

Dorothy Renner, Sept. 4, 1916 - Jan. 29, 2014

Her history is ours

A legendary figure in Franklin County's developmental disabilities community, Dorothy Renner, passed away on January 29th at age 97. She had been a parent, volunteer, teacher, administrator and tireless advocate.

Dorothy's involvement in the field began in 1952 when she sought services for her 3-year-old son, James. He had sustained a disability as a result of contracting encephalitis.

County boards of developmental disabilities did not yet exist (they were established in 1967). Nor were legal protections then in place to assure the availability of services from public schools.

Limited services were offered, however, by a group of concerned



parents who had organized the year before. The Council for Retarded Children operated classes at First

Community Church and offered James a spot there. To support the Council, Dorothy soon joined in a variety of volunteer activities including door-to-door fundraising drives. She also served as a substitute teacher for a time, and in 1956, took a fulltime teaching position.

Dorothy's initial assignment was at the old Mt. Vernon Avenue School, a facility built in 1888. One morning in 1958, as she walked upstairs from her basement-level classroom, she saw flames shooting out of a register. She rang the alarm bell and yelled, "Fire!" Quickly, all 14 classrooms were safely evacuated thanks in no small measure to Dorothy's action.

In 1960, Dorothy established the Council's first home economics class, which served as a model for many

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**FCBDD
proudly
proclaims
Developmental
Disabilities
Awareness
Month**

Whereas: Individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, friends, neighbors and co-workers encourage everyone to focus on the abilities of all people;

Whereas: the most effective way to increase this awareness is through everyone's active participation in community activities and the openness to learn and acknowledge each individual's contribution;

Whereas: opportunities for citizens with developmental disabilities to function as independently and productively as possible must be fostered in our community;

Whereas: we encourage all citizens to support opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities in our community that include full access to education, housing, employment, and recreational activities;

Now, therefore, the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, does hereby proclaim March, 2014 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

Action expected on adult services

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities was expected to act on proposed recommendations for the future of the agency's adult-services programs at its regular meeting on February 27th. The meeting falls after *Dateline's* deadline for March.

Among the recommendations was a proposal to merge ARC Industries South into other programs by July, 2015.

Maintaining a variety of service options including ARC facilities, Living Skills Centers and supported employment opportunities was also recommended.

Public hearings were held on February 5th and 6th to gather feedback regarding the recommendations. Informational meetings with service recipients, families and staff were held in January.

Dorothy Renner cont'd...

years. In 1961, she took a break due to illness, returning a year later, first as a Home Training Consultant and then as Administrative Assistant.

When Ronald Ansely, the county board's first Administrator, died in 1968, Dorothy filled in, performing administrative duties as needed until Dr. Bernard Niem assumed the post. In 1972, Dorothy again filled the top position until the hiring of Superintendent Steve Pleasnick in 1973. Interestingly, it was during her tenure as Acting Administrator that current Superintendent Jed Morison and former Assistant Superintendent Don Harlow joined the agency.

Dorothy retired from the agency in January, 1980, but continued to support it. In 1986, Dorothy's son became a resident of Kimberly Woods, the eastside facility operated by Franklin County Residential Services. Dorothy helped establish the Kimberly Woods Parent Support Group to give parents the opportunity to interact with residential staff. Among its activities, the group treats staff to an annual holiday luncheon.

Reflecting on Dorothy's service, Superintendent Morison commented, "I consider myself very fortunate to have known Dorothy as a friend and colleague. She was a true trailblazer in promoting community services for folks with developmental disabilities. And throughout her life, she set a fantastic example of dedication and hard work."

Dorothy received many accolades over the years. According to her family, the two honors she most cherished were the Mother of the Year Award from Governor James Rhodes in 1979 and the Franklin County Community Star Award for volunteer services in 2008.

Dorothy was survived by her daughter, Gail Huddy, son James Torrey, four grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husbands Mark Torrey and George Renner, and her daughter Jeannie Torrey.

Donations in Dorothy's memory may be made to Franklin County Residential Services, 1021 Checkrein Avenue, Columbus, 43229.



Governor James Rhodes named Dorothy Renner "Mother of the Year" in 1979.



In 2008, Dorothy Renner, shown with Superintendent Jed Morison and Board President Mildred Blumenfeld, received a FCBDD Community Star Award.

CMS waiver rule to take effect soon

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule on January 10th. Effective March 17th, the rule requires that waivers issued under Section 1915 (c) of the Social Security Act meet new setting requirements in order to be approved.

Ohio currently provides four waiver programs -- Individual Options (IO), Level One, the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF), and Transitions (TDD) -- that are subject to Section 1915 (c). CMS will provide an assessment tool to assist states in evaluating their compliance with the new rule.

The intent of the new rule is to encourage states to provide home and community-based waiver services in the most integrated settings appropriate to meet the needs of persons with disabilities.

