



DATES TO REMEMBER

► SEPTEMBER	
22 – Covered Bridge Bluegrass Festival 17141 Inskip-Cratty Rd., North Lewisburg	
24 – Parent/Teacher Conferences	
26 – 6pm Union County Foundation Celebration Honda Heritage Center	
28 – Pumpkin Patch Field Trip	
30 – 12pm Dublin Pet Fair Coffman Park Pavillion	
► OCTOBER	
2 – Pumpkin Patch Field Trip	
5 – 6pm Friday Nights Uptown - Oktoberfest Partners Park	
7 – 12pm Colo's Classic Car Show Columbus Zoo & Aquarium	
8-12 – Fall Break	
13 – 12pm Fall Festival and National Pumpkin Weigh - Off Oakland Nursery	
14 – 12pm B.R.E.A.D! Festival Coffman Park	
18 – 3:30pm Halloween Spooktacular Dublin Community Recreation Center	
19 – 6pm The Legends of Marysville Union County Courthouse	
27 – 10am Scarysville Marysville Historic District	
30 – Picture Day	
31 – Picture Day	
► NOVEMBER	
1 – Picture Day	
12 – Veteran's Day (Observed) - HLC Closed	
19-23 – Thanksgiving Break	
22 – 9am Pumpkin Dash 5K Run Partners Park	
26 – 5pm Uptown Christmas Walk Partners Park	
► DECEMBER	
1 – 11am Holly Days Historic Dublin	
2 – 2pm Marysville Christmas Parade Uptown Marysville	
21-Jan 4 – Winter Break	
21 – 6pm Uptown Shop & Dine Uptown Marysville	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Harold Lewis Center ■ Community Events – Additional list of events visit www.ucbdd.org 	

Athlete Accomplishes Impressive Goal

In August 2017, Union County Special Olympics athlete Anthony Cipriano set a personal goal to live a healthier life style and lose weight.

His goal was to get from 376 pounds to under 300. A year later, he has lost 77 pounds to get to 299 pounds, beating his goal by a pound.

Anthony said that his weight loss success is the result of three different aspects of his life – Route 33 Fitness, the Union County Special Olympics program, and his new job.

Anthony began attending the Rise Up program at Route 33 Fitness in August 2017. He is now attending the Rise Up program, combined with three separate sessions a week with his personal trainer, Jesse Ramirez.

“When I began working out at Route 33, I could not run at all,” Anthony said. “I can now run up to a mile, which is incredible for me.”

Anthony said that his favorite thing about Route 33 Fitness is the variety of exercises that he performs and the connections he makes with other community members. He also picked up on healthy eating habits at Route 33 Fitness. According to Anthony, part of his weight loss can be attributed to cutting all fast food and diet soda from his diet.

Anthony, a 2010 graduate from Marysville High School, has received services from the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities for several years. He resides in Marysville with his family and has participated in Special Olympics in Union County for 12 years.

Anthony currently participates in bowling, bocce ball, and basketball. He is excited for the basketball season to begin and is hoping that the team can win the Division 5 state title. He was a member of last year's team, which lost in the state quarter finals.

Anthony is currently a production associate with Advanced Technology Products (ATP). He credits the training program through the former WorkNet staff for helping him gain the work experience and on-the-job training needed to obtain his job at ATP.

Anthony says that his job is always keeping him on the move and that he is always drenched in sweat by the time he gets home. He says that moving around all day at his job instead of sitting has helped him lose weight and helps keep him in shape for Special Olympics.

Many people would stop working hard once they have reached a significant goal, but not Anthony. He has already moved onto his next goal of losing another 74 pounds in hopes of getting his weight down to 225.



October 2017



March 2018



SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE

UCBDD Earns 3-Year Accreditation



Kara Brown

We are excited to announce that the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities has been accredited by the state for the quality services and supports it provides to individuals with disabilities.

What does this mean for you?

