

Placement Department hits the big 3-0

It started out at a time when many harbored doubts about the wisdom and viability of placing persons with developmental disabilities into community employment. Now a proven success, FCBDD's Placement Services Department celebrated its 30th anniversary recently.

The department's initial goal was to place 50 people into employment each year. Now it averages 100 placements per year with an 86% retention rate.

Among the most common job areas are janitorial, food service, grocery workers, warehouse workers, assembly and hospital supply.

The leading employers of persons served are: Kroger, Giant Eagle, the Ohio State University, Volt, Marshall's/TJ Maxx, Goodwill, Walmart and Home Depot.



Kurt Schmitter, Laurie Green-Lauber and Kris Potridge.

A big boost to job placement efforts occurred in 1987 when the department received a grant from the Rehabilitation Services Commission to provide transportation support to persons with jobs. To that point, twenty-five percent of jobs offered had been turned down due to transportation difficulties.

The department now employs 33 staff serving over 350 individuals. Creation of the department in 1982 was, in large part, the result of the efforts of then Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Phipps. She went on to become Superintendent of the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities and later the Hamilton County Board before retiring.

The first Director of the Placement Services Department was David Tisdale, who described the experience as "very exciting to have been a part of it and to see the continued improvement in services." The current Director is Kurt Schmitter.

Superintendent Jed Morison credits the staff for the department's progress over the years. "It started modestly but has gone on to great success thanks in large part to the hard work of the staff and individuals served."

Family honors daughter's memory by helping others

by Susan Gibson

When Jim and Annette Brochowski lost their daughter Meghan Joy, they mourned her passing but celebrated her life by launching a memorial golf tournament in her honor. That golf tournament led to the founding of the MJB Foundation.

The MJB Foundation and FCBDD's Early Childhood Education Program have a special connection because Meghan was a student in Early Childhood. The foundation's support made it possible for a number of students in ECE to receive needed adaptive equipment that otherwise could not have been funded. The foundation has also provided funding for the Outdoor Learning Environment at ECE which boasts a beautiful fountain in honor of Meghan Joy.

The MJB Foundation doesn't limit its support to FCBDD. It helps many other central Ohio organizations that serve children with disabilities.

Golf for Joy is an annual golf tournament held on the last Saturday in June. This year's event will be at Foxfire Golf Club, 10799 State Route 104, on Saturday, June 29th at 1 p.m.

Bowl for Joy is an annual bowling tournament held in February. This year's event will be at Sawmill Lanes, 4825 Sawmill Rd., on Saturday, February 9th from 1 to 4 p.m.

To learn more about the MJB Foundation and how you can support their



John Scialabba, Special Projects Coordinator and Jim Brochowski, Founder.

efforts, go to: www.mjbfoundation.org Or go to facebook.com/mjbfoundation.

Service Coordination hosts holiday party

by Kim Goleb

During the holidays one is reminded that the season is all about giving, especially to those who would not otherwise receive. The joy and happiness that this creates makes all the effort worthwhile.

To that end, since 1991 the Service Coordination Department has hosted an annual holiday party for service recipients who otherwise would not have a celebration. Supervisor Bob Thomas has led the effort for years and spends countless hours on the preparations to ensure all have a great experience.

The party was held at Xenos Christian Fellowship's 4th Street Pavilion on December 5th. Attendees numbered approximately 150. One hundred percent of the funding of the event came from donations and fundraisers given by Service Coordinators.

Service Coordinators shared their diverse talents including playing the flute, serving food, baking desserts and donating beverages, posing as Santa and Mrs. Claus or elves, and playing games of bingo and karaoke singing.



From left are: Janet Wilbur, Donna Dennis and Kevin Yuhas.

Thanks to all of the dedicated staff who volunteered their time, skills and funds to support the party!

Mark your calendar

The annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff will be held at the Ohio Statehouse on Tuesday, March 5th. Attendance will be open to all.

The theme this year will be "Look Beyond."

