

Charitable giving hits new high

FCBMRDD staff have pledged over \$77,000 to the 2007 Combined Charitable Campaign, exceeding the agency's goal and surpassing last year's record total of \$75,821.

For the past five years, FCBMRDD has led all county agencies in total support for the annual campaign. At press

time, it appeared probable that such would be the case again this year.

Superintendent Jed Morison praised the staff's generosity.

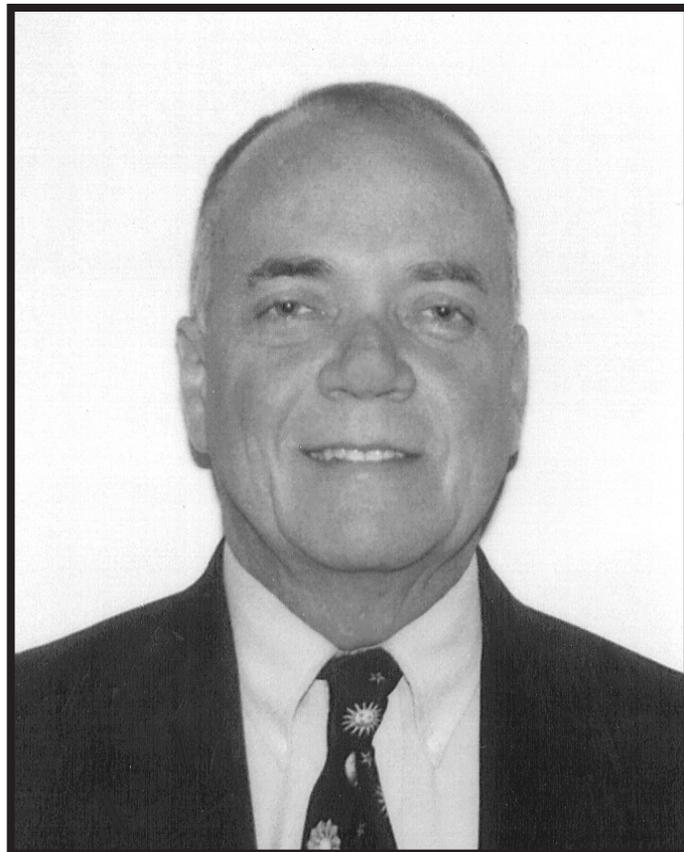
"I continue to be deeply impressed with our staff's commitment to this campaign. They understand that many

people in our community depend on our help."

Campaign coordinator Jack Brownley expressed thanks "to everyone who contributed and provided leadership."

Bruce Burns honored for service to agency

A veteran member of the Franklin County Board of MRDD was recognized for his service to the county on November 15th.



Bruce Burns is ending his tenure as a board member after twelve years of service. He was an appointee of Probate Judge Lawrence Belskis.

During his tenure, Mr. Burns held the posts of President, Vice-President, Chairman of the Human Resources Committee, Chairman of the Finance Committee, and liaison to Franklin County Residential Services, Inc.

Mr. Burns brought much-needed expertise to the board. A professional planner and businessman, he encouraged the agency to engage in strategic planning and efficient management practices.

He proposed a personal, emergency planning tool that became a model for many counties. He was a strong advocate of individualized, therapeutic education programs.

Mr. Burns also brought a parent's perspective to the board. He and his wife, Margaret were the proud parents of Roger, a student at Northeast School until his untimely death at age 18.

In 2000, Mr. Burns helped bring statewide attention to the struggle of elderly parents to provide care for their adult children with disabilities.

Superintendent Jed Morison presented Mr. Burns a clock as a token of appreciation from the FCBMRDD community.

"Your willingness to help, your knowledge of the issues, your creative thinking, and above all your dedication to our clients, have made you an invaluable board member," he said.

Parting thoughts

Note: The following remarks were made by FCBMRDD board member Bruce Burns at the Community Star Awards Banquet on November 1st. He is leaving his post after twelve years of service.

During the twelve years I've been on the Franklin County Board of MRDD, and before that, nine years on ADD's Board of Trustees, I've learned the meaning of life. During my twelve years with you, we have shared small and large victories; and we've shared joy, challenge and grief.

