

“LIGHTING THE WAY TO BETTER COMMUNICATION”



May/June
2013

Clermont County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

The Beacon



See pages 8-9 for more pictures and Graduate bios.

From the Superintendent

Sharon Woodrow

Things are humming around here. The students in the Wildey program have left for the summer, but lots of other stuff is going on.

We had a beautiful graduation ceremony for the three young men who have left their school days and gone on to pursue more adult activities. This is a touching and meaningful time for all of us and we are grateful for the families, staff and school district personnel who made this evening so special for the graduates.

We are also delighted to report that the Clermont County Board of DD was awarded another Five Year Accreditation from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. This is the longest accreditation term that can be awarded and it is a tribute to the staff who work diligently to ensure that we are supporting individuals according to the rules and laws of the state. Five Year Accreditations are not easy to obtain, so we are truly happy. Now, on to a successful CARF Accreditation renewal next year!

Strategic planning for 2014 has begun. Committees of our board are meeting regularly to evaluate our current services as well as the needs and concerns of individuals on our waiting lists or who are calling us regularly. Our budget will stretch just so much, but we are looking at everything carefully and will work to ensure that we find efficient and effective means to provide support to as many individuals as we can. Don't hesitate to call us if you have input for this important process.

Lots of young people will be receiving specialized pre-vocational training this summer through our Bridges to Transition grant. This partnership between our county board, the Ohio Association of County Boards Serving Persons with Developmental Disabilities and the Rehabilitation Services Commission is in its third year. It is our goal to find ways to help these young people develop some personal career goals and prepare themselves to work in the community. We continue to work toward the goal of everyone being "of" the community as well as "in" the community. What better way to do this than through a real job – thoroughly integrated into the workplace?

Look for information about our 5K run/walk in July and our second annual car show in August.

And – enjoy the summer. They are way too short!



Loveland Legion Hosts All American Picnic

Members of the Loveland American Legion Post 256 and Ladies Auxiliary hosted an All American Picnic on May 15 for individuals from the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Over 140 adults and their families/providers attended and enjoyed an evening of food, games, and fellowship. Two checks were presented during the picnic, to assist CCDD with planning activities at the Legion throughout the summer and fall.



Bill Kern, a past member of the Loveland Legion, and his wife, Carol, were volunteers for the CCDD agency for many years. Affectionately known to everyone as “Momma and Papa” Kern, they helped organize two dances for CCDD participants each summer as well as cornhole and bingo nights in the fall. It was in 2010 that Papa Kern approached the Legion members about a donation to help cover costs associated with the activities. A \$1,000 was initiated and given every year since then. This year, however, the donation was bittersweet.



Both the Kerns have now passed away, but their family members are still involved. Son Mike and daughter-in-law Emily worked with Papa Kern last year to take over managing the events. It was their idea to host a spring picnic, so the Legion members could meet many of the individuals from CCDD and learn how their donations were being used.

“We thought a picnic would be a perfect fun way for our members to stop by after work and meet everyone,” said Emily Kern, who is also a member of the Loveland Legion Ladies Auxiliary. “That way, our membership could familiarize themselves with those who participate in CCDD events and know their donation is helping fund social activities for them.”

Post Commander Dave Casteel and other members were there as the \$1,000 Legion check was presented to participants and staff of CCDD, greeting individuals and serving them dinner throughout the event. Members of the Ladies Auxiliary also presented a \$100 check in Momma Kern’s name, as a way of helping keep her memory alive as well.

Although the summer is just beginning and the CCDD events are scheduled for August, September, and October, plans are already in process for next year’s spring picnic.

“Maybe we could call it the ‘Momma and Papa Kern’ All American Picnic next year,” said Emily Kern. “That way, their memory will live on forever.”



ACTIVITY UPDATE

6/10	*Amish Tour/ Lunch	11-4	\$15	Meet at JcPenney
6/25	Movie	TBA	\$5	Milford Cinemas
6/26	*Dinner on the Road	5-6:30	\$20	Ruby Tuesday's Milford
6/28	People In Action	1-2	FREE	Grissom Building

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

An Afternoon of Awareness

FAST TRAC and Families Connected were excited to host Mike Veny at "An Afternoon of Awareness" on May 18. Held at the Union Township Veterans Park, there were over 70 people in attendance to hear Mike's story. Mike found out he had a mental illness in junior high and after attending several schools, his mother enrolled him in a Performing Arts School. Drumming was his passion and when he was playing the drums, he had no issues with his mental illness. Mike brought over 50 percussion instruments and led a great drum circle... his "students" even learned to make it rain!



