

UCBDD BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBER



Kim Zacharias was recently sworn in as a member of the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities by Commissioner Charles Hall. Shown at the swearing-in ceremony are, from left, Union County Commissioner Charles Hall, Kim, reappointed board members Teri Lemaster and Doug Ropp, and Judge Charlotte Coleman Eufinger. Lemaster and Ropp were appointed to the Board by Probate and Juvenile Court Judge Charlotte Coleman Eufinger. They are serving their second terms. To learn more about our newest board member, see Kim's bio in On The Move on page 3.



BIRTHDAY WISH GIVES GIRL A LOVING HOME

Written by Polly Green, mother of Zuri

A family can take on many different appearances and forms.

Our family, for example, consists of biological and adoptive children of various races, both healthy and with special needs.

As we journeyed through parenthood, my husband Kevin and I envisioned ourselves being retired at this point in our lives. Never did we imagine being the parents to a 5-year-old needing full care.

Our lives were forever changed on Dec. 9, 2011, by a simple email containing a picture of the most beautiful little African baby girl. She had many needs, but all we saw was a baby who needed a family. This same email was sent to 1,500 families, but due to her extensive health-care needs, we were the only family to inquire.

We are a family strong in our faith, and we began praying for this little girl. I felt she was our



daughter, but Kevin wasn't fully convinced. On February 23, 2012, my birthday, my gift was a daughter. It was the day we said "yes" to Zuri.

Zuri arrived home on July 25, 2013. After a quick stop at home to meet her new siblings, we headed straight to the hospital where she

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

UCBDD DEVELOPS NEW SMART PHONE APP

Do you have a smart phone?

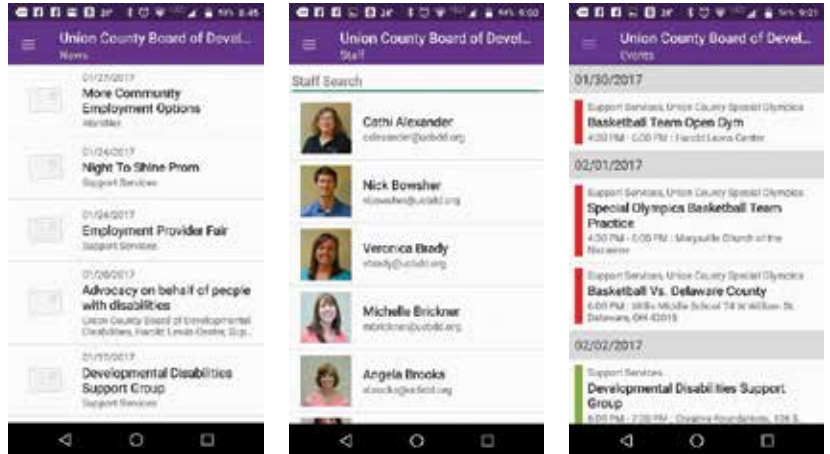
If so, I am sure you have many apps on it - apps that you have downloaded and those that were preselected for you by your cell phone company. I don't know about you, but somewhere along the way, I became dependent on my phone for information that I need to remember - what's going on around me, where I am supposed to be and when, and many other things.

I have chosen apps that help with all the tasks I just mentioned, and more. I have a confession to make. I also have a few gaming apps downloaded on my phone for those times when I just need to check out for a few minutes, or I find myself waiting on an appointment with nothing to do. Everyone needs a solitaire game now and then!

Here at the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities, we are always looking for ways to improve communication between the people we serve and those with whom we work. To assist in those communications, we have created a UCBDD app designed to improve communications and get information to you as quickly and easily as possible.

Since many people use smartphones, it made sense to add an app that was inexpensive and puts information in the palm of your hand. We will use this app to push out communications quickly, such as in a school delay or cancellation. Nearly everything found on our website can be accessed on the mobile app.

Below are a few screenshots that give you an idea how the app will look on your phone.



We invite you to download our app so you can access our information quickly, easily, and exactly when you need or want it.

For those of you with an iPhone, go to your app store and search for "Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities," and download the app. For those with an Android phone, go to your Play Store app to download.

Since not everyone has a smartphone, we also concentrate on other communication methods.

We will continue to look for ways to both improve communication and make information easy to access. You can also get UCBDD information on our website at www.ucbdd.org, "Like Us" on Facebook to receive our posts and interact with us.

