



Metzenbaum Center

Helping People Live, Learn, and Earn

Summer 2023

GeaugaDD.org

Grand Opening Of The New Inclusive Playground



The Metzenbaum Center has a brand new inclusive playground! The carefully designed and thought out space had its grand opening on May 16th, that provides something for all abilities to enjoy and engage in. It is a multi-sensory experience that is wheelchair accessible, visually attractive to encourage exploration, and offers fun activities that make sound. Also, the entire play area is coated with soft rubber surfacing. The new playground is always open to the public from dawn to dusk, seven days a week.

1 Mile Fun Walk

The 1 Mile Fun Walk was a little damp on May 20th. Despite the rain, many participants came out to have FUN walking through the Metzenbaum Campus and Bessie Benner Park. New this year, attendees could get their blood pumping beforehand with Yoga Sue. Adding to the day, 3 different food trucks were available for people to satisfy themselves before and after the walk! Thanks to all the DSPs and volunteers who make this event special for the individuals we serve.



Track Meet Tenacity

The Metzenbaum Foundation Recreation Department held its first-ever Special Olympics Invitational Track meet on June 10th, at the West Geauga Football Stadium. The day was full of exemplary sportsmanship and physical fitness. All the athletes showcased their strengths and abilities with each running, jumping, or throwing event. The hard work paid off for the Geauga DD Bluestreak athletes as they received many medals and accolades. Thank you to the the Ashland University Football players for helping to assist at the event and making the day run smoothly.



Mike On Metzenbaum

Mike is a familiar face around the Metzenbaum Center. He tries to be involved with anything "Metzenbaum" as often as he possibly can. Luckily for Mike, he will be around a lot more as he will be reporting on his favorite Metzenbaum things! To start things off, Mike will be letting you know his thoughts on Bonnie and Michelle with the Rec Dept. Here is what he has to say:

"Bonnie and Michelle are awesome, fun, and warm-hearted loving people. My favorite things to do with them are hang out and interact with people. I have made a lot of great friends through the Rec Dept. because of Bonnie and Michelle.

Over the years, Bonnie has been a second mom to me since 2004. I mostly laugh with Bonnie, go on adventures, do Special Olympics with her, and keep her in line because somebody's got to. Michelle is laid back and runs a great Aktion club.

Through the Rec Dept. I look forward to Dinner Club so I can see friends. Lunch Bunch is my favorite because I see even more friends, especially 2 who bicker like an old married couple who make me laugh. Dances are fun, I love dances because there are so many people to talk to! Special Olympic sports are awesome, especially watching basketball because I get out, have fun and see my friends. Any kind of day trip with Bonnie and Michelle makes my day.

The past 30 years with Metzenbaum has been fun! I hope for the next 30 years I get more opportunities to hang out with Bonnie and Michelle."



HRC Service



HRC, short for Human Rights Committee, is a group of professionals and volunteers at Geauga DD who provide independent oversight in matters related to the rights of people with developmental disabilities (DD). Their main role is to safeguard the rights of people with DD and protect them from any type of harm. For more information contact metz@geaugadd.org.

Early Intervention Rockin' It



The Early Intervention had the opportunity for some very FUN evening of play at the indoor gym called, We Rock The Spectrum in Mayfield! The private event was a rocking hit and plans are in the works to go back!

Good Old Golf Outing

The 16th Annual Metzenbaum Center Golf Outing returned to the beautiful greens of St. Denis Golf Club on June 17th. The fundraiser, with Maple Leaf Community Residences (MLCR) hosting the event, reached the goal of raising positive awareness for both Geauga DD and MLCR. Thank you to everyone who supported the outing and over 1,000 people we support living in Geauga County with developmental disabilities.



Superb Supports

Community Support Services is the largest department at Geauga DD. 29 caring and compassionate staff in this area help Geauga DD clients get necessary care, protection, safe housing, transportation, services, and many other supports needed to Live, Learn, and Earn in our community. This busy group of people hold a client's best interest as their number one goal! Thank you to the CSS Department for advocating and seeing the best in everyone.



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 Geauga DD. 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.



Partner Spotlight:

CLW Newbury is located in the heart of Geauga County. They provide vocational, community employment, and transportation services. The energetic staff assist individuals with developing job skills, personal skills and most of all, learning about themselves to grow strengths and abilities.



On The Go is a new program offered through CLW Newbury. It is geared towards any individual in Geauga County wanting to get out and be On The Go! The program offers a wide variety of community activities like bowling, mall walking, putt putt, hiking, to lunch in the park and more! The many activities offered with On The Go are not only for the individuals served directly by CLW, but any individual in Geauga County who qualifies for services! Each individual can choose up to 3 activities each month to participate in, with transportation possibly an option to and from! Contact Ashley Zamborsky, Senior Administrator at 440-273-8158 if you want to join in on some fun activities!

And now... Jokes from Andy



I see 10 people standing outside my house, but I only see them in the state of Tennessee.

I have a dog named 5miles. I walk 5miles every day.

What happens when a bank teller meets Homer Simpson and drops money? He says dough!

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

Upcoming Events and Happenings

Calling all artists! Get creating and keep a lookout for info on the upcoming Art Show!

The month of October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Contact Geauga DD if you would like to be highlighted for doing a great job!

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 GaugaDD.org or Facebook.com/GaugaDD



Charlotte's Story

Charlotte has searched many years for a place of employment that makes her happy and where she feels like she fits in. She has finally found what she has been searching for with CLW!

There are no limits with what Charlotte can do and learning on the fly is a breeze! Her manager boasts that she is helpful with any task and is a pleasure to be around. She can substitute in any area of work, in any position and actually make the job easier. Her outgoing nature is contagious and lifts the mood of people around her. Charlotte agrees with the positive feedback,



and added" It feels great working where I am at. I am surrounded by staff who are the best and people that I like". Charlotte is proud to say that she can now buy her own shampoo and conditioner that she likes to use. If there is any money left over from her paycheck, it goes to purchasing her favorite chocolate bars or arts and crafts!