

## Star award recipients named

The recipients of the FCBMRDD Community Star Awards for 2007 have been announced. The awards recognize individuals who have made outstanding efforts to help carry out FCBMRDD's mission.

This year's recipients are: Mike Rigo, *Adult Participant*; Angel Ratliff, *Child Participant*; Jean and Ted Williams, *Parent/Family Members*; Scott Armstrong, *Adult Services staff*; Judy Beck, *School staff*; On

the Mark Services, (Mark Stuntz), *Provider Organization*; Virginia Ryder, *Volunteer/Good Neighbor*; Robin Mathis, *Transportation staff*; Bruce Fingerhut, *Early Childhood staff*; Martha Cornwell, *Residential staff*; Mike Davis, *Management/Supervisory staff*; Rose Sawyers, *Support Services/Other staff*; Mike Christen, *Service Coordination staff*; Kroger, *Employer*.

The awards will be presented at a banquet on Thursday evening,

November 1<sup>st</sup>, at Villa Milano, 1630 Schrock Road. The event will include a social hour, dinner and entertainment. Over 700 guests are expected.

Reservations are now being accepted. A form for this purpose is enclosed in this issue of *Dateline*. For more information, please call Linda Rockwell at 342-5950.

## Community rolls out welcome mat

It was a hot, humid afternoon on the eastside of Columbus, but the crowd of approximately 100 persons gathered in the backyard of the James/Scottwood Residences on August 9<sup>th</sup> didn't seem to mind.

They had a hearty laugh when Creative Housing President Patrick Rafter, in opening remarks, extended "a very warm welcome."

After touring the new apartments and listening to several speeches, they still had ample energy to give a loud cheer when tenant Steve Latham cut the ribbon, officially opening the eight-unit facility.

The apartments, located at 1550 South James Road, are part of a series of six projects designed for persons with disabilities made possible through the collaborative efforts of



Superintendent Jed Morison holds the ribbon while future tenant Steve Latham gets help cutting from Pat Rafter, Creative Housing's President.

Welcoming future residents was Columbus City Councilwoman Charleta Tavares .

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*'Welcome Mat' from p. 1*

Creative Housing, Inc., FCBMRDD, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the City of Columbus.

Speaking on behalf of the eastside neighborhood, Columbus City Councilwoman Charleta Tavares assured the future residents, "We are an accepting community. We recognize that we are all God's children, and all need one another's help and understanding."

Randolph Wilson, Director of the Columbus Office of HUD, praised Creative Housing for its professional approach to the development process. He also stressed the benefits of joint funding involving federal and local agencies.

Rita Parise of the Columbus Department of Development presented a proclamation from Mayor Michael Coleman who, in honor of the occasion, declared August 9<sup>th</sup> to be "Welcome Home Day."



*Randolph Wilson Director of the Columbus Office of HUD.*



*Rita Parise from the Columbus Department of Development.*

FCBMRDD Superintendent Jed Morison pointed out the importance of supportive services, which are arranged by the agency. "Service coordinators and private providers play vital roles in the residents' quality of life," he said.

Creative Housing has developed similar apartments in Whitehall and on the far west side of Columbus. Additional sites are under development in Gahanna and Hilliard.

## OSDA— the real thing

The Ohio Self-Determination Association has slated its annual conference for September 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at the University Plaza Hotel, Columbus.

The organization will celebrate ten years of self-determination in Ohio. The conference theme will be, "It's the real thing."

Featured speakers will include former Notre Dame and University of Akron football coach Gerry Faust, national self-advocate Chester Finn, singer Peter Leidy, Ohio Department of MRDD Director John Martin, and filmmaker Jennifer Owensby.

For more information, please visit [www.ohiosda.org](http://www.ohiosda.org) or call 890-9822.

## Karla Rinto to address families

Karla Rinto, Program Director for Advocacy and Protective Services (APSI), will be guest speaker at the next meeting of Families United, which will be held Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. The group meets at Overbrook Presbyterian Church, 4131 N. High Street, Columbus.

Karla will discuss the various services provided by APSI, including guardianship services.

The public is invited to attend.

