilities achieve growth and development within the Least Restrictive Environment. The itinerant services option includes the services of a traveling itinerant early childhood intervention specialist, as well as speech, language, occupational and physical therapy.

The intervention specialist and related service professionals will provide direct instruction and consultative services to support the child's progress.

Consultative Approach

Depending on the child's needs and goals, the intervention specialist and/or service professionals may find it best to use a consultative approach rather than working one-on-one with the child.

Consultation methods include meetings with the caregivers or modeling techniques and strategies. This assures that the adults working with the child have the necessary tools to

address the child's needs. Greater progress will be seen when all those involved with the child work together to support their needs.

What to Expect

- The intervention specialist and/or service professionals may spend time quietly observing the child in order to document how they are progressing.
- Direct service may be provided within or outside of the classroom, depending on the goals.
- Consultative service will usually require that the teacher meet with the intervention specialist and/or service providers outside of classroom time.
- Each fall and spring, children with itinerant services will be assessed by the intervention specialist using the Early Learning Assessment, an observation-based assessment required by the Ohio Department of Education.

WILLIAM MA HAS LIFE GOAL TO HELP PEOPLE

In 2010, the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities issued a press release on William Ma, who had received a sponsorship for a trained service dog. William had been diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, so the service dog - which he named Polar - would help him with daily tasks.

Kaleidoscope recently sat down with William, now 18, and his mother, Anita, to see what he has been up to since receiving Polar.

William recently graduated valedictorian from Dublin Jerome High School, and has been accepted in the biomedical science program at Ohio State University. He chose this field of study because he wants to work in an area where he can help people.

"I'd like to research medicine and develop more generics for lower income families", he said. Williams someday hopes to "either work in



William Ma

research or continue school for pharmacology."

"I'm excited, but nervous for the social stuff," William said.

Anita said William has a friend from high school in the same program, as well as other friends who will be attending Ohio State. He is looking forward to making some new friends, too!

In addition to his interests in medicine, William also loves to spend time talking with his friends, playing computer games, and helping others. He has a strong faith and is involved in the youth group at his church.

William has been an inspiration to all those around him. He has never allowed himself to be defined by his disability. He has met life's challenges with vim, vigor and determination.

He has set a life's goal for himself and believes he is on his way to achieving it.

SUPERINTENDENT *continued from pg. 8*

Our UCBD family of staff, families, individuals, and providers can make a difference by sharing stories about the contributions that people with disabilities make to further the culture in our community. Every chance we get, we must push the boundaries of community understanding and acceptance.

It is like a balloon that is blown up for the first time. The fabric of the balloon is tight and hard to inflate, so it takes more effort. When the balloon is inflated the second time, it is much easier to fill. By opening this opportunity of sharing, we open our minds and push our community to see people with disabilities as full members of our community.

As we move our community forward, it becomes easier for people to envision someone with a disability contributing in ways they never thought possible, just like it is easier to inflate a balloon the second time.

We must lead the way in creating an environment in which people with disabilities are part of the everyday fabric of our lives. By encouraging our community to think differently, we will begin to see

examples of people with disabilities just being part of their community.

For instance, several people have become members of Route 33 CrossFit - building strength through community - in Marysville. They are now simply part of the gym like many others.

A young man participated in Encore Theater's presentation of "9 to 5" as just another member of the cast.

A young lady had a duet in Marysville High School's spring choir concert, just as many other members of the choir.

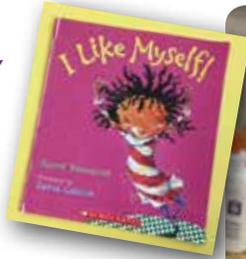
The fantastic part of this is that the UCBD did not have a direct role in making all of these happen. They just happened - like they do for anyone else. For these opportunities to continue to multiply, the UCBD family must take on the responsibility of pushing and encouraging our friends, neighbors, business owners, and others to see people with disabilities as just another member of our community.

If not us, then who, if not me and you, and if not now, then when?

LEWIS CENTER PRESCHOOLERS LEARN "ALL ABOUT ME"

*Inside, outside, upside down,
From head to toe and all around,
I like it all! It is all me!
And me is all I want to be!*

*I Like Myself, by Karen Beaumont;
illustrated by David Catrow*



The hallways of the Harold Lewis Center are filled with the sounds of children singing, laughing and learning as they begin a new school year with new teachers, aides and classmates.

