Happy birthday, ARC Industries

The venture began a half-century ago as a division of the old Council for Retarded Citizens. ARCraft of Franklin County, as it was then known, opened its first facility on Indianola Avenue in Clintonville in 1963.

The organization was incorporated as a separate nonprofit in 1971. Joseph DeRoberts, Luther Long and Douglas Sherman served on the first board of trustees. In 1980, the name was changed to ARC Industries of Franklin County to reflect a more industrial image.

Current members of ARC’s Board of Trustees are: Robert Belz, President; Cynthia Hengeli, Secretary; Dr. Clark Mount-Campbell, Treasurer; Dominic Cappa, Immediate Past President; Gary Coats; Dr. Raymond Lawton; and Michael Settineri.

ARC Industries will hold a reception to celebrate 50 years of service on Thursday, March 7th, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Creekside Conference Center, 101 Mill Street, Gahanna.

Remembering Dr. Henry Leland

A preeminent psychologist, well-loved professor and longtime leader in the field of developmental disabilities, Dr. Henry Leland died at his home February 13th on his 90th birthday.

At the time of his death, Dr. Leland was a Professor Emeritus in Psychology at the Ohio State University, where he worked from 1970 to 1993. While at Ohio State, he served as Chief of Psychology for the Nisonger Center. There he developed an interdisciplinary curriculum for graduate training of future clinicians.

Dr. Leland served as a member of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) from 1980 through 1981. In 1979, he had been Chairperson of the Citizens Committee that successfully sought passage of Issue 2, the developmental disabilities levy.

Many of Dr. Leland’s students completed internships at FCBDD over the years and over 50 went on to fulltime agency employment, including seven current Psychology Department staff members.

But Dr. Leland’s influence went far beyond Franklin County. He wrote 66 scholarly works, including books and articles on adaptive behavior, play therapy, and abnormal behavior. He co-authored several tests, including three editions of the AAMD Adaptive Behavior Scale, spoke at many national and international conferences, and worked tirelessly for deinstitutionalization.

A World War II veteran, Dr. Leland served in an army unit that liberated the Augsburg concentration camp. He later earned a doctorate degree from the Sorbonne in Paris.

Dr. Leland is survived by his wife Dr. Sherrie Ireland, three children, four grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Mid-Ohio Food Bank, 3960 Brookham Drive, Grove City.
Awareness, advocacy activities planned

For the first time, the state’s Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff and Legislative Advocacy Day will be combined on Tuesday, March 5th. The program will begin at 9:45 a.m. in the Statehouse Atrium.

The program will include guest speakers DODD Director John Martin, Rehabilitation Services Commission Executive Director Kevin Miller and FCBDD Board President Dean Fadel.

FCBDD’s celebration will include Northeast School’s 26th annual Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, March 16th, from 4 to 8 p.m. Dinner will be available on a dine-in or carryout basis. The dinner is just one of the special events planned by FCBDD staff this year.

For more information regarding state activities, please contact Sherry Steinman at sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, Linda Martens at lmarten@ohiosibs.com or David Lewis at dlewis@arcohio.org.

For more details regarding Northeast School’s Spaghetti Dinner, please call 476-0530.

TDD change carried out

In-home support services have been provided through the Transitions Developmental Disabilities Waiver (TDD) for individuals with developmental disabilities since 2002. Until recently, this program was administered by the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS), with case management provided through CareStar, a private agency. Last year, however, legislation was enacted that caused this arrangement to change.

Effective January 1st, responsibility for this waiver shifted to the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) with case management provided through various county boards of developmental disabilities.

In Franklin County, 448 individuals are served through this waiver, many of whom have complex medical conditions. For the purposes of continuity and medical oversight, FCBDD decided to enter into a contract with CareStar to continue the coordination of these services. Additionally, a service coordinator from FCBDD is assigned to each individual to arrange for needed therapies, assist families in working with school programs, access or maintain benefits, and address other needs not covered by Medicaid.

FCBDD staff will also investigate all major unusual incidents.

ODJFS will continue to license providers of service for this waiver and DODD will be responsible for evaluating each provider’s compliance with established rules.

