



METZENBAUM CENTER

The Geauga County Board
Of Developmental Disabilities

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

Fall 2019

A NOTE FROM THE METZENBAUM CENTER

We had a busy summer! From fun outings and dances to sports and our annual picnic, there was something for everyone to participate in.

We had groups venture to Edgewater Park and the West Side Market in Cleveland and putt-putting in Chagrin Falls and Chardon, among other places. Another highlight of the summer was going down to the parade for the MLB All-Star Game in Cleveland.

We also had two very successful fundraisers this summer. One was our 14th Annual Metzenbaum Center Golf Outing. For the first time this year, we held the event at the Berkshire Hills Country Club, and we reached the limit of golf teams able to play in the outing, which included three teams of our Special Olympic golfers. We also had our Fifth Annual Metzenbaum Run for Fun 5K/1 Mile Walk on May 19 with 64 runners and 136 walkers registered for the event. Thank you to everyone who made both events huge successes.

With fall's arrival, October is a time to celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Our organization strives to support the goals our individuals have and want to achieve as being a valued part of the workforce. Currently there are over 140 individuals working out in the Geauga County community, and we are pleased to say that employment rate increases every year.

These are only a few of the great things that took place over the summer. We have many wonderful events planned for the upcoming months that you won't want to miss. Please check into our website (www.geaugadd.org) for more information on upcoming activities and any current news.

Thank you for your support.

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RECREATION DEPARTMENT

During the month of June, the Special Olympics golf athletes practiced weekly to get ready for the season ending tournament at Bob-O-Links golf course in Avon Lake. Competing amongst 30 other athletes from local counties, the team took home 5 first place, 4 second place, 2 third place and 4 fourth place finishes. The team would like to thank Sal Forlani and his staff at Pleasant Hills for being exceptional hosts and helping the golfers to perfect their skills during practices.

Competing at the Division 1 level, the Geauga Blue Streaks softball team took third place in the Ohio Special Olympics State Softball tournament in Oregon Ohio to finish off their season. The team ended their regular season with 5 wins and 4 losses.

AKTION CLUB ON THE GO!

Aktion Club kept busy this summer too! We had a float in the Chesterland July 4th parade, and we came in second place. We also had a bake sale at the July Concert in the Park, and celebrated with our annual picnic. Monthly dances were also held in the Metzenbaum big gym.

Then it will be time to break out your "boo"-gie shoes for our Halloween dance on Oct. 25 from 6-8 p.m. A costume is not required but feel free to wear one dress up.

DON'T SHOP BIG BOX!

SHOP LOCAL AND UNIQUE. SHOP OUR CRAFT SHOWS.

The Small Business Saturday Craft Show will be Nov. 30, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., and the Procrastinators Christmas Craft Show is Dec. 21, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Perfect for your holiday shopping, and both craft shows will donate proceeds to the Metzenbaum Foundation. Craft shows will be held at the Metzenbaum Center.

SUMMERTIME MEMORIES!

Fall 2019

As summer winds down, let's look back at some of the fun we had.

GOLF OUTING

On June 29, we hosted our 14th Annual Metzenbaum Center Golf Outing, sponsored by Maple Leaf Community Residences, at Berkshire Hills Golf Course. It was a tremendous success with a great turnout, lovely weather, good golfing and a lot of fun! We are so thankful for everyone who attended, for all of the sponsors and for all of those who donated raffle prizes.



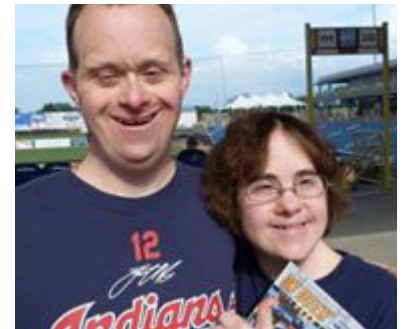
PIONEER WATERLAND

Splish, splash, what a great bash! On July 27, 130 people joined us for a trip to Pioneer Waterland. From floating down the lazy river to spiraling down waterslides to enjoying a delicious picnic, everyone had fun soaking up the sun and fun!

