

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

## 'Better together' is DD awareness theme

In Ohio, the month of March has again been designated as DD Awareness Month. The purpose of this annual celebration is to increase public understanding of developmental disabilities and to promote the inclusion of all citizens.

The campaign's theme will be "Our community is better together." According to Superintendent Jed Morison, the theme is a fitting one.

"We are sending a message that the people we serve have talents that they can offer to help our community."

A kickoff ceremony is planned for the Statehouse Atrium on Friday, March 1st, beginning at 10 a.m.

FCBDD will recognize DD Awareness Month in a variety of ways.

All buildings will have posters. Many will be visiting their favorite libraries.

Some are taking the opportunity to hold open houses.



The volunteer coordinators include:

**Bev Ryan** - ECLC  
**Sarah Gillilan** - ECE&FC  
**Marie Patellos** - Northeast School  
**Michael Ross** - WestCentral School  
**Dwanna Sollars, Jack Karner** - Hague LSC  
**Jackie Suver** - Bixby LSC  
**Alex Corwin** - Service Coordination

**Jan Montgomery** - ARC West  
**Nan Burns** - ARC North  
**Clarice Pavlick** - ARC East  
**Jaime Graham** - ARC South  
**Greg Sorensen** - On-Site Crews  
**Priscilla George** - Transp. West

## Health fair held at agency sites

More than 350 staff members took part in a health fair at various FCBDD sites on February 14-16th.

The fair was presented at 11 locations including Administration, ARC East, ARC North, ARC South, ARC West, Bixby Living Skills, ECLC, Hague Living Skills, Northeast School, Service Coordination and West Central School.

Participating in the fair were representatives of Delta Dental, United Healthcare, Vision Service Plan and the Columbus YMCA. Health Stride provided free screenings to all staff enrolled in the agency's health insurance plan.

"The reason for screening is to identify potentially serious conditions early," said Dot Yeager, FCBDD Fiscal



*Pictured are:  
Leslie Tucker,  
Pam Sonagere,  
Amy Magginis,  
Jean Goss,  
Amy Kanuth, RN  
Roslyn Jackson,  
and  
Susan Gibson.*

Officer. "It was great to see so many staff get involved."

At each location, United Healthcare awarded a free iPod to one staff member undergoing a screening. The winners were: Jean George, ARC East; Gina Ward, ARC West; Anne

Murra, ARC North; Kim Ferrell, ARC South; Kara Wetterauer, ECLC; Debbie Matthews, West Central School; Kelly Bowers, Northeast School; Jessica O'Callaghan, Service Coordination; Marueen Halaiko, Bixby Living Skills; Paula English, Hague Living Skills; and Darren Thompson, Administration.

## Feedback on school plan requested

A plan to restructure FCBDD's schools is moving forward and agency leaders are seeking input from parents, staff and all those affected.

FCBDD currently operates two schools: Northeast, at 500 N. Hamilton Road, Gahanna, and West Central, at 1481 W. Town St., Columbus. Both serve children ranging from 6 to 22.

Under FCBDD's plan, beginning in September, 2014, one of these schools will become a transition-focused school serving ages 14 to 22. Proposals will be requested to convert the other school to an inclusive school serving children with and without disabilities.

"We want to hear feedback," said Jack Brownley, Director of Schools and Special Programs, "particularly on which school should be selected as the transitional school, and the reasons why."

Feedback will be shared with the task force that is considering issues related to the restructuring. Please forward your comments to Jack Brownley at [jack.brownley@fcbdd.org](mailto:jack.brownley@fcbdd.org) or call 342-5960.

A decision on which school will be selected as the transition school is expected in April. At that time, more specific planning will proceed for both schools.

## David Braddock to address superintendents

The Ohio Superintendents of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities will hold their 2012 Winter Conference on March 19th from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The conference will be held at the Dublin Embassy Suites at 5100 Upper Metro Place.

The keynote speaker will be David Braddock, who is Associate Vice President of the University of Colorado and Executive Director of the Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disability. He is a professor of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Dr. Braddock's presentation will run from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

The Ohio Public Images Awards will be presented during the lunch break at 11:45 a.m.

For more information please contact Ann Neu at 310-7982 or [aneu@oacbdd.org](mailto:aneu@oacbdd.org).

## Northeast School sponsors dance

Northeast School participants Katrina Hurd as Queen and Lancer Strain as King at their Winter Dance in February. "Red hearts" was the theme and a grand time was had by all.



