

DATES TO REMEMBER

► JANUARY

Winter Break – runs through Jan. 4

Wildlights at the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium – runs through Jan. 6

The Power of Poison Exhibition at COSI – runs through Jan. 13

9 – Special Olympics Young Athletes

10 – 6pm UCSO Basketball Game Vs. Marysville High School Special Olympics

18 – 6pm Uptown Shop & Dine

21 – MLK Day – HLC Closed

23 – Special Olympics Young Athletes

24 – PAC Event – Erica Carlson, Magician

27 – Enchanted Princess Ball of Columbus (3 shows)

► FEBRUARY

6 – UCSO Basketball Game Vs. Worthington Special Olympics

6 – Special Olympics Young Athletes

11 – 8:30pm Trivia Monday at Local Cantina Dublin

12 – UCSO Basketball Game Vs. Marion County Special Olympics

15 – 6pm Uptown Shop & Dine

15-19 – Winter Break

18 – Presidents Day – HLC Closed

20 – Special Olympics Young Athletes

25 – Parent/Teacher Conference Day

25 – Scholastic Book Fair – runs through March 1

26-28 – Spring Pictures

► MARCH

22-23 – Ohio Special Olympics State Basketball Tournament

6 – Special Olympics Young Athletes

15 – 6pm Uptown Shop & Dine

16 – 11am Dublin St. Patrick's Day Parade

20 – Special Olympics Young Athletes

25 – Spring Break – runs through April 5

- Harold Lewis Center
- Special Olympics (SO)
- Community Events
– Additional list of events visit www.ucbdd.org

Who Was Harold Lewis?

Untold numbers of Union County children and families have passed through the doors of Harold Lewis Center since its opening in June 1982. With busy children in tow, parents may not have noticed the photo of the distinguished gentleman that adorns the school entrance, or stopped to ponder the question: Who was Harold Lewis?

Kaleidoscope seeks to answer that question by remembering the legacy of a man who was not only devoted to his community, but who had a vision of a better future for children with disabilities in Union County.

Ray “Harold” Lewis Jr. grew up in the Tuscarawas County village of Newcomerstown, which is better known as the hometown of baseball legend Cy Young and former Ohio State football coach Woody Hayes. During his teen years, Harold’s family moved to Marysville. After graduating from Marysville High School, Harold joined the Navy and served overseas during World War II.

Following the war, Harold returned to Marysville where he met and married Ada Eickemeyer. The two were members of St. John’s Lutheran Church, and had two sons, Robert and Charles.

In the late 1940s, Harold and his father, Ray, opened a tool and die shop on Seventh Street in Marysville. In 1951, the business moved to Delaware Avenue and became known as Ray Lewis & Son. The zinc die-casting factory specialized in plumbing products. They also built a mobile home park on North Main Street, which grew to 350 home spaces.

Following the passing of Harold’s father, the family businesses continued to grow. Harold, then a wealthy and respected business man, began to find ways to lend his support to the community he loved.

He made donations to support the development of the YMCA and gifted the original Marysville High School football field to the city in memory of his father. He also served on the boards of various organizations including the Marysville Chamber of Commerce, the Mid-Ohio Corporation, the Lions Club, the American Legion, Forty and Eight, Ohio Balloon Rally, Banc Ohio, and the Marysville Housing Board.

According to his older son, Bob, his father’s motivation and interest in supporting children with disabilities likely grew from a friendship he developed with one of his employees, whose son was born with a disability. At that time, children with disabilities were being educated at the School of Opportunity in an antiquated building in Broadway.

After touring the School of Opportunity, Harold described his dream to the school’s superintendent, Charles Arndt. His vision was to build a modern educational facility that would be located next to what is now the YMCA.

In the 1970s, Harold developed a piece of land along Delaware Avenue that included an access road, which he named after his youngest son, Charles. About the same time, Harold learned that the state of Ohio would provide matching

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Cougars Roar in Inaugural Year

Chris Gambrel scrambles for a first down in action earlier this fall during the first year of Union County Special Olympics football. The UCSO Cougars were led by Christopher Gambrel at quarterback, Jake Hoffman at wide receiver, Shannon Daniels at cornerback, and Andrew Wright at linebacker. In its inaugural year, the Cougars were 2-3, defeating Lucas County and the Union County High School Special Olympics team. The Cougars qualified for the Division 2 flag football state championship Nov. 10. Way to go Cougars!

