

# METZENBAUM CENTER

The Geauga County Board  
Of Developmental Disabilities

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

*Winter 2018*

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends. It's hard to believe it's already a new year! I wanted to take the time to share some highlights from 2017.

In June, our annual golf outing fundraiser raised more than \$7,000, which helps us to continue providing support to our individuals.

In the fall, GCBDD received a three-year certification compliance review by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. This is the highest certification that can be achieved. This certification is a testament to the hard working employees of GCBDD who are dedicated to the individuals we serve.

In November, the Families and Friends of Metzenbaum Center raised \$42,000 at the 37th Annual Quilt and Craft Auction that will be used to fund many activities for GCBDD individuals. I would like to thank the Families and Friends of Metzenbaum Center for their support.

These are only a few of the great things that took place throughout the year. We have been busy planning many wonderful events for 2018, so be on the lookout for more information. You won't want to miss what we have planned!

***Don Rice***

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR GCBDD'S EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM'S "A NIGHT TO SHINE" EVENT

In honor of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, GCBDD's Early Intervention Program will host its annual "A Night to Shine" event on March 14, 2018, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Metzenbaum Center, located at 8200 Cedar Road in Chesterland. The program serves children who have been referred by doctors or parents who are in need of additional

support. This is a remarkable night for all children in the program and their families to celebrate their successes. Each child will have the opportunity to dress up and walk the red carpet like a movie star. During the event, the children will be individually introduced and will be able to showcase their personality and accomplishments.



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# METZENBAUM BLUE STREAKS SOFTBALL TEAM WINS DIVISION II STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



The GCBDD is excited to announce the Metzenbaum Blue Streaks softball team ended the season by defeating Richland County 12-9 to win the Division II State Championship at the William P. Coontz Sports Complex in Oregon, Ohio.

The team was led by first-year Head Coach George Cervenka. The co-ed team consists of players from Chesterland, Middlefield,

Chardon, Bainbridge and Newbury.

"I'm beyond proud of the team for earning the State Championship title," said Cervenka. "Each of the members played a key component in the team's success and should be proud of their hard work and commitment. We are looking forward to our next season!"

## COME ONE — COME ALL TO GCBDD'S FREE CARNIVAL EVENT

The GCBDD will host a free carnival for all community members on Saturday, March 3, 2018, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. The carnival will take place at the Metzenbaum Center, located at 8200 Cedar Road in Chesterland. Enjoy free games, food and prizes! Last year, more than 500 people attended the carnival. This is one event you won't want to miss!

## DON'T MISS GCBDD'S FIRST- EVER LAB NIGHT

On Friday, Jan. 12, GCBDD will open its doors to community members of all ages for its first Lab Night from 7-9 p.m. Individuals who attend will be able to complete science experiments involving static, electricity, wind, water and more, and will be able to take some of the projects home. The night will also include demonstrations, as well as a portable planetarium. This event is free and will take place at the Metzenbaum Center, located at 8200 Cedar Road in Chesterland.

## ICF HOSTED SPECIAL HOLIDAY EVENT FOR ICF RESIDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) hosted a special holiday event for all ICF residents and their families on Dec. 14. This was a great time for the residents and their loved ones to gather and enjoy a delicious meal catered by Guido's. The night included the Newbury Cub Scout Pack 99 singing Christmas carols, as well as a visit from Santa, who gave a gift to each ICF individual.

"This was truly a special night for our ICF residents and their families," said Superintendent Don Rice. "Everyone who attended had a great time. Thank you to the generous donations from the Kiwanis Club

of West Geauga, the Chagrin Valley Jaycees and the Families and Friends Foundation for making this event possible."



## AKTION CLUB GIVES BACK TO LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED



Over the holiday season, the Aktion Club partnered with Lindsey Elementary School, Rise and Dine, Refound Treasurers and Eddy's Fruit Farm to collect items to create food baskets for families in need in Geauga County. Collectively, the

organizations gathered enough items to provide baskets to 18 families at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The Aktion Club consists of individuals served by GCBDD. The club's mission is

to provide adults living with disabilities an opportunity to develop initiative, leadership skills and to serve their community.

"The holiday season is a great time for our group to get involved in the community and help those in need," said Bonnie Veleba, GCBDD's recreation manager. "We were pleased to be able to help the families during the holiday season. I would like to extend a special thank you to Lindsey Elementary School, Rise and Dine and Refound Treasurers for their partnership, as well as Eddy's Fruit Farm for donating produce and turkeys for the baskets."

In addition to the holiday baskets, the Aktion Club adopted a family with three children for the Christmas season. The group provided gifts to each of the family members.

## 37TH ANNUAL QUILT AND CRAFT AUCTION RAISES \$42,000

On Saturday, Nov. 4, the Families and Friends of Metzenbaum Center sponsored its 37th Annual Quilt and Craft Auction



to raise funds to support the individuals of GCBDD. The event raised a total of \$42,000.

The event drew a crowd of more than 280 people, and more than 35 people volunteered their time, including members from St. Gabriel's Church and Improvements, Inc.

"We are so thankful for the Families and Friends of Metzenbaum Center for putting this event together," said Superintendent Don Rice. "These funds will allow us to fund many activities that we would not otherwise be able to provide the individuals."

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Carnival Event**  
March 3

**Rummage Sale**  
April 21-22

*(donations are needed)*

**5K/1 Mile Run/Walk**  
May 20

**Golf Outing**  
June 23

**Geauga County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities**

8200 Cedar Road  
Chesterland, OH 44026

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## Katie is **ALWAYS** positive

Katie Bruening has been visually-impaired and legally blind since birth. Although her vision is not 20/20, Katie is always positive and doesn't let her disability get her down.

Katie recently began a fundraising campaign through eSight Eyewear to raise funds to purchase an eSight headset that would allow her to see.

On Monday, Nov. 13, Katie received her eSight headset at Heinen's of Chardon, where she works. She was able to clearly see her family, co-workers and friends for the first time, walk on her own without a walking cane or being guided and could read without braille.

Throughout her 27 years, Katie has always been positive. She is thankful for the generosity, kindness and thoughtfulness of the individuals that donated and helped her raise the necessary funds. Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities is proud to be Always There to support individuals like Katie.

### **MISSION**

Helping people Live, Learn and Earn in our community

### **VISION**

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