

METZENBAUM CENTER

The Geauga County Board Of Developmental Disabilities

Live. Learn. Earn.

Winter 2017

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As we enter a new year, we continue to change to meet the Federal and State expectations of employment and integration for our individuals.

We are excited about the successes our clients are finding in the area of community employment. 100 individuals are now involved in real community jobs being supported by job coaches from four different agencies. We expect to see another 25 individuals join the working ranks by 2020. What a great feeling to see people working in their community. Their improved self-worth and increased incomes are allowing for even more opportunities for participation in community settings.

Our effort to “reverse integrate” our facilities into a “community” center has led to more than seven outside groups using our facilities. The newest group is a start-up company that wants to

lease space at the workshop while hiring our clients. While they only need one room today, they hope to expand in the near future and include even more clients. For 2017, the Board of Elections has asked to use our center as a polling place for Chester Township.

While change can be scary and unsettling, we are finding that there are some real advantages to our clients as we move toward the future.

John Bonko Hired as Director of Business Operations



We are pleased to introduce our new Director of Business Operations, John Bonko.

John will be responsible for managing business administration duties to ensure the Board is operating efficiently. His goal is to assist individuals, families and the administration in Geauga County to make sure operations are successful for the individuals the Board serves.

John’s main responsibilities will be to manage day-to-day business and human relations functions, including human relations training, accounting, grant applications, payroll management and Medicaid administration claiming.

John is well-prepared for the role, having been Director of Business Operations for the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities for more than 25 years. He lives in Lorain County with his wife and has two children, with a first grandchild on the way. We welcome him to the team!

DODD REVIEW

Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities' Trace Waldbauer Finds Success at Hamlet Retirement Community

BACKGROUND

The mission of the Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities is to help local individuals with developmental disabilities live, learn and earn in the community. One of its clients, Trace Waldbauer, has worked at Hamlet Retirement Community in Chagrin Falls for the past two months.

TRACE'S STORY

When Hamlet Retirement Community was looking for an employee, they contacted the Metzenbaum Center. Thanks to his resume and relevant work experience, Trace was hired in September as a dishwasher. Without him, said his supervisor Wynn Jeter, there would be no food service.

"Trace is a great employee," Wynn said. "He is reliable, always on time and he keeps us laughing through the stressful days. He's an important part of our team."

Trace is responsible for washing all dishes, pots and pans, stocking the storeroom on delivery days and keeping the dishpit clean. He works three days a week and his coworkers always look forward to seeing him.

"When I interviewed him, he seemed like he would be a good employee, and he's become one of our best," Wynn said. "He's been a great fit and I wish I had more employees with his constantly positive attitude."

GCBDD'S COMMITMENT

The Geauga County Board is committed to finding employment for the individuals we serve by partnering with private providers and local businesses. Several businesses have embraced this idea, including the Weills of Bainbridge, Hamlet Village, Giant Eagle, Pizza Hut, Kuhnle Brothers, White House Chocolates, Bob Evans, Drug Mart, University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center, Heinen's and Sajar Plastics, LLC.

The ICF had an oversight review completed by the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). As part of the process, the DODD reviewed client records, conducted observations, and ensured compliance to their rules. At the completion of the review, the ICF received a 3-year license, this is the highest that can be received.



Department of
Developmental Disabilities

BOB MCGREGOR RETIRED!

After 32 years coaching Special Olympics at the GCBDD, Bob McGregor retired. Bob was an amazing coach. He knew each athlete, in regards to what they could do physically, their emotional state, about their family, and who they were as a whole individual not just the athlete. Bob had a vision of what they could achieve on an individual and team level. Any new athlete that would come to the program, Bob would watch them at practice and at the end he would have his scouting report on the individual.

Bob was very straight forward with all athletes. Bob was big on "doing your best", and Bob knew every athlete's potential and pushed them to achieve it. They knew what was expected of them both on and off the court. Sportsmanship was by far the most important, no one was to disrespect anyone at any time. Throughout the many places we have traveled in the state of Ohio, other organizations would comment on what a gracious and polite team Geauga County



athletes are. This is a definite reflection on the values Bob instilled into the athletes. Bob and teams over the years have brought home 8 state titles!

Bob plans to spend his retirement enjoying time with his family, they will keep him very busy. On December 17, 2016, GCBDD had a retirement party for Bob.

ICF Gives Back

Residents and staff of the ICF wanted to give back to the community this year. They chose the Chesterland Fire and Police Departments because they continually assist with residents' medical care and ensuring buildings are safe. The staff and residents put together 60 goodie bags filled with bottled water, candy, cookies, mints and fruit snacks as well as pens and pencils with the Metzenbaum logo. Staff took residents to the stations to deliver the goodie bags and say thank you.

Thank
You!

Residential Holiday Party

The residential holiday party was held on Friday, December 9. Resident families came to eat dinner and share a night of fun with their loved ones. Santa even joined in on the fun! A great time was had by all.



Meghan Viviani's Story

Meghan Viviani is known for her loving spirit. When competing as a Special Olympian, she will always choose to stop to help a hurt or fallen athlete rather than win the game or the race. Putting other people first is the way she lives her life.



In middle school and high school, Meghan was involved in tearing apart and rebuilding a home for Class A refugees and helped however and whenever she could. When the home was finished, she continued to help by decorating for the yearly fundraiser and visiting the home to play with the children.

Meghan is always involved in something. As a client at Metzenbaum Sheltered Industries, she often volunteers to set up or clean up after agency fundraisers, social events or sporting practices. In the Special Olympics, Meghan competes in baseball, basketball, volleyball and bowling. She also does therapeutic riding at Fieldstone Farms and loves to dance. She has won many medals in competitions and was part of the team that received a Resolution from the Ohio House of Representatives for their seven gold medals in baseball.



Meghan is a Eucharistic Minister at her church and can be found serving there on most Saturday afternoons. When the Kiwanis opened a division of their service club to individuals with disabilities, Meghan immediately joined. After acting as secretary for three years, she is now the community liaison and serves by talking to schools, businesses and people throughout the community to organize support for various Kiwanis service projects.

Meghan is a big part of her community and we are glad to help her live, learn and earn!

What's Your Story?

What's your story originated as a theme for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in 2016. It has become a way for individuals with developmental disabilities to share their stories and show how they help make the community stronger. We encourage everyone to get acquainted with someone who has a developmental disability, because everyone has a unique and amazing story.

Upcoming Events: March is DD Awareness Month

Amish Yankee Basketball game:
February 17 & March 17

Carnival:
March 4, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Parent Forum:
March 14, 6 - 8 p.m.

Night to Shine:
March 22, 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Maple Festival:
April 27 - April 30

Third Annual Run 4 Fun:
May 21, 8 a.m.

Future Parent Forums:
June 13, September 12 & December 12

Golf Outing:
June 24

MISSION

Helping people Live, Learn, and Earn in our community

VISION

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

EDUCATION

- Learning with Peers
- Reaching Everyone's Full Potential
- Participating in Extra-Curricular Activities

EMPLOYMENT

- Working in the Community
- Earning Minimum Wage +
- Choosing an Occupation

COMMUNITY LIFE

- Shopping
- Providing Residential Options
- Enjoying Recreation
- Giving Back