## Filling our world with color by Margo Crabtree

At ARC Industries West, alternatives to work have long been an enjoyable part of day services. Several years ago, ARC Industries West brought individuals together who had a strong interest in art. In 2008, our art was displayed and sold in an ice cream shop in Clintonville. We were able to give the profit from each sale to the artist who created it. We have since developed a line of ceramic garden art, and sell our items locally.

The Nisonger Center has given us the opportunity to create four original art pieces for their dental clinic. Many of our artists will have the opportunity to see their work when they visit the dental office.

You can visit our website at [www.studiowestoriginals.org](http://www.studiowestoriginals.org) to see the projects we are working on and where you can buy our art.



# Mary Smith retires after 22 years

Looking back on her service with FCBDD, Intake Specialist Mary Smith recalled as a highlight “meeting and interviewing children and adults... you never knew what you were going to hear!” Mary retired on February 29th after 22 years.

Mary joined the agency as a Secretary in the old Case Management office downtown in 1990. Three years later, she transferred to the Intake Office. In 1994, she was promoted to the Specialist position.

According to Dotti Ellingsworth, Intake Director, Mary was “a pillar of the Intake Department. We will miss her as a ‘go to’ person, but we’ll miss even

more her compassion and contagious sense of humor.”

Service Coordination Director Jack Beatty commented, “Mary’s professionalism, calmness, and sense of humor provided a great introduction to our agency for many.”

Mary looks forward to spending more time with her five grandchildren, traveling with her husband, and continuing her volunteer work with Mt. Carmel Hospital.

On behalf of the agency, we wish Mary the very best in the future, as expressed in the old Irish blessing:

*A sunbeam to warm you,  
A moonbeam to charm you,  
A sheltering angel, so nothing can harm you.*



## Legislative day set for May 8

Are you concerned about disability issues? If so, you may want to get involved in the state’s legislative process. Toward that end, the 2012 Legislative Advocacy Day will be held on Tuesday, May 8th. The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC) is sponsoring the activity.

The program will get underway at the Statehouse Atrium at 10:30 a.m. Registration will begin at 10 a.m.

The key issue this year will be employment.

ODDC is one of a national network of state councils committed to self-determination and community inclusion for people with developmental disabilities.

For more details, please visit ODDC’s website at <http://ddc.ohio.gov>.

## Operation Feed begins March 1st

From 2001 to 2011 food need increased by 49%. The food pantries in Franklin County provide more than 160,000 meals a month. The average household income for those visiting pantries is \$780 a month.

The FCBDD family has always been generous regarding this cause.

During the 2011 FCBDD campaign, staff, participants and families donated \$25,608 dollars and 4,850 pounds of food. You can help this year by donating food or money to the building, department or staff member who is your contact. Please make checks out only to OPERATION FEED. Your participation is deeply appreciated.

### Building / Department Coordinators

**Sarah Gillilan** - ECEFC  
**Robyn Wright** - Northeast  
**Debbie Osborn, Tiffany Anderson** - W. Central  
**Mary Jo Allen, Carrie Vance** - Hague LSC  
**Jackie Suver** - Bixby LSC  
**Jo Ellen McKnight, Carolyn Dailey** - ARC West  
**Marianne Patronite, Sharon Evrard** - ARC North  
**Mike Doran** - ARC East  
**Malinda McKinley** - ARC South  
**Mike Davis, Carl Scott, Amy Maginnis** - Admin.  
**Greg Sorensen** - On Site crews  
**Maurice Mitchell** - WGB ARC Industries  
**Shella Ross** - ARC Bus. Office  
**Debbie Schafer** - Placement Dept.  
**Mary Fairchild** - Transp. West  
**Dorcas Sharp** - Transp. East  
**Katherine Dugal, Carrie Barnhart** - Serv. Coord.

## Support group meets monthly

You are invited to attend monthly meetings with Superintendent Jed Morison which are held regularly on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in Conference Room 114 at 2879 Johnstown Road.

The group is called "Family Support" and all family members and guardians of persons served by FCBDD are welcome. Coffee and light snacks are provided.

The next meeting is set for Wednesday, March 21st.

## OSDA update

by Christine Brown

The Central Region of Ohio Self Determination Association got started about two years ago. Since then, a lot of people from different counties have been coming regularly, including Franklin, Fairfield, Licking, and Delaware.