"A considerable amount of planning and training has been done to assure good communication and coordination among these agencies," said Jack Beatty, FCBDD’s Director of Service Coordination. "We expect this collaboration to result in the provision of a thorough continuum of services for each person."

Any questions about TDD can be directed to the FCBDD Service Coordination Department at 464-2743.
A reflection of our community

(Editor's note: On February 13th, Superintendent Jed Morison was recognized by the United Way of Central Ohio as its 2013 Champion of Children. We present here his comments upon receiving that honor.)

First, let me say congratulations and thanks to Linda Kass for 20 years of Champion of Children and for all else you continue to do for so many in our community. Congratulations!

Thanks also to Margie Pizzuti for your kind nomination for this award and for the outstanding leadership you provide for Goodwill Columbus.

And special thanks to Janet Jackson and United Way. It is especially meaningful to receive this award from one of the very best-rated United Ways in the country.

I think what is so special with this award is that it is such a nice reflection of our community, which recognizes the value in all people regardless of ability or disability.

And when I say it reflects on this community, I mean it reflects on our elected officials, especially our County Commissioners and Mayor who consistently support our efforts.

It is a reflection of our business community, who support us.

Many businesses have discovered how hiring a young adult with a disability can add value to their business in so many ways.

It is a reflection of the media, who help us to educate the community on the capabilities of people and services available.

This award is a reflection on the leadership of our current and past board members. Three of our board members are here tonight -- Dean Fadel our President, Linda Craig and Beth Savage.

And most important, it is a reflection of our partner agencies, the people we serve and their families, and the good work of an awesome staff. I wish I had time to name every one of them as they all deserve a piece of this award.

Becky Love, our Director of Early Childhood Services, and physicians from Nationwide Children's Hospital, one of our partners, remind us that the greatest amount of brain development occurs in the first three years of life.

So the more we can do for young children or children of all ages, the better off they will be for the rest of their lives, and their moms and dads and brothers and sisters will also be better able to contribute to our community.

And from a public policy perspective this support in early years means that less service and less cost will be required later.

Before I sit down, I would like to acknowledge some of my personal champions who are here.

My brother, Jim, and sister, Judy, are here with my mom, who at the young age of 96, continues to set an amazing example for her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. And she does a great job of keeping me on my toes!

And the most important champion in my life, along with our four children and their families, my wife Joyce.

Thank you all so much!

In memoriam

Joshua Weisel

Joshua Weisel passed away unexpectedly on February 5th. He was 38 and had worked for FCBDD as a Service Coordinator for nearly eleven years. Josh had muscular dystrophy but did not let that stop him from any goal he set out to achieve. He graduated with honors from Oberlin College in 1996, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He did graduate studies at the University of Miami and University of South Alabama.

Josh considered it his mission in life to help others. This was exemplified not only through his choice of career but in every facet of his life. He had registered as an organ donor so that he could help others even in death.

Josh was loved by many and will be greatly missed.

Josh's survivors include his wife, Kimberly, and daughter, Desiree.

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Icing the competition by Emily Schultz

Franklin County Special Olympics started off the new year by competing in the 2013 Winter Games, which were held at Kent State University and Brandywine Ski Resort on the 6th and 7th of February.

Franklin County sent 16 athletes to compete against approximately 200 other athletes in this statewide competition.

Seven skiers took home a total of nine medals. Congratulations to Jennifer Cunningham, Aaron Elman, Bryan Fox, Mike Mascari and David McFadden for skiing to victory!

Franklin County's nine ice skaters stole the show, winning an astonishing eight gold medals and three silver medals. Congratulations to all nine of the skaters for medaling!

“Franklin County Flyers had a great Winter Games,” said Ryan Phillips, Special Olympics Director. "We are proud of all our athletes."

Pictures from the event are available at the Franklin County Special Olympics Facebook page. For more information, please contact Ryan Phillips at 342-5984 or ryan.phillips@fcbdd.org.

Pictured from left to right: Top row – Jonathan Taylor, Michael Graft, Steve Segal, Eddie Robinson, Alex Schleppi; Middle – Kristina Jameson; Bottom – Andre Thomas, Brandi Hackworth, Mary Baumgartner, Josh Tammadge, Caroline Chao; Photo by Ryan Phillips

Franklin County Special Olympics ice skaters visit Disney on Ice
Longtime instructor assistant retires

One of the agency's longest-serving Instructor Assistants retired at the end of last year. Marcia Weltz called it quits after 32 years of service.

