

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

## Momentum grows for Issue 29

As election day draws near, the campaign to pass Issue 29 is gaining momentum.

Franklin County's first MRDD levy in seven years will go before voters Tuesday, March 4th.

A burst of endorsements has been seen in the past few weeks. Leading the way was *The Columbus Dispatch*.

In the lead editorial of its Sunday edition, February 10th, the newspaper called on voters to approve the issue, noting:

"The MRDD board has proved an able steward of taxpayers' dollars and deserves the continued support of county voters."

Organizations endorsing Issue 29 include Columbus City Council,

Community Shelter Board, Epilepsy Foundation, Franklin County ADAMH, Grove City City Council, The Childhood League, The Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio, United Way of Central Ohio, Upper Arlington City Council and YWCA Columbus.

Endorsements were made also by Rabbi Harold Berman, former Columbus Board of Education member Jeff Cabot, Representative Ted Celeste, State Treasurer Richard Cordray, restaurateur Cameron Mitchell and Representative Jon Peterson.

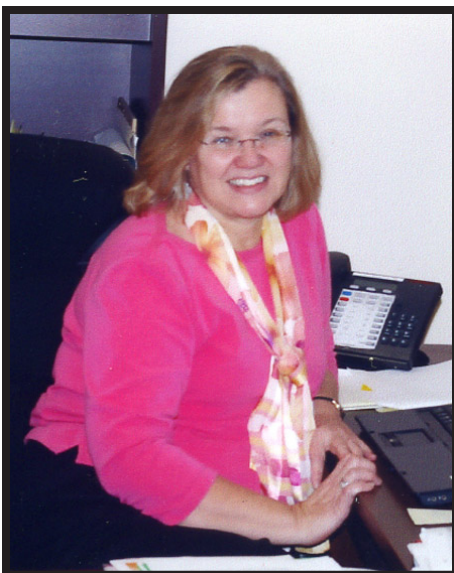
Campaign volunteers have posted 5,000 yardsigns throughout the county, and are now engaged in door-to-door distribution of campaign literature.

"We've had a great turnout of volunteers," said Superintendent Jed

Morison. "In the past few weeks, they've really stepped up."



## Agency bids Sue Sherwood "Aloha"



Dr. Susan Sherwood

Dr. Sue Sherwood, FCBMRDD's Chief of Psychology Services for the past twenty-five years, has retired from the agency in order to accept a position with the State of Hawaii.

The move will allow Sue to continue to work in her chosen field, while being closer to her family. Sue's daughter, Loretta, and son-in-law, Clint, make their home in the Aloha State.

Her son, Sam, a college student majoring in marine transportation, is expected to find his way to Hawaii without difficulty.

Family has long been important to Sue. A sister's developmental disability sparked her early interest in the field and involvement as a volunteer in summer camps and special education classes.

As an undergraduate at St. Lawrence University in New York, Sue studied under Dr. Thomas Cunningham, a psychologist and former student of Dr. Henry Leland, the renowned Ohio State professor, who developed the widely-used adaptive behavior scale geared to persons with mental retardation.

In 1974, Sue began graduate studies at Ohio State where Dr. Leland served as her mentor. Her dissertation on social skills and play therapy was completed with the help of FCBMRDD school staff and students.

Sue joined the agency as a staff psychologist in 1980, working primarily with clients from ARC Industries North and East. In 1982, she was promoted

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# Tressels support levy

Ohio State head football coach Jim Tressel and his wife, Ellen, are actively involved in a number of charitable and educational causes in central Ohio.

In June, 2003, Ellen Tressel gave the commencement address at the graduation of fifteen FCBMRDD students at West Central School.

Last month, the Tressels gave the Citizens Committee for Persons with Mental Retardation their personal endorsement of Issue 29.

“Coach and Mrs. Tressel were very kind to take time away from their busy schedules to provide their endorsement,” said Superintendent Jed Morison. “We appreciate it very much.”

*Sue Sherwood, from p. 1*

to Chief of Psychology Services, succeeding Dr. Marilyn Deutsch.

Sue will be remembered by colleagues for her commitment to respectful treatment of clients, ethical and research-informed psychological services, and her emphasis on inter-agency collaboration.

She has chaired FCBMRDD’s Human Rights Committee since its inception, coordinated behavioral support services, and overseen research.

Sue has worked in collaboration with Ohio State to help develop Nisonger Center’s Dual Diagnosis Clinic and Behavior Support Services, as well as the Buckeye Behavioral Analysis Project.

She has been active with the Ohio Department of MRDD, serving on committees on behavior planning, eligibility, and mental health services.

