

Family, children council hosts First Lady

Ohio's First Lady Frances Strickland paid a visit to Franklin County's Family and Children First Council on Friday, July 11th, and took part in a discussion of issues affecting children and families.

The Council is made up of the directors of county agencies and other public organizations serving children. It promotes a collaborative approach among agencies, seeking to overcome gaps within the service system.

FCBMRDD Superintendent Jed Morison, who is a member of the council, spoke to the group.

"In the early days, we were all protective of our own turf... Now, we communicate more, and there is a spirit of partnership. It has become clear that we can accomplish more if we work together."

He presented the First Lady a portrait made by children enrolled in FCBMRDD's Early Childhood Program, and a coffee mug created by participants at ARC Industries West.

Mrs. Strickland, who holds a doctorate in psychology and is the author of a children's book, praised the group's



Superintendent Jed Morison presents children's artwork to First Lady Frances Strickland.

"wonderful work" and encouraged their continued collaboration.

County officials participating in the meeting included Bart Anderson, Superintendent of the Educational Service Center; Eric Fenner, Director of Children Services; Douglas Lumpkin, Director of the Department of Job and Family Services; David Royer, Director

of ADAMH; and Susan Tilgner, Commissioner, Board of Health, who chairs the Council.

Several state officials also attended. Among them were John Martin, Director of Ohio Department of MRDD; Angela Sausser Short, Director, Ohio Family and Children First; and Sandy Stephenson, Director, Ohio Department of Mental Health.

Green team off and running

Superintendent Jed Morison has appointed a group of FCBMRDD staff to help raise awareness of opportunities to save energy and improve the environment.

The Green Team is made up of staff members from various agency departments who, according to the

Superintendent, "want to make a difference in their work environment."

The team had its initial meeting last month. Nick Gulyassy, Production Manager at ARC Industries West, chairs the group. Other members of the team are: Kate Dunaway, Jamie Graham, Anthony Jackson, Cindy Massenelli, Jan Montgomery, Clarice

Pavlick, Debbie Rose, Brenda Toney, Cindy Wilcox and Rae Wilhelm.

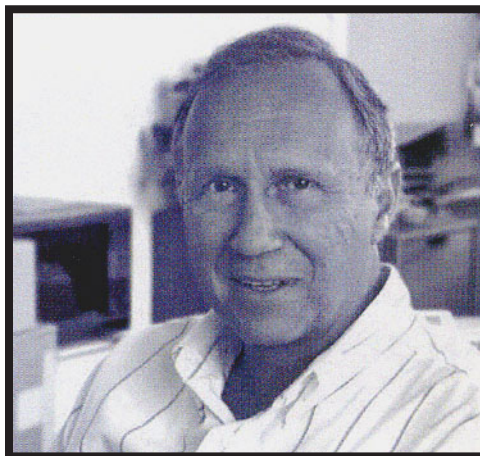
All staff and interested persons are invited to offer suggestions. Please direct them to: Nick Gulyassy, ARC Industries West, 250 W. Dodridge Street, Columbus 43202.

David Zwyer to retire from ODDC, Carolyn Knight named interim director

David Zwyer, who has served as Executive Director of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council for nearly 12 years, will retire in September.

During his tenure, he was instrumental in supporting legislation to prevent abuse, provide for supplemental services trusts, and reform guardianship practices. A lawyer, he co-edited a book for the legal community on special needs trusts.

"Dave is highly regarded as an advocate for Ohioans with developmental disabilities," said FCBMRDD



Superintendent Jed Morison. "His leadership will definitely be missed."

Carolyn Knight, former Director of Ohio Legal Rights Service, has been named Interim Director. She will begin in mid-August, allowing the Council time to conduct a national search before filling the position permanently.

David Zwyer

Goodwill participant volunteers at West Central

Mary Hewitt is the perfect example of a senior citizen -- loving life, helping others and supporting communities. The 71-year-old Columbus resident is also an individual with disabilities, who volunteers her time to help youngsters with disabilities.

Hewitt volunteers her time as a foster grandparent, helping children with MRDD at West Central School.

"I like it. I help the boys and girls make different stuff," said Hewitt, who paints, draws and helps the students construct artwork. "We made a wind chime."

Hewitt is a participant in Sage Senior Services at Goodwill Columbus where she is involved in community-based retirement activities and work opportunities for adults, ages 45 and older. She is one of more than 300 senior citizens with disabilities and other barriers, who are active participants in Sage Senior Services.

