

Agency's job placement efforts successful

With the help of FCBDD's Job Placement Department, nearly 400 individuals with developmental disabilities are competitively employed in Franklin County. Several hundred more are employed in enclaves in the community.

According to Laurie Green-Lauber, who manages the department, the agency's efforts to develop community job opportunities have been underway since 1982.

"We're very proud of our record in placing quality employees into responsible positions," she said. "Of course, we depend on scores of businesses to provide these opportunities."

One of the many success stories is the case of Melissa Reineke. She began



Melissa Reineke

working as a Courtesy Clerk for Kroger in 1989. Last year,

she was inducted into the Kroger Hall of Fame.

The induction ceremony was held at the Aladdin Shrine Temple. Among those in attendance was Ohio State Football coach Jim Tressel.

Melissa thanked those who "have taken the time to work with me."

The role of the Job Placement Department varies depending on an individual's needs, but typically includes assistance with finding an appropriate job, training, ongoing support and counseling.

In future issues, *Dateline* will feature other employees who are enjoying success with support from FCBDD's Job Placement Department.

Retirement beckons for Claudia Ross

by Cathy Hutzel

Claudia Ross, who has served as the Director of FCBDD's Employment Services Department since 2007, retired at the end of May after 27 years with the agency.

Claudia started her career with FCBDD as a program manager in 1984. She had previously worked for the state as a case manager.

In 1993, Claudia became Coordinator of Transition Counseling Services. In 2002, she was promoted to manager of the Job Placement Department.

Claudia has overseen FCBDD's collaborative efforts with the Rehabilitation Services Commission, led several competitive employment projects, including Life Works, Career

Camp, Bridges to Transition and Ticket to Work.

A highlight of her career has been "being part of a huge change in the availability of services and supports to individuals with disabilities," she said. "There were few services available in the community before deinstitutionalization."

Commenting on Claudia's service, Superintendent Jed Morison said, "Claudia has provided outstanding leadership for the past 30 years. She certainly will be missed."

According to FCBDD Program Director Marcy Samuel, Claudia is "an incredibly competent, talented individual... we wish her well in all that she does."



Claudia Ross. Photo by Maggie Scott.

We wish Claudia much happiness in her well-deserved retirement.

Rep. Duffey visits FCBDD

State Representative Mike Duffey paid a visit to FCBDD on May 9th. He took a tour of West Central School, ARC Industries West and early childhood programs.

Serving his first term in the House, Representative Duffey represents the 21st District, which includes Worthington, Minerva Park and northern areas of Columbus.

Superintendent Jed Morison accompanied Representative Duffey on the tour, and commented that, "Representative Duffey showed a strong interest in our services."



Transition program up and running

Two staff members of FCBDD's Employment Services Department have been tabbed to coordinate a transition program for those moving from school to work.

Patty Jordan and Nancy Rinehart are coordinators for *Bridges to Transition*, a program to provide training and resources needed to ensure a successful transition from school to work for individuals with developmental disabilities ages 14 to 22.

It is a joint project among the Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), Ohio Association of County Boards, FCBDD, and local school districts.

To be eligible for the services, an individual must be between the ages of 14 and 22, receive services under an Individualized Plan for education, and be eligible for services through FCBDD as well as RSC. Services include counseling, career exploration, prevocational skill



Patty Jordan and Nancy Rinehart are the Bridge to Transition coordinators.

development, job experience, summer enclaves to enhance skills, vocational assessments, job development as a student exits school, and job coaching.

Over sixty individuals are currently enrolled. For additional information, please contact Patty Jordan at 342-5731 or Nancy Rinehart at 342-5751.



Attorney Zwyer to address FAAC

David Zwyer, an attorney who formerly served as Executive Director of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, and currently represents the Community Fund Management Foundation, will speak to the Family Advocates for Adult Children on Tuesday, June 7th, at 11 a.m.

The meeting will be held at 2879 Johnstown Road. The public is invited to attend. For more information, please call Elaine Bechant at 939-0992.

26 - 2011

DODD plans family forum

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) is seeking your ideas.

You are invited to attend a Family Forum featuring a presentation on Ohio's budget by DODD Director John Martin. County Board Superintendents, service providers, and family members will share and ask for ideas.

The forum will be held at the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) at 470 Glenmont Ave., on June 15th, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Site features student artwork

Art by students at West Central School is regularly posted online at the Artsonia website.

According to Art Instructor Amy Hipple, the parents are notified when their son or daughter has artwork posted.

"Parents seem to enjoy the opportunity to view their child's work online," she said.

Check it out by visiting www.artsonia.com and searching for West Central School.

