

FCBDD creates self-advocate council

In an effort to support self-advocacy, FCBDD has established the Self-Advocate Advisory Council. Made up of eight adults who receive services from the agency, the panel will provide an official forum for discussion of policies, programs and related topics.

"Our idea is simply to encourage service recipients to express themselves as fully as possible regarding the decisions and issues that affect their lives," said Superintendent Jed Morison.

The inaugural meeting took place at the Pleasnick Center on March 10th.

Council members are: Jennifer Petroskey, ARC East; Mary Stark, ARC North; Jason Gregory, ARC South; Travis Bare, ARC West; Nicole Roche, Job Placement; Barb Rice, Janitorial; Christine Brown, Central Ohio Self-Determination Association; and Curt Wellman, People First.



Clockwise around the table from the bottom are: Pam Panning, Nicole Roche, John Mitchem, Curt Wellman, Jason Gregory, Kurt Smith, Dispatch reporter Rita Price, and Christine Brown. Photo by Martin Kerscher.

"Self-advocacy" refers to the efforts of individuals with developmental disabilities to speak or act on their own behalf on matters that concern them.

FCBDD is believed to be one of the first county boards in the state to have

an advisory panel composed solely of service recipients.

The next meeting is set for June 9th at 10 a.m.

Estate planning seminar set for May 5

FCBDD will host an estate planning seminar on Wednesday evening, May 5th, at the Pleasnick Center, 2879 Johnstown Road.

The seminar is intended to provide parents and other family members of persons with developmental disabilities a basic understanding of options available in the estate planning process.

Discussion will include wills, trusts, powers of attorney, guardianship and Medicaid eligibility.

Speakers will be Columbus attorneys Kevin Craine and David Zwyer.

Mr. Craine is a partner with the law firm of Kincaid, Randall and Craine. He served as a member of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities from 1986 to 1995.

Mr. Zwyer retired in 2008 from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council after 12 years as its Executive Director. He is currently of counsel to Kincaid, Randall and Craine.

The seminar, which will be held in conference rooms B, C, and D, will run from 7 to 9 p.m.

The seminar is free, but those attending are requested to register in advance by calling Amy Magginis at 342-5992.

Autism rally planned for Apr. 14

A rally to boost autism awareness will be held on the south lawn of the Statehouse from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, April 14th.

Guest speakers will include State Representative Ted Celeste, State Representative Kevin Bacon, Director John Martin of the Ohio Department

of Developmental Disabilities, and Stanley Jackson, color analyst for Ohio State football games and former Buckeye quarterback.

Children's activities, including face painting, will be available courtesy of Oakstone Academy.

Rally participants will urge passage of state legislation concerning health insurance coverage and autism assistance dogs.

For more details, please contact Doug Krinsky at 554-0802 or Barbara Yavorcik at 537-4079.

In memoriam

Debra Hamilton

The FCBDD community lost a valued member on February 22nd. Deb Hamilton, a teacher with the Early Childhood Department, died suddenly enroute to the hospital from her home.

Deb joined the agency in 1980 as an Instructor at the old Southeast School. In 1988, she left her position in order to focus on raising her children. In 2004, she returned to the agency, this time at the Early Childhood Education and Family Center. There she remained employed until her death.

Deb was best known for her love of the infants and toddlers in her care, and her compassion for their families.

She was survived by her husband of 31 years, Mark, her son Matthew, and daughter Katy.

Deb will be dearly missed by the many families with whom she worked as well as many friends in Early Childhood and throughout the agency.



Deb is pictured here with her husband, Mark.

Provider support group forming

Are you an individual service provider certified by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities? Would you be interested in joining a support group to share ideas and strategies?

If so, you might be interested in obtaining more details regarding a group now forming. Please contact Felicia Shanklin at 834-4665 or by e-mail at fshanklin@yahoo.com.

Bonanza tickets available

FCBDD's Special Olympics program is once again selling Knights of Columbus Super Cash Bonanza tickets. This year, the Knights have partnered with Special Olympics, and other charities in Ohio, to give away over \$100,000 in prize money. The tickets cost \$5, of which \$2.40 directly benefits Special Olympics.

Ticket sales are underway. All tickets must be returned to the FCBDD Special Olympics by April 30th. The drawing will be held May 28th (winners need not be present). Twenty winners will be drawn, with prizes ranging up to \$49,680.

To obtain tickets, please contact Ryan Phillips at Ryan.Phillips@fcbdd.org or by phone at 342-5984.

Special ed law program set

The Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO) is sponsoring a one-day special education law and advocacy program on Thursday, April 18th, at the Bridgewater Banquet Center, 10561 Sawmill Parkway

The program will focus on four areas: special education law, rights

and responsibilities; tests and measurements to measure progress and regression; smart individual education plans; and tactics and strategies for effective advocacy.