More details will be available soon at www.publicimagesnetwork.org.

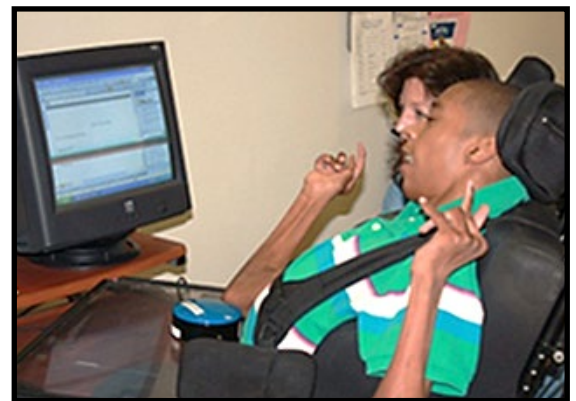
Bixby takes part in adapted computer project

by Deb Wellmes

You never know what you will find in the way of interesting activities at the Bixby Living Skills Center, especially since we began participating in the Franklin County Adult Services Adapted Computer Program.

This last spring, Bixby received six updated computers with Internet access and technical support. We have created several engaging PowerPoint activities which most participants access through the use of switches. These computers have allowed our participants to view picture montage videos complete with music, so that they may re-experience various in-house events including Halloween and Karaoke.

Creating our own programs allows us to customize activities to meet individual and group needs and to increase independence, learning and enjoyment of computer use.



Naquan Davis works on a music project at Bixby LSC.

The adapted computers have opened the door to a variety of activities and experiences for the individuals at Bixby. Naquan Davis, who dreams of someday performing as a rap artist, is now using the computer to work on his music projects.

We at Bixby are excited by the possibilities of this project, and will continue to create additional materials for our participants. Stop by to see us in action!

Retiring staff exemplified caring and courage

Two highly motivated staff members at ARC Industries South retired at the end of December. Habilitation Specialist Becky Cotterman and Training Specialist Steve Knorr combined for over 58 years of agency service.



Steve Knorr spent his entire 25 year career at ARC Industries South. Areas of concentration included production, food service and janitorial services.

He contributed heavily to the workshop through his service on committees especially in the areas of safety, security and celebrations. He was highly active in planning and setting up ARC South picnics.

In 2007, Steve earned a Master's in Public Administration from Central Michigan University.

An Air Force reservist for 24 years, Steve holds the rank of Senior Master Sergeant. Called to active duty, he served in two wars: the Gulf War in Kuwait in 1992-3 and the Iraq War in 2004-5.

In his free time, Steve enjoys working as a coach with the Columbus Public Schools Special Olympics program, where he has been active since 1986. He also serves the Red Cross as a member of the Disaster Action team.

Steve is looking forward to taking cruises with his wife Susan and to spending more time with his children, Matt and Phil, and grandson Aidan.

Becky Cotterman began her career in 1979 at ARC Industries West. After a short stint at ARC North she transferred to ARC South in 1986 to take on the duties of Vocational Evaluator, which proved to be her favorite position.

She developed "Meet and Greet for the Visually Challenged" and co-facilitated grief and loss groups. She particularly enjoyed working with Columbus State and Ohio State students.

Reflecting her wide interests, Becky traveled out west in 1990 to



work with the Navajo people to help assure successful CARF accreditation. In 2000, she visited China to speak about Prader-Willi Syndrome.

Looking back on her career, she said "I learned more than I had to offer." Becky, who holds a Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling from Bowling Green State University, hopes to teach part-time at a university as well as return to work with Native Americans. But first she plans to travel.

Commenting on Becky's and Steve's service, Superintendent Jed Morison said, "Both are the type of people who want to do good things for other people. Our agency was able to provide them a way to do that."

Campaign posts record results

The final results of the agency's 2012 Combined Charitable Campaign are in and once again FCBDD staff have set a new record.

The total amount pledged is \$107,472.03, surpassing last year's total of \$105,829.02, which was the previous record.