Special Olympics Dates to Remember:

March 24 - 25	State Basketball Championship	June 3	Shamrock Invitational
May 7	Denison Spring Games	June 23-25	State Summer Games
May 13	Columbus Classic Spring Games		

ON THE MOVE



KIM ZACHARIAS

Kim is the newest UCBDD board member. Kim was sworn in at the January board meeting. She was appointed by the Union County Commissioners and fills

the unexpired vacancy left by Michelle Cook. Kim recently retired from the Union County Sheriff's office after serving 20 years in law enforcement. Born and raised in Union County, she graduated from Marysville High School and is a lifelong member of St. John's Lutheran Church. She loves spending time with her family and church family, and enjoys volunteering in the community with her church.



KRIS POTRIDGE

Kris was recently hired as a Support Services Manager for UCBDD. He comes to UCBDD with more than 15 years experience in the field while working for

the Franklin County Board of DD. Kris holds a bachelor's degree in sports management from Bowling Green State University and a mas-

ter's in business administration from Franklin University. He moved to Marysville a little over a year ago and is excited to work for an agency that impacts his new community. He enjoys being active playing sports and spending time with his family.



RACHAEL WEIS

Rachael is the new Speech Language Pathologist for the Early Intervention Program, and comes to us from Delaware County where for 15 years she provided

speech therapy services to children enrolled in the Help Me Grow program. Rachael obtained a bachelor's degree in speech and hearing sciences with a minor in family relations and human development from Ohio State University and received her master's degree in communication disorders from the University of Cincinnati. Rachael lives in Powell with her husband and two daughters. Rachael enjoys the outdoors. Her favorite activities are boating, kayaking, hiking, and bird watching.

SUPERINTENDENT *continued from pg. 8*

Our building is expected to reach maximum capacity by April.

We also have seen the number of adults supported by Support Services increase by 20 percent. We continue to closely monitor the number of students graduating from school and entering adult supports. On average, four more students per year enter adult services than we predicted in 2012.

What does this all mean?

In short, we are quickly running out of space at the Harold Lewis Center. In the past two years we have converted a lunch room and a meeting room into classrooms. Unfortunately, we have no more space for additional classrooms.

It is safe to say we are busting at the seams at the Harold Lewis Center. Not only do we see it in the building, but in the parking lot, which is heavily congested during pick-up and drop-off times. Addressing this unprecedented level of growth remains a challenge.

Not only does space become a concern, we must continue to monitor our budget closely. In March 2016, Union County taxpayers graciously approved renewals of two tax levies. At the time, projections showed we would make it to 2020

with that level of funding. Those projections, however, were 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.

It is important to note that while our county continues to grow and new homes and businesses are built, UCBDD realizes a minimal increase in property tax revenue from our levies. Most new construction is occurring in areas covered by Tax Increment Financing or TIF. This means property taxes from that construction are diverted to the county's infrastructure needs.

TIF funds address an important need for a community experiencing growth. However, it does not help our agency manage the increasing number of people seeking services.

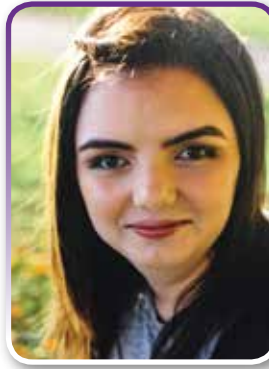
2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the creation of county boards of developmental disabilities. We have served and supported people since the late 1960s. We will continue to support those eligible for our services into the future, regardless of how many people walk through our doors.

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

SUPPORT SERVICES

FUTURE BRIGHT AS EMMA HEADS TO OHIO STATE

Prelude: Emma is a student at Marysville High School. She has been diagnosed with a visual impairment. In addition to her academics, Emma participates in the school book club and is an avid reader. Emma attends youth group and Bible study outside of school activities. One of her favorite places to volunteer with the youth group is the VanBuren Homeless Shelter in Columbus. Emma enjoys spending time with her family, usually playing board games or video games. Emma is an extremely dedicated worker and continues to work with a mobility coach to map her new campus. She was recently approved for a guide dog that she will meet and train with over the summer while she prepares for college orientation. The future looks bright for Emma and we cannot wait to see what she will accomplish! Congratulations, Emma.



My name is Emma Dennis. I have lived in Marysville my entire life. However, starting in the fall, I will be making a big step to the big city.

In November, a few days before Thanksgiving, I was accepted into The Ohio State University in

Columbus. I will major in criminology and minor in pre-law. I may also double major in psychology.

After I graduate, my plan is to continue on to law school at Ohio State. Through the Union County WorkNet program, I developed a love for the legal system. The past two summers I have been granted the opportunity to work at both a local defense office and the Union County Prosecutor's Office.

These experiences cemented my desire to become an attorney. I really enjoy coming up with unique ways to solve difficult problems, and I also really like helping people. These are both huge parts of being an attorney.

