

# METZENBAUM CENTER

The Geauga County Board  
Of Developmental Disabilities

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

*Spring 2019*

## METZENBAUM EVENTS

March was DD Awareness Month. During the month, we celebrated the contributions of our individuals with several public events.

The Geauga County Commissioners started the recognition by officially declaring March as DD Awareness Month. Their declaration encouraged the community to support individuals with DD via inclusion opportunities in employment, education, recreation and housing.

We hosted the fourth annual Community Carnival, which provided an opportunity for our clients to mingle with the general public. Almost 800 people participated in games, prizes and food that were provided via donations from a variety of community supporters. This event was a huge success due to the support of volunteers and donors.

We held the fifth annual Night to Shine event for children in the Early Intervention Program. Families and friends were able to attend a special evening that showcased their child's accomplishments and personalities. Thanks go out to several local businesses who donated for the event.

More about these events and many other activities are outlined in the following pages. Please consider joining us for one of the upcoming events.

Thank you for your support.



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## GEAUGA GAMERS! VIDEO GAME NIGHT

On January 5, we had our very first Geauga Gamers! Video Game Night. Gamers of all ages came out and enjoyed playing the Wii, PS3, PS4 and Xbox One. Everyone brought snacks to share and had a fantastic time. The next Geauga Gamers! Video Game Night is on May 17. If you would like to attend, please register with Janice Chesnes at [jchesnes@geaugadd.org](mailto:jchesnes@geaugadd.org) or call 440-729-9406 by May 15.

## SCIENCE NIGHT

Our second annual Science Night is on April 6 at 7 p.m. We anticipate another fun night as the Geauga Parks portable planetarium and the NOPEC energy bike will return! We will also have hands-on experiments that participants can take home, along with many interesting demonstrations. Come out and enjoy seeing some incredible science!

## SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

There will be a self-defense class starting up at the Metzenbaum Center on Mondays beginning on April 15. The class will run from 6:30-8 p.m. and will be taught by Hugh Cassidy, a certified instructor with the Midwest Jiu-Jitsu Association and a sixth-degree black belt. The class will focus on self-defense, exercise, stress relief, balance and more! To register, please contact Hugh at 440-479-5682 or [hugh@cwcreate.com](mailto:hugh@cwcreate.com).

## SECOND ANNUAL TALENT SHOW

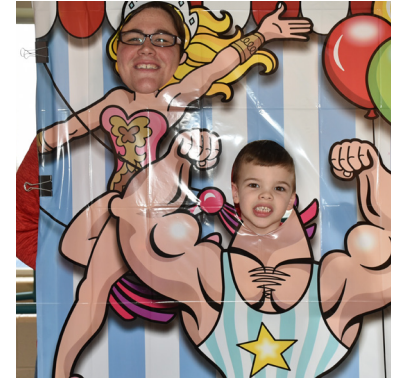
Our second annual Talent Show will take place on June 14 at the Metzenbaum Center starting at 7 p.m. The Talent Show is open to anyone who would like to showcase their talent. Last year, we had 15 wonderful acts and we can't wait to see what participants bring to the table this year! If you would like to participate as a performer, please register with Janice Chesnes by June 7. We are looking forward to seeing your amazing talents!

## GCBDD CELEBRATES DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH WITH FOURTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY CARNIVAL

Every March, the Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (GCBDD) celebrates national Developmental Disabilities (DD) Awareness Month. This is a time to raise awareness about developmental disabilities, teach the importance of inclusion within every aspect of life and share the stories of individuals with a disability to show that they are just like anybody else.

To celebrate this special month in Geauga County, we invited community members to a free community carnival at the Metzenbaum Center on March 2. The annual carnival was complete with free food and prizes. There were more than 40 different games available for attendees to play, including traditional carnival games like darts, balloon break and the milk bottle knock down.

With nearly 800 people in attendance, this was one of our most successful carnivals to date. Thank you to everyone who volunteered at the carnival this year, and to all who attended!



## SPECIAL OLYMPICS BASKETBALL FINISHES SEASON WITH ANNUAL GAME VERSUS METZENBAUM STAFF

This year, the Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities' (GCBDD) Special Olympics basketball team, the Metzenbaum Blue Streaks, had a great season competing and teaming up with local high school athletes from Kirtland and Hawken for practices.

The Blue Streaks enjoyed competing against several local organizations, including teams from Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Mayfield, Summit and Trumbull counties. GCBDD's team played a total of 26 games throughout the season, coached by Toby Soots and Joe Rosboril.

GCBDD's basketball program ended their season with a Metzenbaum Staff vs. Special Olympic Athletes game, which was held on Wednesday, Feb. 27. It was a great event and the Blue Streaks beat the Metzenbaum staff, 42-40!

Thank you to everyone who came to support and participate in this annual event. We'd also like to say a special thank you to the coaches and varsity teams at Hawken and Kirtland for mentoring our Blue Streaks!



## 14TH ANNUAL METZENBAUM GOLF OUTING

Join us on Saturday, June 29 for our 14th Annual Metzenbaum Golf Outing! This year, the outing will be held at Berkshire Hills Golf Course located at 9760 Mayfield Road in Chesterland. Shotgun start will be at 1 p.m. and the golfer registration fee is \$100. Registration includes lunch, dinner and drinks! To register, or for more information, please contact Kellie Tvergyak at 440-729-9406 ext. 1106 or [ktvergyako@geaugadd.org](mailto:ktvergyako@geaugadd.org).





## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Tyrone, or Ty, started working for Rise and Dine restaurant in Chesterland on May 4, 2018. Having a job at the family-friendly breakfast restaurant proved to be a perfect fit for Ty, who enjoys eating lunch there. This is Ty's first real job and he currently works Friday through Sunday during the winter months, and Wednesday through Sunday during the warmer months.

Ty started working at Rise and Dine after owners Frank and Terri reached out to the Metzenbaum Center looking for help at the diner. Shortly after, they were given Ty's name as an available candidate. They immediately said yes as they previously knew him from the Special People Pageants.

With the guidance of a job coach, Ty went through training to become comfortable with the busy restaurant atmosphere and constant tasks that need to be done. He was very successful in this training, which was completely different from previous job training he's had. He previously worked at a farm and learned about gardening and hydroponics. Ty said that working at the restaurant is a cool job and a great way to experience something other than farm life.

With support from his coworkers, Ty has a great time working at Rise and Dine, especially when his boss puts on music. Since starting in May of last year, Ty has made friends with ALL of his coworkers, who watch over him on the job, and regulars who look forward to seeing him when they come in.

Each time Ty works a shift, he carries out his responsibilities in an efficient, friendly manner and has learned new jobs, such as bussing tables, cleaning and, his favorite, washing dishes. According to Ty's boss, he is very helpful wherever he is needed, has a quick wit and a great smile. "Ty's a quick learner and takes direction very well," said Ty's boss. "He only needs to be told to do something once and is spot on. He cares about his work and is one of our best workers!"

## A NIGHT TO SHINE

The Metzenbaum Center recently held its fifth annual "A Night to Shine" event for children enrolled in the Early Intervention Program as a celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. This event showcased each child's personality and accomplishments, while also giving families the opportunity to meet and share with others experiencing similar developmental delays. The entire event was funded by donations received from local businesses in Geauga County, and we cannot thank them enough for their generosity! Over 100 family members and clients we serve were in attendance!

Following "A Night to Shine," the Early Intervention program held "Morning to Shine." Early Intervention offers playgroups that integrate typical children with children receiving services in our program. The program serves children under the age of three who are referred by doctors or concerned parents asking for help regarding their child's development. "Morning to Shine" is a special event for our typical peers to walk the red carpet and for families to celebrate their children. We appreciate the support we get from all of our local families to support integration!

## FOURTH ANNUAL METZENBAUM RUN FOR FUN 5K/1 MILE

Our fourth annual Metzenbaum Run for Fun 5K/1 Mile will be held on Sunday, May 19 at the Metzenbaum Center beginning at 8 a.m. Come run or walk to support the individuals we serve. All proceeds will benefit those who are unable to afford recreational activities. Packet pick up will be on Saturday, May 18 from 8 a.m.-noon. If you would like to do same-day registration, please arrive between 7-8 a.m. on May 19. Pre-registration is \$20 to run/\$10 to walk and same-day registration is \$25. For more information, please contact Misty Bitting or Megan Thirion at 440-729-9406. To pre-register online, please visit [www.greaterclevelandxc.com](http://www.greaterclevelandxc.com).

## MOVIE NIGHT

On February 16, we had a movie night at the Metzenbaum Center to celebrate Valentine's Day. Nearly 50 people attended and all enjoyed free popcorn, drinks and, of course, the movie! Our next movie night is on May 4 starting at 7 p.m. Come out and celebrate the beginning of nice summer weather with us!

## AKTION CLUB HELPS WITH GEAUGA HIGH SCHOOL'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST

On Sunday, March 10, the Aktion Club helped out at the West Geauga High School Pancake Breakfast from 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The Aktion Club's job was to assist with checking coats. All of the money raised at the breakfast is going to benefit the Geauga County Veterans. The Aktion Club also collected food to donate to a food drive at the Pancake Breakfast, Eddy's Fruit Farm, Silver Skillet and the Metzenbaum Center. The Aktion Club's purpose is to provide opportunities to develop initiative and leadership skills as well as to serve the Geauga community.



**Geauga County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities**

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Chesterland, OH 44026

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## SAVE THE DATES

Additionally, make sure you mark your calendars for some of our fun community events occurring in the spring:

**April 6**  
Science Night

**April 12**  
Respite Event

**April 15**  
Self-Defense Class

**April 16**  
People and Places  
Presentation

**April 23**  
Internet Safety Class

**May 4**  
Movie Night

**May 17**  
Geauga Gamers! Video  
Game Night

**May 19**  
5K Fun Run

**May 21**  
Healthy Relationships  
Presentation

**June 7**  
Respite Event

**June 14**  
Talent Show

**June 29**  
14th Annual Metzenbaum  
Golf Outing

**July 20**  
Captains Game

**July 27**  
Pioneer Waterland Fun in  
the Sun Day

## FAMILY FORUMS

**April 2**  
Waivers and the  
New Waitlist Rule

**May 7**  
Transition Aged  
Youth

**May 21**  
Everything You  
Want to Know  
about Autism in  
One Hour

**June 4**  
Medicare

**July 16**  
Supportive  
Technology Options  
for People with  
Disabilities

**August 6**  
STABLE Accounts

Please visit our website, [www.geaugadd.org](http://www.geaugadd.org),  
for more information about the Family Forums  
and contact Tami Setlock to RSVP:  
[tsetlock@geaugadd.org](mailto:tsetlock@geaugadd.org).

## MISSION

Helping people Live, Learn and Earn in our community.

## VISION

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