Through her “Managing for Results” activities, Sue has provided documented outcomes for the work of staff and affiliated providers.



*The current Psychology staff team (from left) includes: Dr. Angela Ray, Dr. Karen Laub, Randall Cuenot, Karen Smith, Nick Boyer, Mona Decker, Anne Thomas, Dr. Sue Sherwood, Deb Rinto, Patti Aellig and Karen Owen.*

For several years, she has served on the national board of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, and was President of the Ohio chapter for one year.

“Sue’s hard work and professionalism over the course of many years

reflect her outstanding dedication to our agency and clients,” said Superintendent Jed Morison. “She will be greatly missed.”

*Dateline* joins the entire FCBMRDD community in wishing Dr. Sherwood the very best in the future.

## “I loved my job...”

*(Editor’s note: The following is an excerpt of an interview with Dr. Sue Sherwood, Chief of Psychology Services, regarding her career with FCBMRDD.)*

### **What prompted your decision to retire?**

“I’ve been presented a wonderful opportunity both professionally and personally. I’ve accepted a position with the State of Hawaii’s Department of Health. I’ll be continuing my career in developmental disabilities, while in a warm climate, near my children, and in a beautiful as well as culturally diverse setting.”

### **Of what accomplishments are you most proud?**

“Number one would be the fact that we’ve attracted and maintained an outstanding staff, who are providing “cutting edge” evaluation, treatment and consultation services. Second would be our success in providing positive behavioral support, reducing the use of aversives.”

### **What are the biggest changes you’ve witnessed over your career?**

“Within our department, one of the biggest changes is that over half the behavioral health services provided through the agency are now provided by private contractors.”

“Also, we’ve transitioned the behavioral support services from the facilities to the Psychology Department, which has worked out very well.”

“Within our system, as a whole, the most significant changes have been the growth of residential services and the expanded role of service coordination.”

### **Do you have any regrets about leaving the agency?**

“Well, I loved my job, and I’ll definitely miss my friends and colleagues who have been such a strong network over the years. This is a great work environment, so supportive in so many ways.”



# 10 reasons to vote for Issue 29

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1. Passage of Issue 29 will maintain much-needed services for over 14,000 Franklin County residents with disabilities and their families. Although these services vary in kind and scope depending on the needs of the individuals, all are necessary to allow individuals to live their lives to the fullest.

2. The number of persons needing services is growing. Since 2001, the number of persons served has increased at a rate of about 4.3 percent per year. This trend, believed to be due to population growth and increased longevity, is expected to continue in the future.

3. The services provided by FCBMRDD are of the highest quality. In 2006, the agency earned a five-year accreditation, the maximum length offered, from the Ohio Department of MRDD. In January, the agency earned a three-year accreditation, again the maximum possible, from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

4. The success of FCBMRDD's programs can be seen in the quality of life of persons served. For example, over 2,000 adults with disabilities are employed thanks to job training and placement services. Also, of those children completing preschool, 90 percent can attend regular schools.

5. Issue 29 is the first levy requested by FCBMRDD in seven years. The agency has kept its promise to the community not to return to the ballot sooner.

6. FCBMRDD has demonstrated fiscal responsibility. Over the period of 2001 to 2007, despite an increase

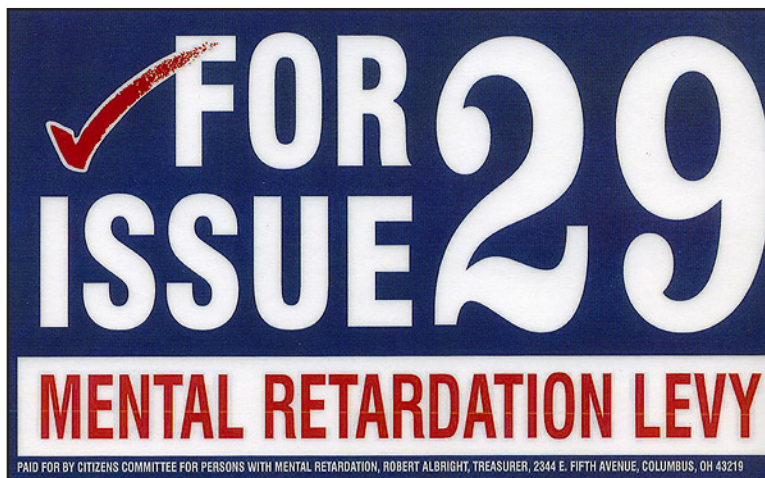
in the number of persons served, the agency's staffing level was trimmed from 1,675 to 1,440.

