

## John Mitchem ends distinguished career

After five years at the helm, FCBDD's Adult Services Director John Mitchem retired at the end of March. He had completed 28 years with the agency and a total of 36 years of public service.

Looking back, John says he feels "very blessed to have had a leadership role in this organization, which has been providing quality services to so many."

As a young man, John entered the navy, spending two years assigned to the U.S.S. Willis A. Lee. He went on to attend the Ohio State University where he obtained a B.S. degree. While in college, he earned a Varsity O letter as a member of the lacrosse team.

John began his career in the developmental disabilities field at the Columbus Developmental Center in 1977 where he worked as an Activity Therapist for \$4.25 per hour. In 1984, he joined FCBDD as Manager of the old Community Services Department, which offered client - employees various types of community work.

"Our first crew had 10 people cleaning the old highway patrol building. I learned that you've got to work right



alongside the clients. They need a role model."

Building on early success, ARC Industries went on to much larger jobs.

In 1988, the state contracted with ARC to clean the then new Riffe Office Tower. As each floor of the 32-story building opened, the job got bigger but nonetheless proved to be doable.

"We still have that contract today.

That kind of longevity isn't very common in the cleaning business," he said.

But John deflects any credit for the success. "I can't take credit for that... the clients and their supervisors... Doug Meier, John Lee and Rick Inskeep... deserve all the credit."

Superintendent Jed Morison believes that John's career provides "an excellent example for all of us."

"Over 1,000 are employed in the community today thanks to his leadership. He's been a fine leader, a real problem solver, and a man of wisdom and character."

John is looking forward to traveling in his free time. For starters, he and his wife Juanita are planning their first trip to Alaska. A Madison County resident, he also will volunteer with the Madison County Board of DD. "I'll help out any way I can."

An avid outdoorsman, John expects to have more time to hunt and fish, and also looks forward to spending more time with his five grandchildren who range in age from 1 to 11.

We wish John the very best in his well-deserved retirement.

## Non-medicaid services policy postponed

At its monthly meeting on March 22nd, the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities postponed action on a proposed policy titled "Non-Medicaid Adult Services" for one month to allow time to receive feedback from those who could be affected.

The proposed policy would place conditions on adults receiving county-

funded services chief among which would be the requirement that the adults apply for Medicaid home and community-based services and if determined ineligible for Medicaid, they would be required to pay up to 50 percent of the cost of services.

"The policy is intended to allow for the provision of services to

more individuals by maximizing the use of federal funds," explained Superintendent Jed Morison.

For a copy of the proposed policy, please call Linda Fleming at 342-5950.

# Social work collaborative continues

FCBDD's Service Coordination Department has entered into the second year of the Disability Social Work Collaboration. This program provides a 2-year placement opportunity in the disabilities field for students pursuing their Masters of Social Work degrees.

The program is jointly sponsored by FCBDD, the Ohio State University School of Social Work and Nisonger Center. Upon graduation, the students are expected to be ready to enter the work force and able to provide the highest level of services. Students participating in the program will gain hands-on experience with developmental disabilities and mental health issues. They will also have multiple interdisciplinary experiences.



*Left to right are: Ayamba Roselyn Tanyi, Suk Hee Kim, Patrick Fowler, Susan Barger and Jennifer Knisely.*

## Governor issues order on employment

Gov. John Kasich has signed an executive order in an attempt to expand job opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

Issued on March 19th, Executive Order Number 2012-05K creates the Employment First Taskforce to coordinate and improve employment outcomes for working-age adults.

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) will lead the group, which will also include representatives for the Departments of Education, Mental Health, and Job and Family Services, as well as the Rehabilitation Services Commission.

The order notes that Ohioans with developmental disabilities "experience some of the highest rates of unemployment, underemployment and poverty."

"My Administration has established community employment and school-to-work transition as priorities," the Governor noted. In remarks, he added, "There's nothing wrong with a sheltered workshop, it is meant for some, but not for all."

## County boards to hold spring conference

The Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) Spring Conference will be held Thursday, May 10th and Friday, May 11th at the Hilton Easton Town Center.