I have a long road ahead of me before I can get to where I want to be. But I am really excited to get started. With seven years of school in front of me, I'll need to have a little fun along the way to keep me sane, and trust me, I plan on having fun along the way. I did not work this hard for all these years for nothing.

JAKE EXCELLING BOTH ON AND OFF THE COURT

Jake Hoffman, 24, has lived in Marysville with his family for the past 17 years. He has a brother and a sister, who have since moved away, but keeps in close contact with Jake through social media and occasional visits. Jake hopes someday to move out on his own with his friends.

Jake attended Marysville Schools in the special needs program from kindergarten through high school. He was diagnosed with a developmental delay and speech apraxia. He loved school, especially his teachers, and took pride in his accomplishments. He worked in the cafeteria during his high school years.

Jake has always been very social and loves being with his friends and family.

Throughout his school years, Jake participated in Special Olympics. He is very competitive and enjoyed being on a team. He likes all sports, including basketball, track, softball, football, golf and soccer. He was especially proud when his friends, teachers and family came to events to cheer and watch him play.

After graduating high school, Jake did not have the opportunity to continue his athletic endeavors on a team. While other communities offered adult Special Olympics programs, Marysville did not. They considered moving so Jake could participate and feel a part of something again.

However, things have changed in Union County, benefitting Jake and other Special Olympians.

Union County now has a program that gives adults opportunities to participate in competitive sports. It's such an awesome sight to see them huddle together at the end of a game and shout,



CONTINUED: See Jake, Page 7

HAROLD LEWIS CENTER

BIRTHDAY WISH *continued from pg. 1*

was admitted and began a series of tests. Her diagnosis included cerebral palsy, epilepsy, very limited vision, a need to be tube fed, non-verbal, asthma, and a number of other medical issues.

Despite all of Zuri's needs, we could never imagine our lives without her - the smiles, cuddles, and the pure joy she brings our family. Zuri is blessed with many siblings who adore her. Rarely do you find Zuri not being held or loved on. She has taught our family much more than we could ever teach her.

She has taught us all to accept others regardless of their needs, to not be afraid when others have seizures, are tube fed, or spend their life in a wheelchair. Often times, people say she is lucky to have us. That may be true, but we feel we are the ones blessed to have her.

A highlight of Zuri's past year occurred in October when Make a Wish granted her a therapy room. Her room consists of a water bed, surround sound under her bed that vibrates the water movement, mats, a recliner (for the many cuddles), a swing and a huge lighted wall carpet.

This 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.

Zuri's life will not last nearly as long as others her age. For now, we will continue to cherish each and every day we have with her, finding new joy in our days. To think of all the blessings we would have missed if we had not said "yes" to this perfect, beautiful Ghanaian princess.



Polly and her adopted daughter, Zuri, relax in her therapy room.



The Green family poses for a holiday portrait

Harold Lewis Center Dates to Remember:

March 20-31	Spring Break	May 19	Zoo Trip
April 10	Parent Teacher Conferences	May 29	Memorial Day
April 14	Holiday	June 8	Last Day of Preschool
May 12	Zoo Trip	June 8	Preschool Graduation



CREATIVE FOUNDATIONS: INDEPENDENCE, CHOICE, OPPORTUNITY

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 Tiffany Bowen at Creative Foundations.

Creative Foundations' mission is to provide individuals with independence, choice, opportunity and security. They strive to intensify their commitment to such pro-social values as kindness, helpfulness, personal responsibility, equality and respect for others.

These are qualities they believe are essential to leading humane and productive lives in society. Their services include integrated day services, employment first and supported living. They offer a community-based day program giving individuals choices for community integration, as well as employment as a paid artist at Our Town Studios.

Their competitive employment services are designed to give an individual the supports they need to work as independently as possible in the community. Working through a team process, Creative Foundations offers a supportive living program that allows individuals to live independently in the community, based on their abilities.

Integration is the goal, and they love to have fun while doing it. They have a video production team and a photography studio, where they are always working on various projects.

Be sure to check out and subscribe to their YouTube channel under Creative Foundations. Their paid artists have worked with many businesses in the community, including a project with the Columbus Zoo where they made paintings of many of the animals and donated funds from sold artwork to the Cheetah Conservation Fund.

Much of their art hangs throughout Ohio and beyond, and they are always seeking ways to get involved in their community and collaborate on projects.



