

The Friday Update



Get the most timely information regarding activities, programs and services in Lucas County for persons with developmental disabilities with the Board's free weekly e-mail newsletter, the Friday Update.

To subscribe send an e-mail to comments@lucasdd.org

Upcoming Events

- November 11 - Family & Advocate Forum with Superintendent Deb Yenrick, 9:30 a.m.
- November 18 - Monthly Board of DD Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- November 27-28 - Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 16 - Monthly Board of DD meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- December 20-21 - Special Olympics State Aquatics Meet
- December 24-January 1 - Holiday Break, all Board facilities closed.
- January 19 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; all Board facilities closed
- January 20 - Board of DD Annual Meeting; 6:00 p.m., Sullivan Center

Update

Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities
September-October 2014

Early Intervention families reconnect, share experiences



Recently, several families gathered at EduCare Center for a parent-inspired playgroup reunion. Parents of Early Intervention graduates told staff they wanted an opportunity for their families and children to reconnect and play together again. Early Intervention playgroups offer families an opportunity to challenge their child's developmental skills through natural play, while also developing meaningful connections to other families sharing similar life experiences.

Shared Lives Studio honored with prestigious Innovation Award



The Shared Lives Studio was one of three non-profits to receive top honors from the Toledo Community Foundation for innovation and excellence. "I see this award as a huge thank-you from the community," said Adult Options Manager Theresa Athaide-Victor. "What we are doing, evidently, is something that our community recognizes and appreciates. We are getting more known. It's so very special."

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur visits People First and responds to questions about accessibility, the recent water crisis, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.



(from left) Rebecca Blair, Michael Gagnon, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Arc Parent Support Coordinator Pam Auger, Doug Fletcher, Stephanie Yoder, Yolanda Backlund, JoRita Fox, Shanna Thiel, and Board of DD Superintendent Deb Yenrick.

Get our new mobile app



Take key information from the Lucas County Board of DD with you wherever you go. The app is available from the Apple Apps Store and from Google Play. The mobile app will be another way the Board will use to get timely information to its staff and the families we serve, such as closings and transportation delays because of inclement weather.

Grant will address needs of high-risk children and their families

John Martin, Director of the Ohio Department of DD, was in Northwest Ohio recently to award a \$300,000 *Strong Families, Safe Communities* grant to Erie, Sandusky, Seneca and Lucas Counties. The grant will focus on a wrap-around program - wherein a team works with the child and family to develop a comprehensive plan of support and services.



Director John Martin with Lucas County Board of DD Superintendent Deb Yenrick at the announcement of a *Strong Families, Safe Communities* Grant.

“We are excited about the fact that the focus will be on some of the most difficult children,” said Director Martin.

He said the projects being funded represent collaboration among mental health and developmental disabilities service providers and multi-county partnerships.

“We’ll be looking at all the programs that

are providing services so it is seamless for the family. We want to support the child in all aspects of life with all the service systems working together to wrap the service package around the child.”

Corey Hawkins is ready for an “awesome” time at the University

Corey Hawkins has always had his eye on the University of Toledo. As one of the Shared Lives Studio artists, Corey paints, draws and chalks the University’s clock tower and has sold many of his renditions. He would often talk about how his grandfather attended U.T. and how he also wanted to attend.

In May, Corey applied to the University’s Transitional Program through the Department of Special Education. Corey became one of five students accepted into the two-year certificate program this fall.

“This is so awesome,” he said while attending the orientation session. Corey is hoping to one day work with computers, perhaps in graphic design.



Jason Erbskom marks 14 years in community-based employment



The Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities is pleased to recognize Jason Erbskom for his success being employed in the community for over 14 years. Jason worked at Foodtown for several years. When they closed, he secured employment at Giant Eagle and once they closed, he began working at Meijers.

Jason was assertive in obtaining another job because he knows that he is a valuable asset to the workforce. His managers and co-workers stated that Jason is a joy to work with. He is always happy and kind to everyone.

Accolades received for volunteer work at food pantry ministry

“Each week they arrive with smiles and a willingness to work hard.”

That comment came in a letter to the Board of DD from the Director of Outreach at North Point Church describing a group of volunteers from the Holland Road Adult Options Center.



(left to right) Darlene M, Brittany S, Tiffanie H, Jeremy K, David K, Chris H, Mike B, Robert K, James R, Tisch P

Each week the church provides to approximately 250 families. “Distributing food for so many requires many hands all working together,” wrote Jackie

Frisch. “They push carts loaded with groceries for every family that comes to receive food” at the *Bread for Life* food pantry. “They begin to explain to you the joy they bring.”

Taking the ice bucket challenge



Shanna Richey's Uncle Jeb died 10 years ago from ALS, but recently she made sure he was remembered with love as she and 8 friends from Shared Lives Studio took the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge.

The Ice Bucket Challenge went viral throughout social media this summer promoting awareness of the disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and is encouraging donations for research. Participants have raised millions of dollars for the cause this year to date.

The challenge dares participants to be filmed having a bucket of ice water poured on their heads and challenges others to do the same.

Congratulations to the courageous Shanna Richey, Duane Edwards, Mike Mock, Craig Toczinski, Corey Hawkins, Mark Arnett, Tyler Wiley, and Brandon Johnson who all met the challenge!



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



**Schedule changes
for monthly Board meetings
and for Advocate Forums**



Monthly meetings of the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities are now scheduled on the third Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Meetings will still be held at the Administration Building, 1154 Larc Lane in Toledo.

The Family and Advocate Forums with Superintendent Deb Yenrick will now be every other month starting with the meeting on November 11. These informal sessions begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Administration Building.

**Board recognizes Staff Person of the Month honors
for Lori Balogh, Amanda Rost, and Gloria Jones**



Lori Balogh, in Employment Connections, works diligently to find community-based employment for persons being served. She encourages everyone around her to be the best that they can be.

Lori encourages all individuals to share their unique strengths and abilities as she strives to find the right job for each person she supports.



Amanda Rost, in Employment Connections, has demonstrated a willingness to do whatever it takes to assist the individuals we support to be successful.

She recently participated in the Dragon Boat Races fundraiser for Partners in Education as one of the rowers on the Friends of the Lucas County Board of DD craft.



When you need a “go to” person, Gloria Jones in Connections is always ready and willing to assist. She was responsible for starting a talent show to help individuals discover the gifts they possess.

Gloria has also accepted the challenge of being a *positive culture ambassador*, to help raise morale.