

# Dateline

November 2017

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

## Communication on Issue 4 continues

Issue 4, the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities renewal levy, will be on the ballot on November 7th.

The 3.5 mill levy represents **no increase in taxes**, because it would renew a 3.5 mill levy. The renewal is for a ten-year period.

According to Superintendent/CEO Morison, significant efforts are being made to communicate with the public on the importance of this levy. Television advertisements, post card campaigns, literature distribution, endorsement efforts and speaking engagements are all a part of the communication designed to inform the public about the levy. The Citizens Committee for Persons with Developmental Disabilities is funding any pro levy materials and there appears to be no organized opposition to the renewal levy.

**✓ VOTE FOR ISSUE 4**

**Developmental Disabilities Renewal Levy**

**WILL NOT RAISE TAXES**

- Early Childhood Education
- Specialized Therapies
- Education Supported
- Transportation
- Job Training and Placement
- Special Olympics
- Support Living
- Service Coordination

**Helping People to Help Themselves**

Provided by Citizens Committee of Persons with Developmental Disabilities  
1000 Columbus Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201

*Eligible voters are encouraged to vote on Tuesday, November 7, 2017.*

*Throughout 2017, we are celebrating 50 years of service provided by County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, which were established on October 25, 1967. To help celebrate, each month we will include a bit of history in our journey over these past 50 years to help people live, learn and work in our community. Let's **Celebrate 50!***

Since 1967, the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities has been on the ballot 10 times to pass or renew levies.

All ballot issues have passed.  
The Board currently has two 3.5 mill levies that support services.



## Becky Love recognized

Becky Love, Director of Early Childhood Education for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities recently received the Bennett-Schoedinger Award for Action for Children.



The award was presented on October 26<sup>th</sup> in front of over 500 at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Action for Children fund raiser held in Bexley. All proceeds for the event support expanded access to high quality early childhood programs, reaching more than 50,000 children in central Ohio.

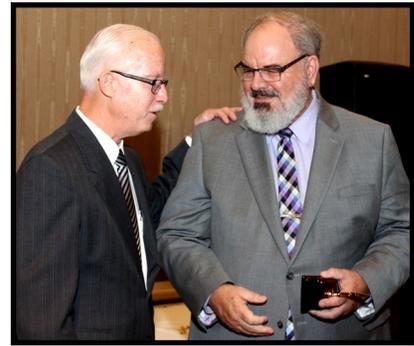
The award presentation included remarks from Frank New, former staff member at FCBDD and former Director of Special Education in Ohio; Jed Morison, Superintendent/CEO and State Representative Hearcel Craig. Becky was recommended for establishing one of the finest early childhood programs in the country.

According to Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison, "Becky's vision, passion and ability to work with so many outstanding partners has resulted in excellent and sustainable early childhood services." Congratulations to Becky Love.

# Congratulations to the 2017 Community Star Award recipients

The Star Awards were held on October 3rd at Villa Milano with close to 500 in attendance. In addition to the wards, the 50th Anniversary of County Board services was recognized.

Jack Beatty, Service Coordinator Director and staff member since 1985 received special recognition from Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison. Jack retired on October 31st.



**Jed Morison recognizes Jack Beatty, Director of Service Coordination with an honorary Star Award.**



**Master of Ceremonies - Marcus Thorpe**



**Crystal Schneider, Service Coordination Staff Community Star Award recipient.**



**FCBDD Board member and OACB President Dean Fadel with daughter Rachel.**



**Michael Rash, recipient of the Adult Services Staff Community Star Award celebrates with family.**



**Deborah Everett-Croom, recipient of the Community Star Award for Transportation Staff enjoys the evening with family and friends.**



**Jeremy Shapira accepts award on behalf of Giant Eagle, Inc. recipient of the Community Star Award for Employer.**



**Dave Powers Trio**



**Lewis Stump, Adult Participant/Self-Advocate Community Star Award recipient.**



**FCBDD Board President closes the evening with a few remarks.**



**Ryan Phillips with Andrea Stonebraker, Support Services Community Star Award winner.**



**Nancy Sommer - recipient of the School Staff Community Star award celebrates with family and friends.**



**State Representative Hearcel Craig presented Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities a resolution congratulating the Board on 50 years of service in the community.**



**Tony Johnson receives the Community Star Award for Residential Staff.**



**Volunteer/Good Neighbor award recipient Linda Zelms.**



**Gretchen Uhl is the recipient of the Early Childhood Staff Community Star Award.**



**FCBDD Board President Linda Craig presents Gwen Harshaw the Parent/Family Member Community Star Award.**



**Nevalyn Nevil received the Community Star Award for Provider Organization.**



**Community Star Award winner for Young Adult, Zayne Harshaw entertains the crowd with his jazz rendition of 'It's a wonderful world'.**



**Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison congratulates Kurt Schmitter on his Community Star Award for Management Staff.**



**Special thanks goes to Sarah Gillilan of the Early Childhood Education department for the excellent photography of the Community Star Awards Event.**

# Special Books by Special Kids

*Editor's Note: The following story is reprinted with permission from Rebecca Myers and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. This previously appeared in an issue of 'Pipeline.'*

Chris Ulmer, founder of the multimedia movement "Special Books by Special Kids," was a college soccer coach in Kentucky four years ago when he decided to earn a master's degree in special education.

He then found himself on a Greyhound bus to Jacksonville, Florida, where he'd spend the next three years teaching a small class of eight students with developmental disabilities.

Ulmer gave the keynote speech at the Ohio Association of County Boards' (OACB) spring conference in May. "Special Books by Special Kids" seeks to "normalize the diversity of the human condition under the pillars of honesty, respect, mindfulness, positivity and collaboration."

He showed short video interviews with his students and other kids with developmental disabilities who he's met throughout his travels, which have become the backbone of his multimedia project. Ulmer shared different methodologies he's used to connect with and listen to children, such as accepting people on the level at which they are starting.

He also talked about the ups and downs of his project. When he wanted to share his students' stories and experiences, 50 publishers initially rejected his idea to turn "Special Books by Special Kids" into a book.

So, he began producing and sharing videos online. One was about "Toast Tuesday," a day in his classroom when he complimented his students to verbally reinforce their positive actions and personalities. He started to incorporate that technique each day.

However, Ulmer was feeling discouraged by the reach of his videos, saying he had created an "echo chamber" where only parents would like the videos of their kids. But, Ulmer's girlfriend convinced him to continue the project for a full year. A week later, he uploaded the "Toast Tuesday" video, and his blog gained national and international attention after an interview with ABC News.



*Chris Ulmer, founder of Special Books by Special Kids.*

"We went from having ten, twenty thousand followers to 120 thousand followers overnight," he said. "But, the most important thing to come from that video is the people who are reaching out. I started receiving thousands of messages from people who found our blog, who were watching the videos, and understood the significance of it."

He said those messages were from people with a disability, saying they wished they had a platform to communicate their own feelings about having a disability, or from parents, who wanted others to accept their child for who he or she is.

After receiving so many emails, Ulmer started to branch out his interviews beyond the classroom to include other young people in his area of Jacksonville. He said he wanted to show that by using the same techniques he did with his students to create a bond based on acceptance, he could reach out to others he didn't know.

To date, the project's Facebook page has nearly 1.2 million likes.

"Special education can often be stressful, if you let it," he said. "But never forget that the ability to try, the ability to take another swing at the plate, is something you should treasure every single day."

---

## Dean Fadel honored

Dean Fadel, member of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities and current President of the Ohio Association of County Boards recently received the Peggy Martin Advocacy Award from Viaquest.

The award recognizes extraordinary efforts in advocacy. In addition to Dean's service as a Board member for both the Franklin County and State Boards, he has provided leadership with Ohio SIBS and the Next Chapter Book Clubs, where he facilitated a Club for many years.

In accepting the award, Dean recognized the many caregivers in the audience and paid special recognition to his brother Jeffrey, who receives services from the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. He provided some historical perspective, recalling Doctors advice when his brother was born and how times have changed.

The award was named for Peggy Martin, a strong parent advocate who worked for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. Congratulations to Dean Fadel.



# Good for you

## Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Special thanks to Amy Magginis, for the excellent job of coordinating the Community Star Awards and the 50th Anniversary celebration held at Villa Milano in October. Outstanding job!

\*\*\*\*\*

Congratulations to Senator Kevin Bacon, for recognition of all his work in the legislature in support of individuals who have developmental disabilities. Senator Bacon received an ESDY (Self Determination) Award at the Synergy Conference in October. His nomination was submitted by Christine Brown and Dr. Margo Izzo of the Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University.



\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you to Angie Franke, Paralegal and Gwynn Kinsel, Legal Counsel for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, for coordinating guardianship training in October. Over 100 attended the annual 3-hour training. The training will be repeated on December 19th. For details call Angie at (614) 342-5972.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks to Todd Surgoine, ARC Industries Business Manager, for coordinating the details to move the ARC Industries Central Office to 2780 Airport Drive. The move for the Marilyn Lane building is expected to take place later this year.

