

## Upcoming Events

- May 21 – Ice Cream Social with Toledo Strengthening Families at Walbridge Park, noon to 3:00
- May 24-25 – Workshop on Helpful Hints for Interacting with Law Enforcement. Call 419-380-5141.
- May 30 – Memorial Day Holiday; All Board Facilities Closed
- June 14 – John Trunk's Monthly Family & Advocate Forum, 9:30 a.m.
- June 25-26 – Special Olympics State Summer Games
- July 4 – Independence Day; all Board facilities closed
- July 11-15 – Staff Training, all adult facilities closed



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](mailto:comments@lucasdd.org)

# Update

Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities  
April-May 2011

## Director of Children's Options, Vicki Snyder, receives Community Partner Award from BGSU

Vicki Snyder, Director of the Board's Children's Options Department, has received the Community Partner Excellence in Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Award from Bowling Green State University. The award recognizes a community partner who has made a significant contribution to the creation of powerful service-learning experiences and/or who has provided exemplary leadership in advancing the civic learning of students at BGSU.



*Vicki Snyder with Parent Partners (from left) Nancy Vendemo, Rolita Noble and Pam Auger.*

The award was presented as a result of the Parent Professional Partnership Project. The project has a goal of teaching parents and professionals how to work together

with families of children with special needs. The project, ongoing since 2006, has students attend classes with parents of children with special needs and spend 20 hours working with families. Parents become empowered while working with the students and the students learn first hand how to partner with parents of children with special needs.

## Peggy Martin reminds us that "a strong advocate is a well-informed advocate."



*Family Advocate Peggy Martin fields a question during the recent Family and Advocate Forum hosted by Superintendent John Trunk.*

"Settings like this tonight are where there is real partnership and real effort because there is an opportunity to get connected and partner with your local county board and openly communicate." That comment opened Peggy Martin's dialogue with those attending the monthly Family and Advocate Forum hosted by Superintendent John Trunk. Ms. Martin is the Family Advocate from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

Her visit continued the discussion on becoming stronger advocates. She stressed the fact that a strong advocate is a well-informed advocate. To help families share information, she has started a free e-mail chat service. There is more information on registering for the Family Chat at the Department's website <http://odmrdd.state.oh.us>

She also invited those in attendance to join the statewide Family Advisory Council. The Council meets bi-monthly in Columbus. She says the Council is a good place to share information. It also provides input to policy makers.

## Steve Gardner receives patent for the *Guardian Angel* lighting system



After the death a year ago of a student who was hit exiting a school bus, Steve Gardner, who supervises bus mechanics for the Lucas County Board of DD, thought the school district's response - to put cameras on the buses - was not enough. "You just get to watch video of an accident in slo-mo," he said. He felt there should be something more proactive, to prevent the accident from happening.

"What could have made a difference?" he thought. The next day he designed a new flashing light system he calls *Guardian Angel*.

Steve, a school bus mechanic for 35

years, recently received a patent for his system and has made a presentation of his prototype to the state panel that makes recommendations on changes to school buses.

He says the system, installed on the front of the bus, has three purposes:

- It illuminates the view for the driver of passengers walking from their point of safety until they board the bus;
- It keeps passengers ten feet in front of the bus, where students would be taught to walk; and
- Traffic in front and behind the bus can clearly see passengers getting on and off the bus.

The state has very strict rules about modifications to school buses, but Steve is hopeful the School Bus Construction Standards Committee will allow the installation of his *Guardian Angel* illumination system.

## "Lose the Training Wheels" bike camp returns July 25-29

The popular *Lose the Training Wheels* camp will return July 25-29 to Tam-O-Shanter in Sylvania. This unique weeklong activity works with youngsters who have experienced difficulty moving beyond training wheels.

The program focuses on children of all ages with varying developmental disabilities including autism, Down syndrome, spina bifida, and brain injuries.

For more information about the camp, or if you would like to volunteer to assist, contact Tracey Bruno at 419-380-5175



*A volunteer during the bike camp last year helps guide a participant riding a bike with adaptive equipment used for training.*

or e-mail her at [tbruno@lucasdd.org](mailto:tbruno@lucasdd.org)

Joining the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities in sponsoring the camp are the Autism Society of Northwest Ohio, Wersell's Bike Shop, and Lucas County Special Olympics.