My mom told me when I was little that, in everything you do, you have to give everything. You have to give your all, 100% all the time. Being little, I didn't know what she meant exactly.

My dad, a fireman and war hero, told me if I expected gratitude for what I did, I'd have a long wait. I asked, "Then why try so hard?" He picked me up so I'd be looking him in the eyes, and said, "Because I love it."

This all came back to me with my son, Roger. Not one to show a

lot of gratitude, nonetheless, I loved his smile. I loved his impishness, I loved his little triumphs against all the odds. I loved him. And anything I could do to make him happy, free of pain, experiencing life, I did because I loved him.

So this is the meaning of life. It's not to amass wealth, things, power. It's not to seek the envy of those you know. It's to give your everything to your family because you love them; to give 100% to your career because you love doing it; to give 100% to every experience because you love people, knowledge, and experience itself.

For these past twenty-nine years, I have been honored and humbled to be associated with all of you. I've been honored to share your joys, to commiserate with you when we've shared loss, and to offer you any sort of support I could humbly give.

When I think of coming here for our annual Community Star Awards, my first thought is not the lasagna,



Bruce and Margaret Burns at the Star Awards Banquet.

although it's really, really good lasagna. My first thoughts are of you. For me it's being welcomed into a group of family and friends who get it, who understand, who know the meaning of life. It's like heaven must be all the time (only with really great Villa Milano lasagna).

On behalf of all the people you teach, feed, hug, clean and clean up after, and love; on behalf of their families; on behalf of the people of Franklin County who don't know half of what you accomplish for us all, I thank you. I love all of you and each of you.

True dedication

The strong devotion of the community to persons with disabilities - especially that of the Palmer-Donavin Manufacturing Company -- was celebrated at the ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 25th for the Palmer-Donavin House, a respite facility located on McDowell Road in Grove City. The company built and donated the facility to Franklin County Residential Services, Inc.

Palmer Donavin managers pose in front of the donated building. From left are: Bob Mcollow, Vice President of Operations, Robyn Pollina, Chief Financial Officer, Ron Calhoun, President & C. O. O., Dave Zimmerman, Vice President of Sales.



Photos on this page courtesy of Franklin County Residential Services.

'Stars' celebrated, memories stirred

All photos by Jeff Thompson.

It isn't possible to travel back in time, of course.

Then again, if you closed your eyes for a few minutes during the 4th Annual Community Star Awards Banquet, and listened as the Dave Powers Band played such oldies as the Monkees' *I'm a Believer*, and the Beatles' classic *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, followed by the advertising jingle *Let's Go Krogering*, you might have imagined that you'd been transported back to 1967.

Oh, how the mind plays tricks at times!

In reality, the annual gathering at Villa Milano, which was held on the evening of November 1st, had a dual purpose: to recognize extraordinary achievers in the FCBMRDD community for 2007, while celebrating the fortieth anniversary of county boards of MRDD.

The background music consisted of top hits from 1967, the year that county boards were created.

In opening comments, Superintendent Jed Morison reminded the more than eight-hundred guests of the county boards' early history.

"Let's never forget those pioneers who laid the foundation for today's programs and services," he said.

Special recognition was given to FCBMRDD board member Bruce Burns as he neared completion of his tenure of service.

John Martin, Director of the Ohio Department of MRDD, assisted in presenting the awards.

Other dignitaries on hand included County Administrator Don Brown and former FCBMRDD Superintendent Steve Pleasnick.

The fourteen Star award winners -- twelve individuals and two organizations -- were announced by emcee Frank New, who movingly described the way in which each helped advance the agency's mission.

As the winners came forward, the crowd broke out in thunderous applause. Younger members of the audience and old-timers, together at their dinner tables, shared in the festive spirit.

It was an evening that any time traveler would relish.



John Martin, Director of the Ohio Department of MRDD, and Superintendent Jed Morison look on as Angel Ratliff waves to the crowd. Angel won the Child Participant Community Star Award.



