



Metzenbaum Center

Helping People Live, Learn, and Earn

Fall 2021

GeaugaDD.org

October is National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month

Each October, Geauga DD celebrates the people we support who are employed in the community. This year we are thrilled to report over 150 people we support are employed! By including all abilities in the workplace, everyone is valued and has a voice. The U.S. Dept. of Labor is also highlighting people with disabilities in the workplace with the National theme "America's Recovery: Powered by Inclusion." This theme emphasizes that everyone has a role in helping with the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. To see the people we support at work visit [Facebook.com/GeaugaDD](https://www.facebook.com/GeaugaDD)



First Place Program

Geauga Early Intervention (EI) is a First Place program! They took first place in their division at the Chesterland 4th of July Parade. With the leadership of Miss Carol and Miss JoAnn, the EI parade goers stood out to the judges and brought home the trophy! Congratulations to all the families and friends that came out to join in on the fun.



Community Scavenger Hunt

The first Annual Metz Community Scavenger Hunt was June 1st through June 19th, and what a great turnout it was! All participants were encouraged to grab a group of friends and explore local businesses, parks, and other fun destinations in Geauga County! The Geauga County Sheriff's Office went above and beyond for this event by hosting a community day and showcasing a SWAT vehicle and K-9 unit while people picked up goodie bags.



Virtual Talent Show

The first ever Virtual Talent Show was an online hit! Eleven participants showed off their talents by performing acts like singing, playing in a band, and telling jokes. It was a true joy to watch and appreciate from the comfort of home. Thank you all for sharing! To view the show, go to [GeaugaDD.org/talentshow](https://www.GeaugaDD.org/talentshow)



Shelbey's Story

Shelbey is proud to be employed and included as a part of the Heather Hill Care Communities workforce. Her position in the Housekeeping/Laundry department is one of the essential services to ensure the facility stays clean and the residents stay healthy. Being able to help in this busy department is what makes Shelbey feel valued.

Shelbey was hired in May with the help of a job coach, who is supported by Geauga DD. She has had opportunities to work in different positions but said the Laundry department fit her best. "I like helping. I like working with people and being around people. I laugh a lot with my coworkers while folding linens, and delivering the linen cart."

Shelbey's boss Brianna, had nothing but praise for her. "Shelbey is always willing to take on new tasks. Anything that's asked of her, she completes in a timely manner. She has taken on the task of bringing clean mops and rags to our housekeeping supply closet and stocking the mops and rags on the shelf for staff. She has independently made this her own task without asking! It's great to see her come into her own and be proactive without any guidance."

At any work place, curveballs are always thrown into the mix. She's flexible and reliable when emergencies come up and I need to pull staff away from laundry to help with something else. She knows the expectation and goals set for laundry and when you assign her a job she completes it, even if other staff members are not around."

Brianna went on to say, "Shelbey brings positivity to our department; she keeps the girls in laundry smiling and laughing with her stories. It's nice to see her blossom to be independent. Her willingness and drive to be out in the community working sets a great tone and example for others. She has been nothing less than amazing. She's a rock star!!"



Need for Workers

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are desperately needed, especially in the wake of COVID-19. DSPs provide around the clock direct care, cover transportation needs, and are a lifeline to the people we support. Geauga DD is taking several actions to meet this need, but we still need help. For more information, please contact Don Rice at 440-729-9406.

Mercury Plastics

Mercury Plastics LLC is a local company in Middlefield, Ohio that leads the industry in providing innovative thermoplastic solutions to a variety of markets including appliances, faucets, automotive, construction, medical, offshore oil and plumbing. They work closely with their customers to design and develop products and solutions that enable the customer to win in the marketplace. Learn more about them at: www.mercury-plastics.com

Mercury Plastics is also one of a small number of companies who have reached out to Geauga DD, looking for individuals who want to work and be supported in an inclusive job environment. They are making an effort to provide real employment opportunities right in their own backyard for the people we serve. Since reaching out earlier this year to offer employment opportunities, Mercury Plastics has hired three people we support, proudly promoting equality and acceptance in the work place.

Thank you Mercury Plastics for being innovative not only in manufacturing, but also in a more inclusive work culture!



Welcome Back to In-Person Events!



Happenings & Events

Geauga DD staff and all our partners are so happy to be getting back to in-person events, sports, classes, groups, and happenings! Thank you all for your patience and understanding for the last year and a half.

Early Intervention has been meeting up every other week for community play groups and Moving' With Music has been having pop-up classes.

Weekly classes are back like Adaptive Yoga, Music Therapy, Fun Fitness, Adaptive Dance classes, Art class programs, and Self Defense.

Metzenbaum Foundation Rec happenings are going strong, including Group Dances, Dinner Club, Aktion Club, Movie Series, and Bingo.

Geauga Joggers & Walkers have been meeting twice a month for outdoor activities and Sports are back to competing!

Partner Spotlight:

When you empower someone, you turn a disability into ability. You transform doubt into confidence. You allow the impossible to become possible. That's what Empower Sports is all about. Through sports and fitness activities, they aim to develop social skills, self-esteem and physical well-being for athletes of all ages and abilities!



Empower Sports exists to enrich the lives of athletes of diverse challenges through sports and exercise while promoting kindness, character, and tolerance. They believe that every athlete should have an opportunity to participate in the games they love. They are driven to provide programs so that no one is left out. They welcome ALL interested players with the mindset of tailoring the program to meet the players at their needs. The result is a beautifully diverse group of players and volunteers enjoying time together.

Programs emphasize socialization skills, self-esteem, teamwork, discipline and (most importantly) **HAVING FUN!** Contact CJ Maynard to get involved: cj@empowersports.org or visit empowersports.org to learn more.

And now... Jokes from Andy



Why cant a leopard hide?
Because they are always spotted!

My next door neighbor has two
Dobermans. One is named Timex
and the other is named Rolex.
They are good watchdogs!



**Geauga County Board of
Developmental Disabilities**
8200 Cedar Road
Chesterland, OH 44026

Save The Dates

Family Forums:

- Oct. 19: Trust Planning
- Nov. 2: Transition 102
- Nov. 16: STABLE Account
- Dec. 7: The Role of the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities in Transition
- Feb. 15: GCBDD & Transition

For more information, contact Tami Setlock:
tsetlock@geaugadd.org

Trick-or-Treating October 28, at the Metzenbaum Center. Contact JoAnn Anselmo at janselmo@geaugadd.org for more information.

Art Show Nov. 4, at the Metzenbaum Center. For more information, contact Megan Thirion: mthirion@geaugadd.org

For the latest info on upcoming events, visit GeaugaDD.org or [Facebook.com/GeaugaDD](https://www.facebook.com/GeaugaDD)

To get involved with the **Metzenbaum Foundation Rec Department**, contact Sally Contizano: sally@metzenbaumfdn.org or visit [Facebook.com/metzfdn](https://www.facebook.com/metzfdn)



Thanks for Visiting

Thank you to the Great Geauga County Fair Band for putting on a spectacular Free show at the Metzenbaum Center.

What a delight to once again have Mama Duck nest in the Metzenbaum Center courtyard! On May 10, she and her ducklings were escorted through the building to the great outdoors.

It was nice to see everyone who stopped by to visit the Geauga DD tent at the Great Geauga County Fair.

