

Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Always There

A publication by the Allen County Board of DD that recognizes the importance and potential of all people

Winter 2018



A Note from the Superintendent



I am so glad you are taking the time to read our updated newsletter. It has been almost two years since we have published one. Time sure has a way of moving fast as I find myself beginning my third year as the Superintendent. We never want for changes in our field. As you may know, in 2016 we faced some of the most significant changes in the history of this agency and it is only now we are all settling into a “new normal.”

For most of 2017 we celebrated our 50th Anniversary. It was in October of 1967 that the law was passed for each county in Ohio to form a County Board of Developmental Disabilities. We had our start many years before this as parents working through the ARC of Allen County and being held under the Child Welfare Department in the early 1960s. However, the organizational meetings for the Board as you know it today were held in the fall of 1967. We have had a great year of reminiscing about our history and planning for the 50th Anniversary Gala on October 28, 2017. Many past Board members and staff helped us celebrate. We gathered up and organized news articles and pictures. We had events this past year to help us remember all the important aspects of who we are and why we do what we do. Below is a group photo we organized on September 29, 2017, to showcase just how large and diverse our services are today. And this is not nearly everyone!

The theme we used all year was “Always There” as promoted by the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. To us it is true—the past, present, and future. We are grateful for all we have accomplished and for those who have gone before us and for all we will accomplish. There is always more work to be done to help individuals with developmental disabilities live the life they want to live. We are up to the challenge.

While we have not published an agency newsletter, we have been very active on social media, sharing lots of great news and putting a spotlight on things important to those we serve and their families. I encourage you to take a minute and read our blogs at www.acbdd.org. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter, where you will see regular posts with announcements, accolades, and so much more!

Here's to a wonderful 2018,

Theresa Schnipke, Superintendent
Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities



*It's the friends we meet
along the way that help us
appreciate the journey.*

Do you have a hobby, interest or skill that you would like to share? Do you enjoy giving back to the community? If so, the FANS Network is for you!!

The FANS Network is a group of people who are committed to enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities. We are looking for Friends, Allies, and Neighbors to join us in this mission. We believe the journey of life is better when people help and support each other. Kara and Morgan met through the Partnering With Pals initiative. They spend time together working on sewing projects.

Contact Sarah at 419-221-1385 ext. 1008 to join FANS!



Project SEARCH intern Justin Rader experienced what it's like to be 36 feet in the air while decorating the Christmas tree with fellow members of the Grounds Department.

Justin is one of eight interns learning and growing as a working adult in the 2017-2018 class of Project SEARCH which is a collaboration between ACBDD and Mercy Health at St. Rita's.

While working in Grounds for a ten week rotation, Justin learned the importance of safety, team work, routines, and being independent. Each of the interns has three rotations in the program.

Interested in Project SEARCH? Call Leigh for information at 419-296-8491.



Make sure your child is on track to a happy & healthy future!!

All children birth to age 5 are invited to our FREE Community Developmental Screenings which include:

Hearing, Vision, Speech, Nutrition, Behavior, Autism, Growth, Dental & Motor Skills.

Our next FREE screening will be held Feb. 6, 2018 at Market St. Presbyterian Church. Arrive and register between 4 pm and 6:30 pm. A parent or guardian must be present.

Questions? Call Rachael at 419-221-1262 ext. 1017.



After 44 years of service, Mrs. Peggy Cockerell has retired. From a Home Arts teacher to Director of Education, Mrs. Cockerell has been a staple at Marimor School for many years. She has made such a big impact on hundreds of students. We will miss her!!

Congratulations on your retirement, Mrs. Cockerell!!!

Project STIR stands for Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility. This training for self-advocates is designed to provide individuals with the tools to speak up for themselves.

There are new trainings every quarter and monthly follow-up meetings for all graduates. The follow-up meetings keep the STIR grads connected to support each other to become more actively involved in making decisions that impact their lives.

Call Sue at 419-221-1262 ext. 2359 if you would like to sign up for Project STIR!



A 50th Anniversary Gala

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During 2017, the Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities celebrated 50 years of service to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

The Board celebrated the many parents, families, Board members and advocates that began the 50 year journey leading to all this agency stands for today by hosting a 50th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, October 28, 2017. This event was the highlight of the year and a true celebration of how Lima/Allen County has supported the Board. More than 10,000 Allen County residents with developmental disabilities and their families have been served over the past 50 years.

There were 402 people in attendance at the Gala. The history of the agency was reviewed and there was special recognition of individuals served by the Board since 1967. We were honored by the presence of Richard Haas, an original Board member from 1967, and former administrators/superintendents Lowell Plaughter and Esther Baldrige.

Chris Ulmer of Special Books for Special Kids was the guest speaker at the Gala. Mr. Chris, as he is called by his students, is a social media sensation. He recently received one of the 2017 Ten Outstanding Young American's award from The United States Junior Chamber, recognizing Mr. Chris as being truly accomplished in his field and in giving back to his community. Thanks to all who made this a night we will always remember.





**Allen County Board of
Developmental Disabilities**

**2500 Ada Road
Lima, Ohio 45801**

“Supporting individuals with developmental disabilities in Allen County by strengthening partnerships and providing high quality services.”



Members of the Allen County Board:

- Martin Garlock, President
- Thomas Fleming, Vice President
- Phyllis Montrose, Secretary
- Linda Lehman
- Bob McPheron
- Adam Stolly
- Melissa Weaver



Connect With Us:

- Allen County Board of DD..... 419-221-1385
- Marimor School..... 419-221-1262
- Early Intervention..... 419-221-1262
- Reporting Abuse, Neglect or Theft.....419-221-1385
- TTY.....419-221-3393
- After Hours Emergency / On-Call SSA.....419-302-8825

www.acbdd.org



Linda Lehman, Esther Baldrige, Theresa Schnipke, and Richard Haas traveled to Columbus on Oct. 24, 2017 to place items in a time capsule for all of Ohio’s DD Boards and the Always There campaign. The capsule is set to be reopened in 25 years, which would put us in the year 2042.