Many of the teachers and aides planned a weekly lesson filled with fun activities for each day focusing on All About Me. This concept allows students to appreciate what they like about themselves and learn about the positive qualities of their new friends and instructors in a fun and imaginative way.

So, we asked the students, "What do I like about myself?"

Starr – "I like that I'm a princess."

Harper – "I like that I go camping."

Jacob – "I like that I love playing with superheroes and dinosaurs."

Brady – "I like me and my cool red shoes."

Caleb – "I like that I love Pizza Hut."

Lincoln – "I like that I can run super, duper fast."

Hunter – "I like that I like playing with cars."

Avery – "I like when I play with my mommy."

Cate – "I like that my mommy puts braids in my hair."

Sunny – "I like that I have long hair."

Leah – "I like that I can have fun even by myself."

Dawson – "I like that I can paint."

Payton – "I like that blue is my favorite."

Avri – "I like that I'm silly."

Jake – "I like that I have fun birthdays."

Darian – "I like that I have fun playing kickball with my friends."

Paige – "I like that I have a sissy to play with."

Mason – "I like that I can watch my brother play football."

Madison – "I like that purple is my favorite."

Harold Lewis Center Dates to Remember:

September 4	Labor Day
September 8	Grandparent's Day
September 25	Parent/Teacher Conferences
September 25-29	Book Fair
October 6	Pumpkin Patch Field Trip
October 9-13	Preschool Fall Break

Oct 31-Nov 2	School Pictures
November 10	No School-Veteran's Day
November 20-24	Preschool Thanksgiving Break
December-TBD	Winter Program
Dec 21-Jan 3	Preschool Winter Break
January 15	MLK Day



IN THE COMMUNITY

BUILDING STRENGTH *continued from pg. 1*

After working with Brooke and seeing the impact she made, not only on her personal fitness but with everyone at Route 33 CrossFit, a collaboration developed between Route 33 CrossFit and the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

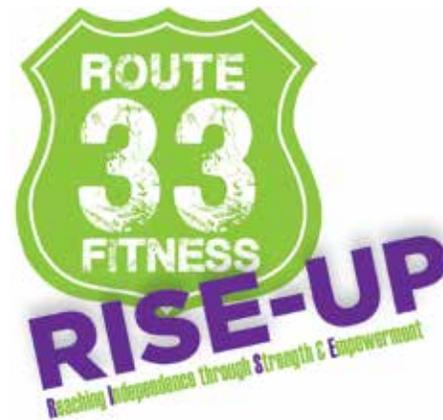
Special Olympics Coordinator Nick Miranda and Route 33 CrossFit owner Carrie Weigand were excited to work together to create a safe routine and physical outlet for individuals with disabilities. The first RISE-UP class on May 23 was a huge success.

RISE-UP - Reaching Independence through Strength and Empowerment - uses CrossFit methodology to improve basic movement patterns, increase strength, and build confidence.

With CrossFit being universally scalable and workout times being short, athletes with disabilities can remain focused, resulting in increased strength and mobility, improved cardiovascular endurance, and improved

function and movement efficiency. And by building physical fitness, they also boost the self-esteem and confidence of participants.

RISE-UP is offered in six-week sessions at Route 33 Fitness, 231 N. Main St, Marysville. Classes meet every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. The next session begins Sept. 21. Contact Carrie Weigand carrie@route33crossfit.com or Nick Miranda nmiranda@ucbdd.org for registration information.



PERSON CENTERED SERVICES DEDICATED TO CORE VALUES

Editor's Note: Each issue, the Kaleidoscope offers a Union County day provider the opportunity to share with readers about events and their organization. This article was provided by Darby Chapman, PCS.

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937.642.1000

www.PCS4dd.com

Contact: Darby Chapman

dchapman@pcs4dd.com



Q: What differentiates your agency from other providers?

A: Person Centered Services' leadership is dedicated to the agency's core values. This is most frequently seen in our relationships with the families and the individuals that we serve. We consider ourselves

partners with families and individuals and we are always 100 percent honest with them. The individuals we serve are adults, and we believe they should be treated as such.

Q: Tell us about your provider activities and services you provide.

A: Our unique service delivery model ensures choice, develops independence, and maximizes the skill set for each individual. This model is delineated into five tracts:

- Pre-vocational activities designed for gaining knowledge and employment skills.
- Career development helps those seeking employment through research and mock trials.



