

Published by the Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
"Helping people to live, learn and work in the community"

Board elects new officers

At its annual organizational meeting on January 22nd, the Franklin County Board of MRDD chose its leadership team for the coming year.

Jerry Saunders was elected President. Other officers elected were Helen Ninos, Vice President, and Dean Fadel, Secretary.

Mr. Saunders served as Vice President and Finance Committee

Chairman in 2008. He is Chief Executive Officer and President of Africentric Personal Development Shop, Inc., and a member of the Columbus Recreation and Parks Commission.

Ms. Ninos served as Secretary and Human Resources Committee Chairwoman in 2008. She is employed as Director of Human Resources for Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray, and

formerly served as Chief Operating Officer of United Way of Central Ohio.

Mr. Fadel represents Franklin County on the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD. He is a principal with the consulting firm, Public Affairs Advocates, and Vice President for Government Relations of the Ohio Insurance Institute.

Board members begin service

Three new members of the Franklin County Board of MRDD took their seats on the panel on January 22nd. Lito Ramirez, Reneé Stein and Jean Williams were appointed by the Franklin County Commissioners. They will serve 4-year terms.

Mr. Ramirez is a strategic health care consultant specializing in physician referral revenue analysis. He is also a volunteer with the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio, helping with the organization's marketing efforts.

Mr. Ramirez resides in Dublin with his wife, Kathleen, and three children. Their youngest, Cal, aged 2, receives service coordination and early intervention services from FCBMRDD.

Ms. Stein has a background in business planning, marketing and management. She is the Business Manager for Ohio and Indiana for Bella Pictures.

Ms. Stein and her husband, Richard, have a 7-year old son who attends Oakstone Academy. They make their home in Gahanna.



The new board members include Reneé Stein, Lito Ramirez and Jean Williams.

Ms. Williams is a sculptor, and the owner of Place of the Unicorn art studio. She is also a charter member of Families United, and serves as Secretary/Vice President of the organization.

Ms. Williams lives in Clintonville with her husband, Ted. Their adult son, Tom, is employed at ARC Industries North.

The Board of MRDD is made up of seven members. Five of them are appointed by the County Commissioners, and two by the Probate Court Judge.

The new members succeeded Mildred Blumenfeld, Paul Coppel and Ben Hale, who were ineligible for reappointment after completing their terms.

Life, service of Jimmy Crum remembered

A voice familiar in central Ohio, especially in the disabilities community, will not be heard again. Jimmy Crum, sportscasting legend and champion of persons with disabilities, passed away at age 80 on January 5th.

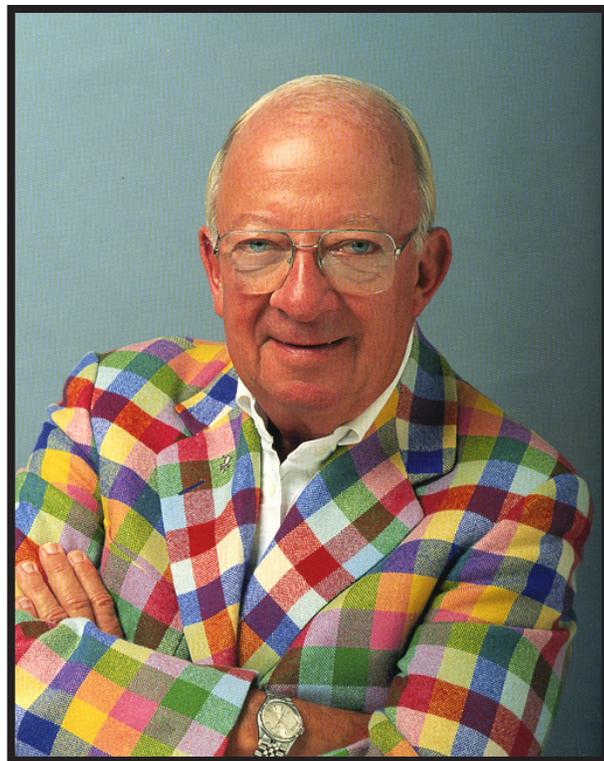
Family and friends gathered January 10th at Jerome United Methodist Church in Plain City to celebrate Jimmy's life and his service to the community.

Jimmy was sports director and anchor at Channel 4 (WCMH-TV) from 1953 through 1993. He was the "voice of the basketball Buckeyes" from 1959 to 1979 and the "radio voice of the Cincinnati Bengals" from 1968 to 1980.

Jimmy was well known for his skillful reporting, outspoken opinions and exciting style of broadcasting. Few basketball viewers will ever forget such colorful expressions as "barn burner" and "cliff hanger," and "How about that, sports fans?"

He won many professional awards, including three Emmys. He was inducted into the Ohio Associated Press Broadcasters Hall of Fame. Yet, to central Ohioans, Jimmy was known as much for his community service as for his broadcasting.

