

*Helping people Live, Learn  
& Earn in our community.*

*Fall 2018*

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Fall! I hope everyone has had a great start to the 2018-19 school year! So far, it has been a great year at the Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities, and we would like to share some of the highlights with you.

Among our recent accomplishments is the fact that our Community Employment program now serves a total of 134 individuals! Furthermore, the activities we offer through our Community Connections & Events program, including cooking, cake decorating, art, bingo and many more, have been a great hit with those involved. For a full list of more upcoming events this autumn, visit [www.geaugadd.org/community-connections---events.html](http://www.geaugadd.org/community-connections---events.html).

Additionally, the MLCRI's 13th Annual Golf Outing fundraiser at Wicked Woods Golf Club raised a whopping \$15,800! Thanks to our sponsors and golfers, that is more than double what was raised last year. This event, among others, allows us to provide services and experiences that continually help individuals Live, Learn and Earn in the community.

Some of the experiences GCBDD has become familiar with over the years are our annual events at the Pioneer Waterland and the Lake County Captains Game. Both of these events are offered yearly and continue to grow in popularity. We were very fortunate to have perfect weather for both events and all whom attended had a spectacular time!

Finally, I would like you to be on the lookout for a few things:

- The 36th Annual Quilt and Craft Auction on November 3, which will again be hosted by the Friends & Family of the Metzenbaum Center.
- The new Waiting List Rule began on September 1. The changes will be shared with all clients and families.
- Our 2019-2021 Strategic Plan will be presented and voted on at the October Board meeting. Contact me for details ([Drice@Gaugadd.org](mailto:Drice@Gaugadd.org)).

To conclude – we are busy planning many wonderful events for our community to round out this year. I encourage you all to be on the lookout for these events and activities as we enter the fall and winter months!

Thanks for your continued dedication to our Board!

**Don Rice**

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# SANTA'S HIDE-A-WAY HOLLOW

This year, GCBDD and our individuals were honored to have been invited to Santa's Hide-A-Way Hollow. Described as "a magical place tucked in your heart where the spirit of Christmas lasts forever", Santa's Hide-A-Way Hollow is an invite-only destination designed to spread Christmas-like cheer all year round.

Typically only opened to children with a terminal illness, Santa's Hide-A-Way Hollow recently opened their doors to those with developmental disabilities and the GCBDD family. On August 25, 200 of our individuals were able to visit Santa, Mrs. Claus, reindeer and elves at the Hollow.

The mission of Santa's Hide-A-Way Hollow is to bring families together during a very difficult time in their lives and to serve as platform for creating wonderful memories. We thank Santa's Hide-A-Way Hollow for the memories they specifically created for GCBDD individuals and for the wonderful experience.

# BLUE STREAKS SOFTBALL

The Geauga County Special Olympics Softball Program continued to make great strides this season. The Blue Streaks moved up to Division I after winning the Division II state title in 2017. Division I is the highest level of play outside of the Unified Division. The team nonetheless finished with a fine 7-2 record. Two of the wins came against highly-respected Lorain A, a team the Blue Streaks had never defeated. Interest in the program was such that a second team was added. Playing at the Division III level, the newbie Blue Streaks went 1-3-1. A 20-5 win over Ashtabula B was the highlight of the season. The future indeed looks bright for the program.

# ICF GEAUGA FAIR BAND CONCERT

On June 19, the Geauga County Fair Band stopped by to play some summer tunes. Around 40 people enjoyed a beautiful evening filled with great music as the crew performed on the Metzenbaum Residential Lawn. Those in attendance were delighted by a mix of multiple different genres of music, ranging from the Star Spangled Banner to Frank Sinatra. We extend a big thank you to all performers and to everyone who came to support!

Fall 2018

# THE MLCRI'S ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

On June 23, Maple Leaf Community Residents hosted its 13th Annual Golf Outing fundraiser at Wicked Woods Golf Club in Newbury, OH. Despite rain throughout the day, the outing was a great success, complete with a beautiful rainbow over the course to end the event.