Rose Sawyers retires after 40 years

FCBDD's most senior staff member retired at the end of May. After more than 40 years in the Transportation Department, Rose Sawyers says she has had a rewarding career.

"I've enjoyed coming here every day," she said. "I will miss a lot of people."

Rosie, as she is affectionately known, joined the agency in 1971. She was then the only fulltime office worker in the Transportation Department, and reported to Director Bea McDonald. The old ARC North facility on Indianola Avenue served as the base of operations at that time.

She feels that she got along well with co-workers, parents and others. "I'm always straightforward. What you see is what you get."

Superintendent Jed Morison commented: "I'm not really sure how we'll manage without Rosie. She has been one of the most dedicated employees I've ever known."

In retirement, Rosie plans to spend more time with her family, including her husband, Jim, son Jim, and three grandchildren.

We wish Rosie the very best!

Photo courtesy Brian Parks



Northeast students have an enchanted evening by Robin Wright

Northeast School hosted its Junior/Senior Prom on Friday evening, May 13th. "An Enchanted Evening" was the theme of the festivities. Thanks to the vision and hard work of Teresa Mulinex, and assistance of staff and school volunteers, the school gym was transformed into a setting fit for gallant knights and lovely ladies. Kenny VanGundy was chosen as "King" and Amy Almack as "Queen." The magical evening was enjoyed by all!



Queen Amy Almack

*Photos by
Robyn Wright*



King Kenny VanGundy



Gala nights offered

FCBDD's Recreation Department and Community Connections host Gala Nights on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month. Participants can sign up each month for activities that include cooking, physical activities, arts and crafts, and board and table games.

Guests have included a yoga instructor, hockey players from Ohio State, a professional chef, a gaming company providing giant screen video games, art teachers, a personal trainer and a dietitian. More variety as well as community outings are in the works!

Activities will be held at the Bixby Living Skills Center in June due to construction projects at West Central. For more information, please call the Recreation Department at 3420-5986.

Wet spring doesn't dampen Flyers' spirit

by Ryan Phillips

The weather hasn't been on the side of sports, but athletes and coaches have persevered and achieved great success at recent tournaments. Athletes from the track, tennis, powerlifting, and bocce teams competed at Denison University on May 1st. Shanae Gray was a standout that day, winning the 100 meter race with a time of 15.84 seconds.

One week later, athletes competed at the Columbus Classic. The rain held off until the late afternoon, and the athletes gave stellar performances. Building on success from the Columbus Classic, the volleyball team had an excellent showing at the Amanda meet on May 14th, where Flyers teams won 1st, 3rd, and 4th place medals.

These tournaments have been excellent preparation for Special Olympics Ohio State Summer Games. Rollerskating, bowling, and gymnastics will round out the Flyers delegation for Summer Games, which will be held



Shanae Gray winner of the 100 and 200 meter events. Photo by Casei Phillips.

June 24th, 25th, and 26th at Ohio State University. Our athletes will continue to show their Flyers' spirit - rain or shine!

For more information, please call 342-5984.

In memoriam

Bob Conkle

Bob passed away on May 3rd. He had been employed at Paul's Pantry on West 5th Avenue for more than 26 years. Bob was active in the Special Olympics and attended camp at Recreation Unlimited.

Dorothy Taggart

Dorothy passed away on May 4th. She was a longtime bus driver and very active volunteer with FCBDD. She was predeceased by her husband, Lee, and son, David "Butch," who received services from the agency. She was survived by her daughter, June Hinkle.

Rodney Hume

Rodney passed away on May 8th. He was one of the first residents with Franklin County Residential Services. Rodney was predeceased by his parents, Becky and Rodney, who were active volunteers, and is survived by two sisters, Cathy Chester and Debra Petermann.

Tarita Noble

Tarita passed away on May 15th. Tarita was a nurse at West Central School and an active member of the ARC. Tarita's husband, Bob, served as President of the Board for several years, and her son, Brian was a staff member at ARC Industries North before he passed away.

Cheerleading offered

Boys and girls age 8 and above are invited to take part in a Cheer Clinic at Thomas Worthington High School from 2:30 to 4 p.m. on June 26th, July 10th and July 24th. The clinic is sponsored by the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO).

For more details, please contact Abbey Cook of DSACO at 263-6020 or cook.925@buckeyemail.osu.edu.

Self-advocate council to meet

FCBDD's Self-Advocate Advisory Council will hold its next meeting at 2879 Johnstown Road on Thursday, June 2nd, at 10 a.m.

Members of the council are: ARC Industries East, Jennifer Petroskey; ARC Industries North, Mary Stark; ARC Industries South, Marci Straughter; ARC Industries West, Travis Bare; ESD Janitorial, Barb Rice; Bixby Living Skills Center, Janice Keaser; Community Employment, Jennifer Cunningham; People First, Curt Wellman; and Central Ohio Self-Determination Association, Christine Brown.