Campaign Coordinator Larry Macintosh expressed thanks to all who supported the drive and especially the building and department campaign coordinators.



Serving our country

Ian Daniel Brown is serving in the U.S. Marines at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina where he works as a Light Armored Vehicle Technician. He is with the Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Bravo Company.

He graduated from the Marine Recruit Depot at Parris Island, South Carolina, in April, 2011 and received job training at Camp Lejeune.

Ian is the son of Jeannie Brown, Instructor Assistant at West Central School and a 30-year agency staff member. From 1995 to 1997, Ian attended the Early Childhood Learning Center as a peer model.



(Editor's note: If you or member of your family is in the armed forces, please let [Dateline](mailto:linda.fleming@fcbdd.org) know by email at: linda.fleming@fcbdd.org or by phone at 342-5988.)

Summer program offered

This summer, Learning Never Ends, LLC, will present a high school program for students with disabilities who are 15 to 18 years old. "Camp LNE" will run Monday through Friday from June 3rd to August 30th. Activities will include weekly nature trail exploration, creative arts, adapted sports and recreation, educational activities and daily skills development.

Students receiving the Individual Options Waiver will be accepted.

For more information, please contact Amanda Kennedy at 888-8486 (ext. 100).

Bowling tourney coming

Interested FCBDD staff may sign up to participate in the 8th annual *For The Fun of It* bowling tournament which will be held at Columbus Square Bowling Palace on Saturday, February 9th. Each bowler will bowl three games.

The event will run from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

For details, please call Jack Brownley, Director of Schools, at 342-5960.

First home away from home for Mike Rigo

After 30 years living at home with his parents, Mike Rigo made the decision to move out on his own. "As an aging parent of a child with a disability you reach a point where your love is the same. You want the same things for your child, but you're tired," Barb, Mike's mother said. "The best thing for us as a family to do was to work on a change for Mike".

The process of change took about two years. Like many young adults, Mike was hesitant to leave his home and his family. His parents were also hesitant. At the urging of Mike's provider agency, Absolute Care, and with his parent's cooperation, and guidance from FCBDD Service Coordination, Mike began visiting homes.

Mike moved into a newly constructed building owned by Creative Housing, designed with ten fully accessible independent apartments. Mike loves his apartment. "I feel I

have a true sense of family here with my neighbors," he said. A friend from high school also lives in the building. Having a familiar face in the building helped Mike with the transition.

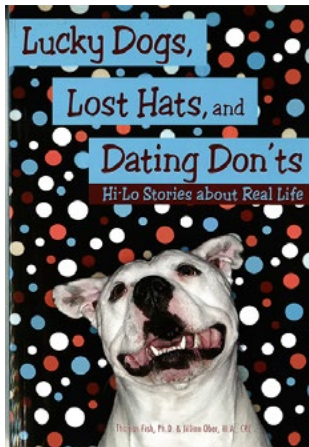
Mike needed a few key automated items to enable him control certain items in the apartment so that he could be fully independent on a daily basis. A big smile emerges across Mike's face when asked about his "enhanced" home. "I knew they would be installing things to help me, but I never imagined anything as kicked up as this."

Mrs. Rigo is very grateful for all that has been done for Mike. "At the end of the day his father and I have something we didn't even have while he lived at home -- peace and a feeling of security that he is safe and cared for. As a parent, that's all you could ever ask for."

Good For You

Notable Achievements in the FCBDD community

The **Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio** (DSACO) is planning to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day on March 21st by recognizing community members who go above and beyond in their service to individuals and families. If you know a service provider who should be recognized, you may complete a nomination form online. Contact mbarnheiser@dsaco.net for more details.



Nisonger Center's Director of Social Work **Dr. Tom Fish** has co-authored another book, this one with

Jillian Ober. Lucky Dogs, Lost Hats and Dating Don'ts is a collection of over a dozen high interest, low reading level short stories for people with intellectual disabilities or learning challenges. The publisher is Woodbine House. For details, please go to www.woodbinehouse.com.



