

*The Bessie Benner*  
**METZENBAUM CENTER**

*Enhancing the lives of people with Developmental Disabilities*

**Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities**



**Purchased two new  
community homes**

**Participated in many  
community events**

**Received Five Year  
Accreditation**



**Annual Report  
2012 - 2013**



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**METZENBAUM CENTER**

*Enhancing the lives of people with Developmental Disabilities*

*Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities*

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*Chesterland, Ohio 44026*

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Dear Geauga County Residents:

2012 was a great year for the Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (GCBDD), also known as The Metzenbaum Center. We received the highest certification a county board can receive, a five-year Accreditation from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. This is the second consecutive five-year award for The Metzenbaum Center. We have to give kudos to the great programs and staff that make this possible. From the Board and Administration, we are proud of our staff and programs!

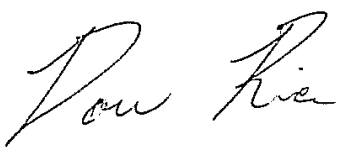
2012 was also a very big year for our partnership building efforts: We completed our first school year of sharing both the transportation facility and a management team with West Geauga Local Schools. Having a single manager oversee the operation of both fleets saved funds for each program while allowing for some sharing of tasks. We are looking forward to even more opportunities in the future.

We began a new partnership with Siffrin, Inc. to help our clients find community based jobs rather than attending the workshop. As of this time, Siffrin has helped place ten clients in a variety of new jobs. Ultimately, we plan to have at least thirty new placements in community employment.

In August, we announced that our non-profit partner, Metzenbaum Sheltered Industries, Inc. (MSI), would begin to assume the oversight and eventual total operation of our workshop and day habilitation programs. As of this time, MSI has hired all the managerial positions responsible for the oversight of the adult programs and most of the substitutes. Going forward, MSI will be hiring all the replacement staff as GCBDD staff members retire or take other jobs. By 2014, MSI will assume the Medicaid billing duties. This move will help the Board to offer more choices for clients in the area of employment and day programming.

In April, we announced the plan to move fifteen residents from the on-site residences to community homes. Our housing partner, Maple Leaf Community Residences, purchased two additional homes in 2012 that have eight new residents. We hope to see more purchases soon that will complete the moves. The existing homes at The Metzenbaum Center are scheduled to be remodeled to allow each adult to have their own bedroom – some for the first time in their lives.

Another major effort that hit its stride in 2012 was our preparation to use electronic records. We have seasonal college helpers scanning rooms of old paper into electronic formats that can be stored and retrieved easily. These documents are being linked to our main client record keeping software program called Gatekeeper. We are also using kiosks for electronic data entry at the adult services and residential facilities to avoid creating paper documentation. These electronic records are easily compiled for Medicaid billing and state reporting.