You can be assured our staff have a passion for coordinating quality person-centered services, and providing supports that respect the person, their choices, and promotes community inclusion.

Many of you face daily challenges that others take for granted. The routine tasks many of us perform every day can be extremely delicate and difficult for some of you. We take great pride assisting you, your families, and caregivers to identify and obtain appropriate services and supports.

Here in Union County, our community has a variety of activities in which you can engage, and we are committed to making sure you have the opportunity to participate in these activities as you so desire. Finally, it shows that your tax dollars are well spent in supporting people with disabilities.

How is accreditation achieved?

A comprehensive review of the County Board is conducted by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). The accreditation review is a very rigorous and thorough process, spanning several months. DODD performs an intense review of documentation, conducts on-site visits, and interviews people receiving supports from UCBDD.

DODD found that the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities achieved substantial compliance with minimum standards and subsequently obtained a three-year accreditation in DODD's areas of excellence.

This recognition wasn't just the result of work performed during the review. It was the result of the excellence with which staff performed their professional responsibilities day-after-day, month-after-month, and year-after-year.

This achievement is a result of our staff's belief and practice of our core values of Excellence, Customer-Driven, Collaboration, Integrity and Stewardship.

History Comes to Life at the Harold Lewis Center

By Martha Rockwell

Note: The Kaleidoscope, the newsletter of the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2018. To recognize that milestone, Kaleidoscope is publishing reflection pieces this year in order to recognize the people and events that helped shape the organization we have become. On Aug. 17, three very special guests – Miriam Elliott, and Harold and Viola Burns – visited the staff at the Harold Lewis Center to share their stories of the early days of championing for children with disabilities in Union County.

MIRIAM ELLIOTT

When Miriam and Lowell Elliott's baby boy began experiencing seizures when he was just a few months of age, their doctor encouraged them to have him institutionalized, predicting that he would not live more than a year.

The boy they had named Keith had been born with a rare condition called Sturge-Weber syndrome. This neurological disorder, which occurs only once every 20,000-50,000 births, is marked by a distinctive port-wine stain on the face. The birthmark is caused by an overabundance of capillaries near the surface of the skin. Blood vessels on the same side of the brain might also be affected. Admittedly, for a child born with a disability in 1958, Keith's prospects were not good.

The Elliotts ignored the doctor's suggestion, and Keith celebrated his 60th birthday this year.

But the Elliott's determination not to institutionalize their son and raise him at home, is only the beginning of the story.

In those days, the predecessor to today's Harold Lewis Center was the School of Opportunity, which at the time was housed in a renovated truck stop at the corner of Scottslawn Road and Industrial Parkway. When Keith was old enough to attend school, Miriam enrolled him in the class taught by Mrs. Clifton "Betty" Brown.

Keith had never been away from his mother, and things didn't go well. In fact, he cried every day. Miriam began volunteering at the school to be near her son and offer him emotional support.

After volunteering at the school for two years, Miriam was asked to replace a teacher who had resigned. She taught the class for the oldest children at the School of Opportunity for six years.

Miriam said her goals for each student were centered around one simple idea. "We just wanted each one to do what they could," Miriam said.

The School of Opportunity continued to grow and moved to the old Broadway School in Broadway around the same time that the Union County Board of Mental Retardation was created in 1967.

The School of Opportunity struggled financially throughout Miriam's tenure.



Miriam and Keith Elliott

"We just had to make do because we had nothing," she said.

Miriam's students made crafts that they sold to support the school, and when the county board placed a .5 mil levy on the ballot in the fall of 1969 to support the school, Miriam and others traveled hundreds of miles throughout the county to promote the levy to various social clubs and women's groups.

Their message must have struck a chord with voters, because the levy passed.

HAROLD AND VIOLA BURNS

Harold and Viola Burns adopted their son, Steve, when he was just a few weeks old.

"We didn't know about Steve's disabilities immediately," Viola said. "He didn't talk much until he was about 5, but he hasn't quit since."