## PAR convention set

The PAR organization, which provides training for professionals who serve people with developmental disabilities, will hold its 39<sup>th</sup> annual convention at Embassy Suites in Dublin on Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup> through Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Monday will feature an all day presentation by motivational speaker Harry Paul, co-author of the Fish! Philosophy.

Sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday will include an array of topics on various disabilities and interventions.

The public is invited and may attend any portion of the convention.

For more information, visit [www.par-ohio.com](http://www.par-ohio.com) or call 419/522-6207.

# Reflections on the parent-professional relationship

*By Susan McCrary*

Being the parent of an adult disabled child and as well as a clinical social worker brings greater than usual motivation to understand this parenting experience. I hear complaints from both perspectives (parents and professionals) and have experienced the issues of both. That there are sometimes strained relationships between the two groups is not a newsflash to anyone.

A trying situation that comes up sometimes is that of the overly involved parent. Enmeshment is the psychotherapeutic term for an individual being so involved that it causes harm to either or both parties in the relationship. This is a common dysfunction in family relationships in general, but can be especially complicated for parents of children who do not develop typically.

In normal development, the individual develops new skills and a sense of self that helps separate the individual from the parent. When an individual does not attain levels of competence or a desire for independence (as in adolescents), it can fuel the intensity of parental involvement. The parent's need to control and protect the individual can reach a point that may be unhealthy or inappropriate. Although this may be obvious to persons outside the relationship, people in the fused closeness do not see it. They experience anxiety and worry that is relieved temporarily by acting on the enmeshment, increasing contact with each other. This can become a vicious cycle of a parent's expressive attempts to control the adult child that feeds upon itself.

Direct-line staff and supervisors also react to what is perceived as inappropriate and excessive demand. Parents viewed as unreasonable can be sources of frustration on the provider's end. Sometimes staff interpret the parent's reaction as personally directed or hostile. This level of emotion is detrimental to everyone involved and certainly does not promote the quality of care of the person served.

Taking time to step back and look at our own emotional involvement and interpretation of our experiences is worth the effort. Hopefully, it will serve to reduce the sense that we must be adversaries, and set the stage for a habilitative alliance.

*(Susan McCrary is a licensed social worker employed by Franklin County Residential Services. She is also a member of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, and the parent of an adult with a disability.)*

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## Treating dental patients with Down syndrome

*By Tamera McIntyre, Nisonger Center Dental Program*

Persons with Down syndrome are becoming more prevalent in the mainstream of society. Their higher level of functioning allows them to become more independent in school, work and community settings. This trend is inclusive of dental offices as well.

Adult and children with Down syndrome are treated at the Nisonger Center Dental Program along with patients with other disabilities and special needs.

The intellectual ability of persons with Down syndrome varies, which can limit their ability to learn and communicate. Often they can understand more than they can verbalize. Making them feel comfortable and providing extra time and attention often gains trust for a successful appointment.

There are various dental considerations when treating persons with Down syndrome. A high percentage of adults develop mitral valve prolapse in the heart which requires an antibiotic premedication prior to dental appointments. This will be determined by the dentist on the first visit while reviewing the medical history.

Some oral health concerns in Down syndrome are: missing permanent teeth, delayed eruption of primary and permanent teeth, and smaller or malformed teeth. Taking your child to the dentist around their first birthday will help identify unusual tooth formations and eruption patterns. This is an important time to ask the dentist any questions you may have concerning habits as well.

The incidence of mouth breathing is very high due to the development of a small nasal airway. The tongue and lips become dry and form cracks

and fissures which trap bacteria. Daily brushing of the tongue usually alleviates any odor from the bacteria accumulation.

Cavities are more prevalent in adults with Down syndrome rather than children. This is often due to the incidence of dry mouth and poor food choices.

A reduced degree of muscle tone causes less efficient chewing and natural cleansing of the teeth. More food may remain on the teeth after eating; therefore it is very important to practice proper daily oral hygiene habits. The use of an electric toothbrush is very effective in improving daily brushing. Your dentist or dental hygienist can show you the proper use of the electric toothbrush if needed.

Early professional treatment and daily home care are recommended to maintain a healthy mouth.

# Hugs, sports talk make pleasant lunch *By Bob Krause*

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On a lot of Wednesday mornings, I go to the Easton shopping center.

