



# Metzenbaum Center

Helping People Live, Learn, and Earn

Fall 2022

GeaugaDD.org

## National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month

October is National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month! Geauga DD works hard all year, supporting individuals in finding employment opportunities and building relationships with local businesses. Our vision is to have individuals be integrated, accepted, and achieve success in the workforce. Let's celebrate together this October and highlight individuals who are paving the way for the future, like Kara, Brandon, and April. Work together to include all abilities in the workplace. Take the time to ensure everyone feels valued and has a voice. Visit the Geauga DD Facebook page to see our working individuals!



Kara



Brandon



April

### Farmyard Fun

The Geauga Early Intervention (EI) is once again a First Place program! The Chesterland 4th of July Parade was no match for the cuteness of the EI group, which placed first in their division. Winning over the judges with the farmyard theme, the EI parade goers stood out and brought home the trophy! Congratulations to the group and the families who came out for the fun.



### Take METz Out To The Ball Game!

On July 3rd, the Metzenbaum Foundation invited all the athletes from Geauga Special Olympics to the annual Pack The Stands event at the Captains Stadium. It was a grand slam! Athletes, along with their friends and family, enjoyed the evening hanging out and cheering on their favorite Lake County Captains players as they battled the Lansing Lugnuts. After the game, the party kept going as fans sat back and watched some world-class fireworks!



### The Talent Show Returns

The return of the Talent Show was a hit! The event was full of talented singers, enthusiastic dancers, and outstanding performers. It was a true joy to watch and appreciate the time each individual put into their act. It was most entertaining and a show to remember!



# Kira's Story

To be achieving in life, you need a go-getter personality and Kira is not one to spend her time sitting at home. Being a recent graduate from high school, Kira is giving it her all to figure out her place in the workforce while still being creative in her art and live an active lifestyle.

It makes Kira proud to say that she works at the Popcorn Shop, which is a local landmark and historical building. She has been there since 2019 and enjoys the atmosphere the shop has being in downtown Chagrin Falls. Her duties keep her busy with the packaging of the delicious popcorn, helping customers, and making sure the custard machine is churning! Kira said, "It's fun talking to customers who are visiting the shop. I get to tell them about other local shops to stop in and other places to eat."

"In 2020, when Covid stopped the world, I noticed that the Gap in Aurora Farms was hiring. I applied and got a job folding clothes in the kid's department. I'm there only a few hours a week, but I enjoy getting to see all the clothes change with the seasons. I help people match outfits together and help assist customers to find things."

Through the process of job searching and finding employment, Kira said, "I have learned new skills and a lot about patience. To not be afraid to ask questions when I am confused or not quite sure about something. Most important for me is I want to be social."

When Kira is not working, she makes time to exercise and CrossFit trains at the local gym, as well as other physical activities. She is a talented musician who has performed at many live gigs and is also an accomplished artist. Her love and expression of art has given her opportunities to host several well attended art shows and sell many of her pieces! In Kira's words, "Art is important to me because it tells a story without words. It has been a constant friend throughout my life."



## Thank You DSPs

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) week, Sept. 11-17, was an opportunity to say thank you to the people who are the heart and soul of supports for individuals with disabilities. The impact they create in our community each and every day is invaluable. DSPs choose to be a dedicated friend and family in the role they provide to care for others. Please extend a thank you to a DSP and let them know they are appreciated!



## Need for Workers

There is a shortage in the number of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). DSPs provide around the clock direct care, cover transportation needs, and are a lifeline to the people we support. Geauga DD is pursuing alternative options but we need help. For more information, please contact Don Rice at: 440-729-9406, drice@geaugadd.org.



# Happenings and Events Around Geauga DD



## Fun In The Sun

July 9th was a Wet and Wild Fun day at Pioneer Waterland! The annual Fun In The Sun outing is always a favorite event for all ages who comes out to play.



## Rock On

RockAbility is proving they can rock with the best! Their summer quickly filled up with requests to perform at festivals and local concert venues. RockAbility is making it big!



## The Littles

Early Intervention has been meeting up for community outings, and Fun Fridays at the Metzenbaum playground. Movin' With Music is always popular in-person and online. Call or email Geauga DD to see if your child qualifies!



## Aktion Club Is Taking Action

The Aktion Club is a dedicated group of caring individuals who are always on a mission to serve their community! They are currently raising money to purchase an adaptive swing for Westwood Elementary. Also, they are collecting donations for food baskets to hand out at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Contact the Metzenbaum Foundation to support their mission.



## Recreation

Recreation is the place to be for Sports, Clubs, Groups, Dances, and other activities to keep you plugged in and engaged. Join us!



## And now... Jokes from Andy



What did the horse say when it fell over?  
I've fallen and I can't giddy up!

Why is grass dangerous? It's full of blades!

Where do baby ghosts go during the day? Day-scare centers!



**Geauga County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities**  
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## Save The Dates

Register for Trick-or-Treating at the Metzenbaum Center. Contact JoAnn Anselmo for information: [janselmo@geaugadd.org](mailto:janselmo@geaugadd.org).

**Art Show** Nov. 10, at the Metzenbaum Center. For more information, contact Megan Thirion: [mthirion@geaugadd.org](mailto:mthirion@geaugadd.org)

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

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



## Thanks for Visiting

Thank you to the Great Geauga County Fair Band for performing a wonderful free show on June 3, at the Metzenbaum Center.

What a delight to once again have Mama Duck visit and nest in the Metzenbaum Center courtyard! On May 17, she and her ducklings were escorted through the building and released back to the wild.



It was nice seeing old friends and meeting new friends who stopped by the Geauga DD tent at the Great Geauga County Fair. It was "great" connecting with the community, and celebrating the bicentennial anniversary of being the oldest continuous county fair in Ohio !