Goodwill has two locations for its day services for seniors. One is at Goodwill's main facility on Edgehill Road in Columbus and one is on Scherer's Court in



Mary Hewitt, 71, of Columbus, right, enjoys all kinds of art. As an individual with disabilities and an active participant in Sage Senior Services at Goodwill Columbus, Hewitt volunteers her time as a foster grandparent, helping children with MRDD like Jon Schutz, left, create different kinds of artwork at the West Central School in Columbus.

Worthington. In addition to seniors with MRDD, Goodwill has specialized services for individuals with Alzheimer's and dementia-related diagnoses. All participants come to Sage Senior Services via referrals from the Franklin County Board of MRDD.

Jim Nye, a senior service coordinator in Sage Senior Services at Goodwill Columbus, has seen Hewitt grow as an individual over the last nine years as a program participant.

"Her quality of life has improved through her participation in Sage, and she has grown more independent over the years," said Nye, noting that Hewitt assembles kits at Goodwill for local businesses and is paid by-the-piece for her work. "She's an excellent worker, very accurate, a self-starter, prompt to the work area and respectful of others."

Hewitt is always busy, according to the many friends she has made at Sage Senior Services. She lives independently in a house in the local community and uses transportation provided by the FCBMRDD to reach her foster grandparenting destination at West Central School and to arrive at Goodwill Columbus to participate in Sage Senior Services.

Hewitt also enjoys playing bingo, shopping and spending time at home with her cat, Tommy. She relishes helping others, too.

"I like to work and make stuff for the people in the nursing homes and hospitals. We make cards (at Sage) for people who are ill. It's to cheer them up," Hewitt said.

Red Cross disaster training

by Jack Brownley, FCBMRDD Director of Schools

Many people have noticed the announcement for *Ready When the Time Comes* sponsored by Red Cross and wondered: what is it, and why are we promoting it?

For over a year, FCBMRDD has been working with the Red Cross to identify community shelters that could be used during a disaster to accommodate individuals with developmental disabilities. Issues of accessibility, access to specialized equipment and familiarity of staff and volunteers to supporting individuals with developmental disabilities are all challenges that will be faced in the event of a pandemic or natural disaster in our community.

Many of you know that during the aftermath of Katrina, people with developmental disabilities had significant barriers accessing any help. To help ensure that this will not happen in our community, the Red Cross is working with us to develop shelters that will meet their needs. This is an exciting, new direction for the Red Cross and we are proud to be a part of this effort.

West Central and Northeast Schools and the Bixby Living Skills Center have been identified as potential shelter

locations. Each has been reviewed by Red Cross for space, accessibility, and geographic proximity to Red Cross services. A grant for more than \$200,000 was received from The Columbus Foundation, in part to purchase and install an electric generator at West Central School in the event electricity service is interrupted.

One of two training groups is already underway to learn what to do in a community emergency or in our shelters if a need arises. These training sessions are open to all staff from FCBMRDD and any friends or family who want to participate.

The last training session will cover the essential information that we will need to respond in a disaster at one of our shelters. The sessions are scheduled for September 16th (noon-4pm) and 25th (noon - 4 pm) for four hours each day. You must attend both days. Every effort will be made to secure coverage for staff who want to participate.

Applications to be trained as a volunteer are available by e-mail at jack.brownley@fcbmrdd.org, or may be picked up at the reception desk at Administration.

Operation Buckeye

(Editor's note: Carol Evans, former bus driver for FCBMRDD, is making a difference with her support of troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Carol volunteers for Operation Buckeye and invites others to contribute toward the effort.)

Operation Buckeye was formed to send boxes to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. The physical conditions many endure are difficult and they are separated from their loved ones for long periods.

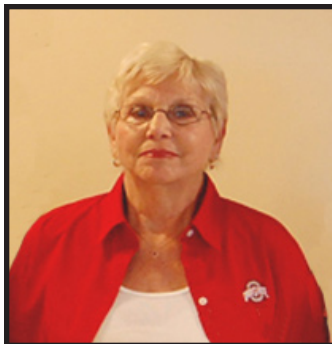
Operation Buckeye hopes to bring a touch of home and lift the spirits of the troops. The boxes they receive contain food items, toiletries, entertainment, hygiene items, and letters of appreciation all wrapped with good wishes of love and support for the wonderful job they are doing.

To date, Operation Buckeye has sent over 5,000 boxes to the troops, and will continue to do so as donations permit.