Marcia began in 1979, the same year as the Village People's Y.M.C.A. (that was a hit song, kids).

After five years at old Northridge School and a year off, Marcia went on to spend 27 years at old Marburn, Northeast and Reynoldsburg High School.

Marcia's plans for retirement include traveling with her husband, Doug, and "just enjoying life."

"We all know how dedicated Marcia was to our students," said FCBDD Superintendent Jed Morison. "She's going to be greatly missed, but we wish her a very happy retirement."

Security guard greets all with a smile

Richard McGee is the first person most people see when they come to Administration or the Early Childhood Education and Family Center. He has served as the uniformed security officer at the Johnstown Road facility since August, 2011.

"Richard greets everyone with a friendly smile," said ECE Director Rebecca Love. "And regardless of the weather, he is out in the lot securing the safety of children, families and staff."

Staffers have noticed Richard's exceptional ability to relate to the children, who can often be heard shouting "Hi, Mr. Richard" as they pass. Many exchange "high fives" with him.

"I want everyone to feel welcome," he explained. "I want them to see a friendly face."

Before becoming a security officer with Securitas Company, Richard served in a variety of positions, including as a deputy sheriff in Isabella County, Michigan, and a corrections officer at Graham Correctional Center in Hillsboro, Illinois. He and his wife of 39 years have three married daughters and five grandchildren.

"My number one goal is the safety of the children," Richard said. "I appreciate everyone's cooperation."

Richard is looking forward to a long assignment at FCBDD. "I love it here... I wish I'd come here 30 years ago."
The eighth annual "For the FUN of It" bowling event was held at Columbus Square Bowling Palace on Saturday, February 9th. The bowling center was filled with staff, family and friends who watched 96 staff members compete.

Amanda Carroll won the high female series trophy with a total of 641 pins. Rod Frye took the high male series honor with a total of 564 pins.

The top team series trophies went to Keith Ogle, Amanda Carroll, Brian Parks and Tyler Betts, whose series totaled 1,911 pins. The team of Paula English, Heather Vickers, Brenda Carpenter and Jack Karner was recognized for good effort.

Two grand prizes were awarded. Robin Agler won a Friday or Saturday overnight stay at the Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square, and Keith Ogle won an overnight stay at the Renaissance Columbus Downtown.

Thanks to the generosity of vendors in the Columbus area, all bowlers received door prizes.

"This event is a fun way for agency staff to meet one another and it helps promote positive attitudes among all departments," said Jack Brownley, who along with Cindy Massenelli, organized the activity. Over $2,400 was raised for Special Olympics and the Citizens Committee.

Special thanks to Ryan Phillips who served as emcee; registration volunteers Carol Rantala, Barbara Michael-Jones, Bonnie Ford, Michael and Karen Ross, Linda Brownley, and "prize runners" Michelle Linden, Jen Linden, Courtney Williams and Emily Cremeans.

From left to right - Paula English, Heather Vickers, Brenda Carpenter, and Jack Karner from Hague.

From left to right - Amanda Carroll, and Rod Frye from ESD.

From left to right - Maisie Batchler and Lisa McKinley from Service Coordination.

From left to right (front) - Tyler Betts, Transportation, Keith Ogle, Storeroom, (back) Brian Parks, Transportation, Amanda Carroll, ESD.
Jennifer Hicks (center) was the lucky winner of the 2012 Combined Charities prize drawing, receiving a $500 Best Buy gift card from the Service Coordination Department’s campaign coordinators Susan Nagy (left) and Diane Kaiser (right). Service Coordination Department staff contributed more than staff of any other department, giving a total of $21,103 out of the campaign total of $107,472. Three FCBDD departments had 100% of their staff contribute: Psychology, On Site Crews and Administrative and Support Services. We commend all staff for their continued support of the Combined Charitable Campaign.

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Creative Renovations has a new website. The website was developed as a tool to provide information on all of the areas of accessibility construction that the firm offers. To visit the site, go to www.accessibilityrenovations.org.