A transition period is to run from June, 2015 to June, 2019. The state will be required to develop a transition plan to ensure compliance with the rule.

The rule specifies that service planning must be done through a person-centered process that addresses health and long-term support needs, and may include a representative freely chosen by the individual.

For more information about the rule, please visit www.cms.gov/Newsroom.

Hail to England

Service Coordinator Becky England has retired after 37 years of agency service. A reception was held in her honor at the Service Coordination Department on December 18th. Director Jack Beatty presented a plaque recognizing her service.

Becky began her career in 1976 at the former ARCraft North facility on Indianola Avenue (which became ARC Industries North). A Training Specialist for 24 years, she was involved in the Sunapple production when it first started at ARC North, the Borden Sample Department and the Microfilm Training Department.



Becky England

Becky went to Service Coordination in 2000, where she became known for her great sense of humor and positive outlook on life. In 2006, Becky was honored with a Community Star Award for outstanding work.

In retirement, Becky plans to relax and enjoy life, including redecorating, gardening and taking care of her dog Irene and cat Mugzie. She also plans to continue to work with Animal Rescue.

March is the month for Operation Feed

FCBDD staff, individuals served and families have long opened their hearts to provide strong support of Operation Feed. This year will be no different. In February, 22 site coordinators put together a plan to make 2014 a record-setting year. Look for raffles, sales, games, room challenges, fundraisers, penny drives and many more creative activities to be held at each facility.

The agency's goal has been set at 400,000 points. The gauntlet has been thrown down among locations. Every dollar and pound of food will count. The true winners of this competition, however, will be the members of our community served by the Mid-Ohio Foodbank.



Berni Thurn is the FCBDD Campaign Coordinator. Lending essential support for the cause are Amy Magginis, Carl Scott in the Print Shop, Carolyn Earnhardt with Transportation and Zac Kendall with Maintenance.

Bowling event was right up staff's alley

The 104 FCBDD staff members who took part in the ninth annual "For the FUN of It" bowling event held at Columbus Square Bowling Palace on Saturday, January 18th, had fun to spare. The family members and friends who came to watch and cheer also had a ball.

Amanda Carroll won the high female series trophy with a total of 577 pins. Greg Epley took the high male series trophy honors with a total of 635 pins.

The top team series trophies went to Amanda Carroll, Tyler Betts, Brian Parks, Keith Ogle, who totaled 1,894 pins for the series. The team of Diane Kaiser, Paige McCorkle, Kim Davis-Hetrick, Carolyn Furr was recognized for good effort.

Zac Kendall was the lucky winner of an overnight stay at the Hilton at Easton. Terrence Kellen won eight free admissions to a sketch comedy and rock n' roll show by Shadowbox Live.

A total of 43 bowlers received door prizes.

Event organizers Jack Brownley and Cindy Massenelli said that the event raised over \$2,600 for the Franklin County Special Olympics and the Citizens Committee. "But more important than the money raised was the fun and camaraderie among all who took part," Jack noted.

Special thanks to Ryan Phillips who served as emcee; registration volunteers Mike and Karen Ross, Barbara Michael-Jones, Dominic Massenelli and prize runners Courtney Williams, Ashley Williams and Emily Cremeans.



Top team, left to right: Keith Ogle, Amanda Carroll, Brian Parks and Tyler Betts.



Greg Epley, high male series winner.



Amanda Carroll, high female series winner with her brother.



Ryan Phillips served as emcee.



Jed Morison, Cindy Massenelli

Photo credit: Lynne Johannson

How sweet it was!

Two FCBDD staff members were declared the winners of the New Leaf Wellness Team's Healthier Desserts contest on February 12th. Early Childhood Department Registered Nurse Connie Willis and Adult Services Director Teresa Kobelt netted gift cards from Whole Foods for their efforts.

Connie's winning entry, "Billie's Southern Sweet Potato Cake," took first place in the vegetable category, while Teresa's "No-Bake Energy Bites" won top honors in the fruit category.

Judging the contest were: Berni Thurn, Dietician; Dan Darling, Director of Human Resources; Debbie New, Assistant Director of Early Childhood; and Todd Surgoine, Director of ARC Industries Business Office.



Connie Willis, Teresa Kobelt

Good for you

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Kudos to FCBDD staff members **Larry Macintosh**, **Tracey Crawford** and **Karin Crabbe** for going "above and beyond" in preparation for the state accreditation review held January 28-30th. Results of the review were not available at *Dateline's* deadline, but will be reported in a future issue.

Sunapple Kitchens was the subject of a feature story in the winter edition of *Edible Columbus*, the magazine celebrating local foods. Among others, FCBDD Adult Services Director **Teresa Kobelt** was quoted. She explained that the kitchens grew out of a desire "to further link ARC employees with the community and make the work of ARC Industries even more relevant to central Ohio."