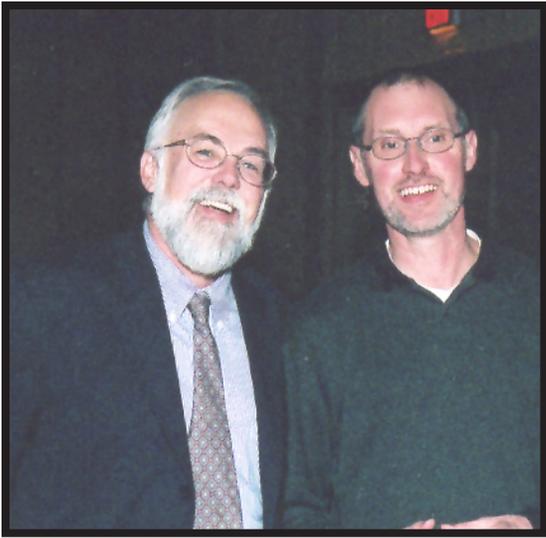
Robin Mathis, winner in the Transportation Staff category, and her bus assistant, Marie Kelso.

More 'Stars' on next page.

'Dedication' continued from previous page.



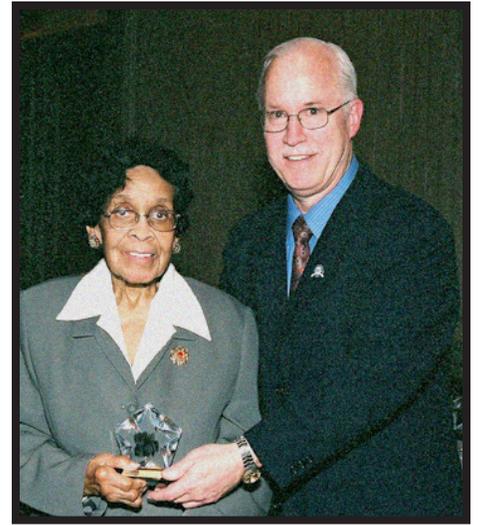
Andrea Cambern from WBNS-TV, Ron Calhoun President and C. O. O. of Palmer-Donavin, Ed Harper Executive Director of Franklin County Residential Services, Cheryl Grossman Mayor of Grove City, Patrick Rafter President/C.E.O. of Creative Housing, and Jed Morison, Superintendent.



John Martin and Early Childhood Staff Award winner, Bruce Fingerhut.

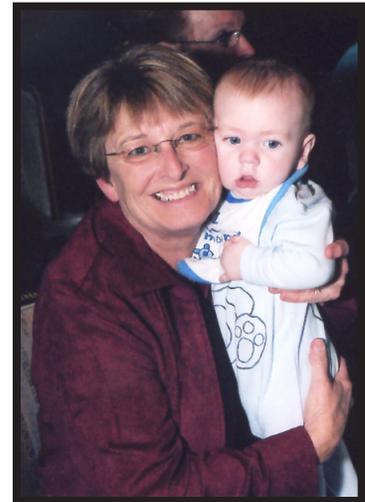


Michael Christen, honoree for Service Coordination Staff, had a big smile for everyone.



Virginia Ryder, Community Star Volunteer of the year accepts her star from Superintendent Jed Morison.

David Ciminello represented the Kroger Company winner of the Community Employer Star Award with Maggie Scott, Employment Services



Judy Beck, Community Star Award winner for School Personnel, holds her grandson, Aidan.



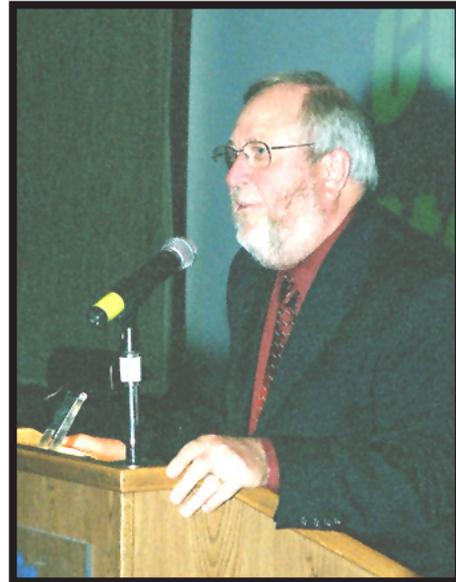
Jean and Ted Williams, Community Star Award winners as Parent/Family Members.



