

METZENBAUM CENTER

The Geauga County Board Of Developmental Disabilities

Live. Learn. Earn.

Spring 2016

Boldly Moving Forward

2015 was a great year for the Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities. We saw additional adult programming options like the Two Café, pARTners, Valens Bottling, Siffrin's Greenhouse, and Koinonia Employment Services join the pool of providers, among others. New community integration events like the dance class, water aerobics classes, the 5K run/walk and increased outings for the residential clients became the norm. The year wrapped up with the passage of the levy, which provided the necessary funding to move the Board forward into the next five years.

2016 began with a new focus on meeting the new Federal and State requirements for County Boards. The Board's focus for the next five years will be to increase employment and integration opportunities for those individuals who wish to participate in our community. Our clients will see new program offerings that offer paid work, new worksites and improved chances to become active members in the community of their choosing. The Board is working closely with our partners to accomplish these new efforts.

Metzenbaum Sheltered Industries (MSI) is busy creating new enclaves where groups of clients can move from the workshop to business opportunities that pay more, are closer to home, and/or better fit the individual's desires. Maple Leaf Community Residences and the Service and Support Administration (SSA) Department continue to increase the smaller community housing options for individuals who need to move from their family home.



As more of the individuals are being served in new settings, the Board is looking

to use the buildings and resources at the Metzenbaum Center in a "reverse" integration effort. Twice a week, senior citizens are using the main gym to play Pickle Ball – cross between tennis and ping-pong. An integrated opportunity for people to learn to play the harp or violin meets in the small gym weekly. The dance class invites anyone to join them during their sessions. Several schools are looking to use our facilities as training sites for individuals with disabilities and students without disabilities. The hope is to build relationships and friendships that help individuals with disabilities become fully integrated with the community.

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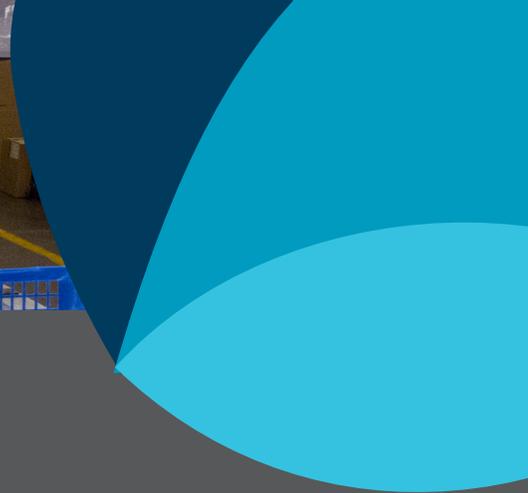
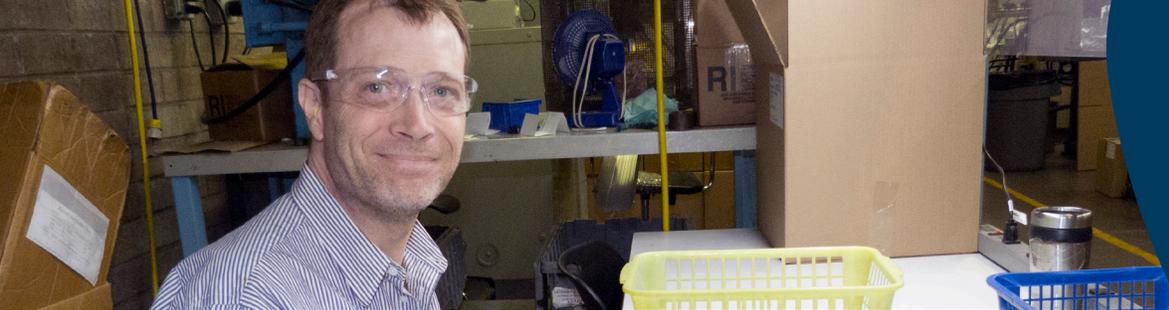
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Mission / Vision



Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities and Community Business Endura Plastics find Individual Opportunity

WHAT IT IS

Specializing in high volume, precision components and sophisticated manufacturing assemblies, Endura manufactures quality injection molded parts for the automotive, electrical and industrial marketplaces as well as its own line of air pressure switches. Endura is also dedicated to providing the individuals it employs with fair pay and many independent tasks.