Many thanks to FAST TRAC and Jean Houston for giving Clermont DD the opportunity to attend and hand out literature. It was a great afternoon!

Staff and Individuals "Fly" through Cincinnati



Many staff and individuals from Clermont DD participated in the Flying Pig Marathon events May 4 and 5. Participants either walked or ran the 5K, 10K, Half Marathon, or Full Marathon. It was a great weekend, and through registration fees, donations, and pledges, we collected \$875 for the Gift of Time Respite Program on behalf of the Clermont DD Empowers Me Board. See you next year at the Finish Swine!



Training Opportunities at the Kelly O’Leary Center

The Kelly O’Leary Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (TKOC) is offering several training topics this summer. Dates, times, and prices are listed below. TKOC is in the Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics at Cincinnati



Children’s Hospital Medical Center. It is located at 3430 Brunet Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45229. All classes are for adults only including parents, professionals, and others caring for or working with children and adolescents with ASD. To register for a class, contact Jennifer Gastright for information: Jennifer.Gastright@cchmc or (513) 636-2742.

Wed June 5 th 5:30-7:30PM Cost \$0	FEEDING PROBLEMS IN INDIVIDUALS WITH ASD	This 2-hour session will address the following topics: common feeding problems in children with ASD, practical tips to address feeding problems, and evidence-based behavioral intervention procedures used to treat feeding problems.
Wed June 12 th 4:00-6:00PM Cost \$10 per participant to cover cost of materials.	MAKE IT, TAKE IT: VISUAL SUPPORTS FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS	This 2-hr session will focus on how to make and use visual supports for the home, school, and community. Attendees will be able to take materials made in session.
Wed June 19 th 5:30-7:30PM Cost \$0	THE OTHER “A” WORD: ANXIETY AND AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS	This 2-hour session will discuss symptoms of anxiety commonly experienced by individuals with ASD, practical strategies to address these symptoms, and structured programs used to manage anxiety.
Fri June 21 st 9:00-3:30PM Cost \$0	WHEN BEHAVIOR IS A CHALLENGE	This day-long workshop is for families who want strategies for working with their child with ASD, including a focus on positive ways of dealing with behaviors.
Fri June 28 th 9:00-3:30PM Cost \$0	GETTING STARTED: WHAT TO DO AFTER RECEIVING THE DIAGNOSIS	This day-long workshop is for families with a child who has been diagnosed with ASD within the past year. The workshop covers basic information such as community and financial resources, family coping, and some basic intervention strategies.



G&D Alternative Living, Inc.

G & D Alternative Inc. operates nine group homes between Brown and Clermont counties. In addition to our residential services we operate an Adult Day Program which is located in Brown County. Our day program serves individuals from Brown, Clermont, and Highland counties. We have many opportunities for individuals with Developmental Disabilities.



Our homes are certified by the Ohio Department of DD. Our residential setting offers our clients an atmosphere based on their needs which truly makes our homes their home. All of our homes are situated within communities that are welcoming to our clients. We have an excellent staff that understands and caters to the needs of the individuals with us. We are proud to say that with dedication from our entire team here at G & D Alternative we have been awarded three years licenses in our homes. The clients with us enjoy the opportunity to participate in various outings every month. We enjoy visiting Eastgate Mall, going fishing, visiting local libraries, shopping, and going out to eat. During the summer months we also have frequent outings to Music in the Park in the Village of Mt. Orab.

Our Adult Day Facility is situated in the Village of Sardinia. At this location we offer a wide range of activities. Transportation is provided if needed so everyone has the opportunity to attend. Our

facility has a sensory room, gymnasium, computer room, library, recreation room, theater room, and a music room. Our clients also enjoy the craft room where they regularly create beautiful art to display at home. We spend time with our individuals in the kitchen to help them expand their skills on food preparation. In small groups we work with individuals allowing them to gain knowledge and boost independence so they are able to improve their skills. The clients love this since they are able to pick fresh produce from the garden they tend to. Animal care is another important part of our routine; we travel to our farm so clients have the opportunity to interact with various animals. We go on regular outings in our day facility as well. In the past we have been frequent guests to the Cincinnati Zoo, Krohn's Conservatory, Amish Country, Cedar Brook Horse Farm, Cincinnati Nature Center, and B & B Riverboats. We also enjoy attending Cincinnati Reds and Cincinnati Bengal games. We have offered these experiences to our clients among various other activities. We participate in outings that don't require extensive travel and they are within normal operating hours so family members and guardians are not inconvenienced. We have a production department allowing clients to earn an income. Our production work consists of shredding and sorting. We also have an enclave providing janitorial services. Anyone who attends has the option to obtain a \$15,000.00 Life Insurance policy.