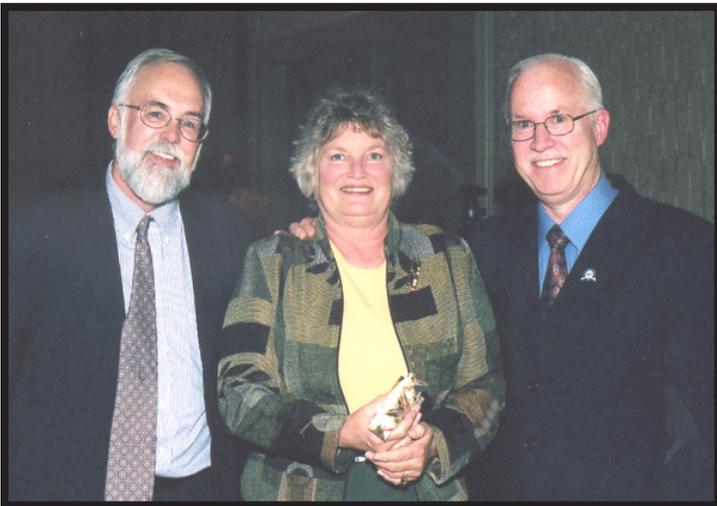
Rose Sawyers Community Star Award winner for the Support Services category seen here with Superintendent Jed Morison.



The Dave Powers Band includes Dave, Andy Smith from ARC Industries South and Dr. Michael Cox from Capital University..



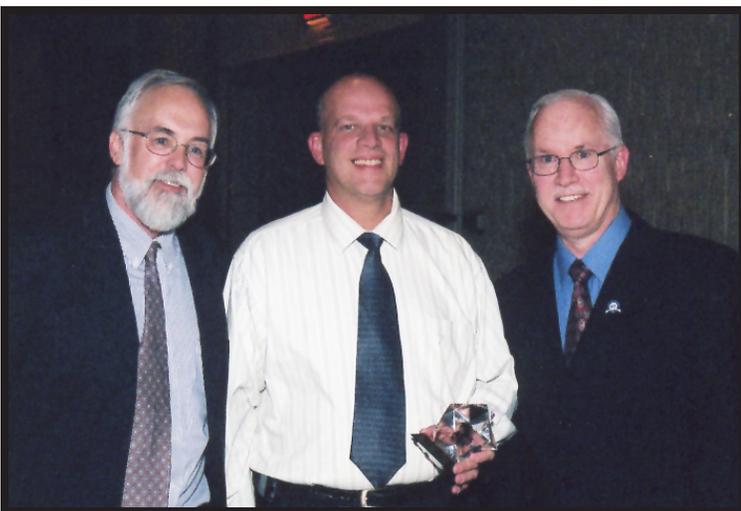
Frank New, who served as emcee, described the achievements of every winner. Frank and Linda Rockwell are responsible for organizing the event.



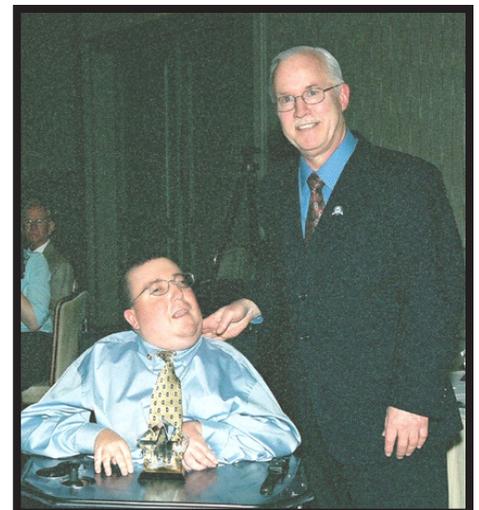
John Martin, Martha Cornwell, the Community Star Award winner for Residential Staff and Jed Morison.