We would like to see Madison and Union counties get involved as well. Travis Bare from ARC West designed the Project STIR logo. Project STIR stands for Steps Towards Independence and

Responsibility. I showed the shirt to the Superintendents Association on February 10th. A lot of them like it. The upcoming Central Ohio OSDA Meeting will be on March 14th. We will have attorneys speaking on *Guardianship* from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Bixby Living Skills Center, 4200 Bixby Road, Columbus.

If anyone has questions, please e-mail Christine Brown at [6hristi6288@att.net](mailto:6hristi6288@att.net).

## Early Childhood fair set

The Early Childhood Resource Fair will be held Wednesday, March 14th, from 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at the Early Childhood Education and Family Center, 2879 Johnstown Road.

Participants will include the Epilepsy Foundation, Helping Hands, We Joy Sing, Metro Parks, BCMH, and Equine Assisted Therapy. All parents, staff and members of the public are welcome.

Questions may be directed to Carol Owens at 342-5854 or Gretchen Brooks at 342-5808.

## Goodwill network to hold workshop

Families & Friends Network of Goodwill Columbus are presenting their annual spring workshop for family members of individuals with developmental disabilities on Saturday, March 24th. The program will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The location will be 1331 Edgehill Road.

Sessions will include: *Government & Private Pay* (discussion of Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, housing and other programs) with panelists Tanya Chiles, Jennifer Goodwin, Anne Russell and Al

Simmons; *Jobs & Employment* (how to help loved one with special needs train for, locate, and keep a job) with panelists Meg Griffing, Lutrell Jolly and Evette Simmons-Reed; *Retaining Benefits & Funds* with speaker David Zwyer, attorney.

Cost for up to two family members is \$10 (members), \$20 (non-members). For more information, please contact Pat Karshner at 885-2291 or [pkarshner@columbus.rr.com](mailto:pkarshner@columbus.rr.com).

## Did you know?

A website has been created to serve college students with disabilities. This site is <http://weconnectnow.wordpress.com>.

This website is a resource for students, institutions of higher learning, and organizations serving people with disabilities in the U.S. and several foreign countries.

## Northeast to hold spaghetti dinner

Continuing a long-standing tradition, Northeast School will hold the 25th Annual Spaghetti Dinner this year.

On Saturday, March 17th, the popular event will run from 4 to 8 p.m. Diners will have the option of eating at the school or taking their dinner home.

Dinners will include generous portions of spaghetti, meatballs, garlic bread, salad, beverage and desert. The cost will be only \$5 per adult and \$2.50 per child.

The school is located in Gahanna at 500 N. Hamilton Road.

25th Annual Northeast Spaghetti Dinner  
iPad Drawing 32GB, WiFi  
Tickets: \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00  
Drawing at the Spaghetti Dinner  
March 17th, 2012



Also: win an iPad Raffle!

# Good For You

## Notable Achievements in the FCBDD community



**Andy Love**, who receives services through FCBDD, and **Sam Shepard**, who receives services through Delaware County Board of DD, are the very talented vocalists in a musical group called Innervation. Last month they had the honor of singing the national anthem before the start of a Cleveland Cavaliers basketball game. Congratulations to these young men on a fabulous job!

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**Vorys Health Care Advisors** have launched a blog aimed at health care providers, business decision makers, and other stakeholders in the health care field. The blog may be found at [www.vorysHCadvisors.com](http://www.vorysHCadvisors.com). **Maureen Corcoran**, who formerly headed the Ohio Provider Resource Association, is president of Vorys Health Care.

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The Autumn, 2011 issue of ODD's Pipeline Quarterly featured a story on the **Sports Club**, which is a Next Chapter

Book Club. Among those participating are club members **Bennie Estep**, **Jason Ford**, **Scott Swick**, **Rocky Krause**, **Abbas Yusuf** and **Jeremy Ford**. **Gil Foeller** and **Rocky Krause** facilitate the club. The group's meeting reportedly entails "non-stop sports talk."

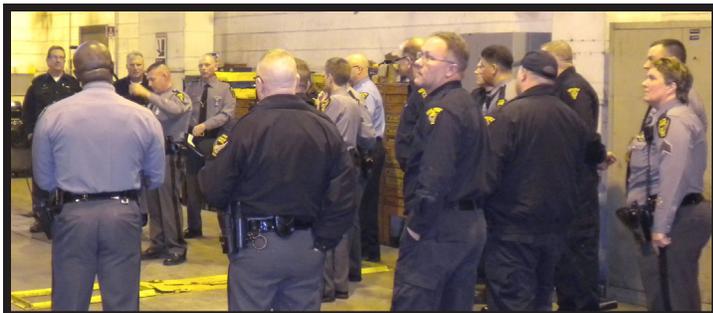
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ARC Industries North employee **Shon Gibbs** made a presentation at the FCBDD board meeting on February 26th. Shon discussed the benefits of participating in activities of the **Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA)**. "I've learned that people pay attention when I express myself calmly," he explained. Shon was accompanied by **Christine Brown** of OSDA and **Nan Burns**, Director of ARC Industries North.