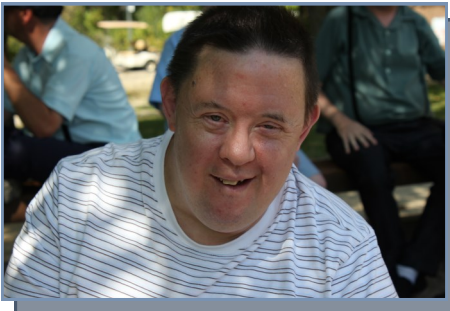
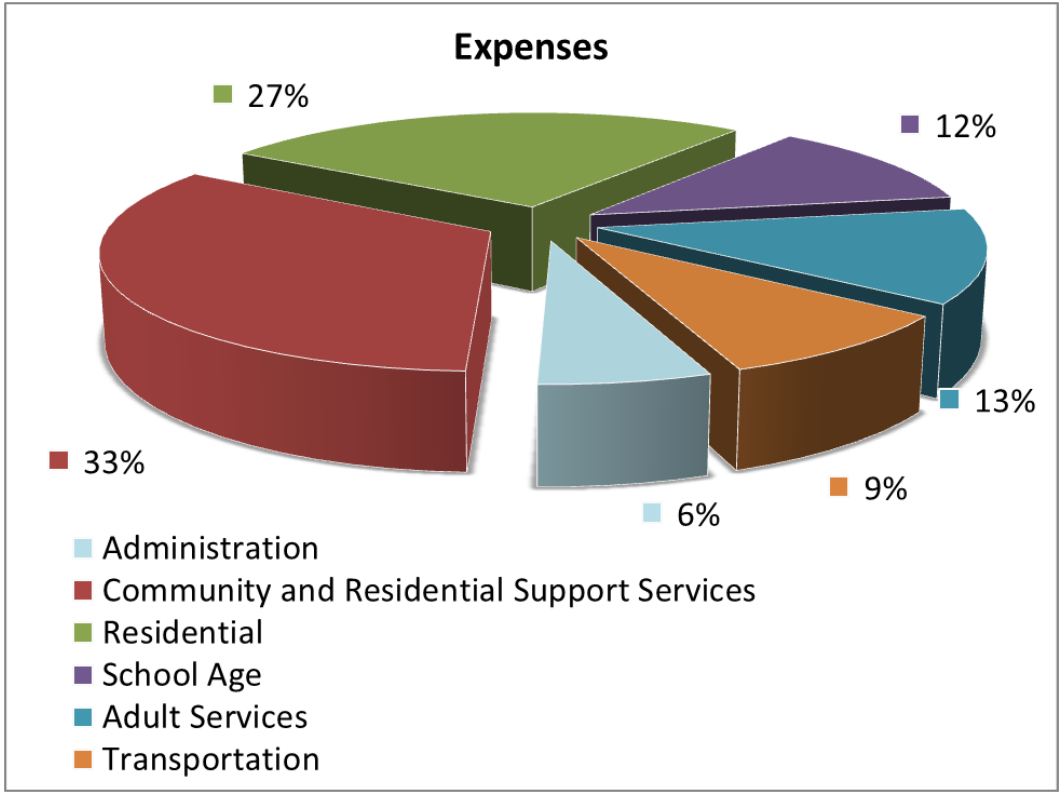
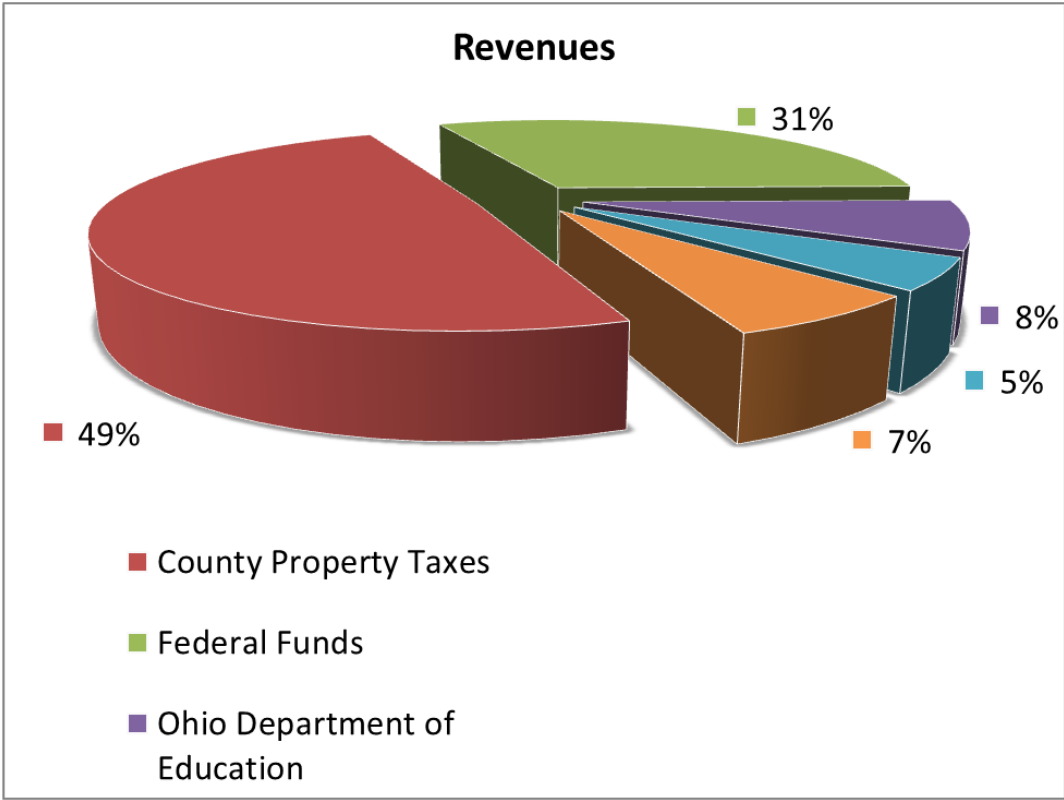
Don Rice

Superintendent

Geauga County Board of

Developmental Disabilities (GCBDD)

# 2012 Financials



## Community and Residential Support Services

The Community and Residential Support Services Department (CSS) is comprised of Early Intervention, Help Me Grow and Service and Support Administration. The Early Intervention (EI) program services children, birth to three years old, that have a delay or diagnosis that can lead to a delay. There were approximately two hundred families who received EI services in 2012. These families receive services from a variety of team members including Developmental Specialists, Physical Therapists, Speech Therapists, and Occupational Therapists. Families are also welcome to join play groups or music groups.