John Martin shared a laugh with Michael Davis, honoree in the Supervisor category.



From left are: Director of the Ohio Department of MRDD John Martin, Mark Stuntz, President of On The Mark Services, winner for Organization category, and Superintendent Jed Morison.



Michael Rigo is the Award winner for Adult Participant.

Managing for success - Adult Services aiming high

by Kurt Smith Director, ARC Industries South

The degree to which we are able to efficiently and effectively handle information directly impacts our ability to work efficiently and effectively.

Since June, 2005 the Adult Services Department and ARC Industries have been developing and implementing a technology solution to support the goal of significantly improving services to program participants and support critical business functions.

The ARC Information Management System (AIMS) will be made up of custom-built capability and two "off the shelf" software applications: *Advisor*, which will house habilitation-related data; and *Vertex*, for production and business information.

The project is directed by FCBMRDD staff with assistance from the Groundwork Group, and is designed by Information Control Corporation.

AIMS will integrate the two software applications with custom-built capability to provide complete technology support to the workshops, living skills centers, and the Employment Services Department.

Adult Services staff are currently engaged in a huge effort to assist in the development of this system to ensure that it will meet present needs and be flexible for the future.

The features of the system ensure centralized, accurate, timely information to all staff working with participants, allowing the availability of customized reporting to evaluate program performance, and tighter security of records to preserve confidentiality. As a byproduct, less paper will be used.

AIMS will also provide useful data linkage with other FCBMRDD departments such as Transportation and Service Coordination. There will also be consistency of business processes across the Adult Services Department with a single point of data entry feeding a single system.

Direct services staff will utilize the system to track and record all required program information, thus eliminating the need to spend time shuffling paper and maintaining data in a variety of formats and in multiple places. This data will then be managed and delivered to those who need it for payroll, goal

tracking, behavior management, Medicaid billing and other uses.

The *Vertex* product software is in the final stage of roll-out

at ARC Industries locations, with staff training nearly complete. Improvements have already been noted in the areas of inventory accuracy and billing turnaround. All locations are loading the *Advisor* habilitation software with participant information. Data tests are being preformed. The entire AIMS system is on target for staff training in the fall of next year with a "go live" target of December, 2008.

Big thanks are owed to the Franklin County Board and the ARC Industries Board of Trustees for their support of this project.



Winter weather advisory

In preparation for the coming winter months, please review the following procedures. Should it become necessary to cancel transportation due to weather conditions, the following message will be broadcast on local radio and television stations:

"The Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation will be closed."

1. ECE and School facilities operated by the Board: Closed for the day when the message is aired and staff is not expected to report, unless reporting has been pre-arranged.

No children should be transported to ECE or schools when the Board is closed.

2. Administration and Service Coordination: Facilities are open and staff are expected to report unless a State of Emergency has been declared that prohibits driving.

3. Adult Day Services operated by the Board: Open and staff is expected to report unless a State of Emergency has been declared that prohibits driving. The residential provider/family member may transport only if they also pick the individual up at the end of the day. Please contact the workshop prior to transporting someone to make certain the shop is open and has adequate resources available to serve the individual that day. The cafeterias will be closed on these days so individuals will need to bring lunch and snacks.

4. COTA bus riders: May report to their workshop and parents/providers may transport to their workshop or work location only if they also pick the individual up at the end of the day.

5. Maintenance Staff: Expected to report to work unless otherwise directed by supervisor.

6. Recreation & Special Olympics: Cancelled when transportation is cancelled.

7. If parents/providers feel it is unsafe for an individual to leave home for any reason, such as frigid temperatures or icy conditions, the individual will not be required to attend day services on those days.

Please see the next page for a list of co-operating broadcast media.

Good For You

Notable Achievements in the FCBMRDD Community

Kudos to Adult Services staff members **Annette Ammerman**, **Cathy Hutzel** and **Chris Reese** for their exceptional work in coordinating preparations for the visit of the CARF survey team in November. Although the final results are not yet known, the team offered much positive feedback regarding the agency and staff.