7. Revenue from Issue 29 will provide matching funds that will generate federal dollars for services to local residents. Franklin County has led the state in securing federal funds for MRDD services.

8. Issue 29 will, in effect, replace two levies. A 1.65 mill continuing levy approved by voters in 1982 will be replaced, 1.85 mills added, and a separate 2.32 mill, ten-year levy approved in 1998 will be allowed to expire.

9. Issue 29 will help ensure that Franklin County residents with disabilities can be as productive and self-reliant as possible. In many cases, they achieve a high degree of independence and thus require little help from tax-funded sources.

10. Issue 29 supports many community organizations including Catholic Social Services, Children's Hospital, Easter Seals, Goodwill Columbus, Jewish Community Services and Special Olympics.



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## Northeast to hold Spaghetti Dinner

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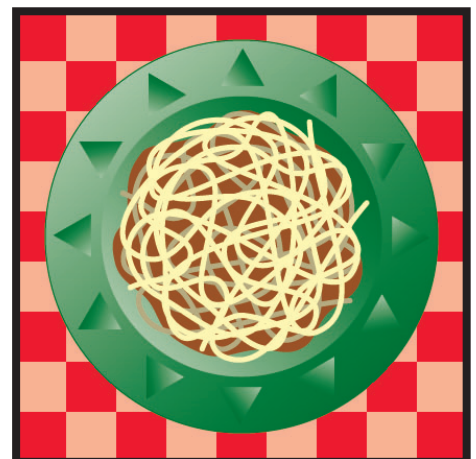
For the past 21 years, Northeast School has sponsored a spaghetti dinner, and this year, that tradition will continue.

On Saturday, March 8th, 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 \$7 per adult and \$3.50 per child.

In conjunction with the dinner, the school will also host a raffle of many donated items, including gift cards, jewelry, and handmade quilts.

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



## West Central parents to host Information Fair

You're cordially invited to join the West Central Parent Group at its first Information Fair, to be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, March 10th. At this event, you will have the opportunity to meet many people who can help broaden your child's future with a variety of programs and services.

Information booths will be set up to help you find desired information.

Representatives will be on hand from FCBMRDD's Adult Services, Hague Living Skills Center, the Family Resources program, plus many more organizations.

A complimentary chili dinner, donated by Rally's, will be offered.

The location will be West Central School, 1481 W. Town Street, Columbus. Please call 276-8231 with any questions.

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## PAR offers TBI, ethics workshops

The Professional Association for Retardation (PAR) is sponsoring a day-long seminar regarding traumatic brain injury (TBI).

The seminar, which is being coordinated by the Brain Injury Association of Ohio, will explore causes, impact, coping strategies, available resources and supports.

The seminar will be held on Thursday, March 29th, from 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. The location will be the COSERCC Center, 470 Glenmont Avenue, Columbus.

At the same location on Thursday, April 10th, PAR will offer a day-long seminar on Ohio's Ethics Law. Susan Willeke of the Ohio Ethics Commission will provide guidance on the statute, which applies to public employees.

For further details regarding these workshops, please call 419/ 522-6207 or visit [www.par-ohio.org](http://www.par-ohio.org).



*The 2008 PAR Board includes Eric Berquist,-- staff member at ARC Industries North (second from left in the middle row).*

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## FCCS seeks volunteers

Franklin County Children Services has many children who need that special friendship and guidance from an adult.

Children who have experienced abuse and neglect look forward to spending time and sharing activities. A few hours with a caring adult can make a world of difference in a child's life.

Volunteers and mentors should be age 18 or older, have a driver's license, auto insurance, and complete the application process and brief training program. Volunteers must make a six-month commitment to a child and see him or her at least two times a month.

Volunteers are matched one-on-one with a child through the

Friendship Program, one of the Africentric programs, the Crisis Center, or College-Bound program.

The process is easy. Take the time to make a difference for a child. Call the Volunteer Program at 275-2690 or visit [www.franklincountyohio.gov/child-rentservices](http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/child-rentservices) for more details.

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## Resource Fair set for March 12

The Early Childhood Department's third annual Resource fair will be held on Wednesday, March 12th from 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at the Early Childhood Education and family Center, 2879 Johnstown Road.

Some participants will include the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio, the Ohio Department of Education, Children's Hospital Autism Center, The Outreach Program for Soccer, Jewish Community Center and Habilitation Services, Inc.

Parents, staff and the public are welcome.

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

# Good For You

## Notable Achievements in the FCBMRDD Community

West Central Principal **Barbara Michael-Jones** reports that a group of Ohio State students were instrumental in organizing art and home economics activities at the school recently. The volunteers were members of the **Student Council for Exceptional Children**.

