

METZENBAUM CENTER

The Geauga County Board
Of Developmental Disabilities

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

Winter 2018/2019

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that everyone is enjoying the holiday season. It has been a great year thus far at the Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities, and we would like to shed light on some of our events.

The 38th, and final, annual Quilt & Craft Auction took place on Nov. 3 to benefit the individuals served by the Metzenbaum Center. We are grateful to all of the people who participated over the years.

Led by D.J. Martin, Amy Smalheer and Christy Roubic, our swim team has had another successful season with a total of 26 swimmers. Thank you to the Wembley Club for accommodating our group during this swim season! In addition to swimming, we also offer basketball for both men and women, dinner clubs, dances, food drives and Aktion Club to support families in Geauga County.

We will also have four upcoming Metzenbaum Family Forum events taking place during the months of February through May in 2019. Inside this newsletter, we highlight the topics, dates and specific times of each event. We hope you will join us. We also hope you take the time to review all of the activities, programs and events on offer this winter, as there are plenty! Thank you for supporting all of our efforts and allowing us to serve individuals as best we can.

Happy Holidays to you and yours,

Don Rice
Superintendent

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Bingo

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Save the Dates

BINGO

Bingo is held on the second Saturday of every month from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Metzenbaum Center. Typically, around 35-40 people attend each session and there are always fun prizes for winners to claim! Registration is available at the door, but early registration is encouraged to reserve a spot, as spaces fill up quickly. Please contact Janice Chesnes at jchesnes@geaugadd.org for more information and registration.



CHRISTMAS KARAOKE

Christmas Karaoke was a blast with over 30 different Christmas songs sung by singles, duets and/or groups. We had about 60 people in attendance, making the event a huge hit. We would like to thank everyone who came out and participated!

RESIDENTIAL HOLIDAY DINNER

Dec. 13 was the ICF holiday party. This wonderful event was sponsored by donations from the Kiwanis, Chagrin Valley Jaycee's and the Families and Friends of Metzenbaum Center. Santa and his Elf handed out gifts to the residents after a delicious dinner catered by Guido's. This event is special for the families and close friends of the residents of the Metzenbaum Center to enjoy a fun night together. We thank everyone who came out for the evening and we wish everyone a wonderful holiday season!



SPECIAL OLYMPICS SWIMMING

We had another successful swimming season this year with a total of 26 swimmers, making this our biggest team ever!

The team was led by veteran swimmers/captains D.J. Martin, Amy Smalheer and Christy Roubic. Our swimmers swam freestyle, backstroke and/or breaststroke.

The team participated in a meet in Strongsville on Nov. 11 and at the state competition in Columbus at the Ohio State Aquatics Center during the weekend of Dec. 1.

We would like to thank the Wembley Club for being so accommodating to our group for practices – we enjoyed our time weekly, and the staff and members were so kind to our team.

Thank you to the athletes for their dedication, sportsmanship and determination all season long. It truly was the great group of supportive athletes and parents that made this season so memorable!



EI HOLIDAY POTLUCK

Early Intervention hosted the annual holiday potluck on Dec. 7 for families enrolled in the program. Families and staff bring dishes to share while our music therapist sings interactive songs with the kids to get them ready for an appearance by Santa Claus! We also offered different play areas and crafts to keep the kids engaged throughout the evening. This year we had a great turn out, with 17 different families and 25 children in attendance. Thank you to everyone who participated, it was a wonderful time!

The Early Intervention program serves families with eligible children under the age of three with developmental disabilities and delays. Early Intervention is grounded in the philosophy that young children learn best from familiar people in familiar settings. Our program holds a variety of playgroups and activities at the Metzenbaum Center and within the community throughout the year.





QUILT & CRAFT AUCTION

On Nov. 3, \$50,000 was raised at the annual Quilt & Craft Auction to benefit the individuals served by the Metzenbaum Center. The auction featured over 25 handmade quilts as well as handmade wreaths, chests, Amish rockers, gliders, cabinets, outdoor furniture, handcrafted toys and much more.

Donated by the Emanuel Kempf Church, the most expensive quilt was auctioned off for \$2,500!

This was the 38th and final year for the auction.

The non-profit organization Families and Friends of Metzenbaum Center helped supplement needs for the event. Additionally, they donate to and support a wide variety of people and activities throughout the year.

Metzenbaum Center, which is GCBDD, supports people in Geauga county of all ages with developmental disabilities.

A NOTE FROM PATTI GALLAGHER, TREASURER OF FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF METZENBAUM CENTER:

"With a very humble heart, I wish to thank everyone that participated in any way over the last 38 years of the Quilt & Craft auctions. It has truly been my pleasure to serve the community in this way.

To those that donated items, donated your time or came to purchase items, you have my gratitude. You are one of the reasons we were able to continue hosting the event.

While many friends have passed on during our 38 years, they are never forgotten. We have continued this annual event often with heavy hearts, but also with many great memories. It takes a committed group of people to press on. To that group of people, you will forever be my family and I thank you.

To the staff of Metzenbaum Center, thank you for your support, trust and assistance.

We have been good stewards of the funds we raised over the years and we should be able to fund the programs that we supported annually for at least another five years. That makes us incredibly proud.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!"

ART AND COOKING CLASSES

We host both art and cooking classes at the Metzenbaum Center for individuals to express their culinary and creative sides! Art classes are held every Wednesday from 6-7:30 p.m. and cooking classes are held on the second Tuesday of each month. Space is limited for both of these classes, so please be sure to contact Janice Chesnes, community connection coordinator, at 440-729-9406 or jchesnes@geaugadd.org to reserve your spot.



MARCH IS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

In March, the Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (GCBDD) will celebrate National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. This special month 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 a successful life is possible.

Throughout the month, people can find ways to raise awareness and celebrate individuals with developmental disabilities both at GCBDD and through the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC). All month long, the ODDC's Facebook, Twitter and website will offer ways to become involved in the month, sharing useful resources and stories.

In celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, GCBDD will again invite community members to its free community carnival, which will be held this year on March 2. The theme of the carnival will be Supports Matter and the fun-filled day will feature carnival favorites, such as cotton candy and popcorn, along with over 40 games for community members to play.

If you are interested in volunteering at the carnival, please contact Janice Chesnes, community connection coordinator, at 440-729-9406 or jchesnes@geaugadd.org.

**Geauga County Board of
Developmental Disabilities**

8200 Cedar Road
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:

January 5

Geauga Gamers! Video Game Night

May 19

Fun Run 5K and Walk

March 2

Free Community Carnival

June 29

Golf Outing

FAMILY FORUMS

February 5

**General Social Security
Information**

April 2

**Waivers and the New
Waitlist Rule**

March 19

Good Deeds

May 7

Transition Aged Youth

Please visit our website, www.geaugadd.org, for more information about the Family Forums and contact Tami Setlock to RSVP: 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.