Thank you to the Board for funding the discounted tickets!

LAKE COUNTY CAPTAINS BASEBALL GAME

We had another successful outing at the Lake County Captains game on July 20, with the largest turnout yet, selling 320 tickets. Our very own Joey throwing out the first pitch, along with Josh Cribs from the Cleveland Browns, and Jen singing the National Anthem! Congrats Joey and Jen! You were terrific!



TALENT SHOW

On June 14, we hosted our GCBDD Talent Show at the Metzenbaum Center!

We had 18 uniquely talented acts perform. The talents ranged from singing, playing the ukulele, juggling, ventriloquism, karate, dog tricks, a demonstration on how to make brownies, and even a comedy act with funny jokes that had everyone laughing.

About 70 people came out to witness the spectacular talents of those in the Geauga community. It was an evening full of great skill, surprises and fun!

ART SHOW

Wow! That is all we can say about the spectacular talent that was on display at our annual Art Show on August 22 at the Metzenbaum Center.

It was a fabulous turnout too. We had 34 artists showcase their work and around 50 patrons come to look around and purchase their artwork. Combined, the artists made more than \$800 from selling their creations!



OCTOBER IS NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



RICHARD'S STORY

With his job coach supporting his goals, Junior began his official job at the truck stop on April 20, 2017. He works once a week on Fridays, completing several different types of tasks like cleaning bathrooms, emptying garbage cans, picking up trash along the truck stop's curbs and other general means of upkeep. Since the truck stop is always open, Junior is able to stay on the schedule year-round—sometimes, he even works holidays if they fall on a Friday, which offers a unique perspective on what it means to be a truck driver. In other words, Junior has learned that a truck driver's work doesn't stop for holidays, as products always need to be shipped, transported and delivered.

Already, Junior has found great fulfillment in his job, enjoying the chance to simply meet new people and make new friends. He particularly enjoys talking to all of the truck drivers who pass through. According to Junior's boss, he is a great man who is funny and loves to crack jokes. Junior is also a family man and truly values spending quality time with his family.

In his spare time, Junior golfs with the Special Olympics and he loves to shop until he drops. He also collects the patches that firefighters wear on their uniforms and proudly displays his collection in his room. "I like fire trucks and semi-trucks and have a collection of patches from all over fire stations," said Junior. "I love to spend time with my sister and family on holidays."

THE GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD IS COMMITTED TO FINDING EMPLOYMENT FOR THE INDIVIDUALS WE SERVE BY PARTNERING WITH PRIVATE PROVIDERS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES. OVER 34 AREA BUSINESSES HAVE EMBRACED THIS IDEA AND CURRENTLY EMPLOY INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

JOIN THE EARLY INTERVENTION PLAY, LEARN AND GROW TEAM FOR "YOU AND ME" ART.

The arts and craft event is open for all Geauga County residents with children ages infant to 3 years old, and will be taking place at the Geauga West Library on Nov. 8 and the Bainbridge Library on Nov 15. All events are from 10-11 a.m. Reminder to check the Geauga Co. Early Intervention Program Facebook page for upcoming programs, events, and community play dates.



**Geauga County Board of
Developmental Disabilities**

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SAVE THE DATES

Make sure you mark your calendars for some of our fun community events occurring in the fall:

Self-defense Classes

Every Monday evening
from 6:30-8 p.m.

Cooking Class

The second Tuesday of each
month from 5-7:30 p.m.

Craft Show

Saturday, November 30th and Saturday, December 21st

Bingo

Second Saturday of every month
from 6:30-8 p.m.

Dance Class

Every Thursday from
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Art Class

Every Wednesday from 6-7:30 p.m.

Movie Night

Saturday, October 26th
and Saturday, December 7th

**Please check our website and
Facebook page to stay updated!**

MISSION

Helping people Live, Learn and Earn in our community.

VISION

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