Congratulations to Jack Brownley and all the FCBDD Combined Charitable Campaign Coordinators on the campaign to raise funds for various charities. Campaign final results will be reported in a future issue of Dateline.

\*\*\*\*\*



Thank you to Frank New, for serving as the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities representative to the Franklin County Guardianship Services Board. Frank will end his term on the Board on December 31, 2017. Frank is the former Director of Planning for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Attorney and parent Fred Cloppert will replace Frank.

# Career Milestones

## 30 years

Nicholas Gulyassy  
Cristine Hahn  
Bernard Hickman  
Patricia Jackson

## 25 years

James Blanchard  
Peggy Cotton  
Sherry Gaines  
Anna Osgard

## 15 years

Sandra Turner  
Dorothy Yeager

## 10 years

Marguerite Ott  
Felicia Sowell Moon

## 5 years

Todd Lilley  
Nancy Matt  
Joshua Stevens  
Leora Williams  
Alique Yardley



# You can grant a child's holiday wish

Whether it's to see the smiles on the faces of children or to help just one Franklin County family through a difficult holiday season, Holiday Wish allows youth under the care of Franklin County Children Services to request a special toy or gift.

Each year, the central Ohio community provides gifts for more than 5,500 children who may have experienced abuse, neglect or other difficult home conditions. In some cases, these are the only gifts that these children will receive all year. You can help make the holidays special.



To help make a child's wish come true this year, you can:

- ◆ You can donate online or you can write a check payable to the Franklin County Children Services Children's Fund and send it to Holiday Wish at 855 West Mound Street, Columbus, OH 43223.
- ◆ Contact Holiday Wish at [holidaywish@fccs.us](mailto:holidaywish@fccs.us) or (614) 275-2525 to sponsor a child or learn more about the program.
- ◆ Contact Holiday Wish to volunteer your time.

# Guardianship training offered at FCBDD

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) has been approved as a site for guardian training for the 3-hour annual continuing education requirement. This is a requirement for all guardians of adults who have already completed the initial 6-hour training.

The web broadcast on the topic of 'Medications and Medical Advocacy' was shown on October 10th and will be shown again at 8:45 a.m. and again at 1:00 p.m. on December 19th at 2879 Johnstown Road, Columbus, Ohio, 43219.

For more details or to register for one of the four sessions, go to the following link:



<http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/Boards/judCollege/adultGuardianship/three.asp> or call Angie Frankie at (614) 342-5972.

## Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

**Linda Craig**, President  
**John Bickley**, Vice-President  
**Beth Savage**, Secretary  
**Marie Crawford**  
**Dean Fadel**  
**Helen Ninos**  
**Renée Stein**

Superintendent/CEO **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 disability.*

The following staff contribute to the monthly *Dateline*:

**Carl Scott**   **Amy Magginis**  
**Jennifer Cunningham**

**News releases, story ideas, and suggestions should be sent to:**

Jed Morison  
2879 Johnstown Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43219  
(614) 475-6440   FAX (614) 342-5001  
e-mail: [jed.morison@fcbdd.org](mailto:jed.morison@fcbdd.org)

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

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

# Calendars

## November, 2017

- 3,4 Ohio Sibs Conference at the Embassy Suites in Dublin. For more information, contact Bobbi Montenegro at (330) 705-8367 or [www.ohiosibs.com](http://www.ohiosibs.com).
- 7 Election Day.
- 10 Veterans Day - all county facilities closed.
- 13 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Kemba Financial in Gahanna, 11:30 a.m.
- 15 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10:00 a.m. Meeting is open to all family members.
- 15-17 OCALICON, Greater Columbus Convention Center, for more information about the conference, contact OCALI at (614) 410-0321.
- 16 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Finance and Human Resources Committees meeting, 4 p.m.
- 16 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.
- 23 Thanksgiving Day - all county facilities closed.
- 24 Thanksgiving Recess - Early Childhood, schools and adult facilities closed.
- 25 OSU Buckeyes v. Michigan football game in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Go Bucks!
- 29-12/1 OACB Annual Convention, Hilton Columbus at Easton Town Center, located at 3900 Chagrin Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43219.

## Columbus Dispatch endorses Issue 4

The Columbus Dispatch has endorsed Issue 4, the renewal levy of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

The editorial printed in the October 12th issue of the Dispatch, concluded by stating: "The life-enriching services provided by the DD Board enrich the entire community and they're a bargain. Voters should sustain them by voting **FOR Issue 4.**"