Help Me Grow (HMG) provides case management services to children who have a delay or diagnosis or a child determined to be at risk. HMG served over three hundred fifty families in 2012. The Help Me Grow service coordinators work closely with the Early Intervention team to maintain continuity of care and access to community resources for families with young children.

In the area of Medicaid Waivers, the number of Waiver enrollments continues to rise. At the end of 2012, we had a total of fifty-nine Level One Waivers, one hundred eight Individual Option (IO) Waivers and seventeen individuals receiving Supported Living funding. Individuals receive services in a variety of community settings including twenty Supported Living homes managed by Maple Leaf Community Residences, apartments, privately owned and managed supported living homes, assisted living facilities, and foster settings. We also have over fifty individuals who are receiving day programming from private providers.

An average of one hundred fifty individuals are eligible for Family Support Services – this is a funding source that helps to purchase items related to an individual's disability including respite, equipment and supplies, therapeutic riding, camp programs, and other services. This service helps families care for and maintain their loved ones with disabilities in their homes.

Three hundred seventy-five individuals received Service and Support Administration (SSA) services. This includes individual plan development, individual budgets, provider selection, behavior support, and referrals to community resources.



According to the Ohio Department of DD, there were a total of six hundred twenty individuals eligible for Geauga County Board services.

In 2012, we purchased two new community homes, with another two planned for 2013.



We increased our outings in the community and participated in more events in 2012.

## Residence

The goal of the Residence, also called the Intermediate Care Facility (ICF), is to provide a healthy and safe living environment to the individuals we serve as well as opportunities to allow for self-determination, independence, and improved quality of life.

In 2012, the downsizing of the ICF from forty residents to twenty-five was started. We worked with the state, the Community and Residential Support Services Department, and Maple Leaf Community Residences to purchase two homes. This will allow individuals to move from our setting to homes in the community. We plan to purchase a total of four homes to help us reach our goal. At the end of 2012 our current census was thirty-two residents in our facility.

Improved quality of life was seen by the number of trips taken, as well as activities on our grounds. With the collaboration of the Transportation Department, ICF staff have been trained and certified to drive the light transit vehicles. This allows staff to take a larger number of individuals into the community, including those who use wheelchairs.

With the use of Patterson Fruit Farm's wagon, we were able to participate in the Blossom Time Festival parade in Chagrin Falls! The Great Geauga County Fair Band played a concert on the ICF grounds for the residents, their families, and members of the community. Our annual Family Fun Day was highlighted by a picnic, bouncy house, games and prizes, a DJ, and a historic fire truck. Weekly open swim classes have been a hit with the individuals. A lift accommodates those in wheelchairs who enjoy being in the water.

## School Age

The Metzenbaum Center and the local schools collaborated to provide educational services to school age children. We helped fund about two hundred children in all seven local districts with \$1.8 million.

We also worked closely with two special-needs Amish schools, where about fifty students received services.

## MSI, Inc. and Adult Services



The Geauga County Board of DD has had a longstanding contract with the non-profit corporation Metzenbaum Sheltered Industries, Inc. (MSI). Its role has been to employ adults with developmental disabilities and to manage the corporation's financial records. In 2012, GCBDD and MSI signed a contract in which MSI would begin hiring all new employees to provide vocational and habilitation services to individuals with DD. As with any provider, MSI had to develop position descriptions, salary ranges, policies and procedures, and employee handbooks for the staff. In conjunction with this new partnership, MSI became a waiver provider through the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

The theme for the GCBDD Adult Services Department in 2012 was *CHANGE!*

MSI and GCBDD continued to expand their partnership. In late 2012, both Boards agreed to open a new day-service site in Middlefield. The goal was to serve people in or near the communities where they live and to provide additional employment opportunities. Another of these exciting changes was the further renovation of the former school building. In 2012, the remaining two enrichment groups moved from the adult service building to the new rooms. These rooms are larger and have greater access to the swimming pool and gyms. The individuals are able to participate in a variety of activities on a more consistent basis due to the additional space available.