Attorney Pete Wright will be presenting the program. He represented Shannon Carter before

the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Florence County School District Four v. Shannon Carter* (1993).

For more details, or to register, please call DSACO at 263-6020.

Buckeye Connections offered by ADD

The Association for the Developmentally Disabled (ADD) is offering Buckeye Connections, a new initiative to improve quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities.

The program links individuals with disabilities, including those within transitional groups, who are at least 18 years of age, to social, recreational, and educational opportunities on the Ohio State campus.

Activities include: swimming, creative dance, flag football, basketball, soccer, volley ball, walley ball, racquetball, golf lessons, book club, internship opportunities and volunteer experiences, as well as weekly activities with the Departments of Theater and Music, guided art exhibit tours and sporting events.

The program offers special one-time event activities, and the opportunity for participants to receive guest BUCK-ID cards.

Transportation is available for all programming. All fees for participation in the program, as well as transportation, may be billed to the Individual Options or Level One Waiver. Private pay arrangements may be made for those who do not utilize the waiver.

For further information, please contact Amanda Kennedy at 291-9411 (Ext. 516), 439-7820 (cell), or by e-mail at akennedy@addohio.org.

Queen Rebecca visits preschool

Queen Rebecca of Early Childhood visited the Christ Lutheran Preschool in Bexley on March 9th and took the occasion to answer children's questions regarding her life as a royal monarch.

As she made her way into the facility, the Queen was presented a bouquet of flowers. As is customary, a red carpet was rolled out before her.

"Do you have a castle?" and "How did you get to be a queen?" were among the questions posed to the Queen, who graciously joined the children for hot tea and crumpets.

To prepare for their guest, the children created sparkly playdough, a castle and throne.

Their interest in hosting the Queen had been sparked by their recent study of the letter "Q."

Security personnel were on hand to prevent any problems from onlookers attempting to catch a glimpse of royalty.



Comedy benefit coming

A Laughing Matter is a stand-up comedy show to benefit the Citizens Committee for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. The show will be held at the Columbus Funny Bone on Monday, May 17th, at 7:30 p.m.

To purchase tickets in advance, please contact Debbie Schafer at 342-5715 or by e-mail at debbie_schafer@fcbdd.org. Tickets, which cost \$10 each, go on sale April 19th.

Going-away gift was picture perfect

Sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words. Such was the case last month when the Early Childhood Department showed its gratitude to Frank New upon his retirement as FCBDD's Director of Planning.

"We wanted to do something special for Frank, something that would

express our appreciation for all that he's done," said Department Director Rebecca Love.

So, staff members created a portrait of Frank that incorporates the faces of children served by the program.

When viewed up close, the faces of the children are seen. When viewed from a distance, the children coalesce into a portrait of Frank.

Staff member Darren Thompson explained how the portrait was made.

"The first step was to create the pixelized image. This was accomplished by using a computer program that translated a photograph of Frank into a series of colored circles. We printed those onto several sheets of paper and fitted them together to form a cohesive image."

"The next step was to print out several hundred very small photographs of the children that have been taken over the years here. I used a hole punch to cut out the parts of the photos that I wanted, and then glued each little photo onto the circles of the pixelized image."



This is an enlargement from 1 inch by 1 1/2 inches of the portrait.

"Finally, I mounted the image on a wooden base and sealed it. I built an oak frame to go around it, and finished it with a light coat of linseed oil."

Frank was rightfully impressed. "What a thoughtful gift," he said. "I'll certainly treasure it."



Flyers land first tourney win _____ by Margaret Stahl _____

The Franklin County Special Olympics Flyers 5 basketball team has a lot to be smiling about these days. Going into the 2010 Area 6 basketball sectional tournament on March 5th, the team had never won a tournament game. They finally broke that streak.

The team kicked off the weekend's Division 4 competition against the Fairfield County Chiefs. After multiple lead changes, the Flyers came out on top thanks to a late basket by Chris Ahlers.

Clarence Allen, head coach for the last two seasons, said "I am very proud of how far we have come over the last two seasons... We still have a lot of room for improvement."

The athletes on the Flyers 5 team are Chris Ahlers, Khalil Carter, John Conyers, Rudy Fly, Lucas Grayson, Sean-Michael Johnson, Richard Kolodgy, Marc Larue, Tony Moncrief and Bill Stattmiller.

Though they lost their second game against the Upper Arlington Golden Bears, and were not able to advance to the State Competition, the Flyers were proud of all they accomplished this season.

Franklin County will be well represented at the State Tournament with the Flyers 4 women's team and 55 individual athletes. Competition is set for Saturday, March 27th, in Hilliard.

For more information on Franklin County Special Olympics please visit: www.franklincountyflyers.blogspot.com or email Ryan Phillips at ryan.phillips@fcbdd.org.



From left are: Tony Moncrief, Coach Clarence Allen, Lucas Grayson and John Conyers. Photo by Casei Phillips.