We are thrilled to have had the opportunity of offering our services for more than 30 years now and look forward to continuing to provide exceptional and quality care in the future. We are pleased that our clients have gained many skills and had a wide range of opportunities as a result of our team's efforts. If you are interested in a tour of our facilities or have questions please contact Keith Crothers at (937) 446-2803 or visit our website at www.gdalternativeliving.net



School Age Celebrates Graduates

The Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCDD) celebrated the 38th Annual Thomas A. Wildey School Graduation Ceremony on Wednesday, May 22. Class of 2013 members were: Matthew Osterling, West Clermont Local School District; Andrew Poff, Milford Local School District; and Justin Whitt, Goshen Local Schools.

Superintendent Sharon Woodrow welcomed the audience and introduced special guests that included former Superintendent Donald A. Collins, who is also Vice President of the Clermont DD Empowers Me Board; former Associate Superintendent Richard Sternberg; and Norma Green, representing Doug Green, Ohio House of Representatives 66th District, who attended the graduation reception following the ceremony.

Matthew Osterling was the recipient of the Donald A. Collins Achievement Award for the accomplishments he reached during his years at the Wildey School. Diplomas were presented by Nancy Spears (Goshen Schools), Todd Wells (Milford Schools), and Jay Williams (Wildey Principal, on behalf of West Clermont Local School District).

A brand new start, a new beginning, a new life. Happy Graduation!



Matthew James Osterling

Matthew will receive his diploma from Glen Este High School, West Clermont Local Schools.

Matt is the son of John and Andrea Osterling. He is the twin of Emily and brother of John. Matt began attending Wildey School in 2004. Previous to that he attended Clough Pike Elementary, Brantner Elementary and a CCESC program.

Matt's passion is the computer or iPad. Mr. Jay has the best story of when Matt first began attending and had access to the classroom computer, before he knew it, Matt was already shopping at Disney.com. Thank goodness he didn't have a credit card. Matt absolutely loves Disney, he has several favorite movies and he enjoys Disney music. Matt has to be diverted away from the video section while shopping in the community.

For many years Matt had a 1:1 aide, Ms. Terri who actually worked with him at Brantner and again here at Wildey School. Matt has been in the vocational classroom for 4 years. During this time he has worked at learning a wide variety of vocational tasks. He has contributed to his classrooms' business by making dog bones for "The Wildey Dog Treats". Matt is motivated by music and looks forward to finishing his work to listen to his iPod. He is most motivated by anything on the computer or iPad.

Matt will begin attending Clermont DD Adult Services, he will be working at the Donald A. Collins Habilitation Center. Matt has made lots of friends here at Wildey. Many staff have worked with Matt through the years. He will be greatly missed by Ms. Maria and Ms. Carol and all the Wildey staff. We wish you well, Matt!



Andrew Michael Poff

Andrew will receive his diploma from Milford High School, Milford Exempted Village Schools.

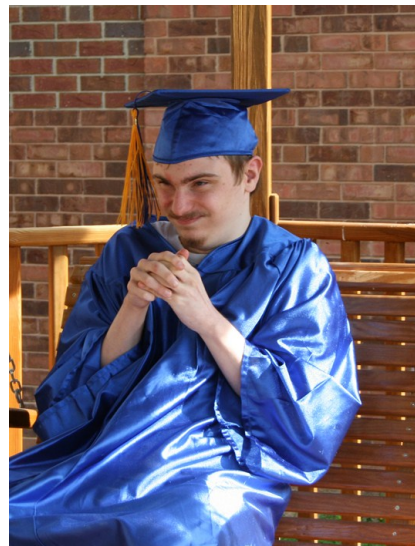
Drew is the son of Angela and David Brown. He has three sisters, Jade, Megan and Myndi. For most of his life he resided in Milford with his family. However, he now resides at a group home in Goshen and has a new extended family there.

