



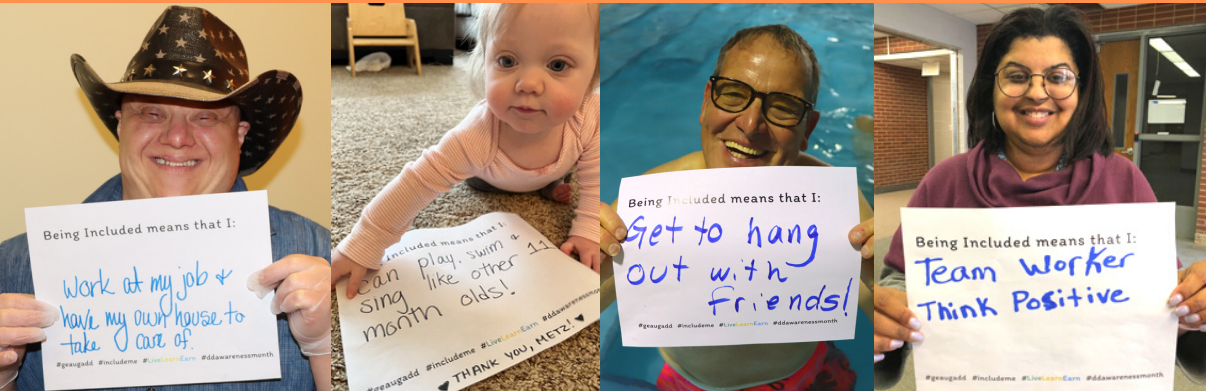
# Metzenbaum Center

Helping People Live, Learn, and Earn

Summer 2022

GeaugaDD.org

## DD Awareness Month Recognized



The Month of March is National DD Awareness Month! The Geauga DD/ Metzenbaum Facebook page was flooded with stories and photos of individual of all ages sharing what it means to "Be Included"! Thank you Geauga Library branches for your help in spreading the word too!

## 5K Fun Run/1mile Walk

The hiatus is over. May 25 was the highly anticipated 5K/1mile Fun Walk! Over 100 participants came out to have FUN running or walking. No matter what ability, there was something for everyone. Seeing old friends and meeting new friends was the best part. Thanks to all the volunteers who made it happen.



## Take A Book, Give A Book

Barb is the type person who wants to give back to the community. One of the ways she is planning to do so is by hosting a Little Free Library. The concept is a free book exchange; take a book give a book.

Barb got the idea to do this project when she saw a book house in Chardon and wanted to do one herself. She recruited her dad to design and build the structure of the book house from scratch. Barb's job will be to paint designs on the book house with flowers, butterflies, and book worms.

The Little Free Library is currently posted at Alice's Garden Site, which is part of the private provider Reese Disability Services, located at 12714 Opalocka Dr. in Chesterland. It's a great spot for the Little Free Library because of the busy foot traffic in that area. When the project is finished, there will be a reading nook in the front yard with a bench to sit and read.

Barb loves talking to people and she is hoping the Little Free Library will give her opportunities to meet new people and share a conversation over a good book. She also will never turn down an opportunity to pet a friendly dog.





# Generous Volunteering

Julia is a familiar face around the Metzenbaum Center. You can find her volunteering her time to help out the Early Intervention play groups, lending a hand in the pool, keeping up with Special Olympic athletes, and many other behind the scenes supporting roles. It's her way of giving back.

At an early age, Julia attended the Early Intervention program at Geauga DD. From her fond memories of caring teachers and positive impressions, Julia wants to pay her experience forward and work with young children. Recently, Julia took a step towards that goal and passed the Child Development Associate exam. This is a certificate to work with children and ensures she stays updated on childhood developmental findings. Even though Julia has been working in a local preschool part time without it, receiving this certificate ensures that Julia is marketable to any preschool.

Julia is also involved with the L.U.C.K. (Leg Up For Cleveland Kids) organization, which is an equestrian program that enhances relationships through the healing power of horses for victims of trauma. She helps participants get familiar with a horse, tack them up, and lead them around the arena. Overall, Julia hopes to make an impact on a child's life like somebody did for her.



## Golf Outing Returns

The 15th Annual Metzenbaum Center Golf Outing returned to the beautiful greens of St. Denis Golf Club on June 18. The fundraiser hosted 26 teams and raised positive awareness for both Geauga DD and Maple Leaf Community Residences. Thank you to everyone who supported the outing and the 1,004 people we support living in Geauga County with developmental disabilities.



June 3rd, RockAbility rocked out at Bainbridge Township Hall. The band was a real crowd pleaser as they played songs from many genres to the delight of the audience who sang along. Members are musicians with disabilities and local mentor musicians who already gig and record. Go to [npowerservices.com](http://npowerservices.com) for more information and concerts.



## Volleyball Victory

Congratulations to the Metzenbaum Blue Streaks Volleyball team for winning GOLD in their division at the Medina Tournament. They ended their short season on a high note but all their practice and hard work paid off. Looking forward to next year and a repeat win!





# Free Family Fun Fest



The Family Fun Fest was a fabulous free event that entertained hundreds! There were Rocket Ship rides, Blow Up Bounce houses, a Dunk Tank, Darts, Jousting, and oh so much more. Fun was had by all who came out for the day. Thank you to The Metzenbaum Foundation, the many generous sponsors, and all the volunteers who made it run smoothly.



## Night to Shine

This Spring, the Early Intervention Dept. (EI) held their annual Night to Shine event. The continued tradition of families walking with their children on the red carpet to their child's favorite song is such a delight. Showcasing each child's strength and highlighting their development is the focus of the night. The EI department and many Geauga DD staff worked hard to put on a magnificent evening filled with songs and prizes. The EI program continues to create new events to keep families connected and shining!



## Partner Spotlight:



Independent Provider Jamica Talley, is being recognized because she was nominated by a Geauga DD SSA. Jamica serves many individuals on that SSA's caseload in which the person states, "Jamica is very helpful not only to the individuals she serves, but also with their families. She is very easy to work with when it comes to billing. She stays on top of things and has excellent communication!" Thank you Jamica!

Direct Support Provider Annabelle Seiler, is being recognized because she was nominated by an individual she serves. The individual states that Annabelle "goes above and beyond to help us. She is very artistic and understanding along with being an excellent cook and baker." Thank you Annabelle!



## And now... Jokes from Andy



"How does a sandwich introduce itself? Meat patty".

"Why should you not open emails with pork and ham? You should not open because they are spam".

"Can February March? I don't know, but April May".

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

## Save The Dates

Santa's Hide-A-Way Hollow August 7

Talent Show September 9

The month of October is National Disability  
Employment Awareness Month

Trick or Treat at the Metzenbaum Center  
October 27th

Keep a lookout for information on the  
upcoming Art Show!

Be sure to check out our partner agencies for  
further activities and happenings:

- Metzenbaum Foundation
- NPower Services
- EMPower Sports

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



## April's Story

April is a talented artist and entrepreneur. She has a true love to create and a skill of producing beautiful products that enhance people's lives.

April started her own business called April's Cottage Soaps by April, which began over 9 years ago. She is also part of Artful21, which is a unique gift shop in Independence, Ohio, that is filled with treasures created by individuals with Down Syndrome. You can purchase April's creations there, as well as request custom orders that she would be delighted to create for any special event.

If you would like to purchase something from April, please email her at: [Aprilnancy2@gmail.com](mailto:Aprilnancy2@gmail.com)

