

# Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities

# The Community Connection

A publication that recognizes the importance and potential of all people



James is the dining room attendant at Burger King.



Tanika works at Speedway, where she makes donuts.

## THE RIGHT TALENT, RIGHT NOW

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. There are many skilled, valued employees working in our community; James, Tanika, Ted, Paul, and Barb are five of them!



Ted works the front desk at Allen County Board of DD, and he helps with office duties.

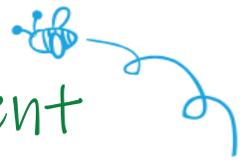


Paul works for the City of Lima's Parks and Recreation Department, taking care of the city parks and playgrounds.



Barb cleans at Shawnee Manor, where she's worked for more than four years.

# A note from the Superintendent



Theresa and Jim

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, an annual campaign that challenges us to talk about and celebrate the many and varied contributions of our country's workers with disabilities. The 2019 theme is "The Right Talent, Right Now."

The history of National Disability Employment Month dates back to 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week of October "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employability of individuals with all types of disabilities. Then in 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to what we have today. Each year, we spend time recognizing that inclusion in the workplace is good for all. It is good for employees; it is good for employers; and it is good for our community.

2019 has been a very good year for people who want to work in Allen County. We have 121 individuals working in competitive jobs. We also serve workers in supported employment positions. These individuals continue to work toward a goal of full competitive employment. We are very proud of the partnerships we have in place to help individuals reach their goal to become employed. The progress made in the past 25 years is amazing, leaping to new heights for career exploration, discovery, and placement opportunities. We believe that 121 is the highest number of people we have served working in competitive employment in the history of the agency. That is so exciting!

Talking with Jim, a man I have known for many years, brought this to life for me. I asked about a job he started in March of 2019. His face turned into a big smile. He explained that he is employed six hours per week at Chamberlain Huckeriede Funeral Home, entering data. Jim hopes to work more hours some day, but for now he is very happy. Currently, a job coach assists Jim - until specialized equipment can be obtained. It has been many years since he has had a competitive wage job that is fully inclusive. You see, Jim has multiple disabilities and many would not be able to see the abilities he has beyond his electric wheelchair and adapted devices.

Our SSA Director, Melodie Conley, has spent more than 25 years in the employment aspect of our field. Recently, she brightened as she told me about John, who has wanted to work in a competitive job for many years. In the past, community employers weren't ready for John, due to communication barriers. However, 2019 was the year. With the training and support of his coworkers, John is successfully working at Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken. John's face lights up when he has his uniform on, looking sharp for work.

There are many stories like these. We continue to celebrate each small victory and on October 10, we will join the Allen County Commissioners to officially proclaim October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month in Lima/Allen County.

Theresa Schnipke  
Superintendent  
Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities



John, working the lunch shift at Lee's



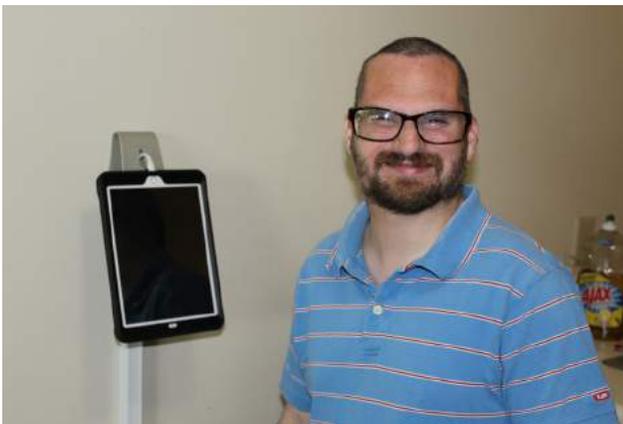
## THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES CLUB IS BACK

The Employment Services Club meets monthly to talk about work, try new things, and spend time together. It's for anyone working or volunteering in the community. If you'd like to join, call Sarah Troyer at 419-221-1385, ext. 1008.



## TECHNOLOGY FIRST: ELIJAH'S IPAD

Every day, Elijah uses his iPad to check in with his Direct Support Professionals. This has empowered Elijah to live on his own with less in-person support, since he can talk to his staff at any time. There are many ways that technology can benefit people with developmental disabilities. This is just one of them!



## 2019 DSP MVPS

In September, we celebrated Direct Support Professional (DSP) Recognition Week. For the first time ever, we recognized five "DSP MVPs," who were nominated by our staff for their outstanding work and dedication to the people they serve. Congratulations and thank you to Renee Goodwin and Cindy Luginbihl of Benchmark Human Services, Adam Secession of CRSI, and Kristy McPherson and Cindy Silone of Marimor Industries!



## CALLING ALL ATHLETES, COACHES, AND VOLUNTEERS

The Allen County Sharks are the local Special Olympics team, and all sports seasons are about to begin! There's basketball, skills basketball, swimming, and bowling. If you'd like to join a team, help out, or become a coach, call Stacy at 419-303-9515.



## FISCAL FACTS



Individual employment supports (IES) include job coaching, training in assistive or other technology used on the job, and various workplace supports. In fiscal year 2019, 49 people enrolled on DD-administered waivers received IES. The total amount billed for the service was \$11,338.64, and Allen County Board of DD paid 37% of that. Since January 2019, six people enrolled in Individual Support Services have received IES. The total amount billed was \$1,469.52, and Allen County Board of DD paid 100% of that.



2500 Ada Road  
Lima, Ohio 45801

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

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/On-Call SSA..... 419-302-8825

[www.acbdd.org](http://www.acbdd.org)



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- |                             |                |
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| Thomas Fleming, President   | Christina Hood |
| Bob McPheron, Vice Pres.    | Linda Lehman   |
| Phyllis Montrose, Secretary | Adam Stolly    |
| Martin Garlock              |                |

# Thank you!

In the past month, we held our first Community Garage Sale and our 21st Annual Chicken Barbecue. Thank you to everyone who attended, purchased a meal, or helped us promote these events. We are so grateful for the support of our community!

We donated garage sale items that didn't sell to nonprofits and programs around Allen County, including Crime Victim Services, pictured below.