Registration must be completed online and the deadline is Thursday, May 3rd.

Conference topics on Thursday include Services for Children, Personnel, Superintendents, Updates on the Mid-Biennial Budget Review, Employment First Initiatives, and Administrative Rule Changes.

Topics on Friday include Adult Services, Business Managers, MUIs, and DODD Updates, including Self Waiver and Supports Intensity Scale.

For more details, please visit OACBDD's web site at [www.oacbddd.org](http://www.oacbddd.org).

## Council members to visit agency

Four members of the National Council on Disability will be in Ohio on Thursday, April 5th. The purpose of their visit is to gather information about Ohio's approach to Employment First and sheltered employment. They are visiting four states as a part of a fact-finding mission.

The members visiting will be: Linda Wetters, Sara Gelser, Jonathan Young, and Ari Neeman. Their visit will include a tour of ARC Industries West and discussions with individuals served, family members and professionals, including Superintendent Jed Morison and Director of Program Operations Marcy Samuel.

## Group tours funeral home

James Sheridan, Director of the Dwayne R. Spence Funeral Home in Canal Winchester, hosted the Death & Dying group from ARC Industries South on February 8th. The group took a tour of the funeral home and took part in discussion of how to plan a funeral.

"This was the third occasion for Mr. Sheridan and his staff have hosted our group," said Randy Cuenot of the Psychology Department.

This group activity is offered periodically at all of the workshops. It meets weekly, usually for several months, and uses the curriculum, "Person-Centered Planning for Later Life: Death and Dying - A Curriculum for Adults with Mental Retardation," by Harvey L. Stearns, Elizabeth A. Kennedy and Chad M. Sed of the Institute for Life-Span Development



Visitors are Charles Thomas, Jr., Woody the dog and Ildiko Temesvary.

and Gerontology, at the University of Akron.

## Goodwill residents eating healthier

The spaghetti sauce is different now.

"I put 12 different fresh vegetables in the marinara sauce instead of the ground beef, and they love it. But if the coleslaw does not have a creamy sauce on it, they are not having it," said the wellness chef for 23 individuals who live at Goodwill Columbus.

This was just one of the recent culinary challenges in establishing a new healthier menu for residents of Onsite Residence, a certified immediate care facility on the top floor of Goodwill. The program's director, Tiffany Martin, said the changes in the kitchen began last fall and were based on "Health Matters," a time-tested health education curriculum for individuals with developmental disabilities developed by Beth Marks, Jasmina Sisirak, and Tamar Heller.



Chef Jessica Garret poses beside the newer foods.

operating the Grandview Community Garden. Meal preparation takes hours each day, but after several months of healthful eating, the individuals that Goodwill serves are benefitting.

"Cholesterol levels are lower in 57 percent of the residents. Ten residents who are over their ideal body weight have lost weight," said Martin.

Today at Goodwill, fat and processed foods are out. Lean and fresh are in. A local supplier fulfills twice-weekly orders for fresh fruits and vegetables. Donations of food also are accepted seasonally from those

If interested in more information you may visit [www.healthmattersprogram.org](http://www.healthmattersprogram.org) or contact Tiffany Martin at [tiffany.martin@gwcols.com](mailto:tiffany.martin@gwcols.com).

# ARC Industries scoops up bagging work

Rice hulls -- the outer coatings of rice grains -- are removed in the early stages of rice production. Although they are not edible, the hulls have been found to have a number of industrial uses.