It’s been a Great Run



Carol
Scheiderer

I was named editor of the *Kaleidoscope* newsletter in 2007. I have enjoyed the continual learning of both content and process. I have reveled in the chance for creativity and working alongside a great team of colleagues here at the county board.

I am now ready to focus on my new job responsibilities and the pleasure of working closely with our superintendent, providing support to her and our board members.

Our newsletter was first published in 1968. During the last 50 years, the technologies and thus the processes for editing and producing a newsletter have changed considerably. It began with a basic, hand-typed newsletter. Today, it is provided in both print and electronic versions.

I am pleased to introduce Mandi Mayse, our new Community Relations Coordinator, who will take over as editor beginning with the spring publication.

My heartfelt thanks to my colleagues who have helped with the *Kaleidoscope* during the last 11 years. And thank you, readers, for your passion to embrace and support our vision: “A culture of community acceptance and inclusion that allows everyone an equal opportunity to pursue a fulfilling and meaningful life.”

I look forward to interacting with you in other ways.

Carol Scheiderer, Editor, *Kaleidoscope*

Avery Eley Races Forward With a Healthy, Positive Outlook

By Martha Rockwell

When Avery Eley was 6 months old, her pediatrician noticed that her muscle tone was not as strong as other children her age. The doctor referred Avery for further medical testing and encouraged her parents to contact the evaluation team at Harold Lewis Center.

It was determined that Avery would benefit from early intervention services, and she began receiving therapy at home. When she turned 3, Avery attended preschool at Harold Lewis Center where a team of teachers and therapists helped to support her developmental needs.

Avery has blossomed into a beautiful 12-year-old. She is a sixth-grader at Creekview Intermediate School. Her winning personality and determination have served her well in the classroom and continue to propel her forward in life.

Five years ago, after Avery's doctor encouraged her to increase her physical activity, she began an exciting journey. Her mother, Amanda, who is an avid runner, encouraged Avery to try walking in a 5k race.

"Initially, she wanted to do them because I was doing them, and she liked the medals," Amanda said.

Family members or close family friends would walk with Avery while her mother ran. When Avery's teachers learned of her accomplishments, they wanted to walk with her, as well. Avery said she loves "catching up" with friends, family, and teachers as they walk together. She enjoys walking more than other sports because, "It's just easier to talk."

This October, Avery teamed up with two of her preschool teachers from Harold Lewis Center, Angela Brooks and Martha Rockwell, to complete the Ohio State 4 Miler. The three began training for the race in August by walking laps through Avery's neighborhood. During their training walks, they spent time fondly recounting Avery's preschool days.

"I was surprised how much she remembered," said Angela. "Avery has an amazing memory!"

Toward the end of the race, when the threesome could see Ohio Stadium in the distance, they knew this accomplishment was within reach and they would soon be crossing the 50-yard line to finish the race. Following the race, Avery was excited to learn that she had finished two minutes ahead of her previous time.

When Avery was 10, she set a goal to walk in 10 races by the end of that year. A special friend, Mike Heifner, who had walked with her that year, made Avery a "10 for 10" bracelet to celebrate her accomplishment.

The next year, Avery surpassed her goal by walking in 12 races. In 2018, she competed in more races than ever, with a total of 13. With each new challenge that she creates for herself, Avery builds her muscle tone, strength, and overall stamina. She continually pushes herself to complete each race faster than the one before.

To date, Avery has walked in more than 40 races, including the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure and the Wendy's Frosty 5k.

She has walked with 17 different friends, teachers, and family members, and is always happy to share her passion with others. Avery's parents are proud of all of Avery's accomplishments and know there are many more to come. They are thankful to have such a wonderful community of people willing to support Avery in her efforts to be active and live a healthy life.

Keep walking and keep smiling, Avery!



33 Medals and Counting!



Headed Down the Stretch



Celebrating in the End Zone

Across Ohio, Technology is Creating Independence

By Sam Cook

In May, Ohio became the first state in the country committed to the expansion of technology services to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

The *Technology First* initiative emphasizes, "innovative supportive technology that lowers barriers that people with disabilities encounter in their daily lives and that promotes their independence, confidence and abilities."

Katie England, 25, knows firsthand how technology can offer her more freedom. Since 2017, Katie has had remote supports in her home that allow her to be safe alone overnight. For Katie, remote monitoring includes sensors on the doors and windows, a camera in the living area and a computer screen in her apartment.

Overnight, remote-monitoring vendor Rest Assured oversees the sensors and checks on Katie by periodically using the camera. If the sensors are triggered by Katie or someone else, Rest Assured uses two-way communication to handle the situation.