Operation Buckeye is an all-volunteer group founded by Jim Caronis and Dick Tressel, ATO fraternity brothers. 100% of all donations and contributions go toward the purchase of supplies for the boxes and for shipping which is \$9.80 per box.

Donations can be mailed to Operation Buckeye, PO Box 1814, Westerville, Ohio 43086-1814 or dropped off at any Huntington National Bank branch office.

For more details, please visit the website at Operationbuckeye.org.



PAR plans convention, seeks art

The 2008 PAR convention will be held October 8th through 10th at the Dublin Embassy Suites, 5100 Upper Metro Place.

The convention will provide staff development training as well as the opportunity to meet and share ideas with MRDD staff from throughout Ohio.

PAR is seeking artwork for an art gallery that will be open during the convention.

For more information, please visit the web site at www.par-ohio.org, or call Erick Berquist at 342-5398.

Special Olympics state summer games



The Flyers were off to a good start at the parade of athletes during opening ceremonies.



Bruce Amstutz and Dan Huff enjoy opening ceremonies and clowning for the camera.

Chaperone Kitty Stahl checking in and getting supplies needed for several days of competition and living on-site.

Cabot Rea shares a hug with Jennifer Cunningham. Cabot is the anchorman at WCMH-TV and announced the opening ceremonies. Jennifer is one of the athletes who led the participants in saying the Special Olympics pledge. Jennifer competes for Worthington and works at the FCBMRDD administration





Coach Jack Zuefle warms up Marc LaRue before the dead lift competition.



Andrew Kidwell successfully completes a dead lift of 205 pounds.



Dwayne Crown waits for the whistle to serve during a heated volleyball game.



Joe Kramer returns to the dorm after winning the gold medal in bowling.



The nurses are Char Beth Cooke and Kathy Sperling



David Dalrymple returns a serve during the tennis competition.

“Have to” or “Get to”?

by Jim Coe

I want to thank my friend Jared Cummins of PXP Ohio for the following reminder, which has a magical effect on how we view our daily world.

Who knew that two simple words could change one's mindset, perspective, and approach to work and life?

Just two words have the potential to enhance joy, productivity, performance, and change a complaining voice to an appreciative heart.

So often we say things like: “I have to take the kids to practice.” “I have to go to work today.” “I have to see my family this weekend.”

We act as if we don't have a choice, as if we are imprisoned by the expectations of a world that forces us to do things we don't want to.

But the choice *is* ours... we can choose our attitudes and our actions. We can choose how we view our life and work. We can realize that every day is a gift. It's not about what we have to do, it's about what we *get* to do!

We *get* to drive to work while so many are too ill to work, or don't have a job, or don't have a car. We *get* to raise our children. We *get* to interact with our co-workers, our employees, our customers and make a difference in their lives. We *get* to use our gifts and talent to make a product or provide a service. We *get* to work on projects, answer phone calls, serve customers, participate in meetings, design, create, serve, sell, lead and suit up every day for the game of life!

Yes, there are always challenges, and often it isn't easy, but each day we *get* to wake up and do it all again. We *get* to uplift, inspire, encourage and impact others. Let's make the most of it. Life is a gift, not an obligation.

Isn't it inspiring to realize how our life can change just by tweaking our language, and flipping an attitude?

(Editor's note: Jim Coe promotes employment of people with disabilities, and sells products made at Passion Works/ ProPoint/ ATCO, Inc., affiliates of the Athens County Board of MRDD. He can be reached at (614) 440-1445 or jimcoesells@columbus.rr.com.)

First visits to dental office

by Carey Zsembik and Tamera McIntyre
Nisonger Center Dental Program

Initial visits to the dentist can be traumatic for some children as well as adults. Adults may have anxiety due to a previous experience while children may have a fear of the unknown or fear instilled upon them by a parent or sibling.

It is recommended that children see a dentist after their first tooth erupts or at age 1, whichever comes first. This visit allows the dentist to discuss good oral health habits with the parent, such as daily brushing with fluoridated toothpaste. Other topics include eruption patterns, baby bottle habits, and dental injuries resulting from trauma or falls.

Adults should see a dentist twice a year for an exam and cleaning. These visits involve oral health screenings for cancer and cavities as well as discussing habits relating to dental decay. Oral hygiene instruction is given to adults and children at every appointment to help improve their homecare.