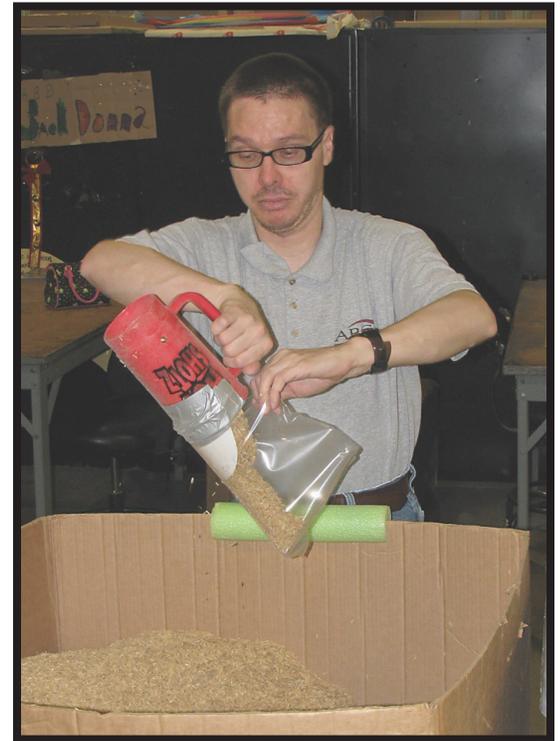
When burned, rice hulls produce silica and therefore provide excellent thermal insulation. For this reason, the leading manufacturer of railcar undercarriage components uses rice hulls to promote even cooling of new railcar wheels while still in their molds.

Amstead Rail has recently entered into a contract with ARC Industries under which ARC will supply 18,000 small bags of rice hulls per day.

"We will scoop the hulls into plastic bags and then seal them on manual and automated sealers," said Adult Services Director John Mitchem. "We expect many consumers will be involved."

It is expected that the work will be done at all four ARC Industries workshops during an initial 4-month trial period. If successful, the parties intend to enter into a multi-year contract.

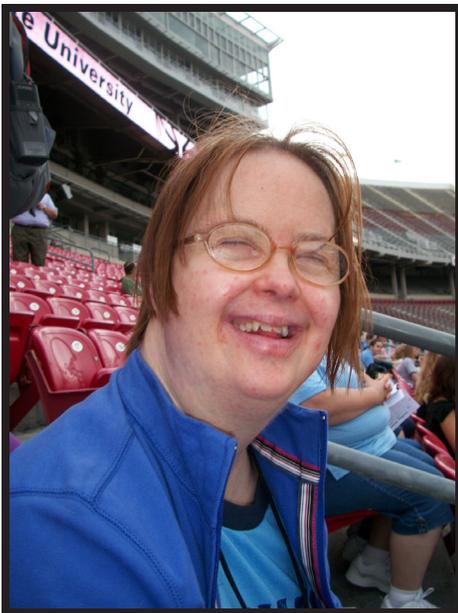
Amstead Rail is an international company with a local operation at 3900 Bixby Road, Groveport.



*Bruce Howard bagging rice hulls at ARC South.*

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# Seasons changing for Special Olympics



*Debbie Otis*

The end of March marked another change of seasons for Franklin County Special Olympics. Five regulation basketball teams, as well as two half-court and individual skills teams comprised of more than 150 athletes in all, are wrapping up their respective seasons.

Franklin County will be well represented at the State Basketball tournament with an individual skills team that will compete in the areas of shooting, dribbling and passing. These athletes have been honing their skills since early January at Bixby Living Skills Center with the help of 18 students from the Ohio State University through a collaboration enabling the students to earn practicum hours.

Up next for Special Olympics is the spring season which culminates with Summer Games held at the Ohio State University June 22nd through 24th. The eight sports available this spring are tennis, gymnastics, power lifting, roller-skating, volleyball, bocce, individual bowling and track and field. Athletes must qualify through a series of local events to be eligible to be selected to compete at Summer Games.

For more information regarding Special Olympics, please contact Ryan Phillips at 342-5984 or [ryan.phillips@fcbdd.org](mailto:ryan.phillips@fcbdd.org) or on Facebook at Franklin County Special Olympics.

# Good For You

## Notable Achievements in the FCBDD community

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**Terry Conti**, ARC Industries account representative, was named the Marge Brophy **Outstanding Soroptimist** at the March meeting of the **Columbus and Franklin County Chapter**. Soroptimist International is dedicated to improving the lives of women and children in local communities and around the world. When the service club announced its selection of Terry, it cited Terry’s “tireless dedication, exceptional organizational skills and brilliant leadership” in staging the chapter’s largest fundraiser ever. Congratulations, Terry!