"I like not having staff overnight," Katie said. "It's fun when I have time alone."

Katie's team includes her guardian, Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities staffer Mark Watson, Rest Assured, and Creative Foundations. They work together to ensure that her needs are met while giving her freedom like every other adult.

Katie's happiness spills over to her work at Creative Foundations Art Studio, as well as her karate class at Iron Tiger Martial Arts in Marysville. Because her time alone is going so well, her team has recently decreased staff even more.

As part of the *Technology First* initiative, West Central Ohio Network was awarded a grant to increase awareness to families and the

community that technology is a safe alternative to having staff in the home.

The network serves a 10-county area, including Union and Shelby.

The Shelby County Board of Developmental Disabilities has set up a model home to showcase how technology works without being invasive or decreasing someone's privacy. Supports include such innovative technologies as:

- ▶ Sensors to alert if the stove is left on;
- ▶ Prompts when it's time to take medication;
- ▶ Video monitoring; and
- ▶ Two-way communication.

"Safety is our number one priority but we also want to find ways that work for the person using it," said Melissa Rittenhouse of Shelby County DD. "Teams collaborate to interweave technology with other supports to achieve the goals of the person and their families."

To learn more about the *Technology First* initiative, visit <http://dodd.ohio.gov>.



Katie England takes a break at work to snap a picture

Jill Celebrates 10 Years in Business

By Nick Bowsber, Community Employment Manager

Oct. 1 was a big day for Jill Swearingin.

Not only did she celebrate her birthday, (We're not telling her age.) but she also celebrated the 10-year anniversary of her business – JS Snack & Beverage.

After many years of working different jobs, Jill was approached by former Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities' Job Developer George Finn about taking over a small vending business. The former owner of the business, also served through the UCBDD at the time, was moving and they needed someone to assume the job.

Several people tried the job out, but it was clear that Jill was the perfect fit. With the support of George, who wrote the business plan, and Dan and Judy Adelsberger, who helped set up the financial component of the business, JS Snack & Beverage was launched.

Originally, Jill had just a few machines around town. Now, she owns and operates over 25 snack and soda machines throughout Union County. Each day, she services a few of the machines by removing money and refilling products.

When asked what she likes most about owning her own business, Jill was quick to say, "I like being my own boss. No one is telling me what to do." Additionally, Jill likes setting her own hours and taking vacations when she wants, so long as her machines are stocked and the customers stay happy.

Over the years, Jill has received on-the-job support through a job coach who helps each day by driving her to each site, handling daily money transactions, and some customer service elements of the business. Jill currently receives job coaching from RTC Employment Services, which took over after WorkNet transitioned out of providing direct service in December 2017. Jill also is supported by Judy Adelsberger, who continues to assist with the financial aspect of the business.

After 10 years of business ownership, Jill said, "I love my job! I want to work for as long as I am able. I don't ever want to retire."

Jill also wanted to give a big thank you to all the people who have helped her over the years, including her job coaches, WorkNet staff, and especially her loyal customers.

If you see Jill around town, tell her congratulations!



Jill filling her machines

ON THE MOVE:

Erin Forson has joined our staff as a Service Consultant. She was previously employed as a social services administrator by the Perry County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Erin is a graduate of Bowling Green State University and has a master's in library science from Sam Houston State University. Erin and her family reside in Mill Valley. Erin enjoys reading, writing, politics, and serving others.



Gina Stitsinger has joined our staff as an Early Intervention Developmental Specialist. She has 18 years of experience in the field. Gina graduated from Ohio State University with a bachelor's degree in family relations and human development. Gina has three sons and a daughter. She enjoys concerts, comedy shows, and walking.



Carly Shealy is the new Developmental Specialist at Harold Lewis Center. Carly has a bachelor's degree in child and family studies from Ohio University. She lives in Marysville with her husband, Evan, and daughter Hannah. She enjoys baking, cooking, and spending time with her family.



Nick Miller has joined our staff as a Service Consultant. A graduate of Bowling Green State University, Nick was previously employed at Wood Lane Residential. He has also provided training for the Ohio Provider Resource Association. Nick lives in Marysville with his 5-year-old daughter Kennedy.



Who Was Harold Lewis? Continued from page 1

funds to build a school for children with disabilities. Harold's generous gift of 6.2 acres along with the improvements needed, such as roadway, sewer, and utility lines, satisfied the state's requirement for the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities to receive \$1.2 million to build the school.