## Superintendent Trunk's comments from the Board's Annual Report



*The Superintendent's comments are from the Annual Report recently published in several newspapers in Lucas County*

This year more than 4000 individuals and families will rely on the Lucas County Board of DD for information, referrals, services and support. We need to deliver a service that assures that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families get the support they need "one person at a time." Their priorities must be our priorities. And so, we have introduced a new mission and vision that reflects our commitment to helping individuals with developmental disabilities become contributing members of the community.

Our Mission identifies that we exist to assure that all individuals with developmental disabilities have the same opportunities as all other citizens. And, we will create possibilities and activities that further this ideal. A community is not a full community until it includes all citizens.

The Vision of the Lucas County Board of DD is that through our leadership and advocacy, the norm in our community becomes one where all individuals with developmental disabilities will have real friends...that families will feel connected to one another...that individuals will decide what a quality life means to them and then make real choices about how to live that life...that the perspective of the community be one that does not notice the disability but welcomes all individuals equally...where high standards and expectations are maintained throughout the entire support network...where individuals are given the opportunity to share their talents.

## Deanna Frazier recognized as a great role model



*Deana Frazier receives the monthly Special Recognition Award from Board President Rod Standiford. Also pictured are Board members Rick Henzler and Jeanne Brockmyer along with Superintendent John Trunk.*

Deana Frazier graduated from Jay Shuer School where she was an excellent student, teacher's aide and a kitchen helper. She joined the Lott Industries' workforce in 1979 and has worked at various locations and in a variety of jobs and contracts over the years.

Deana is a very friendly lady who is always willing to help her co-workers and staff when needed. She strives for

independence and displays an exceptional determination to succeed with any new job she tries. Deana's excellent attendance record and positive attitude make her a great role model for her co-workers

Deana's composure, self advocacy and positive attitude earn her respect from both staff and other Lott employees and she has been a member of the Hill Em-

ployee Advocate and Advisory Committee for many years. She has also been an active member of the Deaf Support Committee since its inception. Those who know Deana well call her *The Lucky Lottery Lady*, because she has won several times!

Congratulations, Deana, on receiving this month's Special Recognition Award.



The Board of DD Adult Option's Environmental Club has been selected to receive a grant in the amount of \$375, as well as support from Cornell University, to connect people with nature! The Celebrate Urban Birds Event, scheduled for September, will have club members hosting a citizen scientist event, *Celebrating Urban Birds*, that will collect data to help scientists study birds.

The event will be held outside. New friends will be connected with nature and help will be given to scientists to make our yards and community good for birds. This is 'wellness' for everyone, and ultimately, for birds and the planet.



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*Update was honored with the Award of Excellence in the publication category in the Ohio Public Images Awards Competition. The independent judges said the periodical, "with its easy-to-read design, was well-organized, professional and had wonderful photos."*

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### Colleen Leonard recognized as the Staff Person of the Month



Colleen Leonard, Habilitation Specialist at Hill Adult Services Center, has worked for the Board since 1980 and has actively been a part of all the changes through the years.

Colleen is tireless in her push for excellence in services and programming for individuals served. Her experience as a behavior specialist has been a great asset in her current position as a Habilitation Specialist for individuals with challenging behaviors. Her ability to build rapport and mutual respect with the individuals she serves is admirable.

Colleen exemplifies the Board's Core Values in the execution of her job. This is evident by her approach and how she develops relationships, not just with the individuals served but with their families, legal guardians and residential providers. She believes that each individual served has abilities and strengths and can contribute to their own growth and that of others around them. Her caring and giving nature continues to benefit both the individuals served and the staff around her.

Colleen is a relentless advocate for the individuals she serves and is an integral part of the Hill Team and Adult Options Department. The Board is proud to honor her as the Staff Person of the Month

### Brrrrr!! Polar Bear Plunge raises funds for Special Olympics



*Steve Mentrek, Community Inclusion Coordinator for the Lucas County Board of DD, led the scramble out of the frigid water at Maumee Bay State Park during the inaugural Maumee Bay Polar Bear Plunge to raise money for Special Olympics.*

*Plungers were asked to raise a "bear" minimum of \$75 per. The Maumee Bay plunge was one of eleven Polar Bear Plunge fundraising events in Ohio during the months of January - March.*