

## Upcoming Events

- April 11 - Dinner-Dance
- April 18 - Spring Holiday, Board Facilities Closed
- April 21 - Board of DD Monthly Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at 1154 Larc Lane
- May 3 - Area IV Special Olympics Spring Meet at Clay High School
- May 13 - Family & Advocate Forum, 9:30 a.m. at 1154 Larc Lane
- May 26 - Memorial Day, Board Facilities Closed
- June 27-28 - Special Olympics State Summer Games
- July 4 - Independence Day, Board Facilities Closed

# Update

Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities  
March-April 2014

## Powerhouse Gym welcomes Special Olympics athletes, assists with training



*Special Olympian Terrence Armstrong-Gonzalez gets advice on his form from an owner of Powerhouse Gym, Ken Pompera.*

“If we get any publicity from the team training here, I hope it leads other businesses to open their doors to the athletes from Special Olympics,” said Ken Pompera, an owner of Powerhouse Gym. Members of the Powerlifting team are training there alongside the other gym members.

“This is an awesome experience,” said Melissa Mayfield, who has a son on the team. “And the people in the gym have been very receptive to the Special Olympics athletes. They treat them as peers.”

The team will get its first challenge at the Area IV Meet on May 3. The meet will be held at Clay High School.

## 18 teams participated in the first annual Goalball Tournament; event created positive awareness of persons with disabilities

*The tournament was sponsored by the Lucas County Board of DD and the Sight Center of Northwest Ohio. Goalball is a team sport designed specifically for blind athletes and became the first Paralympic sport designed exclusively for players with a disability. Participants compete in teams of three, and try to throw a ball that has bells embedded in it into the opponents' goal. Acting as masters of ceremonies were Bobb Vergiels, the announcer at Comerica Park, and Bethany Wissler, homecoming queen at Whitmer High School. Funds raised from the event went to the Sight Center. Other contributing sponsors were Manhattan Beauty Supply, the UPS Store, S.O.A.R., Lenscrafter, Hi Level Fashions and the Athlete's Foot.*



## Board of DD Publishes Annual Report

The Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities wants to thank the voters of Lucas County for supporting its levy in 2013. Your continued faith in the services and supports the Board provides is not taken for granted. With this Annual Report, the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities shows its commitments to remain a prudent manager of public dollars and a top quality provider of services and supports.

During 2013, more than 5,000 individuals with developmental disabilities relied on the Board for information, referrals, services and supports. Be assured the Board remains focused on the critical responsibility to monitor and work to prevent unreasonable risks that may confront persons served. Furthermore, the Board will adhere to its Mission Statement that all individuals with developmental disabilities should have the same opportunities as all other citizens.

The Board is pleased to continue its role in encouraging the evolution in services and supports. This evolution began with Josina Lott's first classroom for children with developmental disabilities in 1938, through a parent advocacy movement in the 50's and 60's that created schools

and employment services, and into the present day when more and more individuals with developmental disabilities are finding it possible to live, work and socialize in community-based settings. Attitudinal barriers, while they still exist, are being replaced by greater understanding and awareness.

The Board also reflects on some key milestones achieved this past year:

- The Lucas County Employment First Collaboration was selected as one of six professional development teams to address the implementation of the new state initiative focusing on integrated, community employment.
- The Board, through education and monitoring, continued to demonstrate its commitment to the success of a growing number of service providers. And, the launch of a new Free Choice of Provider website helps make the search for a provider easier and more insightful.
- The Educare Center marked its 20th anniversary of providing services to children with complex needs in a

family-friendly environment.

- The Board maintained in 2013 its priority to address the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities who still reside at home with aging caregivers.
- The Board strengthened its collaboration not only with our companion organizations – Lott Industries, Preferred Properties, Shared Lives Studio, and Special Olympics – but also with the growing community of Medicaid-supported service providers, as well as with advocacy organizations such as the Arc, the Down Syndrome Association, and the Autism Society.
- The Board provided a \$14.2 million match to draw down \$38.4 million in federal funding to fund supports and services in the community, not only by the Board but also by more than 300 licensed Medicaid service providers, thus allowing more individuals to be served.

*Sincerely,  
Mark Frye, President*

## Shared Lives Studio invited to put artwork on display



The creations of the artists associated with the Shared Lives Studio will be on display at two public locations through the month of April.

Art is on display and for sale at Harold Jaffe Jewelers, 4211 Talmadge Road by the Franklin Park Mall. The jeweler is taking no commission on sales.

