

The FANS Forum

Dear F.A.N.:

Happy May! Thank you for all that you do to support people with disabilities and their families. So far in 2017, The FANS Network been able to support eight different individuals / families with things they need in their homes. That includes three sets of donated washers and dryers, and two donated wheelchairs—how wonderful is that?!? FANS volunteers have also delivered baskets to area partners, helped with a Kiwanis fundraiser, supported a community e-cycle day, and honored some Magnificent & Marvelous direct care staff in Allen County. The Meal-A-Month initiative is now underway, and we have some really fun ideas for new initiatives starting later this year. Below are some specific needs that you can help with, as well as ongoing initiatives you can become a part of at any time. There is something for everyone if you want to help! Feel free to share information with others about joining us as Friends, Allies and Neighbors in The FANS Network!!



Sincerely,
Sarah Troyer
Community Connections Specialist

Request for Specific Items:

- Full-size **Refrigerator**
- Dresser
- **Porch swing** with stand
- Washer and dryer
- Push mower
- Gently used **BiPAP machine**

Request for Volunteers:

- Volunteers to **mow a lawn** in Lima once or twice/month
- Assistance for an individual to **clean her apartment**
- Volunteer to teach someone how to **sew, knit or crochet**

Want to get involved? Check out our Ongoing FANS Initiatives:

- 1) **Making A House A Home:** Provides household items for adults with disabilities who move into the community for the first time, families with children who have special needs, and others. **Kindness Couriers:** Volunteers are needed to pick up and deliver donated household items to people with disabilities in need. **Golden 'Furniture' Retrievers:** Volunteers are needed to pick up and deliver donated furniture.
- 2) **Caring Craftsmen:** Volunteers who help people with disabilities and/or their families with much needed home repairs or projects they could otherwise not afford or complete on their own. A little bit of help goes a long way.
- 3) **Meal-A-Month:** Make someone's day by making and delivering a home cooked meal or even just a dessert one time a month. Stay and eat family-style if there's time to get to know people in our community.
- 4) **Meet A Practical Need:** Gift cards are donated for haircuts, home repair supplies, gasoline, groceries, and much more. When a family is struggling, it is amazing how much a delivery of a gift card can brighten spirits and show people how much we care.
- 5) **Make A Memory:** Donations of tickets to sporting events, fancy restaurants, concert tickets, etc. provide experiences for people who otherwise would never have the opportunity. Volunteers are also needed to attend these events and share the joy alongside people who have disabilities. Let us know if you enjoy attending and would volunteer to sit with a special guest.
- 6) **Fast Break:** Give your employees a quick break! A small group of people with disabilities will come to your office to provide you with snacks, baked by our own **Busy Bakers**. You can schedule a date and time with us and we'll show up with snacks to share. We will stay a few minutes and will leave a jar of candy for your front office to enjoy.
- 7) **Make Their Day:** Volunteers who provide individuals with care packages or special meals to bring a little sunshine into someone's day. **Caring Companions** keep individuals company who may be ill and need someone to sit with them at the hospital or nursing home.
- 8) **Give Back Crew:** The Give Back Crew is a group of folks who volunteer at different community events and causes throughout our county, as a way to say thank you to the support shown by our community for people with developmental disabilities. The Give Back Crew consists of professionals in the field, people with disabilities, family members, community partners and people from the FANS Network.



May 2017

Spotlight On FANS



Kenny from the Give Back Crew delivered goodies to the Bath Fire Department



A donation through Making A House A Home kept Henry moving when his power wheelchair needed repairs



Seth from the Give Back Crew helped to honor direct care staff with M&Ms



Barb from the Give Back Crew volunteered at the Kiwanis BBQ



Busy Bakers donated dozens of homemade treats to pass out for DD Awareness Month



Questions or comments? Want more information about becoming a part of Allen County's FANS Network? Contact us at FANS@acbdd.org, check us out on the County Board's website at www.acbdd.org, or call Sarah Troyer at 419-221-1385 ext. 1008.