Proceeds raised by the outing were used to benefit the Metzenbaum Center and GCBDD providers, including the Maple Leaf Community Residences and their efforts to offer housing, home-based services, therapies and support for other private providers. Through the support of events such as the golf outing, the GCBDD is able to fully serve and support individuals in Geauga County with special needs.

Thank you to those who participated in or sponsored this year's outing. We are proud to announce that we reached our limit of teams able to play and raised the most money we ever have! We appreciate everyone who help make this event so special each year. Because of the continuous generosity of the GCBDD community and friends, we are able to help individuals Live, Learn and Earn. We hope to see you next year!



# CAPTAINS GAME

On July 20, GCBDD individuals and friends attended the Lake County Captain's baseball game. Families and friends of the Metzenbaum Center sponsored dinner tickets, resulting in discounted prices for those attending the ballgame. In total, over 275 tickets were purchased by individuals and their providers/guardians for a fun day at the baseball stadium.

One of this year's highlights was GCBDD's very own, Trevor Piszko, a Special Olympics Baseball Gold Medalist and game MVP, throwing out one of the first pitches before the game.

Additionally, guests were treated to a beautiful performance of the National Anthem sang by Jen Gerber at the beginning of the game. The Captains reach out to the Metzenbaum Center and specifically ask for her to perform at the games, and this was her sixth performance in a row!

This marks the twelfth year GCBDD has organized this exciting event, with more to come! Thank you to everyone who came out!





## TREVOR PISZKO

Trevor Piszko of Geauga (Metzenbaum) Blue Streaks was a major factor in Team Ohio winning gold at the Special Olympics National Games in Seattle, Washington. Trevor, who was one of only 15 players selected from the state of Ohio to play on Team Ohio, smashed two homeruns in the national ballgame.

The individuals of Team Ohio defeated Southern California 19-13 in the championship game to claim their title as National Champions and honor of being gold medalists. Additionally, Trevor was named MVP of the national game.

We are so proud of Trevor and his team's great accomplishment. Way to go Trevor!



## ART SHOW

We are proud to announce another successful Annual Art Show! It was a wonderful night full of exceptional art and fun in celebration of the amazing artists who submitted work. This year we had 41 artists enter pieces. Paintings, pencil and ink drawings, sketches, jewelry, poetry and crafts were among the works showcased at this year's exhibit.

We had a full house for the show, with 50 guests in attendance to admire the talent of local artists as well as purchase their work. All of the artists worked very hard throughout the year and were eager to interact with guests and share their creativity. It is an equally exciting and rewarding experience for the artists to be recognized and compensated for their talent, with those who sold art benefitting from 100% of the proceeds. Thank you so much to everyone who came out and supported our Annual GCBDD Art Show. We congratulate all of the artists who submitted their masterpieces!

## 5K

May 20 marked the date of our 4th Annual Metzenbaum 5K/1M Run at the Metzenbaum Center. Individuals along with their families and friends, had a great day getting active while benefitting a great cause. All proceeds from the race benefitted local individuals with developmental disabilities who are presently served by GCBDD and unable to afford recreational activities. We appreciate all of the support we received and look forward to next year's race!



## PIONEER WATERLAND

On Saturday, July 28, individuals had the opportunity to enjoy a fun-filled day at water and dry fun park in Chardon, OH – Pioneer Waterland! Attendees spent the warm, sunny day enjoying the pool, waterslides, putt putt golf, lazy tube rides and other attractions.

GCBDD was able to sponsor tickets at a discounted price for those who joined us for the day, lending way to a total of 264 tickets purchased for the outing. It truly was a wonderful weekend, full of laughter and fun!

**Geauga County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities**

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**SAVE  
THE  
DATES**

**Healthy Relationships  
Presentation**

Thursday, October 18

**Free Movie Night**

Saturday, October 27

**Quilt and Craft Auction/  
Breakfast**

Saturday, November 3

**Free Movie Night**

Saturday, December 1

**Christmas Karaoke Night**

Friday, December 7

**Recreation Dept.  
Christmas Dance**

Friday, December 14

**MISSION**

Live, Learn and Earn

**VISION**

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