Steve attended the School of Opportunity during the same time period as Miriam Elliott's son, Keith.

Viola volunteered her time helping in the classrooms and delivering lunches that she would pick up from the public schools each day.

Both Harold and Viola initially served on the Union County Council for Retarded Children, and later served as board members for the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

In 1980, mothers from each of Ohio's 88 county Mental Retardation programs were honored by Governor James Rhodes in ceremonies held at the statehouse in Columbus. Viola was named as the Union County Program for Mental Retardation "1980 Mother of the Year," recognizing her efforts in support of the program.

Mrs. Burns was involved in the Union County Program for more than 15 years as a volunteer in the school, workshop and various fundraising projects, as well as serving as a levy campaign worker and board secretary to the Union County Council for the Mentally Retarded.

Steve turned 60 this year. He is employed by the City of Marysville.

Steve is known as the "Watering Guy," and from May through September he is responsible for watering the beautiful hanging flower baskets and planters that adorn the uptown business district. If you are out early in the morning, you may see him hard at work.



Steve, Viola and Harold Burns

Students gain experience during 'Summer Youth' programs

By Nick Bowsher, Community Employment Manager

The list of summer activities for a high school student usually consists of sleeping in, watching television, going to the pool with friends and, of course, checking off the chore list that mom and dad leave on the refrigerator. For 16 local students, their summer included participating in a Summer Youth work program put on by a local employment provider.

Funded by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD), providers can offer two different summer programs for eligible students.

The Career Exploration program is for students starting to think about work. Students are able to job shadow at a variety of different places over the course of three weeks and attend a work skills class. This is a great introduction to work and checking out possible career options.

The Work Experience (WE) program is for students who have already completed the Career Exploration program in a previous summer. Students participating in the WE program attend a work skills class and are able to get four weeks of paid work experience. Students typically are placed in two-four different settings to get a real sense of what it would be like to do different types of work.

Getting paid each week is a huge motivator for students as most have never received a paycheck. Students also work with a job coach.

Steve Moceri, father of first-year participant Josh, noted, "The summer program was a great opportunity for Josh and provided a broad range of perspectives on different jobs he may be interested in. I'm excited to see where the program can help take him in the future."

"Summer Youth is a great opportunity for our students to learn what employment looks and feels like," said Union County OOD counselor Erin Willoughby. "Today, many students don't get that opportunity. We

want them to learn about what jobs are out there in today's world as well as what it means to be an employee. They learn many things from soft skills, employer expectations and how to communicate and interact with others on a job site. Each service is meant to bring out each student's strengths as well as areas of improvement."

One very important piece of having a successful summer program is having several willing employers.

Penny Wood, owner of A Way Out Employment Services, said, "We had good community partners who allowed us to do the Summer Youth program at their business. We had a very productive summer, resulting in one of our youth hired in a part-time position after school."

Many businesses in Union County have opened their doors for the summer and allowed individuals to work in their business and get some real-world experience. In addition to getting extra hands for the summer, it is an opportunity for employers to showcase a great workplace.

There have been numerous examples where a student who did a summer job tryout ended up becoming an employee of the business.

UCBDD would like to congratulate all the students who took part in a Summer Youth program.

A large number of adults served through UCBDD that are employed today have participated in a similar program in the past. We believe the participation in these programs directly relate to successful employment situations later in life.

If your business is interested participating in the program, contact Nick Bowsher at nbowsher@ucbdd.org.

ON THE MOVE:

RETIREMENTS:

Cheryl Gugel, who started working for the Board in 1989, retired in August as our business manager. Her best memories are of the people she has had the pleasure to work with and the people we serve. She and her husband Bob are going to spend time traveling the country and looking forward to their youngest daughter's wedding.



Andy Shippet, who was a UCBDD employee for more than 20 years, retired in August as our facilities manager. One of Andy's best memories will be the cast of characters he has worked with through the years. He is looking forward to relaxing on his Granville farm with his wife, Liz.



