

“LIGHTING THE WAY TO BETTER COMMUNICATION”



March/April  
2013

Clermont County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

# *The Beacon*

## Howell and Justice win “DWTS”

Lori Howell and Don Justice of Milford are the 2013 winners of Clermont’s “Dancing with the Stars” Extravaganza. The March 2 event was sponsored by the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities and their non-profit board, Clermont DD Empowers Me. Proceeds from the night benefited the Gift of Time Respite Cooperative Program at CCDD.



A total of eight couples competed in the competition after taking lessons in January and February at The Dance Club Studio. The couples are pictured. From left: Steve Cummins, Wells Fargo

and Gloria Cummins, Williamsburg High School Teacher; Chris Brown, Clermont DD Behavior Support Specialist and Meg Kasarcik, Clermont DD retiree; Krisin Bednarski, reporter with the Clermont Sun and William Rover, owner/manager of Jersey Mike’s Subs; Lori Howell, Licensed Massage Therapist and Don Justice, owner of Don Justice Cabinet Makers of Milford; Jacqueline Poynter, Victory Community Bank and Don Goins, avid dance enthusiast; Mary Hufford, Glen Este Middle School Teacher and Michael Ball, Administrative Assistant/Athletic Director at Glen Este Middle School; Julie and Todd Schreiber of Goodwill Industries; Haley Dunn, Clermont DD Bridges to Transition Coordinator and Tim Dunn of Xavier University’s Center for Faith and Justice.

Lori and Don won the Mirror Ball Trophy by raising 10,056 votes in the competition. Meg and Chris received the Judges Choice Award for the hard work they put into their cha-cha routine. Guy and Kristy Guckenberger, 2012 winners, danced an encore of their winning performance before presenting the Mirror Ball Trophies to Don and Lori.

Our friend Steve Norris, WLWT-Channel 5 Meteorologist, returned for the third year in a row as Master of Ceremonies. During the registration networking hour, Chris Carr from B-105’s “Chris Carr & Company” participated in a Meet and Greet with guests. Jason Dimaculangan, one-half of the duo who won the Judges Choice Award trophy in last year’s competition, interviewed the audience after each couple performed. Shaun Steward from the Grissom Adult Services Program served as official photographer for the night; Annette Meagher, Clermont County Communications Director also took pictures and videotaped the show.

Event sponsors were The Rodenberg Family Trust, Tim and Laurel Vogel, David Uible Commissioner, Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries, Stepping Stones, and Park National Bank. Raffle sponsors included General Mobility Repair, Lykins Oil, Lori Howell, Clermont DD Staff, and many more.

For more pictures, see Page 6.

## From the Superintendent

Sharon Woodrow

Happy Spring – and it's so good to be able to say that!

Our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Dancing with the Stars Fundraiser was yet again a success and brought in some revenue for our Respite program. We have been so fortunate to have the support of our community in our special events. This summer please consider attending our 5 K Walk/Run which supports our levy and our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual car show at our own Wildey facility as well as registering for the Flying Pig Marathon; both of these events also support Respite. There is more information in this newsletter about all of these events. And, all of them support individuals with developmental disabilities in our community. We need and appreciate your support!

Our 2013 Annual Action Plan is approved and available. Many of you may have already received your copy, but if you have not, please feel free to contact us. This plan is available in both electronic and hard copy format. Just let us know which you prefer.

Three major areas were considered when formulating goals for 2013. They are:

- Training and Culture Changes
- Community Integration
  - Sustainability

So many individuals need and want supports from us, and our board and staff take this very seriously. We are never able to give everyone exactly what they want, but we continue to try to plan to meet as many needs as possible. Along those lines, we will be asking our county commissioners to allow us to put a renewal of our .75 five year operating levy on the November ballot. This will allow us to continue to provide services at our current level. Strategic planning for 2014 and beyond will begin in June of 2013. We always strive to be as efficient as possible, keeping the trust of our taxpayers and other stakeholders.

It has been our experience, and is becoming increasingly so, that brothers and sisters of individuals with developmental disabilities are assuming more of the care and support responsibilities, as parents age. There is a wonderful support group in Ohio which you should consider joining if you or a family member is a sibling of an individual with a disability.