Eric Ramsey enjoys trip to Tennessee

CONTINUED: See Person Center Services, Page 7

Special Olympics Dates to Remember:

September 28 Sectional Bowling Tournament

October 21-22 State Bowling Tournament

October 29 Sectional Swim Meet

December 2-3 State Swim Meet

BURNS HONORED FOR MAKING MARYSVILLE BEAUTIFUL



While traveling through Uptown Marysville, the gorgeous hanging baskets have probably caught your eye.

Recently, Steve Burns was presented a special commendation as an honorary City of Marysville Parks/Maintenance Employee in

honor of his work in making the flowers beautiful. His employment was part of a partnership between The City of Marysville, Custom Staffing Inc. and WorkNet, the community employment division of the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Steve is a seasonal contracted employee of the city through Custom Staffing, a temporary employment business. He works with a job coach to water each of the hanging baskets and planters in Uptown Marysville and at Partners Park. Recently, many businesses joined the project, collaborating

with the Union County Master Gardeners to have flower displays planted and watered by Steve.

“The flowers have brought a splash of color to uptown Marysville,” said Amanda Morris, Recreation/Event Manager for the city. “Steve has been an instrumental piece of this project. He has been very dedicated to bringing beauty to our city.”

City Manager Terry Emery said of Steve, “We really appreciate all the work that you do for the residents and visitors of Marysville.”

Referencing the large crowd that had gathered in the lobby of City Hall, Emery said, “These are all the people that you have an impact on every day, and we thank you for your efforts.”

Steve was presented a personalized City of Marysville Staff Shirt and Hat. The ceremony was held one day before Steve’s birthday, so it concluded with everyone in attendance singing “Happy Birthday.”

PERSON CENTER SERVICES *continued from pg. 6*

- Life skills, such as grocery shopping, meal preparation and cooking.
- Volunteer opportunities, such as Stockhand’s Horses for Healing, W.O.W, a non-profit daycare, and the Salvation Army.
- Community integration with trips to museums, pools, festivals, fairs, and parks.

Q: Can you share an event or activity from this past year that was memorable and so enjoyable that individuals are still talking about?

A: Each Person Centered Services center receives the budget and resources to plan what we call The Annual Big Trip. This is typically a three-day excursion to a location chosen by the individuals we serve.

We believe travel and exploration are important to our individuals. In the past year, our groups have taken trips to Hershey Park in Hershey, Pa., Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg, Tenn., Myrtle Beach, S.C., and Chicago.

We believe everyone has the right to travel, lead healthy lives and socialize with their peers. Our exploration programs allow everyone to lead active and healthy lifestyles. When you give an individual a choice of activities, it challenges them, encourages the growth of their personal abilities, and allows them to socialize among their peers in a safe and accepting environment. The opportunity to explore instills an appreciation of the world around them.

Q: Tell us about your staff and their collective experiences in working with individuals with developmental disabilities.

A: Most Person Centered Services staff members have an average of at least two years of experience. Those that have little or no prior experience, are provided hands-on training and learning materials to enhance their knowledge to help our individuals and quickly learn about each individual and their specific needs.

WorkNet Dates to Remember:

September 4 Labor Day – Offices Closed

October 9 Columbus Day – Offices Closed

November 10 Veterans Day Observed – Offices Closed

November 23-24 Thanksgiving – 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 facilitate support and services that respect the person and their choices."

VISION

"To foster a culture of community acceptance and inclusion that allows everyone an equal opportunity to pursue a fulfilling and meaningful life."

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)

Disability Rights Ohio: 1.800.282.9181

OUR GOAL: SEAMLESS INVOLVEMENT INTO COMMUNITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



Kara Brown

Making a difference is something we take seriously at the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

We frequently talk about how we can make an immediate difference in the lives of people with disabilities through the supports we offer and the decisions we make. We often think about this in terms of making a positive impact in the life of the person with whom we are interacting at that moment.

Make no mistake, there is no greater commitment than being present. However, I believe we have an opportunity and a responsibility to think bigger.

Our opportunity and responsibility to make a difference in our community extends beyond the individuals we support. As we help people with disabilities become more a part of their community, we have an obligation to bring the members of our community along with us.

CONTINUED: See Superintendent's Message, Page 4

**TO ACCESS INFORMATION ON UPCOMING EVENTS,
VISIT WWW.UCBDD.ORG AND CLICK ON THE CALENDAR LINK AT TOP OF PAGE.**