I wait a while until my compatriots join me. There I enter a Target store and walk into the cafeteria. My compatriots are led by Gil, who brings them from a sheltered workshop for the developmentally disabled.

Some have epilepsy, others have autism or cerebral palsy. Target is receptive to the handicapped. It provides space in its cafeteria: a couple of tables and benches and chairs. There are free drinks for the men and for me.

The men include Mike, a droll sort who shaves his head; Jason, a hyperactive type who loves all there is about Texas; Charles, whose bear hugs could break a bone; and Scotty, who has Down syndrome and wants lots and lots of gentle hugs, as well as Mike, who bowls in the Special Olympics program.

These gatherings are part of the Next Chapter Book Club, a program developed by Ohio State University's nationally-designated Nisonger Center for developmental disabilities. Books are read at some locations, but not at Easton. What we do for about an hour is talk about sports, and that includes picking winners.

Gil, long-suffering but very patient, leads the way. He never fails to compliment his people if they come up with something worthwhile. He and I provide newspapers.

The last time I saw them Scotty was wearing a Saint Louis Cardinals baseball cap and a Mickey Mouse T-shirt. Mike normally wears a cap over his bare skull. Not then. Why? "The sun ain't out yet," he is wild about the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Jason, a natty fellow, was clad in a Chrysler jacket and an Izod shirt. With regard to Texas, Jason frequently cries out: "Hook'en Horns!"-Always with the first and fifth fingers extended.

Charles had a cap with the No. 8 on it, in honor of Dale Earnhardt Jr., the auto racer. Cars are a bit thing with Charles.

The first half hour is devoted to the result of the previous week's games in almost every sport. Winning pickers are hailed. Losers look appropriately glum.

Next, with everybody looking at the papers, there's the picking of winners in the current week's games. Occasionally, a coin toss is required.

It takes a while before Mike and Scotty get into it. Often, after I make a pick, they'll look at me and say: "I'm with Bob." I'm more or less honored.



*Bob Krause is a longtime Clintonville resident, a former member of the Board of Trustees of ARC Industries, and a regular contributor to The Booster.*

I announced that I was going to San Antonio and Austin, both of course, in Texas. Gill told me I had to bring back something for Jason.

I asked Jason which city he wanted something from. His shouted reply: "Both!" I'm stuck.

I mentioned Scotty's interest in hugging. As we walked to the parking lot, he asked me for a hug. I did so, on one side of his head.

"Bob, now I want the other side," he said. It was a pretty good day.

## Child care info available

Action for Children maintains an updated list of home and center child care providers. The agency refers only to centers and homes on the registry.

If you are a FCBMRDD staff member in need of child care assistance, you can call 224-2780 for information about available child care choices. You will be introduced to the range of child care options, guidelines for decision making, and sources of care.

## Siblings to gather Oct. 12-13

The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Ohio Adult Sibling Conference will be held Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at the Marriott Airport Hotel in Columbus.

The purpose of the conference is to create an environment where adult siblings can gather together and share family experiences, develop new relationships, obtain information and be recognized as integral parts in their families' success.

Over the past seven years, conference attendees from across Ohio have had the opportunity to hear presentations from state and national MRDD professionals, meet other adult siblings, and explore areas of interest.

Under the direction of Dr. Tom Fish of The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, and supported by many organizations including the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, the Ohio Adult Sibling Conference was the first event of its kind in the country. It has also been used as a model in other states.

Please visit [www.ohiosibs.com](http://www.ohiosibs.com) for more information, or call Tom Fish at 292-7550.

# Good For You

## Notable Achievements in the FCBMRDD Community

## Career Milestones

Congratulations to the following school staff on their election to the leadership team of FCBMRDD'S unit of the Ohio Education Association: **Scott Snyder**, President; **Terry Tullis**, Vice-President; **Lynne Watkins**, Secretary; **Nancy Kleshinski**, Treasurer; and **Robyn Wright**, Education Support Officer.

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Transportation staff member **David Dawson** made quite a splash at the 2007 National Senior Games held at the University of Louisville this summer. He placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 50 yard breast stroke meet and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 50 yard freestyle. Well done, David!