Mark Smith will retire in October as a custodian after working at UCBDD for 20 years. Mark said that the growth of UCBDD is something he'll never forget. He is looking forward to sleeping until 6 a.m.



NEW STAFF:

Cole Chapman, facility manager, started his new position Aug. 31. Cole previously served as a senior maintenance technician in the corporate facilities department at The Scotts Miracle Gro Company.



Mandi Mayse is our new community relations coordinator. Mandi loves spending as much time as she can with her husband, Austin, and step-son, Owen. Mandi is a graduate of The Ohio State University and is the middle school head coach for the Hilliard Lynx Field Hockey Club.



Brad Brouhard recently joined the UCBDD as a service consultant. Prior to his current position, Brad had more than twenty years of experience in county board services as an employment specialist, habilitation specialist, SSA, and SSA supervisor. Brad has a bachelor's degree from Wright State University and a master's degree from Liberty University. Brad and his wife have three children who are active in running, biking, and hiking.



Kris Anderson is a new service consultant. Kris received a bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University. He worked for the Shelby County Board of Developmental Disabilities for 15 years prior to joining Union County. Kris has a daughter in first grade and a son who is a sophomore in high school. He enjoys watching football and being outdoors.



Jennifer Carrick has joined the UCBDD family as a service consultant. She earned a bachelor of arts in communication and public relations and a master's of education in adult learning and development from Cleveland State Uni-



versity. She also is a certified trauma practitioner. She recently moved to Marysville from Medina with her two Devon Rex cats. A coach's daughter, Jennifer loves all sports, especially football.



Amanda Caprella is in her 10th year of teaching and her first year with the Harold Lewis Center. She is married to her high school sweetheart, Mikey. She is mother to a stepdaughter, Teagan, 6; and Connor, 1; and Cooper, 7 weeks. They live in Delaware. She has a bachelor's degree in special education from The Ohio State University. Amanda's hobbies include exploring local parks with her family, running, cooking, reading, and watching movies.

Kelsey Gugel is the new preschool teacher for the Frog room at the Harold Lewis Center. She is a recent graduate of Bowling Green State University, and holds a bachelor's in science in education with two teaching licenses. She was born and raised in Marysville and grew up with the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities, attending the Harold Lewis Center as a peer model. Kelsey loves to spend time with family, play with her two kittens, bake, and plan her 2019 wedding.



Abby McWilliams is a new a preschool teacher at the Harold Lewis Center and this is her first year teaching. She grew up in Worthington and graduated from Ohio Dominican University in December. In her free time, she enjoys running, playing with her puppy, Crosby, and planning her wedding.



Cherie Pugh is the new preschool aide in the Butterfly room. "I've been blessed to work with children for more than 25 years. I love watching the students grow and reach their goals," she said. She and her husband and three children love to spend time together. They enjoy the beach, watching movies, and music.



Erin Weber is a new preschool teacher at the Harold Lewis Center. She previously taught kindergarten and preschool in Columbus and Upper Arlington. Erin is a graduate of The Ohio State University and Mt. Vernon Nazarene University. She loves to read, craft, bake treats and has earned the title of "Favorite Aunt" by spending as much time as possible with her niece.



Sara Winfield has returned to UCBDD as an aide in the Giraffe classroom in the Harold Lewis Center after staying home with her children for 14 years. All three of Sara's children attended HLC. Sara enjoys crafts and crocheting.



Alma Yoder, was recently hired as an instructor assistant in the Owl room at the Harold Lewis Center. She worked as a substitute for the past four years at HLC. Alma worked with preschoolers in a variety of settings through the years. "It's always a good day when I get to spend it with five-year olds," she said.



PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT

Agency Name:
**Downsize
Farm Support
Services**



Address:
806 N. Parkview Rd.,
Woodstock, Ohio 43084

Phone: 937.834.4277
E-Mail: bob@downsizefarm.com
Website: www.downsizefarm.com

What differentiates your agency apart from other providers?