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The FCBDD office staff are performing a little more efficiently these days thanks to board member **Beth Savage and GBQ Partners**. The company made a generous donation of eight Hewlett Packard HP printers. The printers have been put to good use!

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The FCBDD community extends a warm welcome to **John Stacy**, the new Executive Director of the **Autism Society of Ohio**. John has a wealth of experience as the director of a nonprofit organization, a teacher of marketing and communication, and as a senior legislative aide. He also has a nephew with Asperger’s Syndrome.

The **Columbus Buddy Walk** is one of the largest in the country, drawing some 5,000 people each year. Along with the 1-mile walk, participants enjoy a full day of activities and entertainment. The **Down Syndrome Association** has announced that this year’s walk will be on Sunday, September 23rd. Once again, the location will be Crew Stadium. Mark your calendar!

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Franklin County was well represented at the kickoff festivities for **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month** held at the Statehouse Atrium on March 1st. Attendees included Superintendent **Jed Morison, Michael Kromer, Donald Wharton, Vivian Purnell, Seth Barnette, Maurice Mitchell, Jeff Fadel, Christian Johnson, Goldie Holbrook, Tim Hendren** and **Jennifer Coleman**.

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**Thad Matta’s Ohio State Buckeyes** men’s basketball team had a great season, and no fan cheered more than **Darnell Cummings**, a participant at Hague Living Skills Center. Darnell was thrilled to have the opportunity to watch a scrimmage and to meet **Assistant Coach David Egelhoff** as well as several players. The Across the Field store even donated a souvenir basketball for the occasion.

## Career Milestones

**25 years**

**Gina James  
Pamela Schoenstra  
Dianna Taylor**

**20 years**

**Verna Blevins  
Vernice Carsby  
Pamela Lawton  
Sally Starrett**

**15 years**

**Lisa Adams**

**10 years**

**Andrew Hawk**

**5 years**

**Raymond Boucher  
Charity Buckley  
Rachel McCarty  
Claudette Moncrief  
Raymond Richmond  
Corrine Suver  
Adell Waugh**



Left to right are Amir Williams, Deshaun Thomas, Aaron Craft and a fist pumping Darnell Cummings.

# Project STIR graduation set

A graduation ceremony for those completing the Project STIR (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility) training program is planned for Friday, May 18th at 10:30 a.m.

A reception for graduates and invited guests will follow the ceremony at Administration, 2879 Johnstown Road.

Please contact Linda Fleming at 342-5950 if you have any questions.

## Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Dean Fadel, President  
Jean Williams, Vice President  
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John Bickley  
Linda Craig  
Helen Ninos  
Beth Savage  
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.

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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)

## The green spot by Doug Meier

The Janitorial Division of ARC Industries continues to explore new ways to go green. Reducing waste is one of the ways. In many FCBDD locations, enMotion water-resistant automated dispensers were installed. These dispense a one-at-a-time towel which reduces waste and lowers operating costs. When compared to standard folded towel systems, the enMotion dispenser helps reduce waste by reducing the paper towel usage up to 30 percent. The touchless dispensing also minimizes risk of cross contamination.

Many of the chemicals that we use are purchased in a concentrated form, which reduces the amount of plastic that is sent to landfills. A gallon of concentrated glass cleaner yields about 68 gallons of usable glass cleaner. This eliminates the necessity of sending plastic containers to the landfill. We also use dispensing units in many of the locations. These units automatically dilute the concentrate to the correct amount of usable chemical needed.

We also are laundering the towels, wet mops, and dust mops that are used daily. In 2011, we prevented more than 25,000 rags, 2,640 wet mops, and over 850 dust mops from going to landfills.

Please continue your efforts to help our environment by participating in the recycling program at your building.

## Calendar

### April, 2012

- 1 April Fool's Day
- 6 Staff Development Day
- 8 Easter
- 10 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.
- 9-13 Spring Recess for ECE, Northeast, and West Central Schools
- 17 U.S. income tax deadline
- 18 Family Support (formerly Parent League), 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.
- 23 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Fawcett Center, 11:30 a.m.
- 25 Administrative Professionals Day
- 26 FCBDD Human Resources and Finance Committee meetings, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 26 FCBDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.