Good For You

Notable Achievements in the FCBDD Community

The weather on Saturday morning, April 30th, was perfect for running, and 130 staff and family members took advantage by participating in Lace-up for the Levy. The 5-kilometer run/ walk at Wolfe Park generated over \$1,800 for the Citizens Committee for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. Congratulations to **Sarah Gillilan** and all the **Early Childhood volunteers** who made this event such a success!

A highlight of the past school year at Brook Elementary School was a guest appearance by **Lindsey Gantzer** at a school assembly devoted to tolerance and acceptance. Lindsey, a Dublin resident, spoke briefly about her condition, Down Syndrome, and ended by saying, "Life would be pretty boring if everyone was exactly the same." Great job, Lindsey!

FCBDD President **Helen Ninos** offered a special note of thanks to agency staff members at the monthly meeting on May 19th. "The board is very grateful for the staff's support of Operation Feed and to Michael Davis for the outstanding leadership he's provided," she said. The total raised in the food drive this year was a new record, 5,140 pounds of food and \$25,285 in cash.

Phillis Jaccaud, a staff member at ARC Industries South, enjoys writing poetry in her free time. The recent heroic success of the U.S. Special Forces inspired her to write, "It Is Done." An excerpt follows: "It's a bittersweet occasion, but at last we praise the day. May God bless our fighting soldiers. God bless the U.S.A."

Superintendent **Jed Morison** was honored by the Ohio State University Nisonger Center for his service as Chairperson of the center's Consumer

Advisory Council since 2005. The Superintendent received a Certificate of Appreciation.

ARC Industries South employee **Marci Straughter** was featured in the Spring issue of *Signs, Wonders and Miracles* magazine. Her smiling face even appeared on the cover page. Marci is a member of the Self-Advocate Advisory Council.

Ten FCBDD staff members found an unusual way to show their support for the Special Olympics on May 20th. They rappelled down the 22-story Renaissance Hotel in downtown Columbus as part of a fundraiser called **Over the Edge**. A total of almost \$30,000 was raised. The thrill-seeking staff members were: **Stacie Black, Marianne Bobo, Allison Davis, Jennifer Hicks, Kristen Hicks, Patty Jordan, Julie Kaber, Rick Konkoskia, Winston Tidwell** and **Carla Wills May**.



Carla Wills May on the wall.

Career Milestones

35 years

Christine Reese

25 years

Steven Bassett
Andrea Stonebraker

20 years

Amy Magginis

15 years

Joseph Ash
Kimberly Whiteous
Jodi Zill

10 years

Renee Aukerman
Michael Bryant

5 years

Doris Adair
Virgie King

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“Quotable quote”

“Self-love is the most important gift we can give ourselves, because when we love who we are, we will not hurt ourselves, and we will not hurt anyone else.”

- Louise L. Hay

Next issue will be for 2 months

As is customary for *Dateline*, the next issue will be a combined one for the months of July and August. The issue will be distributed in mid-July.

Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Helen Ninos, President
Dean Fadel, Vice President
Jean Williams, Secretary
Linda Craig
Lito Ramirez
Leah Reibel
Renee Stein

Superintendent Jed W. Morison

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 handicap.

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

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Calendar

June, 2011

- 1 Graduation, Northeast School, 500 N. Hamilton Rd., 7 p.m.
- 2 FCBDD Self-Advocate Advisory Council, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10 a.m.
- 2 Last day of classes - ECE and Schools.
- 8 Central Ohio Self-Determination Association meeting, Golden Corral restaurant, 3710 W. Dublin-Granville Rd., 10 a.m.
- 14 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.
- 14 Flag Day
- 15 Family Support (formerly Parent League) meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m. Meeting is open to all family members.
- 19 Father's Day
- 23 FCBDD Finance and Human Resources Committees meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 23 FCBDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.
- 24,25,26 Ohio Special Olympics, the Ohio State University. Please call Andrea Stonebraker at 342-5989 for details.
- 27 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Fawcett Center, 11:30 a.m.
- 27 School-age Summer Center begins, Northeast School.
- 28 ECE Summer Center begins, 2879 Johnstown Rd.

July, 2011

- 4 Independence Day - all county facilities closed.
- 20 Family Support (formerly Parent League) meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m. Meeting is open to all family members.
- 25 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Fawcett Center, 11:30 a.m.
- 28 FCBDD Finance and Human Resources Committees meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 28 FCBDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.
- 29 School-age Summer Center programs end.

Information about the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

is always available on the internet at:

www.fcbdd.org