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FCBDD's successful health fair last month would not have been possible without the dedicated teamwork of these staff members: **Carmen Salas**, Service Coordination; **Kim Ferrell**, ARC South; **Karen Holman**; ARC North; **Carolyn Dailey**, ARC West; **Clarice Pavlick**, ARC East; **Teresa Mulinex**, Northeast School; **Debbie Charles**, West Central School; **Marsha Rummer**, ECLC; **Bev Mann**, Hague Living Skills; **Faye Williams**, Bixby Living Skills; and **Anna Ocard**, Administration.

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The Ohio Highway Patrol utilized FCBDD's transportation facility on Johnstown Road as a training site for its school bus inspection staff on February 21st. Many thanks to Transportation Director **Paul Chenderlin** and all the agency staff who assisted with the arrangements.

## Career Milestones

### 25 years

**William Green**  
**Lyn Herron**  
**Kathleen Lind**  
**Francine Steward**  
**Rayjeanna Stowe**

### 20 years

**Carolyn Jones**  
**Robin Oakley**  
**Sandra Snailham**

### 15 years

**Paula Elder**  
**Brian McCoy**

### 10 years

**James Watters**

### 5 years

**Billy Evoy**  
**Jackie McCoy**  
**Phillip Ritz**  
**Brittany Ulrich**



Sunny 95's Outstanding Women You Should Know program is guided by the idea of celebrating ordinary women who do extraordinary things. An event celebrating past winners was held recently at Embassy Suites. Among those attending was Administration staff member **Jennifer Cunningham**. Jennifer reports that she and her friend **Sherry Ambrose** had a great time at the event.

# The green spot by Jennifer Schueneman

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FCBDD has been making changes to reduce our energy consumption, save money on electricity bills, create brighter, more pleasant work environments, and take advantage of rebate opportunities from AEP. In late 2011, we contracted to have the lighting updated in four facilities: ARC East, ARC South, Bixby LSC, and Hague LSC.

Reaction from staff has been very positive. Kurt Smith at ARC South indicates that staff and workers are excited about the new lighting and have commented that the lighting conditions have improved significantly. At Bixby LSC, staff and Special Olympics participants are enjoying the brighter (and quieter) lights in the gym.

It is estimated that these lighting improvements will save the Board over \$60,000 annually in reduced electricity consumption and more than \$8,000 annually in reduced maintenance costs. In addition, we are able to participate in the AEP GridSmart Ohio rebate program which helps us reduce the payback period of our projects. As a result of participating in this program, we are expecting a one-time rebate of more than \$60,000 for these four locations and a return on investment of less than three years.

To continue our efforts to reduce costs and be more energy efficient, FCBDD is in the process of seeking competitive bids from contractors to upgrade the lighting at the remaining facilities. It is expected that these projects will be completed by the end of the summer 2012.

If you are interested in learning more about the GridSmart Ohio rebate programs for your business or home, you can find information at [www.gridsmartohio.com](http://www.gridsmartohio.com).

## Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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Information about the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

is always available on the internet at:

[www.fcbdd.org](http://www.fcbdd.org)

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## Calendar

### March, 2012

- 1 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff, Ohio Statehouse Atrium, 10 a.m.
- 8 Self-Advocate Advisory Council, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10:00 a.m.
- 13 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.
- 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- 17 Northeast School Annual Spaghetti Dinner, 500 N. Hamilton Road, Gahanna, Saturday, March 17th, 4 to 8 p.m. Please call 476-0530 for details.
- 21 Family Support (formerly Parent League), 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.
- 21 World Down Syndrome Day
- 22 FCBDD Human Resources and Finance Committee meetings, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 22 FCBDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.
- 26 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Fawcett Center, 11:30 a.m.

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## “Quotable quotes”

“But there are advantages to being elected President. The day after I was elected, I had my high school grades classified as Top Secret.”

- *President Ronald Reagan*