FCBDD transportation and psychology staff are "going the extra mile." They have volunteered to help **Westfall Local School District** provide inservice training to their bus drivers on Saturday, March 1st. The inservice, titled "Special Needs Training," covers such topics as behavior support, wheelchair securement, rider accommodations and vehicle modifications. Transportation Director **Paul Chenderlin**, psychology staff **Jeff Marinko-Shrivers**, **Patrick Keenist**, **Anne Thomas**, and transportation staff members **Dave McCarthy** and **Toss Horton** will take part.

A tip of the hat goes to **Rick Linden**, husband of Administration receptionist **Mary Linden**. He has developed a new process to lubricate electrical lines and switches, utilizing paintball-type capsules. The invention captured the notice of *Rural Electric Magazine* in December. Rick has formed **Results Lubricating LLC** in Westerville to implement the process. We wish him much success in this venture.

Each year **Sunny 95** radio station (at 94.7) honors 20 outstanding central Ohio women for their accomplishments. At this year's celebration, which was held at the Polaris Hilton, staff member **Jennifer Cunningham** renewed her friendship with **Mary Morrison**. Both Jennifer and Mary were honored as outstanding women in 2010.



**Jennifer Cunningham,
Mary Morrison**

Congratulations to **Sarah Mossburg** on her recent success in terminating her guardianship. **Advocacy and Protective Services** (APSI) had served as Sarah's guardian since 2006. Late last year, Sarah filed a request to end the guardianship with the Franklin County Probate Court. She had assistance from her provider, **On The Mark**, her APSI representative **Ron Spencer**, and her spouse. The case was heard by Magistrate **Kelly A. Green**



Ron Spencer, Sarah Mossburg

Career Milestones

30 years

Lisa Hipple
James Swank

25 years

Marianne Male

20 years

Wanda Kenty
Shirley Maynard
Clyde Moss

15 years

Rachel Thomas

10 years

Leonard Fears
Suzanne Flowers
Ivory Havener
Carrie McDonald
Kim Treece

5 years

Angela Green
Scott Holbrook
Lisa McKinley
Timothy Voigt

Bit by bit...

FCBDD is making agency news available through its new e-mail publication, NewsBits. The news is sent out from time-to-time rather than on a fixed schedule. You may subscribe by sending your request to fcbddwebsite@fcbdd.org.



"Quotable quote"

"I dream things that never were and ask why not?"

-- Robert F. Kennedy

Bilingualism is topic at Nisonger

The Nisonger Center is continuing its program of First Friday Colloquia. On March 6th at 4 p.m. Ellen Bialystok, Professor of Psychology at York University, will present "Reshaping the Mind: The Benefits of Bilingualism."

The presentation will be at the Cartoon Room at the Ohio Union. Please rsvp to ccee@cbe.osu.

For more details, please contact Eric Schwendeman at scwhewendeman.2@osu.edu.

Resource fair set for March 26

The Early Childhood Department's Resource Fair will be held Wednesday, March 26th from 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at the Early Childhood Education and Family Center, 2879 Johnstown Rd. Some participants include: OCALI, GuidestoneOhio, FCBDD Service Coordination, and Equine Assisted Therapy. Parents, staff and HMG service coordinators are welcome. Questions may be directed to Carol Owens at 342-5854 or Gretchen Brooks at 342-5808.

Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities does not discriminate in employment or services on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, or disability.

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Information about the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities is always available on the internet at:

www.fcbdd.org

Calendar

March, 2014

- 4 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff, Ohio Statehouse Atrium, 10 a.m.
- 4 Family Advocates for Adult Children (FAAC) monthly meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 11 a.m.
- 11 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.
- 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- 19 Family Support, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.
- 24 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Fawcett Center, 11:30 a.m.
- 27 FCBDD Human Resources and Finance Committee meetings at ARC Industries East, 909 Taylor Station Rd. Please contact Linda Fleming at 342-5950 for meeting time.
- 27 FCBDD Board meeting at ARC Industries East, 909 Taylor Station Rd. Please contact Linda Fleming at 342-5950 for meeting time.

Family workshop planned by Goodwill

Goodwill Columbus has announced plans to host a workshop, "Life After School and Beyond," on Saturday, March 8th. The location will be 1331 Edgehill Road and the time will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sessions will include: Jobs and Employment, presented by Meg Griffing of COVA and Lutrell Jolly of Goodwill; Government/ County Funding by Anne Russell of FCBDD's Service Coordination Department; Future Planning and Employment by attorney David Zwyer of Community Fund Management Foundation; and Defining Strengths and Safety Nets by Marilyn Messina.

Cost of the program will be \$10 for up to two family members for members of the Family and Friends Network, and \$20 for nonmembers. To register, please contact Pat Karshner at 885-2291 or pkarshner@columbus.rr.com.