Unfortunately, Harold passed away before seeing his dream become reality. Harold's family, along with the UCBDD, saw the project through to completion, and Harold Lewis School opened in June 1982.

An official dedication was held on June 12, 1983, with Harold's family in attendance. During the ceremony, Superintendent Charles Arndt said, "He wanted to it to become a reality. Harold wanted to get things done. He was a mover."

In 1994, an addition was completed that doubled the size of the school, which then became known as Harold Lewis Center. The number of students has grown from an enrollment of 19 preschool children and 23 school-age students in 1982 to a total enrollment this school year of 207 preschool students, including 112 children with disabilities and 95 typically developing peer models.

When he was asked what his father would think of the Harold Lewis Center today, Bob Lewis looked skyward with a proud smile and gave a thumbs up! Thanks to his love and generosity of spirit, Harold Lewis' name lives on and continues to touch the lives of children throughout Union County.

The UCBDD sends our deep appreciation and gratitude to Harold Lewis and his family for their dedication to the creation of such a wonderful space for children to learn and grow. Your legacy will continue to inspire us as we work to support the children of Union County.

PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT

Agency Name:
**Columbus
Center for
Human
Services**



Address:
540 Industrial Mile Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43228

Phone: 614.641.2900
E-Mail: vdavis@cchs.col.org
Website: cchsohio.org

What differentiates your agency apart from other providers?

CCHS in Union County is unique in many ways. First, our partnership with UCO Industries allows both organizations to work together to ensure employment success for the individuals who work there. CCHS is able to provide necessary supports to the individuals on the job, such as nursing, personal care, transportation, and skill development. In addition, CCHS employs high-quality staff, and we have enjoyed a low rate of turnover. This enables the individuals we support to be able to build relationships and trust with the staff. This stability benefits the individuals in all aspects of their lives, especially in the workplace.

Tell us about your provider activities and services you provide.

CCHS is a reputable and trusted provider of comprehensive support services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are an industry leader in providing individualized support services. Our person-centered approach puts the individual at the center of all decision making, ensuring that the support we provide helps them live a meaningful life, however they define it. CCHS offers individuals residential services, adult day programs, employment services, and accessible transportation.

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

UCO Industries has a picnic every July for its associates. CCHS is always in attendance to help assist the individuals with their meals, transportation, personal care, medical assistance, or any other supports they need. Everyone always has a great time at this event with all the dancing, face painting, dunk tank, food, and live music. The associates love the event and talk about it all year long.

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

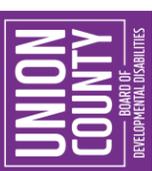
Our staff finds working with individuals with developmental disabilities rewarding, enjoyable, and fulfilling. Everyday is different and we get to watch them become independent with their work and day-to-day activities. Our staff takes great pride in what they do.



From left, UCO employee Sarah Snapp has some fun with employees Tori Davis and Amber Blevins



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SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE

Fix the List – What It Means for You



Kara Brown

A hot topic in recent weeks has been the changes that were made to Ohio’s developmental disabilities waiver waiting list. Based on the feedback of people with developmental disabilities, their families and stakeholders throughout the process, an updated version of the Waiting List Rule has been adopted and went into effect Sept. 1.

So, what does this mean for you?

The idea behind the change is to bring current needs to the surface. The new rule identifies those with a current unmet need and attempts to pair them with resources or alternative services. We will do our best to see that all assessed needs are met through a variety of avenues.

If you were on the old waiting list before Sept. 1, you should have met or will be meeting with your Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities service consultant to determine if you have a need for a waiver. A current need is defined as one that must be addressed within 12 months.

The new waiting list process will determine if you have a current need by using the Ohio Assessment for Immediate Needs and Current Needs. Should changes occur in your life, a request for reassessment can be submitted through your service consultant any time.

There are many ways to ensure those requesting services are taken care of – whether it’s through local funding, Resource Allocation for Families Today (RAFT), or additional community resources.

For more information, visit www.FixTheList.info or reach out to the UCBD.



Avery Eley Racks Up Medals, Healthy Habits Participating In 5K Runs

See article on page 2



The Man Behind the Name; Kaleidoscope Explores the Life of Harold Lewis

See article on page 1

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Golf Outing

Celebrating their win from this year’s UCBD/UC Health Department golf outing. From left: Jason Orcena, UC Health Commissioner, Mike Donohue, Eric Milholland, Ken Rausch, and UCBD Superintendent Kara Brown. Absent from photo is Matt Milholland.

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.