

The FANS Forum

Dear F.A.N.:

June and July were a lot of fun for FANS and Allen County. We were blessed to be a part of the first-ever Special Olympics Torch Run in Lima, we visited the YMCA Silver Sneakers and caught up with old friends, Golden Furniture Retrievers picked up and dropped off donated furniture to set up a new apartment, and we are so excited about helping to plant some Little Free Libraries in Lima. Below is our Wish List, which are things that we are looking for to support people with disabilities in our community. We are looking for gently used items to donate to others in need.



Take a look at our ongoing initiatives, too - you can join these at any time. Let us know if you have any new ideas for us. 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 of Allen County!!

Sincerely,

Sarah M. Troyer

Community Connections Specialist

Request for Specific Items:

- Full-size Refrigerator
- Dresser
- Porch swing and stand
- Twin sized mattress and box springs
- Push mower
- Digital cameras for a new photography group, coming later this year
- Electric Stove
- DVD player
- Couch
- Books for our Little Free Libraries—coming to Lima on 7/21/17

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.



July 2017

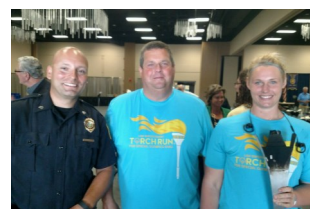
Spotlight On FANS



Some of the very dedicated runners at the Torch Run on 6/19/17



Seth, from the Give Back Crew, is also a Special Olympics athlete. He signed the Pledge of Allegiance at the Torch Run



Curtis Hile, Dan Van Vorhis, and Katy Weidman organized the Torch Run



Tony had the pleasure of catching up with a dear friend, Ann, during his Fast Break with the YMCA Silver Sneakers



FANS got to meet Melissa at the Fast Break with the Lima YP, and she in turn invited us to come to the YMCA



The Give Back Crew will be Stewards for the new Little Free Libraries



Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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.