A standout athlete, Transportation staff member **David Dawson** is continuing his award-winning ways. At a Senior Citizen's Olympics event held at Ohio State's Jesse Owens Track, he won gold in the discus, shot put and javelin. Congratulations, David!

Jason Thompson shared a moment with his special friend **Andrea Cambern** at the recent dedication ceremonies for the Palmer Donavin House, a respite facility at McDowell Road. Andrea took time from her duties as newscaster for WBNS-TV to emcee the dedica-



ARC Industries West participant **Kevin True** -- known as "Little E" -- will present his Elvis Christmas show at West Central School on December 5th. The show will include the famous hit, *Blue Christmas*.

Career Milestones

25 years

James McLaughlin
Richard Stoll

20 years

Kevin Gilmore
Margaret Sherwood

15 years

Michael Berry
Johanna Nitz

10 years

Cindy Ashmore
Sue Boyers

5 years

Denise Henkel
Terri Jones
Amadu Kamara
Mark Moxley

Your opinion counts

Readers are urged to respond to the enclosed survey and needs assessment. By doing so, you will provide information to help FCBMRDD improve services and better meet the needs of individuals with disabilities.

This needs assessment is used in preparing the annual action plan.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and return it to: Superintendent's Office, FCBMRDD, 2879 Johnstown Road, Columbus, OH 43219, by February 15th.

Anyone desiring additional survey forms may contact Linda Rockwell at 342-5950.

Closing Announcements

For information concerning closings, please listen to the following between 5:30 and 6:30 a.m.

Radio AM

WBNS (1460)
WMNI (920)
WOSU (820)
WTVN (610)

Radio FM

WCOL (92.3)
WCVO (104.9)
WNCI (97.9)
WSNY (Sunny 95)
QFM (96)

Television

WCMH (4)
WSYX (6)
WBNS (10)
WOSU (34)
FOX (28)

Frank New named education pioneer

Frank New, FCBMRDD's Director of Planning, was honored as an "Ohio Pioneer in Education" on November 20th.

Ohio Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Susan Tave Zelman presented the award at a FCBMRDD staff meeting at Administration.

The "Pioneer in Education" award was established by the State Board of Education and the Ohio Department of Education in 1999 to recognize "exceptional and visionary men and woman who have significantly advanced educational practices" in the state.

Frank began his career in 1962 as a teacher for the Cincinnati Public Schools. He joined the Ohio Department of Education in 1968 and went on to serve as Assistant Director, then Director of the Division of Special Education.

He was lead author of the standards adopted by the State Board in 1982. He convened an advisory group to revise and reform special education services.

According to Dr. Zelman, he is "a person whose name is almost synonymous with special education in Ohio."

"He led the state through one of the most challenging times in the history of special education," she said.

Frank joined FCBMRDD in 1991 after twenty-three years with the Ohio Department of Education.



Ohio Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Susan Tave Zelman presents Frank New with the "Pioneer in Education" award.

Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation
and Developmental Disabilities

Ben W. Hale, Jr.
Jerry Saunders
Mildred Blumenfeld
Bruce Burns
Paul S. Coppel
Dean Fadel

FCBMRDD does not discriminate in employment or services on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, or handicap.

The following FCBMRDD staff contribute to the monthly publication and distribution of Dateline.

Jed W. Morison	Carl Scott	Mary Linden
Michael Davis	Amy Magginis	Martin Kerscher
Jennifer Cunningham		

News releases, story ideas, and suggestions should be sent to Martin Kerscher at:

2879 Johnstown Road
Columbus, Ohio 43219

Calendar

December, 2007

- 4-5 Hanukkah
- 11 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 11 a.m. Please call 844-3800 for location.
- 17 Public Hearing on FCBMRDD Annual Action Plan, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 20 Parent League meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.
- 22 Winter begins.
- 24-31 Winter recess for ECE and schools. Classes resume January 3rd.
- 25 Christmas Day - all county facilities closed.
- 26-31 Winter recess for adult services. Programs resume January 2nd.

"Quotable quotes"

"If we could only figure out that each of us can do little things with great passion, the whole world would change."

-- Andrew Cherng

Information about FCBMRDD is always available on the internet at:

www.fcbmrdd.org