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We’d like to give a shout-out to the following staff members for their work as coordinators of DD Awareness Month: Rebecca Beaudet, Northeast School; Nan Burns, ARC North; Mike Davis, Administration; Katie Dugal, Service Coordination; Amber Dzodan, Transportation East; Mary Fairchild, Transportation West; Bonnie Francisco, Intake/MUI; Sarah Gillian, ECEFC; Barbara Michael-Jones, West Central School; Jan Montgomery, ARC West; Clarice Pavlick, ARC East; Shella Ross, ARC Industries; Bev Ryan, ECLC; Kurt Smith, ARC South; Jackie Suver, Bixby Living Skills; and Carrie Vamos, Hague Living Skills.

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Hats off to Dot Yeager and Anna Oscard for their work in organizing another convenient Health Fair for agency staff. The fair, held at eleven FCBDD locations from February 25th through March 5th, allows staff to undergo free health screenings including blood pressure and other checks within about fifteen minutes. United Health Care provided the screening and also donated an iPod as a prize in a drawing for those registered by February 11th.

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Good for you
Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Career Milestones

30 years
David Greiner

25 years
David Brown
Theresa Conti
Patric Davis
Gloria Hengen
Barbara Hennis
John Johnson
Brenda Mullen

20 years
Scott Erenpreiss
William Johnson
Valeria McLean
Sharon Moore
James Smith

15 years
Phyllis Armstead
Kimberly Howell
Cynthia Massenelli
Kay Nophsker
Tamara Tinch

10 years
Jane Massaquoi
Karen Toohey

5 years
Mary Belfanti
Denise Blackburn-Smith
James Blakeslee, IV
Melanie Erbe
Lois Jacobs
Anne Murra
Richard Vance
Amanda Williams

Please support FCBDD’s Operation Feed Campaign
Thursday, March 1st - Friday, March 29th
The green spot
by Cindy Wilcox

The FCBDD Transportation Department has learned that it has successfully completed the Clean Buses for Kids grant program. The grant paid for the retrofit of 80 buses with diesel particulate filters (DPFs) that significantly reduce the exposure of passengers to diesel engine emissions. The grant required the Transportation Department to track the benefits of retrofitted buses for five years. The use of the DPFs combined with ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel has prevented the following quantities of diesel exhaust from entering the air: 28,127 pounds of carbon monoxide; 7,145 pounds of volatile organic compounds; and 4,351 pounds of particulate matter.

The Transportation Department strives to make sure that all riders are safe. The benefits of these retrofits will continue until the retrofitted buses reach the end of their useful lives and are replaced. Readers should also be aware that every effort is made to recycle all the waste items used in the maintenance of the vehicles.

Summer camp planned

Inrex Home Care will be holding a Summer Camp from June 3rd to August 30th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. This will be an opportunity for all participants to engage in social skills through activities throughout the day.

Interested persons must have either I.O. or Level 1 Waivers. Transportation for individuals will be provided. Please call 891-6594 for more details.

Hearing scheduled

In accordance with 34 CFR Part 300.165, the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 18th at 4 p.m. The hearing will be held in the Board Conference Room at Administration, 2879 Johnstown Rd. The purpose of the hearing is to provide the opportunity for the public, including individuals with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities, to comment on agency plans to use federal IDEA Part B funds in programs and services through FCBDD.

Calendar

March, 2013

5  Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff, Ohio Statehouse Atrium, 10 a.m.
7  ARC Industries 50th Birthday celebration, Creekside Conference Center, 101 Mill St., Gahanna. Contact Robin Agler at 342-5714 for details.
12 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.
14 Self-Advocate Advisory Council, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10:00 a.m.
16 Northeast School Annual Spaghetti Dinner, 500 N. Hamilton Road, Gahanna, Saturday, March 16th, 4 to 8 p.m. Please call 476-0530 for details.
17 Happy St. Patrick’s Day!
18 Public Hearing on IDEA Part B, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
20 Family Support, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.
25 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Fawcett Center, 11:30 a.m.
28 FCBDD Human Resources and Finance Committee meetings, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 3 p.m.
28 FCBDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.