



Metzenbaum Center

Helping People Live, Learn, and Earn

Spring 2021

GeaugaDD.org

DD Awareness Month Recognized

The Geauga County Commissioners officially declared March as DD Awareness Month at their meeting on March 2. The Commissioners' recognition encouraged the community to support individuals of all ages with DD to be integrated, accepted, and allow to achieve their full potential in community life. They entrusted the citizens of Geauga County to work together to support equality, opportunity, and inclusion.

Although the usual celebrations to recognize DD Awareness Month were still on hold, the Metzenbaum Facebook page was flooded with stories and photos of individual artists showcasing their creations.

Thank you to all who contributed!

#IncludeME



Time To Shine

On March 25, the Early Intervention Dept. (EI) held a Time to Shine, in lieu of their annual Night to Shine. This year things looked different due to COVID but still continued the tradition. 17 families scheduled their children to walk the red carpet to their child's favorite song. Music therapist Miss Carol and playgroup staff Lisa Ross put on a magnificent day filled with songs and prizes donated by the Robert Beard Foundation! The EI program continues to create new events to keep families connected!



Reconnecting With Friends

The Rec Department has been doing their best to make sure the people we serve are staying up to date and feeling connected through virtual activities on Facebook Live and Zoom. As public health orders are changing and restrictions are being lifted, the in-person programs are starting to happen in a modified way.

Over the past few months through the Rec Dept., friends have been able to schedule small group swim dates along with luncheons and outings. Two group dances happened on April 30 and May 1 with only 50 people allowed at each date. Both dates were quickly booked to capacity as friends haven't seen each other in over a year! (The last group dance held was February of 2020.) As life hopefully starts to return to normal, the Softball and Golf programs are looking to begin again in July.

If you would like to start getting back in the swing of things, contact the Rec Dept. at 440-729-9406



Wes is a Swimming Success!

Wes is your everyday, rough housing, action seeking, looking for a good time, fearless 6 year old boy. He loves being outside, going for rides on a four wheeler, and has an interest in mechanical workings. Wes is always up for getting into something mischievous and keeps the people he loves on their toes. He is first and foremost a family guy with two older brothers and has a heart for 4 legged critters.

When the family started swimming at the YMCA, it was a surprise that Wes was terrified of the water. At about the same time, Wes was attending the Early Intervention and Help Me Grow programs at the Metzenbaum Center, where his family learned of the in-house therapeutic pool. They signed Wes up for group swim classes at the center along side his peers in the hopes of calming his fears around the water. It turned out that one-on-one lessons would be needed for more support.

Being in the quiet environment and the heated water of the therapy pool, Wes took 2 years of private lessons to become at ease enough to tread water with a lifejacket on. It took another 8 months of Dad encouraging him, along with the pool instructor, to be confident to tread water on his own. Wes is now excited to jump in the pool and gets happier and happier as the classes continue. He no longer has a fear of water and the goal of just being comfortable has been surpassed with joy.

Wes achieving the ability to swim will last his lifetime because of the dedication of his parents and the supports available to him. As he continues with his swim classes, he will get stronger and more experienced with his growing skills. Family vacations can be planned around water parks without a worry or concern and the future achievements for Wes are limitless.



Coming Summer 2021

The 2021 Metz Talent Show will be virtual this summer on June 11! Start practicing your talents and get your acts together as performances will be scheduled and submitted until May 14. Email Megan Thirion for more information: mthirion@geagadd.org.

Metz Community Scavenger Hunt, June 1st through June 19th! Grab a group of friends and explore local businesses, parks and other fun destinations in Geauga County! Collect as many tickets as you can on your adventure for a chance to be entered into a live raffle. Register before May 9, at: geagadd.org/scavenger-hunt

Super Free Give Away

On June 21, the Metzenbaum Center will be having a free give away of toys, books, office furniture, household goods, and other items that have been collecting dust. Keep a lookout for more info!

*We will not be accepting any outside donations.