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Although unlikely to replace Paris or Milan as a fashion center, the Village of Groveport is making its mark on the local style-making scene, thanks to the enthusiastic efforts of **Grace "Bunnie" Fair** and other staff of the **Bixby Living Skills Center**. The Groveport-based facility staged its annual fashion event on July 31<sup>st</sup>, featuring the latest in sporty, dressy and casual wear. Congratulations on a super show!

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A warm welcome goes to **Michael Snow**, the new Superintendent of the **Columbus Developmental Center**. He previously served the Ohio Department of MRDD as its Deputy Director of the Division of State Operated Services and Supports.

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The fans at Jacobs Field on July 18<sup>th</sup> got to see a classic matchup between the Indians and the White Sox. Among those rooting for the home team was a group of FCBMRDD participants accompanied by **Recreation Department** staff. The trip to Cleveland was made possible by a generous donation from **Special Heroes**.

*Left to right are: John O'Bleness, Gary Brundage, Susan Sarto, Regina Brownlow, Tom Stevens, Debbie Washburn, John Kitchton, Roberta Lehman, Ildiko Temesvary, Jane Taylor, Lisa Amos, Ed Ruiz,*

*James Jeffire, Kim Hale, Darryl Beckles, Nikki Toone, Treenet Minor, Lee Pollock, Richard Kolodgy, Anthony Morton.*



**ARC Industries** employee **Gloria Kepes** has retired from her post at the Vern Rife Center after 18 years of service. Gloria did janitorial work. Her favorite task was cleaning the chrome and glass in the lobby of the building. Best wishes, Gloria, for a fun-filled retirement!

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On August 16<sup>th</sup>, the **Hague Living Skills Center** received the Wright Choice 2007 Business Partner Award, recognizing the center's work to encourage high school and college students to consider careers in the developmental disabilities field. Hague Director **Annick Parker** has put the award on display in the facility's lobby.



### 25 years

**Linda Bundy**  
**James Burrell**  
**Cheri Davidson**  
**Peggy Meredith**  
**Pamela Pollock**

### 20 years

**Karen Ash**  
**Carmel Mechlin**  
**Kristina Pashovich**  
**Marie Whitehead**  
**Raenette Wilhelm**  
**Robyn Wright**

### 15 years

**Roger Askew**  
**Edward Baumann**  
**Terry Mack**  
**Julie McKnight**  
**Glenna Miller**  
**Samuel Shannon**  
**Leroy White**

### 5 years

**Victoria Foeller**  
**Nanett Mattern**  
**Claudia Sanders**

## West Central site of PWSA conference

The Prader-Willi Syndrome Association (PWSA) of Ohio will hold its annual Fall Mini-Conference on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, at West Central School. The activities will run from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The featured speaker will be Elisabeth Dykens, Ph. D., Associate Director of Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development and a professor in the Psychology Department at Vanderbilt University.

She will speak on "Correlates of Cognitive and Behavioral Strengths and Challenges of People with Prader-Willi Syndrome."

For more information, please call PWSA of Ohio at 330/723-0004.



## Bowling league winners!



Ken Armentrout, Glenn Donahue and Bob Overfield hoisted some hardware after their first-place showing in the Recreation Department's bowling league. Team member Niki Harris was also honored.

## Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

Ben W. Hale, Jr.  
Jerry Saunders  
Mildred Blumenfeld  
Bruce Burns  
Paul S. Coppel  
Dean Fadel  
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Superintendent Jed W. Morison

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

**Jed W. Morison**      **Carl Scott**      **Mary Linden**  
**Michael Davis**      **Karen Reynolds**      **Martin Kerscher**  
**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

## Calendar

### September, 2007

- 3 Labor Day - all county facilities closed.
- 11 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.
- 19 FCBMRDD Human Resources Committee meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4:30 p.m.
- 19 Parent League meeting, 2879 Johnstown Road, 9:30 a.m.
- 27 FCBMRDD Finance Committee meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 27 FCBMRDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Road, 5 p.m.

## "Quotable quotes"

"Laughter is an instant vacation."

--Milton Berle

Information about FCBMRDD is always available on the internet at:  
**www.fcbmrdd.org**