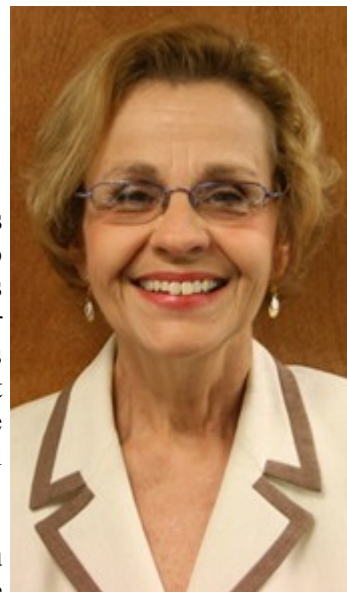
From the Ohio Sibling Support Website:



**Ohio SIBS**

Special Initiatives by Brothers & Sisters

It is the Mission of Ohio SIBS to be recognized as the unified voice and partner for Ohio adult siblings of people with developmental disabilities and their families. Ohio SIBS will provide advocacy, education, leadership and supports that will promote enhanced quality of life, improved public policy and increased services and supports for adult siblings (of people with developmental disabilities) and their families. Contact: The Ohio State University Nisonger Center Columbus, Ohio 1-855-SIBS-NOW (742-7669) or [fish.1@osu.edu](mailto:fish.1@osu.edu) for more information.





# ACTIVITY UPDATE

<b>4/8</b>	<b>*Lunch @ Pomillios</b>	<b>12-2:30</b>	<b>\$20</b>	<b>Meet @ JcPenney parking lot</b>
<b>4/9</b>	<b>Bowling League</b>	<b>3-5</b>	<b>\$4</b>	<b>Suburban Bowl</b>
<b>4/16</b>	<b>Bowling League</b>	<b>3-5</b>	<b>\$4</b>	<b>Suburban Bowl</b>
<b>4/17</b>	<b>Bingo</b>	<b>6-7:30</b>	<b>FREE</b>	<b>Loveland American Legion</b>
<b>4/23</b>	<b>Bowling League</b>	<b>3-5</b>	<b>\$4</b>	<b>Suburban Bowl</b>
<b>4/24</b>	<b>*Dinner on the Road</b>	<b>5-6:30</b>	<b>\$20</b>	<b>Butterbees Beechmont</b>
<b>4/26</b>	<b>People In Action</b>	<b>1-2</b>	<b>FREE</b>	<b>Grissom Building</b>
<b>4/30</b>	<b>Bowling League</b>	<b>3-5</b>	<b>\$4</b>	<b>Suburban Bowl</b>

**\*Limited space available RSVP to  
Angie Stanton 513-732-4923.**

# Honoring Our Years of Service

On March 28, our programs were closed for the annual All Staff Inservice. During lunch, staff were honored for their years of service. We salute these employees for all they have given to people with disabilities throughout the

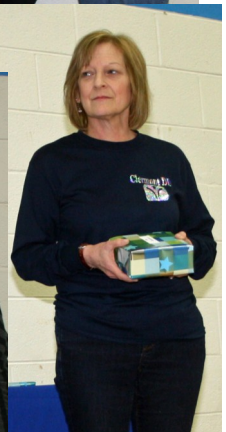


35  
YEARS

Carla Tobergte

20  
YEARS

Shirley Bell,  
Pattie Doss  
Amy Planck  
Bob Weidle  
Beth Giwer  
Sue Brenner



15  
YEARS

Janine Getter  
Barb Snyder  
Heather Wright  
Elizabeth Moran  
Dean Swartz



10  
YEARS

Dianna Ballein  
Roger Moning  
Robin Lowe  
Beth Martin

*Thank You*



## Honoring Our Years of Service

5  
YEARS



Marla Abdoullah, Lisa Ashmore, Ashley DeMartino,  
Denise Hoffard, Tussa Marshall, Alisha Martin,  
Jessica Petre, Chrystin Wilmoth, Tiffiney Wunsch,  
Andy Jerdon, Terri Tolley, Sharon Fowler,  
Tracey Schaeffer, Denise Staley, Julia White.



New  
Employees

Thank You



James Taylor, Gina Fawley, Jerry Anstaett, Chelsea Atwell, Sara Creech, Nicole Hartley, Ty Martin, Lingsley Uwuigbe, Leigh Anne Wagner, Katie Vaught, Jennifer Sekela, Layne Nyland, Mary Jo Dunshire, Steve Barnes, Katie Dean, Beth Monahan, Patricia Lozano, Monica Harless, Robyn Henderson, Holly Basham, Jessie Bocks, Kelly Flack, Keith Jordan, Angela Martin, Linda Mehl, Sarah Lodwick, Amanda Powell, Leanna Zimmer.