Good For You

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Despite needing a wheelchair to get around, **Lauren Balchick** is a frequent user of the Metro Parks. She is also the author of *Travels with Lauren*, an article appearing in *Park Scope* magazine (Spring, 2010), in which she reviews the parks' facilities for wheelchair users. Lauren hopes her article "will inspire others with disabilities to use the Metro Parks."

At its annual awards competition on March 15th, Ohio Public Images selected FCBDD's video guide to services a winner in the category, Audio-Visual Production. The video was produced by **Mills James Productions**, and narrated by **Gail Hogan** (English version) and **Miguel Salas** (Spanish version). Former Director of Planning, **Frank New**, coordinated the project.

Gahanna Middle School West students were featured in an article in the *Columbus Dispatch* (March 4th) regarding their support of a campaign to stop the derogatory use of the word "retarded." **Justen Rippey, Zaine Rowe, Damian Stiffler, Tyler Wiebe** and **Garrett Williams** formally pledged not to use the word. The pledge-signing was organized by **Heather Turner**, a special education teacher.

According to **Pat Rafter**, President of Creative Housing, Inc., the organization is continuing to grow as it works in partnership with FCBDD, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, the Ohio Finance Fund and the Columbus Foundation. Creative now has over 400 owned properties and continues to provide a private market rent subsidy program as well.



Administration staff member **Jennifer Cunningham** expressed thanks to WSNY radio ("Sunny 95") for recognizing her as one of "20 Outstanding Women You Should Know" on January 29th. "It was great to meet the women who do such great things for our community... and to see Dino and all the friendly people," she said.



Robert Lombardi poses with his boss, Kroger New Albany Store Manager **Bryan Willis**. Robert celebrated his 5 year anniversary with the company.

Career Milestones

30 years

Sandra Ebner
Roberta Lehman

25 years

Nan Burns
Linda Cline
Joseph Decker
Kimberly Rudisill

20 years

Beth Espinoza
Mary Smith
Walter Wilcox

15 years

Denora Pepper

10 years

Deborah Harris
Rebecca Nelson
Valerie Smith
Vikki Zaremski

5 years

Taronda Curry
Craig Draughn
Marilyn Grossi
Lavonda McLean
Sharon Post
Lilian Selbe
Tsuyako Yamaguchi

Nominations open for star honorees

FCBDD's Community Star Awards Committee is asking you to suggest the community's most deserving candidates for recognition in 2010.

The committee is accepting nominations in 14 categories through May 28th. A nomination form is enclosed with this issue of *Dateline*. The form lists the award categories.

Established in 2003, the Community Star Awards honor persons and organizations who, through outstanding work and dedication, support FCBDD's mission.

"If you know an individual or organization whom you believe deserves consideration, please complete a form and submit it today," said Superintendent Jed Morison.

The 2010 awards will be presented at a banquet to be held Wednesday evening, November 3rd.

For further information, please call Linda Fleming (formerly Rockwell) at 342-5950.

Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Helen Ninos
Dean Fadel
Galen Stover
Lito Ramirez
Renee Stein
Jean Williams

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*.

Jed W. Morison Carl Scott Martin Kerscher
Michael Davis Cindy Massenelli Jennifer Cunningham

News releases, story ideas, and suggestions should be sent to Martin Kerscher at:
2879 Johnstown Road
Columbus, Ohio 43219
(614) 475-6440 FAX 342-5001

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

www.fcbdd.org

Northeast golf outing slated

For the benefit of the parent group, Northeast School will hold a golf outing on Saturday, April 17th, at Gahanna Municipal Golf Course, 220 Ridenour Road. The outing is in honor of Samuel Shannon, the long-time school custodian who passed away last year. The event will begin at 10 a.m.

For more information, please call Karen Toohey at 560-1250.

Calendar

April, 2010

- 1 April Fools Day
- 2 Staff Development Day
- 4 Easter
- 5-9 Spring Recess for ECE, Northeast, and West Central Schools
- 13 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.
- 14 Autism Rally, Statehouse, 11 a.m.
- 15 Income tax deadline
- 21 Parent League meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.
- 21 Administrative Professionals Day
- 22 Dedication Ceremony for new Service Coordination building at 1600 Watermark Drive, 3 p.m.
- 22 FCBDD Finance and Human Resources Committees meeting, 1600 Watermark Drive, 4 p.m.
- 22 FCBDD Board meeting, 1600 Watermark Drive, 5 p.m.
- 26 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Fawcett Center, 11:30 a.m.
- 30 Central Ohio Self-Determination Association meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10 a.m.

"Quotable quotes"

"We do not believe in ourselves until someone reveals that deep inside us something is valuable, worth listening to, worthy of our trust, sacred to our touch. Once we believe in ourselves we can risk curiosity, wonder, spontaneous delight or any experience that reveals the human spirit."

-- E. E. Cummings