For many years, Jimmy was President of Recreation Unlimited, the nonprofit provider of sports and camping programs to persons with disabilities. His involvement in the field began in 1959 when he met Dick Ruff, a Franklin County physical education instructor.



Jimmy greets Marianne Kotsanos at the 1994 banquet. They first met in 1970 at a Special Olympics event. Channel 4's Cabot Rea and Colleen Marshall look on.

Jimmy delights the audience and former Board President, Ben Hale, at a roast in Ben's honor.

Jimmy was the founding chairman of Ohio Special Olympics, and an active supporter of FCBMRDD. According to Superintendent Jed Morison, "Jimmy has always been there. He has chaired levy campaigns, supported fundraising events, arranged news coverage, encouraged volunteers, and helped families in need. He has been a true friend of persons with disabilities, and our agency."

For twenty-one years, Jimmy hosted Columbus' Easter Seals telethon. He also chaired the fundraising drive for Children's Hospital Burn Unit from 1974 through 1977.

It is estimated that Jimmy helped central Ohio charities raise over 30 million dollars.

Reflecting on Jimmy's contribution to the community, Bexley native and *Chicago Tribune* columnist Bob Greene said:

"Fame is fleeting... Jimmy has achieved something better than fame, something that few public men and women can claim to have earned... He is loved."

Jimmy was survived by his daughter Kelly Delaveris, his son, Jim, and six grandchildren.



How to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning

(Thanks to Jeri Gilbert, FCBMRDD Safety Coordinator, and MSNBC.com for providing these safety tips.)

What are the symptoms?

The most common symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain and confusion. High levels of carbon monoxide ingestion can cause loss of consciousness and death. People who are sleeping or intoxicated can die from carbon monoxide poisoning before ever experiencing symptoms.

How does carbon monoxide poisoning work?

Red blood cells pick up carbon monoxide quicker than they pick up oxygen. If there is a lot of carbon monoxide in the air, the body may replace

oxygen in blood with carbon monoxide. This blocks oxygen from getting into the body, which can damage tissues and result in death.

Who is at risk from carbon monoxide poisoning?

All people and animals are at risk for poisoning. Certain groups — unborn babies, infants and people with chronic heart disease, anemia or respiratory problems — are more susceptible to its effects.

How can I prevent poisoning in my home?

Have your heating system, water heater and any other gas, oil or coal-burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year. Do not use portable flameless chemical heaters indoors. Also, install a battery-

operated carbon monoxide detector in your home.

How can I heat my house safely or cook when the power is out?

Never use a gas range or oven for heating. This can cause a build-up of carbon monoxide in your home. Also, never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal — red, gray, black or white — gives off carbon monoxide.

How can I avoid poisoning from my vehicle?

Have a mechanic check the exhaust system of your car every year. A small leak in your car's exhaust system can lead to a build-up of carbon monoxide inside the car. Never run a car or truck in the garage with the garage door shut. Carbon monoxide can build up quickly while your car or truck is running in a closed garage.

Resource Fair set for March 11

The Early Childhood Department's fourth annual Resource Fair will be held Wednesday, March 11th from 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at the Early Childhood Education and Family Center, 2879 Johnstown Road.

Some participants will include Joni and Friends, Equine Assisted Therapy, Family Support Services, Helping Hands, Cure Autism, We Joy Sing, First Link, and Columbus Parks and Recreation.

Parents, staff, and the public are encouraged to attend. Questions may be directed to Carol Owens at 342-5854 or Gretchen Brooks at 342-5808.

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E-mail subscriptions also help FCBMRDD save money by reducing postage costs.

You may obtain an e-mail subscription to *Dateline* by contacting Linda Rockwell at linda.rockwell@fcbmrdd.org.

Columbus Foundation awards grant to Creative Housing

The Columbus Foundation has announced a grant of \$49,000 to Creative Housing to help cover the costs of installing safety systems in accessible apartments currently under development.

The funding will assist in providing emergency call systems and sprinkler systems for apartments housing individuals with disabilities.

The systems will be installed in Creative Housing's Cooper Road Apartments, which are scheduled for completion in the fall of 2009.

ARC, Nationwide mark anniversary

For fifteen years, the on-site crews of ARC Industries have worked successfully at Nationwide Insurance. On December 17th, the two organizations got together to celebrate that achievement.

The program began modestly in 1993 when ARC Industries placed a crew of two employees at Nationwide's Obetz site to perform collating work.

It eventually reached a peak at Nationwide's Southpark location with ARC having 105 employees engaged in collating over 12 million pieces of paper annually.

According to Kurt Schmitter who oversees ARC's on-site crew division, the partnership with Nationwide has been a model operation.

"We very much appreciate the thoughtfulness and the teamwork that have characterized Nationwide's approach over the years. They have 'gone the extra mile' to provide a comfortable work environment for our crews."