# Dancing with the Stars





# DD Awareness Month

*Each year, we celebrate the accomplishments of people with developmental disabilities during March. At Clermont DD, we celebrated in many ways!*



Sheriff Tim Rodenberg and his Awesome All Stars played a great game of basketball against the Wildey Comets on March 8. The Comets won, of course!



The Clermont County Board of Commissioners presented a proclamation to Laurie Tackett at their February 27 meeting.



The Wildey Comets returned for one more game of March Madness against the Clermont DD Staff on March 26. It was a close game, but the Comets pulled out another victory.



Dancing with Our Stars at Clermont DD was held on March 25. Marty Raines and PC Osborne were this year's champs!



Members of the Records Management Mobile Work Crew were honored at the Commissioners Meeting for nine years of service. Then Barb Brown, Tracy Fischer, and Nick Hoover of the Records Department prepared a pizza party back at the office for them.



Holiday Inn & Suites, Eastgate

Because of  
**Your Support**  
*Lindsey* has a job she loves!  
[southwesternohioDD.org](http://southwesternohioDD.org)

Lindsey Wright of the Eastgate Holiday Inn and Suites adorned the Clermont County billboards.



Register **NOW** and help us raise money for the Gift of Time Respite Program by participating in the

## 2013 FLYING PIG FUNDRAISER!

This year's event takes place on Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5 in Cincinnati and promises to be a great time. Here are a few ways to get involved!

- **Contact Suzanne Diesel at [sdiesel@clermontdd.org](mailto:sdiesel@clermontdd.org) or 513-732-5028 for REGISTRATION CODE & PLEDGE PACKET.**
- Register online at [www.flyingpigmarathon.com](http://www.flyingpigmarathon.com) and pay the registration fee. (Fees differ, depending on whether you want to do the 5K, 10K, Half Marathon, or Full Marathon.)
- Collect pledges from now until May 1 from friends, family, your church, neighbors, etc. These pledges will be donated to our Gift of Time Respite Program through Clermont DD Empowers Me.
- Walk or run the day of your event.

If you or your family members **HAVE ALREADY REGISTERED**, you can still collect pledges on behalf of our program. Contact Suzanne and she'll send your packet to you.

*Please make all checks payable to "Clermont DD Empowers Me." Thank you for helping us raise money for Respite!*

**OR**

## Participate in the "PIGGEST RAFFLE EVER"



**Raffle Details:** On Saturday of Flying Pig Marathon Weekend at approximately 7 pm Art's Rental Lift will drop all of the numbered PIGS onto a target in Downtown Cincinnati. Come and watch as the pigs are dropped from the sky to see if your PIG hits the target and is the winner! You do not need to be present to win but everyone is welcome to join the Pig Drop.

**How's it Work? Easy!** Adopt a PIG in the PIGGEST Raffle Ever for **2 CHANCES** to win on Flying Pig Marathon Weekend. If your adopted PIG is selected when thousands of PIGS are dropped in Downtown Cincinnati, **YOU** win a 2 year lease on a **2012 Toyota Prius!** Plus, every purchase helps Clermont DD Empowers Me!

**Only One Chance to Win? Of Course Not...** We will offer additional prizes so you have a Second Chance to Win! We will select additional pigs during the Pig Drop and announce those winners at the same time (you need not be present to win)!

**CONTACT SUZANNE DIESEL 513/732-5028 TO PURCHASE YOUR**

**\$5 PIG TODAY!!**



[www.residentialconcepts.org](http://www.residentialconcepts.org)

Residential Concepts Inc. is an adult day support provider and employer of persons with developmental disabilities through vocational habilitation services. Vocational habilitation services will allow individuals to assist with the operations of our new Garden Center and Country Store. This opportunity will allow individuals to learn responsibility, attendance, task completion, problem solving, social interaction, motor skill development, and safety in a work environment.



These learning objectives will be reinforced through the following duties: horticulture, animal care, janitorial, grounds keeping, and customer service. Those eligible for vocational habilitation services will receive hourly earnings in combination with participation in our adult day support program.