Mark Henwood



Leslie Rimmer



(Left to Right)– Amanda Brodess, Michael Flynt



(Left to Right) – Sylena Nixon, Kim Hogle, Heather Kroninger



(Left to Right) – Angie Alatorre, Amanda Brodess, Eric Ferko, Paul Day, Amber Sanders, Betty Cline. Front row: unidentified Columbus Zoo staff

JACOB GOES 'KROGERING' WITH HIS NEW JOB

As residents in the Marysville area have noticed, a new and improved Kroger store recently opened on West Fifth Street. The new Kroger Marketplace is over twice as large as the former store, which was just down the road.

Kroger Marysville has had a long history of being a great employer of people with disabilities in Union County. In addition to a much larger selection of products, this new store has created many new jobs in town.

One of those new employees is Jacob VanScoy.

Jacob has received employment services through WorkNet since high school.

"The WorkNet staff has helped me a lot over the years," Jacob said. "Getting my new job helped me in many different ways. They worked with me when I filled out the application and had a job coach with me when I first started. Jacob's job development and job coaching services were funded in partnership with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities and his counselor, Dave Cingle.

"I like helping customers. I enjoy talking to them when they come through my line and making sure that they found everything they were looking for in the store."

One of Jacob's Supervisors, Mary Anne Mannasmith, said, "Jacob is very kind and courteous to all

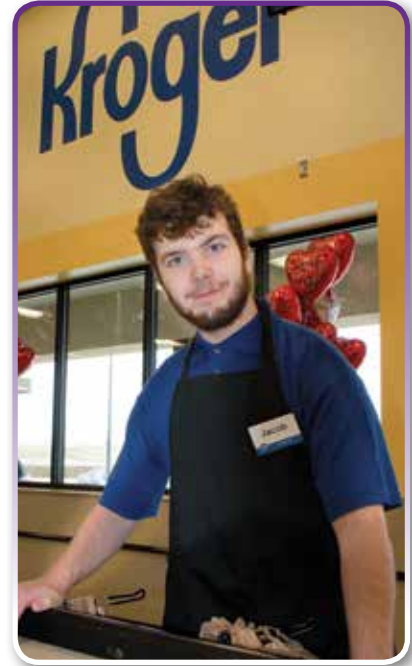
customers in the store. He does a great job of paying attention to detail when bagging items. He gets along with all his co-workers and always has a smile on his face. He's a pro!"

Jacob said his new job has been the result of many years of growth and learning on his part.

"I have worked other jobs and learned something from each," he said. "None of them were my dream job, but

I was able to get many different work experiences. Now I have a feeling I am going to be at Kroger for a long time."

Because of this growth in independence, Jacob is now looking at moving into his own apartment. The value of being employed in the community cannot be overstated!



JAKE *continued from pg. 4*

"Go Cougars."

Union County Coordinator Nick Miranda and his volunteers continue to make this program grow and succeed. Along with the thrill of competition, the program also helps participants in the development of organizational and leadership skills, socialization, discipline, and most of all team work.

"I enjoy being with my friends, making new friends and being part of a team," Jake said.

His parents said the Special Olympics program focuses on Jake's strengths and helps his confidence and self-esteem.

Jake is employed with AVI at Honda's East Liberty Plant. His work schedule still enables him to attend practices and games. He also works at Fiesta Grande on Friday evenings, and helps his dad renovate houses. He participated in the construction trade class for two years in high school, and someday hopes to own his own business.

In his leisure time, Jake enjoys riding his ATV, playing his Xbox in his man cave, and cutting grass on his John Deere tractor.

WorkNet Dates to Remember:

March 16, 4-6 p.m. Provider Fair at Union County Services Center



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!"

(937) 645-6733 • (888) 644-8145
board@ucbdd.org
www.ucbdd.org

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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)
Ohio Legal Rights Service: 1.800.282.9181

UCBDD GROWTH IS UNPRECEDENTED



Kara Brown

It is exciting to be a resident of Union County today!
Our county is experiencing a period of unprecedented growth. With this growth, we welcome more retail choices, such as Costco and Meijer; additional businesses, like Bluebird Retirement Community and Miroku; additional homes; and cutting-edge technology, like that being proposed for the 33 Innovation Corridor.

Without question, great things are happening in our county. This includes a significant increase in the number of residents and an increase in the number of residents with disabilities.

We have been talking about our growth at the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities (UCBDD) for several years. This year is no different, except our growth has accelerated considerably in the last 12 months.

For example, our Early Intervention Program served 27 children in January 2016. One year later, the number is 56, an increase of more than 100 percent.

While the percentage is smaller in pre-school, the impact is just as large. During the same time period, our pre-school program grew 17 percent - an increase of 17 students on an Individual Education Plan and 10 peer models.

CONTINUED: See Superintendent's Message, Page 3