If a person is apprehensive about having dental treatment, a form of desensitization may be needed. Desensitization is the process of getting the patient comfortable and familiar with the dental setting, and is accomplished in several ways. It can be as simple as a single visit to look around the office and meet the dental staff. Other times, this can involve several appointments in which procedures are gradually completed each visit. This form of familiarization helps the patient to become comfortable with the dental professional so treatment can be completed without behavioral incidents.

A trusting relationship between the patient and the dental professional ensures consistent treatment and ultimately overall well-being.

Easter Seals relocates

Easter Seals' central Ohio office has moved to a new, larger facility in Hilliard. The new address is 3830 Trueman Court, Hilliard 43026.

Directions may be obtained by calling the office at 228-5523.

Did you know?

The Ohio Department of MRDD has established an on-line support group for families of persons with developmental disabilities.

Families Supporting Families provides a discussion forum in order to encourage communication and mutual support among families.

To find out more, please go to family-chat@odmrrd.state.oh.us.

Good For You

Notable Achievements in the FCBMRDD Community

Roberta Lehman of the Recreation Department reports that one of the participants in their Tuesday afternoon group achieved quite a feat last month. ARC East employee **Andrew Longstreth** bowled a 242, obtaining a strike or spare in every frame. Congratulations, Andrew.

Sandy Giusti has been named FCBMRDD's representative on the statewide Family Advisory Council. Good luck, Sandy.

Progress is on schedule for **Creative Housing's** latest construction project. The new apartments, located near Stoneridge Plaza in Gahanna, are now under roof. This project is funded jointly by FCBMRDD and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.



Representatives of ARC Industries and FCBMRDD visited the **Simpson Strong-Tie Company** June 25th to celebrate 15 years as successful partners. The following ARC employees work at the company's plant in Hilliard: **Mike Arcilla, Quiana Benton, Chad Contreras, Warren Davis, Jimmy Fowler, Laura Fowlkes, Chanel Grant, Jonathan Hurt, Phillip McCafferty, Mike McKahan, Eugene Reed, Tim Ryan** and **Xavier Trent**.



From left are: Ron Harrison, Kurt Schmitter, Simpson plant manger Rick Nolan, warehouse manager Doug Montgomery, and Pat Davis. Photo by Robin Agler

Career Milestones

35 years

Richard Grawemeyer

30 years

Harriet Haniotes

25 years

Charles Potts
Shara Sagraves

20 years

Michael Butchko
Theresa Doughty
Donna Gillilan
Sonya Hall
Shirinell Holland
Dianne Kimberling
Susan Lee
Lalitha Narayanan
Debra Sherman
Stephen Snyder
Patrice Sorenson
Eric Thompson
Kathy Wallen
Robert Williams
Debora Wyche

15 years

Jacqueline Boyle
Sue Heischman
Darla Hodo
Cheryl Kellum
John Kibler
David Miller

10 years

Louann Elkins
Martha Higgins
Toby Paine
Juanita Robinson

5 years

Jacqueline Batts
Elizabeth Baumhackl
April Brehob
Peggy Glatz
Elizabeth Green
Edward Herrmann
Jamie Kingsland
Mary Linden
Linda Masterson
Linda Mercer
Julie Pencheff
Haley Perdeu
Mary Sevy
Ralph Watts
Christopher Wilcox
Melissa Zech

Placement picnic



John Mitchem, CEO of ARC Industries presents Darrell Drake with a certificate for his 30 years of community employment at the University Plaza Hotel.. More than 45 participants received certificates at the annual picnic with many more in attendance.

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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(614) 475-6440 FAX 342-5001

Calendar

July, 2008

- 16 Parent League meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.
- 24 FCBMRDD Finance and Human Resources Committees meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 24 FCBMRDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.
- 28 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Holiday Inn On-the-Lane, 11:30 a.m. Meeting to be preceded by presentation of Seibold Scholarships.
- 29 FCBMRDD Red Cross Blood Drive, 2879 Johnstown Road, Conference Rooms B,C,D, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 31 Last day of Early Childhood and School-age Summer Center programs.

August, 2008

- 8 Staff Development Day for Adult Services and Transportation staff. All adult facilities closed.
- 12 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.
- 25 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Holiday Inn On-the-Lane, 11:30 a.m.
- 25, 26 School Staff Preparation/ Development Day.
- 27 First day of classes, Northeast and West Central Schools.

“Quotable quotes”

“Some people think only intellect counts: knowing how to solve problems, knowing how to get by, knowing how to identify an advantage and seize it.

But the functions of intellect are insufficient without courage, love, friendship, compassion and empathy.”

-- Dean Koontz