Our adult day support program offers an array of services to meet the



needs of each person we serve in a leisure based setting. Activities include, but are not limited to: animal care, art (ceramics, crafts, painting), cooking, gardening, music therapy, massage therapy, martial arts class, and therapeutic horseback riding. Adult day support program options are funded through Individual Options Waiver, Level One

Waiver, Individual Budget, and Private Pay.

We have immediate openings for both the vocational habilitation and adult day supports services. If you would like to schedule a tour or discuss employment opportunities, please contact Jim Sprague or Karen Crawford at 513-724-3841 or 513-724-0094. The Garden Center will be open to the public in the Spring, so make plans to stop by and purchase all your gardening needs!

# What Families Connected is All About!



Families Connected is a grassroots parent organization that was founded by two parents with a passion “to help” children and adults with disabilities. Through the passion and devotion of Jean Houston and Brenda Cox who had the desire to inform and empower other families; a family disability organization was born! Though the two had worked together since meeting in 1992, Families Connected was formed in 1999 when a grant from the Mental Health and Recovery Board was received, and the Clermont Board of DD found space for the families to gather at the Wildey facility. This is now their operating site, and DD has been so supportive in the years since the initial move there.

Families Connected was started to “support and connect families who have a member with a disability”. They provide services as parent to parent with no charge to families. They have the unique situation of receiving support and funding from both the Clermont DD system and also The Mental Health system. Their services are providing resources and referrals to community agencies and support groups, educational advocacy, and Peer to Peer support in the mental health field. They work toward making all families aware of their options and strive to help them become educated about systems, including the special education mandates. They believe families who have knowledge are more informed to make good decisions for their children and families.

Families Connected has evolved since their beginning and have expanded their support through a grant received by the Mental Health and Recovery Board in 2009. This grant is provided through the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. This grant was implemented to enhance and expand mental health services within the County. Families Connected is the chosen Family organization to work with the County toward making a change in how services are provided. The goal is to change the system of care to a family centered, and youth guided system, meaning families and their children are active team members who help make decisions regarding services. Jean is the Lead Family Contact for this grant and she supervises four peer support partners, whose family has been involved in multiple systems, including mental health. The Peer Support Partners have had extensive training, and have on going in-services to better support families and make a difference in their lives. They are part of the Wraparound team to support families and make contact through calls, and home visits. Learn more about Clermont FAST TRAC @ [www.clermontfasttrac.org](http://www.clermontfasttrac.org). Or call Families Connected at 513-732-5034.

Families Connected is also the Help Me Grow Family Support Specialists. They provide information regarding trainings, support at a number of meetings, and also provide respite for families enrolled in the Clermont County Help Me Grow program. This break allows caregivers a chance to re-energize, so they may continue to provide care for their child with a disability. Brenda provides “Child Find” awareness for HMG, while Lamonica is the Support Specialist who most often contacts families. Learn more about Help Me Grow @ [www.clermonthelpmegrow.com](http://www.clermonthelpmegrow.com)

Events for April:

Respite Care for Help Me Grow: April 2 and April 16 from 9 am to 2 pm

Mental Health Awareness Event: Saturday, May 18, 2013 @Veterans Memorial Park/Union Township...Everyone welcome!!!



### Board Members

Harry Snyder - President  
Laurie Benintendi - Vice President  
Kim Pellington- Secretary  
Greg Carson  
Robert Grant  
Sheila Madden  
Jennifer Mailloux

**Superintendent**  
Sharon Woodrow



## Take Me Out to the Ballgame

The Wildey Adult Services Program hosted their annual Reds Opening Day Parade, one week before the parade took place in Cincinnati. (Spring Break always gets in our way!) The Grand Marshall for the 2013 parade was Wildey President Dianne Dorton. Everyone dressed in their favorite Reds apparel, and awards were given to the best decorated door, best decoration overall, best adaptive equipment decoration, best dressed, and more. Many thanks to all the spectators in the building...Good Luck, Reds!



**THE BEACON** is published monthly by the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Please direct any questions or send your press releases to: Lisa Davis, Community Relations Director Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities 2040 US Highway 50 Batavia, OH 45103



513/732-4921 [ldavis@clermontdd.org](mailto:ldavis@clermontdd.org)

[www.clermontdd.org](http://www.clermontdd.org)