

METZENBAUM CENTER

The Geauga County Board
Of Developmental Disabilities

*Helping individuals Live Learn
& Earn in the community.*

Fall 2017

UPDATE ON BOARD SUCCESSES

We are having an excellent year at the Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (GCBDD)! So far, 2017 has brought many successes that we can be proud of, and we are excited to share them with you.

In June, Maple Leaf Community Residences hosted its annual golf outing at the Wicked Woods Golf Club in Newbury. Thanks to several amazing sponsors and 99 awesome golfers, over \$7,000 was raised! For more information about this event, check out the article on page 2.

Our mission is to help individuals Live, Learn and Earn in the community. We are pleased to report that we currently have over 115 individuals working at various businesses throughout the community. To highlight these individuals and their accomplishments, we have started a series of Employment Stories that are available on our Facebook page and on our website. Check them out to see the many ways that individuals served by the GCBDD are making an impact in their communities.

Our Special Olympics teams have had great seasons this year! Most recently, the Metzenbaum Blue Streaks softball team won the tournament opener. They first played the previously undefeated Stark Public #2 team and won with a score of 5-3, then went on to play Stark DD Blue and won 20-2. The Blue Streaks advanced to the Ohio Division II State Softball Tournament, which will be held on Saturday, September 16, in Oregon, Ohio.

The creative individuals at the GCBDD have also been busy! Our annual art show was held on Thursday, August 24, in partnership with Ravenwood Health. Many artists from the GCBDD and Ravenwood Health came to display and sell their art. Over \$970 worth of art was sold, with 100% of the proceeds going to the artists. On Saturday, September 16, the Metzenbaum Dancers will host their fall recital, titled Les Buccaneers. Don't miss out on this pirate-themed performance at the Metzenbaum Center! Attendance is free, and the show starts at 6 p.m. We hope to see you there!

We are also excited about the upcoming Quilt Auction hosted by Families and Friends of Metzenbaum. Don't miss out on this annual event on Saturday, November 4, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. All proceeds benefit the clients of the GCBDD!

Finally, in case you haven't seen it, our Annual Report is on our website. Check it out to get the details on all of our departments' accomplishments in 2016. We are excited about our future and many more years of helping individuals Live, Learn and Earn in our community!



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FAMILY FUN RECAP



Family Fun Day was started as a way to have individuals and their families get together for a picnic type event to enjoy time with their loved ones. As our residents' activity suggestions and abilities change, activities at this event vary each year. This year, we had a bounce house, DJ, photo

booth, face painting and plenty of food! Over the past five years, Family Fun Days have included games, balloon art, the Euclid Beach Rocket Car and a demonstration from the Geauga County K-9 unit. A good time was had by all!

ART SHOW RECAP



Our Annual Art Show was a big success! Over 60 artists submitted pieces, including abstract paintings, pencil and ink drawings, sketches, paintings, jewelry, poetry and crafts. More than 100 guests attended the art show and over \$970 in art was sold, with 100% of the proceeds going to the artists.

The artists enjoyed interacting with the guests and showing their personalities through their art. They did a great job selling their art and bartering with customers! We are glad that they were able to earn money from their art and hope they continue creating masterpieces. Thank you to everyone who came to the Art Show to support our local artists!



October is National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month!



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and *earn* in our Community.

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GOLF OUTING RECAP

On Saturday, June 24, Maple Leaf Community Residences hosted its annual golf outing fundraiser at the Wicked Woods Golf Club in Newbury. The event was a great time for everyone who came out to play some golf, and we couldn't have asked for a more beautiful day!

Over 65 sponsors and 99 golfers contributed to the event, helping us raise over \$7,000. All funds raised from this

event will allow the GCBDD to continue to support individuals in Geauga County with special needs.

Thank you to everyone who came out to play or who helped sponsor this event. Your generosity will allow the GCBDD to continue helping individuals Live, Learn and Earn in our community. We can't wait for next year!

“Kevin is a very meticulous employee. He is working out excellently and I am happy that I was able to hire him.”

– GCBDD Maintenance and Grounds Manager Vince Fioritto

EMPLOYMENT SPOTLIGHT: GCBDD HIRES KEVIN MCNEILLY FOR SUMMER MAINTENANCE AND GROUNDS



Company background:

The Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities provides services and supports to individuals who have developmental disabilities.

The Board coordinates employment opportunities, community integration and other services that help individuals find success. The Board currently helps more than 800 individuals Live, Learn and Earn in Geauga County, with 115 individuals currently employed in the community.

Kevin’s Story:

GCBDD Maintenance and Grounds Manager Vince Fioritto was looking for a summer employee who could help him with everyday lawn maintenance and other grounds work. He was internally referred to Kevin, who he interviewed and quickly decided to hire.

“Kevin is very good at what he does,” Mr. Fioritto said. “He doesn’t require much supervision and it makes my job easier. I don’t always have to give him specific directions, either. He has an ability to see what needs to be done and will take the initiative to do it.”

Kevin’s responsibilities include leaf blowing, lawn mowing and any other necessary outdoor lawn maintenance. He drives the commercial lawn mower and runs all the equipment independently. He also drives himself to and from work each day, and Mr. Fioritto says that he has been an excellent employee.

SCOTT IS ALWAYS MOVING FORWARD

Scott Ervin is a highly active member in his community. He enjoys his independence and is able to accomplish all the things he wants to do through the support of the GCBDD.

Scott is an athlete of the Metzenbaum softball, soccer and basketball teams. He enjoys playing and said that his participation as an athlete has been a good learning experience, helping him develop better teamworking skills and sportsmanship.

Scott is currently working at Giant Eagle in Middlefield. He enjoys his job and said that his coworkers are very respectful and kind. From previous places he has worked at, including a position at Dollar General, he has learned valuable skills to be successful.

Scott and his wife, Emilie, have been married for nine years and live in an apartment in Chardon with their cat. They enjoy spending time with friends, going to concerts, camping, dining out and going to sporting events and amusement parks.



**Geauga County Board of
Developmental Disabilities**

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EVENTS

9/19 - Parent Forum

October - Developmental Disabilities
Employment Awareness Month

10/21 - Movie Night

11/4 - Quilt Auction

11/18 - Sports Challenge

12/12 - Parent Forum

FUN IN THE SUN DAY!

On Saturday, July 29, the GCBDD held its annual Fun in the Sun day at Pioneer Water Park! Two hundred seventy-five tickets were purchased for the event, partially sponsored by the Board. Everyone enjoyed a day of fun, amazing weather and some of the new attractions at the water park. We had a great time, and we hope everyone who attended did, too!



MISSION

Helping people Live, Learn and Earn in our community

VISION

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