MSI and GCBDD increased their partnership with POV Printing in Bainbridge. In early 2013, a group of six workers started working on its paper and stationary product line. MSI workers provide a ready-made work force for POV. GCBDD provided a \$100,000 employment grant in 2012 which was awarded to Siffrin, a private not-for-profit organization. The goal of this project was to develop community jobs for individuals with developmental disabilities. Through this grant, individuals are able to access services such as job development, support for interviews and on-the-job coaching. A lawn mowing company, Mow Time, LLC, was developed and awarded their first contract in 2013.

Adult Services developed a healthy lifestyle class for individuals who were living on their own or with few supports in the community. They were given advice and assistance with nutrition, healthy choices, and weight control. The classes were offered once a week for ten weeks. The Art Therapy Studio held art classes for individuals in the enrichment program. The program was twelve weeks and met once a week. The individuals who participated made three different projects. The first project involved making vases, the second project involved painting a landscape with water colors and the third project was making a wall hanging using clay. The individuals were exposed to how a variety of artistic colors and textures could be used in a project. This program continues to be utilized on an on-going basis. Staff, along with several enrichment program participants, began delivering home-based meals for seniors once a week. It was exciting to start this volunteer work as it demonstrates the individuals with developmental disabilities' ability to give back to the Geauga community and partner with the Department on Aging, which has been so generous to us over the years.

MSI, Inc. and Adult Services served over 200 adults with developmental disabilities in 2012.



## Transportation

The Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (GCBDD) has maintained the responsibility of transporting adult and early intervention consumers to both center-based and community programs. Individuals were transported to more than twenty community employment worksites. This opportunity enabled over fifty-five adult consumers to work at a site beyond MSI.

GCBDD maintains eighteen light transit vehicles, three of which conform to the Ohio Department of Education standards for school age children. We also have three passenger vans and two mini-vans. The air-conditioned transit vans are more appropriately suited to adults. These vehicles, per Ohio Department of DD rules, are inspected annually by the Ohio Highway Patrol. Our vehicles, drivers, and aides are governed by the rules and guidelines of the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio Department of DD, as well as all State and Federal motor vehicle laws.

Our GCBDD routes for MSI and Dillen transport over one-hundred thirty adults. These vans average fifty miles per vehicle, per day. The three community employment vans transport individuals to more than twenty worksites. GCBDD vans drove over 300,000 miles last year.

As community employment continues to grow, we look forward to increased opportunities and partnerships with transportation.

## Recreation

Recreation hosted many fun events in 2012. These included monthly themed dances, mini vacations and overnight trips. There were also activity days where participants traveled to various places in Northeast Ohio and beyond. Another popular activity was the 'Monthly Dinner Club' where they dined at a different restaurant each month.

In 2012, GCBDD offered many Special Olympics sports including golf, softball, swimming, basketball, bowling, volleyball, track and field, and soccer. The athletes participated in seven area competitions throughout the year. The area consists of Lorain, Cuyahoga, Lake, and Geauga counties. They competed in many head-to-head competitions as well. Special Olympics was very happy to partner with Hawken High School in Basketball and Soccer. They also worked with Gilmore Academy for track and field.

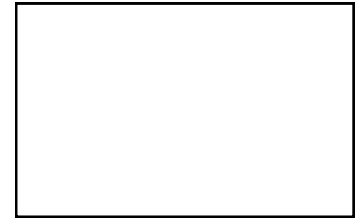
Aktion Club was as busy as ever in 2012! The members were in both the Maple Festival Parade and Chesterland Parade on the Fourth of July. Jobs and Family Services (JFS) was presented with special bags for children that were removed from their home unexpectedly. These were given to JFS during a luncheon for Child Abuse Awareness Month. JFS and Help Me Grow received one hundred Lake County Captains tickets from Aktion Club. They also assembled food baskets for families in need at Thanksgiving. During the annual West Geauga Kiwanis pancake breakfast, Club members worked alongside the other volunteers to bring syrup, silverware, and other items to the diners' tables.

GCBDD vans drove over 300,000 miles last year.



Our Special Olympians participate in close to ten different sports every year.

Geauga County Board of DD  
8200 Cedar Road  
Chesterland, Ohio 44026



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## Thank you and Welcome!

At the end of 2012, we said goodbye to four board members and welcomed four new members to Metzenbaum.

Two retiring board members, Enos Detweiler and Freeman Miller, both served twelve years or more. Susan Yuratovac served four years, and Peter Lubs served over two. We want to thank them for their dedicated years of service!

We welcome Bart Alcorn, Mark Jackson, Erwin Kuhns, and Tom Metcalfe. We look forward to working with these new members to enhance the lives of all individuals we serve at The Metzenbaum Center.



Visit our website at:  
[www.geaugadd.org](http://www.geaugadd.org)