Peter Niles is the first individual from the GCBDD to be employed by Endura Plastics, and he has made incredible progress since he was hired in 2007. He is currently in charge of the horn assembly area and also mentors students from the Riverside Appreciates Valued Employees (RAVE) program, a program for individuals with developmental disabilities who want to work in manufacturing. Peter's manager, Dean Williams, describes him as a "model employee, one of the friendliest, most dedicated people you'll ever meet."

"All companies should participate in this type of program," Williams said. "Peter is one of our best employees and you can tell he really cares about his job. All of the people who come in through these sorts of programs are worthwhile employees; they work side-by-side with our other employees doing the same tasks and producing the same output. It is truly rewarding for everyone."

If your businesses would like to partner with the Board, call 440.729.9406.



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Of Developmental Disabilities

First Metzenbaum Dance Recital Successful, Second Recital Coming Soon

The Metzenbaum Dance program had their first dance recital on February 20, the recital, "I Have a Dream" was in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Thirty dancers performed and over 115 people came to watch the performance.



Dance classes are held on Mondays and Thursdays at the Metzenbaum Center, with a day session from 12:30-2 pm and an evening session

from 5-6:30pm. To sign up, or if you have questions, please contact Janice Chesnes at jchesnes@geaugadd.org.

Make sure to catch one of the Metzenbaum Dancers upcoming shows.

Fun For All at the Geauga Community Carnival

The first annual Community Carnival hosted by the GCBDD was held on Saturday, March 5 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The free event was open to the public and raised awareness about Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, which took place through March.

Almost 500 people came to enjoy the free carnival, games food and prizes throughout the day. Thank you to our friends from the Church of the Holy Angels who volunteered their time to help with the carnival!



Youth Group Treats Residents to a Night of Bingo

Metzenbaum residents were treated to an afternoon of Bingo on Saturday, March 19th. Pastor Randy and 20 members of the youth group from the Mapleview Mennonite Church of Burton came together to meet friends and play bingo.

All the residents had a wonderful time playing bingo and talking to the youth group members. Thank you to all who came and participated!

Upcoming Events at Metzenbaum Center

Metzenbaum Dance Recital Dates:

April 16, 2016 – Blossom Hill in Huntsburg

May 21, 2016 @ 6pm – Spring dance concert at the Metzenbaum Center

June 11, 2016 – Weils in Bainbridge

Second Annual Run for Fun 5K/1 Mile

Sunday, May 15, 8am

8200 Cedar Rd., Chesterland, OH

For more information, contact Ruth Gilchrist or Megan Thirion, (440) 729-9406

Help Me Grow/Early Intervention Giveaway

Friday, June 3, 2016

10-12PM (early entry for Help Me Grow families, 9am)

For more information, call-(440) 729-5250

11th Annual Golf Outing

Saturday June 25, 2016

Wicked Woods Gold Course

14085 Ravenna Rd. Newbury, OH

Shotgun starts at 1pm

To register or for more information, contact Kellie Tvergyak (440) 729-9406 X1106

Interactive art class

Starts June 8 and goes every Wednesday

For more information, contact Janice Chesnes at jchesnes@geaugadd.org

MISSION

Helping people Live, Learn, and Earn in our community

VISION

Building a caring community where individuals are
Integrated, Accepted, and Achieving in:

EDUCATION

- Learning with Peers
- Reaching Everyone's Full Potential
- Participating in Extra-Curricular Activities

EMPLOYMENT

- Working in the Community
- Earning Minimum Wage +
- Choosing an Occupation

COMMUNITY LIFE

- Shopping
- Providing Residential Options
- Enjoying Recreation
- Giving Back