Virtual Classes and Happenings

Classes and happenings are going on daily through the Metzenbaum Facebook page, Metz Rec Facebook page, and other scheduled virtual groups that include Adaptive Yoga, Music Therapy, Fun Fitness, and Adaptive Dance. Limited time Virtual Art class programs and Dance Classes have been going strong. The Geauga Library has also offered Zoom story time and adventures for all ages. A new group to extend social opportunities in a safe way is Geauga Joggers & Walkers, who meet twice a month for outdoor activities.

For more information on upcoming classes and programs, contact the Metzenbaum Foundation at: metzenbaum.foundation@gmail.com



Partner Spotlight:

the metzenbaum
FOUNDATION

The Metzenbaum Foundation's (TMF) purpose is to enhance the quality of life for Geauga County citizens with developmental disabilities, and to promote public awareness of their needs and abilities. TMF's vision is to combine resources, form partnerships and build relationships with neighbors to nourish the lives of all individuals in this friendly place we call home.

Established in 2007, TMF has grown through estate and other financial gifts to support quarterly grants which provide funding for: adaptive equipment, adaptive housing modifications, personal care, respite care, therapy, and educational tools. Furthermore, TMF receives a yearly grant to facilitate the following programs: Family Home Based Service (FHBS), Summer Support Funds (SSF), Amish School Transportation and Metz Recreation Program Coach Stipends. In 2020, TMF awarded grants to 298 individuals and groups.

TMF Community Connections Program provides classes and activities including: Art, Yoga, Music in Motion, Adapted Dance, Cooking, Library Times, Movie Nights, and Bingo.

Financial gifts to TMF, no matter the size, make a huge difference in the lives of our clients. Support can be sent to TMF 8200 Cedar Rd. Chesterland, OH 44026. For information on how to make a gift through a will or trust, call 440-668-2569. Together we change and improve the lives of individuals and put smiles on faces, joy in hearts, and the spread of hope!

Got a Grumble?

The Geauga County Board of DD understands it is important for individuals to have an official channel to follow should a dispute or complaint arise.

You may file a complaint if you are dissatisfied with a program, service, policy, or practice of the GCBDD. You may file an appeal of adverse action if your request for services is denied or if services you have been receiving are being taken away.

For more details, go to:
geaugadd.org/complaints-and-appeals

If you have questions, please call us at 440-729-9406.



And now... Jokes from Andy



"What kind of food is heavy?
Won Ton soup because it weighs One Ton."

"What does a snowman call it when he hides and goes places without being found?
Snowking -instead of sneaking"

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

Save The Dates

Virtual Family Forums:

- May 11: The GCBDD and Transition
- July 13: Preparing your Transition Age Youth for the Upcoming School Year

Contact Megan Thirion for Zoom invite:
mthirion@geaugadd.org

The Duck Walk will happen around
Mother's Day

Metz Scavenger Hunt June 1 through the 19

Virtual Talent Show June 11

Super Give Away June 21

Geauga Fair Band will be performing a free
concert at the ICF June 22, at 7pm. All are
welcomed and bring a seat.

Keep a lookout for information on the
upcoming Virtual Art Show!

For the latest info on upcoming events, visit
GeaugaDD.org or **Facebook.com/GeaugaDD**

Aktion Club Taking Action!

Taking care of the community that is Geauga County is a top priority for the Aktion Club. Wanting to make sure people know they are appreciated, the club hand-decorated goodie bags for first responders and area nursing homes. They also filled plastic Easter eggs so that WomenSafe in Geauga County, and Forbes House, a homeless shelter in Lake County, could have Easter egg hunts for the families staying there over Easter. Thank you for your continued thoughtfulness and generosity!

Meetings are usually held the second Saturday of the month. The May 8th meeting will be at Eddy's Fruit Farm where business will be conducted, pizza for lunch, and then a game of Frisbee golf. RSVP for pizza and salad.

To get involved, contact the Rec Department:
bveleba@geaugadd.org or call 440-729-9406 x1117