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Once again Northeast staff member **Gayle Oberlitner** is coordinating the annual Spaghetti Dinner at the school. A team of **U.S. Postal employees** is returning as well to provide kitchen support. Staff members **Susan Galbraith** and **Mary Butler** are coordinating a raffle to be held in conjunction with the dinner.

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Administration staff member **Rick-Grawmeyer** is one of many staff providing exceptional volunteer assistance to the Issue 29 campaign. He is the mastermind of the door-to-door literature drop, mapping out plans to place brochures on the doorknobs of over 180,000 homes.

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The stork paid quite a visit to West Central School recently. Instructor assistants **Mike and Kiko Jones** are the proud parents of a baby boy, while physical therapist **Mitzi Stephens** and her husband, **Charlie**, are celebrating the birth of a daughter. Not to be outdone, **Jennifer Siddell**, a teacher at the Park Street Collaborative, and her husband, **Shad**, are having twice the fun with their newly arrived twin boys. Congratulations to all!

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**Bobby Browning**, an 8th grade student at Jackson Middle School, was honored recently as the school's "OSU Spirit Winner." Bobby attends a class offered by FCBMRDD in cooperation with Southwestern City Schools. Way to go, Bobby!

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This year marks the 15th anniversary of ARC Industries' On-Site Crew program. Started in 1992, the program has enabled hundreds of ARC employees to hold jobs in the community. Kudos to **Kurt Schmitter**, who directs the program, supervisors **Andy Cole, Ron Harrison, John Taylor** and the entire staff responsible for the outstanding success.

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**Mike Doran, Tina Turpin** and **Mary Ann Austen** are coordinators for the ARC Industries East Operation Feed campaign. Up to the second week of the campaign, a ton of food and more than \$2,000.00 have been collected from all FCBMRDD facilities.

## Career Milestones

### 25 years

David Greiner

### 20 years

David Brown  
Theresa Conti  
Patric Davis  
Gloria Hengen  
Barbara Hennis  
John Johnson  
Brenda Mullen  
Daniel Schoenstra  
Karen Smathers

### 15 years

Scott Erenpreiss  
William Johnson  
Valeria McLean  
Ollene Meyers  
Sharon Moore  
Shirley Rise  
James Smith

### 10 years

Phyllis Armstead  
Donna Dennis  
Arthur Gresham  
Kimberly Howell  
Cynthia Massenelli  
Kay Nophsker  
Tamara Tincher

### 5 years

David Dawson  
Judy Dillon  
Karen Hempstead  
Jane Massaquoi  
Arthur Newton  
Rick Summers  
Raymond Taylor



# MRDD month has “open doors” theme



In hopes of promoting positive perceptions of people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities, the State of Ohio has designated March as MRDD Awareness Month.

A kickoff ceremony is planned for Thursday, March 6th, at the Statehouse Atrium. The event, which will begin at noon, will celebrate the many successes of people with disabilities.

The campaign theme will be “When doors open, we succeed.”

Superintendent Jed Morison described the theme as “very appropriate.”

“We are reminded that people with disabilities will contribute to our community so long as they have the opportunity to do so,” he said.

In recognition of MRDD Awareness Month, FCBMRDD facilities will have posters on display. Many classes and groups will visit libraries.

## 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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The following FCBMRDD staff contribute to the monthly publication and distribution of Dateline.

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(614) 475-6440 FAX 342-5001

Northeast School will hold its annual Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, March 8th, from 4 to 8 p.m. Details are available at 476-0530.

Persons seeking information regarding MRDD Awareness Month may visit [www.publicimagesnetwork.org](http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org).

## Calendar

### March, 2008

- 4 Election Day -- don't forget to vote!
- 6 Kickoff for MRDD Awareness Month, Statehouse Atrium, 12 p.m.
- 8 Northeast School Annual Spaghetti Dinner, 500 N. Hamilton Rd., Gahanna, 4-8 p.m.
- 10 West Central Parents Group Information Fair, 1481 W. Town Street, 6-8 p.m.
- 11 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.
- 12 FCBMRDD Human Resources Committee meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4:30 p.m.
- 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- 19 Parent League meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.
- 20 Spring begins.
- 20 FCBMRDD Finance Committee meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 20 FCBMRDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.
- 23 Happy Easter!
- 24 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Holiday Inn On-the-Lane, 11:30 a.m.
- 24-28 Spring Recess.

## “Quotable quotes”

“Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.”

Information about FCBMRDD is always available on the internet at:  
**[www.fcbmrdd.org](http://www.fcbmrdd.org)**

-- George S. Patton