Drew began attending Wildey School in 2007, following many years at Milford Schools. He adapted quickly to his new school and he has been very successful here.

Drew is best known for his ability to hop and jump at great heights. This is something he really enjoys. His true love is swinging; he will swing very high without ever holding on. He has never had an accident here at Wildey. Drew also loves to swim. He is a daredevil, he loves riding rides, especially roller coasters at Kings Island.

Drew has been in Ms. Maria's classroom for one year. During this time he has worked at learning vocational tasks. He has contributed to his classrooms' business by making dog bones for "The Wildey Dog Treats". Drew is motivated by music and looks forward to finishing his work to listen to his iPod.

Drew will attend Camp Allyn after graduation. Drew will be greatly missed by Ms. Maria, Ms. Carol and all of the Wildey staff! We wish you well.



Justin Travis Whitt

Justin will receive his diploma from Goshen High School, Goshen Local Schools.

Justin is the son of Clayton and Mary Whitt and Grandson of Vergie Whitt. He has an older brother, Darrell. Justin began attending the Wildey School for pre-school in 1995. We have watched him grow from a little boy into a young man. One of Justin's favorite teachers along the way was Linda Gaskins and Ms. Jackie was a favorite aide.

Justin has been our resident doorman, he makes sure all lights are turned off and doors are shut when rooms are not in use. This is Justin's first year in the vocational classroom with Ms. Maria. He has been quick to learn all of the jobs and responds best to a consistent routine. Justin has a high productivity level. He has contributed to his classrooms' business by making dog bones for "The Wildey Dog Treats". Justin is motivated by music and looks forward to finishing his work to listen to his iPod or doing activities on the classroom iPad at the end of the day.

Justin will begin attending Clermont DD Adult Services, he will be working at the Donald A. Collins Habilitation Center. Justin has made lots of friends here at Wildey. Many staff have worked with Justin through the years. He will be greatly missed by Ms. Maria and Ms. Carol and all the Wildey staff. We wish you well, Justin!



The Wildey Blanketeers Take Off!

Commence with the do – gooding!! The Wildey Adult Services Blanketeers presented the Miami Township EMS in Milford Ohio with blankets. They were greeted by Chief Jim Whitworth and firefighters who serve our local community and work to keep us safe. At Wildey, our folks have been making super soft and colorful blankets for children in times of need. Miami Township EMS will put them to good use.



The firefighters were nice enough to show our group around the station. Those fire trucks have a lot of bells and whistles!! They toured our group around their living quarters too. Our group saw how our firefighters share their space and have to be ready at a moment's notice. We found a lot of unmade beds...but we decided to let them slide, since they do come to the rescue of our community! Our group really enjoyed the visit and would like to thank our friends at the Miami Township EMS for everything that they do!

Many thanks to the Mt. Carmel American Legion for their generous contribution of \$500, presented at the Region 13 Special Olympics Bowling event on April 27. Ron Hartman and Don Gerth from Post 72 presented the check to Rocky Arnett, Jackie Foy, Chris Gerth, and Angie Stanton, Clermont DD Activity Coordinator. The Mt. Carmel Legion has made donations for several years to Special Olympics through raffles and other fundraisers, but they decided to give this donation directly to Clermont DD's Activity Fund. That way, the donation will benefit many people who participate in community social activities each month. Our thanks to you, Post 72!



Blast Off to Summer



A parade and a dance—that’s how the student body of Wildey spent their last day of school. The All American Parade kicked off a great morning of fun, and after lunch, everyone gathered in the gym for one final dance before leaving on their last bus ride of the school year. What a blast off to summer!

We hope the students and staff have a safe summer off...we’ll see you in August!

My Feelings are a Work of Art

Clermont DD and the Wildey School participated in FAST TRAC’s My Feelings are a Work of Art Project on May 2. To celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month, Wildey students, teachers, and staff held a dance. “It’s Always A Good Time At Wildey” was the theme, and students chose their favorite songs to enjoy throughout the hour. A special laser light show made the dance that much better. Thank you, FAST TRAC, for inviting us to be part of the fun!



Clermont County
Board of DD
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5K for the Levy To support Clermont DD

**Saturday, July 13, 2013
9:00 am @ The Wildey Center,
Batavia, OH**

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