Many may be unaware that FCBDD's Placement Department has a comedian in its midst. On-the-Job Training Specialist **Patricia Batdorf** is known in comedy circles as **Patsy B**. She recently finished in the top 3 out of a total of 48 comics in the semi-annual Talent Search Contest at the **Columbus Funny Bone Club**. The Easton club is considered the number 1 comedy club in the U.S. "I was shocked and pleasantly surprised," Pat said. "It feels like a win to me."

Self-advocates are individuals who speak up for themselves, stand up for their rights and make choices on important decisions in their lives. So says the new brochure Self Advocacy Opportunities in Franklin County prepared by Franklin County's self advocates with help from ARC Industries South staff member **Jaime Graham**.

Career Milestones

30 years

**Patricia Glick
Patricia Hager**

25 years

**Theresa Cohagen
Patricia Hickman**

20 years

Deborah Rinto

10 years

**Ethan Grant
Tracy Hamilton
Joseph Kyte
Patricia Lett
Erika Nienberg
Jennifer Schueneman
Sharon Skaggs
Scott Smith
Melissa Wren**

5 years

**Anita Brown
Kadiatu Bunduka
Angella Eichenlaub
Jessica Fisher
Jeanie Kunkle
Monica Plucinski
Michael Rash
Tiffani Shay
Carol Weaver
Patricia Winland**



Three participants in ARC Industries East's Job Club were invited to experience firsthand several jobs at the **Olive Garden** restaurant in Gahanna recently. **Chad Barbour**, **Ramiro Trevino** and **Bryan Heath** spent three hours setting up dining areas, filling the salt and pepper shakers, making fruit skewers, wrapping silverware, and finally making personalized pizzas. Staff at the Olive Garden pitched in. The participants also met a past employee of ARC North working in the dishroom. **Darryl Beckles** has been employed at Olive Garden for ten years.

The green spot by Nick Gulyassy

FCBDD continued its green efforts in 2012. Some highlights are:

1) Recycled plastics, paper, cardboard, glass and aluminum exceeded 160,000 pounds.

2) Facilities have been retrofitted with new lighting technology at a cost of \$353,360. AEP rebates equaled \$90,276, lowering the cost to \$263,084. The estimated electric savings annually is \$105,439, which means that the project will pay for itself in 2.49 years.

3) Most facilities have changed over to the touch-free paper dispensers which saves 30 percent plus in paper towel usage; foaming hand soap, one bottle of which equals ten bottles of the same size; and green chemical products, as much as possible.

4) Many of the night janitorial crews have switched the times they clean and turn on only the lights necessary to clean and shut them off once they are done, reducing the use of electricity in the facilities.

5) Electronic communication has significantly reduced the use of paper in the facilities now that all staff have access to computers.

None of this could be done without the cooperation and participation of all the staff and individuals served in all the facilities.

Check here for closing news

For information concerning emergency closings of FCBDD facilities, please listen to the following after 5:30 :

Radio AM

WBNS (1460)
WMNI (920)
WOSU (820)
WTVN (610)

Radio FM

WCOL (92.3)
WCVO (104.9)
WNCI (97.9)
WSNY (Sunny 95)

Television

WCMH (4)
WSYX (6)
WBNS (10)
WOSU (34)

Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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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.

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Information about the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

is always available on the internet at:

www.fcbdd.org

Calendar

January, 2013

- 1 New Year's celebrated -- all county facilities closed. HAPPY NEW YEAR!
- 2 FCBDD early childhood, schools, and adult programs resume.
- 8 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 11 a.m. Please call 844-3800 for location.
- 16 Family Support (formerly Parent League), 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.
- 21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed -- all county facilities closed.
- 24 FCBDD Finance and Human Resources Committees meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 24 FCBDD Annual Organizational Board meeting followed by regular meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.
- 28 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Fawcett Center, 11:30 a.m.