*Corey Hawkins poses next to the silk banner he created. The banner is on display at Harold Jaffe Jewelers.*

An exhibit of art is on display at the Main Branch of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library. Main Branch hours are:

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 to 8:30  
Friday & Saturday: 9:00 to 5:30  
Sunday: 1:00 to 5:00

Shared Lives Studio, 20 North St. Clair, will again be a stop on the monthly art walks sponsored through the summer by the Arts Commission. The first art walk will be May 22, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

## People First of Toledo leadership attends state conference



The Board provided transportation for the new leadership of People First of Toledo to attend the state conference. Pictured (from left) Jennifer Stuard (support staff), Stephanie Yoder, Rebecca Blair, Pam Auger (support staff) Michael Gagnon, Shanna Theil, Yolanda Backlund and JoRita Fox. Not pictured is Doug Fletcher who traveled independently .

## Cameron Taft is known by his patience and kindness

Cameron works at the Holland Adult Services Center and always has a smile on his face despite his medical challenges. He enjoys socializing with peers and staff and is always willing to try any task that has been offered to him.

Cameron loves art and uses his forehead pointer to complete his work. He has also been featured in a Blade article for the work he has done in the art room at the Holland facility.

Cameron's patience and kindness can be lessons for us all to learn. Congratulations on your Special Recognition Award.



## Positive attitude leads to a growing list of adventures for Dallas King



Dallas, friendly, energetic and outgoing, is currently a student at Whitmer High School and will be graduating soon. He has experienced many exciting life adventures, including snow skiing, water skiing, scuba diving, and even skydiving! Last summer he traveled to Washington, D.C. and was part of an Independent Living Conference where he met Marcy Kaptur. He also had the opportunity to be Toledo Mayor for a Day under Mayor Mike Bell. He says, "This is just the beginning. I plan to do so much more!"

## People First Says, "The Time to Change is Now!"



from Pipeline

Ohio's 2014 People First Conference celebrated 15 years of People First's statewide awareness and advocacy efforts with the theme, "Advocacy, the Time to Change is Now!"

People First of Ohio has shown clearly that they know how to celebrate an anniversary! The three-day conference even featured a large 'time machine' which served to introduce history and progress. The agenda was packed with plenty of information for the nearly 500 attendees on subjects including the Employment First initiative and how to put it to work in the lives of everyone who wants to work in the community, as well as sessions on Transition Services, Medicaid Buy-In, and other topics of interest to self advocates, their families, friends, and staff.

People First Executive Director Sadie Hunter emphasized, "What you learn about at this conference is whatever you -- as self advocates -- have told us you want and need to know more about. You set the agenda, and each of you has a say in it. That's what has driven us all these years.

"People First of Ohio is the only organization of its kind that is totally run by self-advocates. You can be proud of your Board and all the members in our chapters across the state."

John Martin, Director of the Ohio Department of DD, spoke to the group during the opening session and stated,

"I'm impressed at how People First has made its voice heard over the years. You continue to do that, and you have been involved in making history in this state by doing so. Thank you for making your voices heard."

Office of Public Information  
1154 Larc Lane  
Toledo, OH 43614

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

Board Members

Mark R. Frye, President  
Eric F. Henzler, Vice-President  
Jeanne Brockmyer, Recording Secretary  
Roger M. Bresnahan  
John O'Neil  
Linnie B. Willis  
Ray Wood



The Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Service.



**Resolving Complaints and Grievances**

There is a formal procedure you may use to resolve disagreements about eligibility, programs and services. Individuals who have concerns are encouraged to attempt to resolve those differences initially on an informal basis with facility supervisors.

Individuals may also contact the Ombudsman at 419-381-5201.

When an issue cannot be resolved informally, a more formal process can be used.

A pamphlet outlining these procedures is available by calling the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities at 419-380-4000. It is also available on the Board of DD website at [www.lucasdd.org](http://www.lucasdd.org) Select Publications in the left-hand menu.

**Board recognizes retirements of Frances Ester and Linda Emptage**



*Frances Ester began her career at the Board in June, 1997 as a Substitute Bus Monitor and was promoted to full-time in February, 1998. Throughout her time in the Transportation Department, she was on many different routes and was very helpful to her passengers and her drivers. Frances also worked as the receptionist at the Administration Building and at Larc Lane Center.*



*Linda Emptage began her career with the Board in July, 1983 as a Substitute Vehicle Operator. During her tenure, she has held various positions including: Child Welfare Aide, Vehicle Operator, Floating Instructor Assistant, Habilitation Technician, Workshop Specialist, Vocational Trainer, Early Intervention Assistant, and Production Quality Assurance Specialist.*