Downsize Farm embraces a whole-life viewpoint. We believe that we are here to be a passage and a partner of help and hope to assist individuals live purposeful and productive lives. We are deeply embedded in the fabric of our communities, creating customized employment and opportunities to engage, create, enjoy and thrive.

Tell us about your provider activities and services you provide.

Downsize Farm provides Ohio Shared Living, Homemaker Personal Care (HPC), non-medical transportation, career development, day habilitation services, and respite. Through our Just Right Jobs division, we offer hands-on discovery and assessment, transition and career preparation through county funds, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) and vocational day program services. We also provide the Summer Employment Experience programs through county boards and OOD.

Share an event or activity from this past year that was memorable and so enjoyable that individuals are still talking about it.

Last year was our tenth anniversary celebration, and the community, County Board staff, families and individuals were invited to rock the night away with a live band and pig roast at our farm location. In true farm style, there were hay bales, bonfires, and a great time for all celebrating and recounting the years of service with Downsize Farms in photos and memories. Staff were recognized as the backbone of a successful and caring program. The evening culminated with treats baked by our commercial food service class and cutting the anniversary cake with a promise of a great next ten years.

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

Downsize Farms is very fortunate to have a great collection of staff, each specifically talented and energetic and bringing a wealth of interests and connections to share. We have retired nurses, teachers, commercial artists, art teachers, former County DD employees and job specialists. Many of our staff have loved ones with disabilities. They bring a dedication and understanding that cannot be taught.



Nancy Bendler proudly shows off her artwork



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INSIDE!



▶ **Team Effort Earns UCBDD 3-Year State Accreditation**
See article on page 1



▶ **Special Olympian Sheds 77 Pounds in 6 Months; Shooting for Another 75**
See article on page 1

Making memories for a lifetime

By Sam Cook and Abby Porter

This year, 37 children who receive services from the UCBDD have accessed funding from the Kathryn Marsh-Coleman and James Coleman Memorial Scholarship Fund through the Union County Foundation.

The Scholarship Fund is designed to send Union County children with disabilities and special needs to camp. The fund was created by the estates of Kathryn Coleman and her son, James Coleman, who received services through the UCBDD.

James was not able to attend summer camp as a child due to the lack of awareness and support for people with developmental disabilities. Kathryn had one day dreamed of starting a summer camp on her farm.

However, Kathryn died in 2004 before the dream became a reality. After James passed away in 2010 at the age of 73, the farm was sold and the proceeds used to start the Kathryn Marsh-Coleman and James Coleman Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Since then, the scholarship fund has been breaking down financial barriers and allowing other children to live out Kathryn and James' dream by sending them to summer camp. Candidates can apply for up to one week of camp funding to any camp they want.



Violeta gives Clifford a warm hug



Children have attended a wide variety of camps including Camp Nuhop, Columbus Zoo Camp, Braille Camp, and Robot Academy.

Violeta Mosquera attended Buddy Camp during the summer of 2018. She is six-years old and was diagnosed with autism. She attended the six-week day program thanks to collaborative funding from the Coleman scholarship, along with funding provided by the UCBDD.

"I love buddies," Violeta said. "It's so cool to have nice kids playing with me. The best part is going to the park and having fun activities with your new friends."

Her parents said she wouldn't have been able to attend without the community support.

"We are very grateful to Union County and the team at UCBDD," said her father, Julian. This camp is very important for Violeta's development and improvement. The funding helps provide a better life outlook for her."

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.

OACB Launches Guide

ProviderGuidePlus, a new on-line tool that allows people with developmental disabilities and their families to find, compare, and rate DD service providers, is now live statewide.

ProviderGuidePlus functions similarly to Angie's List and other popular consumer rating websites. The site, which launched in May, is free to use and reviews are submitted anonymously. To find or rate a provider, visit www.providerguideplus.com.

The tool is the result of three years of collaborative efforts between Ohio Association of County Boards of DD, the Ohio Provider Resource Association, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, and parent and family groups.