The success of the program at Nationwide helped boost ARC's abil-



From left are: Ron Harrison, Chas McCarthy, Jon Mitchem, Kurt Schmitter, Karen Kinley, and Claudia Ross.

ity to attract other business partners as well, he explained.

"Potential customers were impressed with our work at Nationwide, and this was instrumental in our growth."

At the celebration, Chas McCarthy and Karen Kinley of Nationwide's senior management team were recognized, as was ARC employee Cherie

Green, who has worked at Nationwide the entire 15 years.

Nationwide's Rich Laye, who heads the operation at Southpark, pledged "to do everything possible" to ensure that the partnership continues to thrive.

ARC employees received t-shirts to commemorate the occasion, and shared a delicious cake.



In the front row are: Jennifer Coffey, Cheri Greene, Debbie George, and Jodi Zill. The second row includes: John Mitchem, Brent Bronson, Linda Scott, Lisa Claypoole, Mary Gibson, Don Kantner, and Sheri Dewey. In the back row are: Greg Sorenson, Kurt Schmitter, Amy Hixenbaugh, Ron Harrison, Jeff Smiley, and Claudia Ross.

Good For You

Notable Achievements in the FCBMRDD Community

Career Milestones



ARC Industries West employee **Kevin True** is an Elvis impersonator who is known in entertainment circles as "Little E." He was quite a hit at Heinzerling Developmental Center's annual Christmas party on December 17th. Among his songs were *Jingle Bells*, *Silent Night*, and of course, *Blue Christmas*.

A swimming enthusiast, Transportation Department staff member **David Dawson** made a real splash at the

2008 State Finals of the Senior Olympics. He won bronze in the backstroke, silver in the freestyle, and gold in the breast stroke.

Administration staff members **Jack Brownley** and **Cindy Massenelli** helped hundreds of FCBMRDD staff have a fun-filled afternoon on January 31st. They coordinated the agency's 4th annual "For the Fun of It" bowling tournament, which was held at Columbus Square Bowling Palace.

Doug Lumpkin, former Director of Franklin County Job and Family Services, has taken the helm of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Doug was named Director of the state department by Governor Ted Strickland.

30 years

Lynn Turney

25 years

**Daniel Gilbert
Patricia Tietz**

20 years

**Pamela Borowy
Gregg Borton
Michael Ellis
Larita Jude
Anne Murnane**

15 years

Linda Oliver

10 years

**Donald Clark
Larry Work**

5 years

**Deborah Daniels
Marla Hoegner
Jacqueline Hood
Richard Simpson
John Summers
Carla Wills**

Operation Feed scheduled

The FCBMRDD Operation Feed campaign will begin on Tuesday, February 17th. We will finish on Friday, March 27th.

Due to the overall economy, there is a greater need than last year. Families are especially hard hit. Donations of canned, boxed and bag foods are welcome. We can also make a substantial difference by donating cash so that the food bank can purchase what is really needed. Checks should always be made out to Operation Feed.

Spaghetti dinner slated

The Northeast School has designated Saturday, March 14th, as the date for its annual Spaghetti Dinner.

The PTO is sponsoring a raffle as an addition to the event. Wonderful prizes include: a basic scrapbooking class for 15 people, an overnight stay at the Hilton Easton, and 4 single-day passes to CoCo Key waterpark at Cherry Valley Lodge in nearby Newark.

For more information, please contact Sue Galbraith at 614/476-0530.

Solidarity conference set

Solidarity '09, a conference by and for people with disabilities, will be held April 14th through 16th at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Columbus.

The conference will feature more than 30 workshops on a variety of topics, including employment, service animals, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Medicaid Buy-In program, obtaining assistive technology and job skills assessments.

The conference fee of \$175 covers three days of workshops and activities, a meal each day, snacks and entertainment. Scholarships for eligible people with disabilities will be available on a limited, first-request basis.

A special treat will take place Wednesday evening, April 15th, when The Chris Burke Band will provide musical entertainment. Chris played the part of Corky Thatcher in the television series *Life Goes On*.

Registration materials may be obtained at: axiscenter@aol.com. More information may be obtained by phone at 262-8124.



TV star Chris Burke will perform with the Chris Burke Band featuring brothers Joe and John DeMasi.

Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

Ben W. Hale, Jr.
Jerry Saunders
Mildred Blumenfeld
Paul S. Coppel
Dean Fadel
Helen Ninos
Galen Stover

Superintendent Jed W. Morison

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Information about FCBMRDD is always available on the internet at:

www.fcbmrdd.org

Calendar

February, 2009

- 10 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.
- 14 Happy Valentine's Day!
- 19 Presidents Day - all county facilities closed.
- 18 Parent League meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.
- 23 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Holiday Inn On-the-Lane, 11:30 a.m.
- 24 Flag Day
- 26 FCBMRDD Human Resources and Finance Committee meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 26 FCBMRDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.

"Quotable quotes"

"A life of kindness
leaves a legacy of love."

-- Jimmy Crum