



# METZENBAUM CENTER

The Geauga County Board  
Of Developmental Disabilities

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

*Winter 2019*

## **Thank you for your continued support!**

We are grateful to the residents for passing our levy on Nov. 5, 2019. The approval of this levy will allow us to continue helping people Live, Learn and Earn in our community.

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## A NOTE FROM THE METZENBAUM CENTER

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season, celebrating with family and friends. As we ring in the new year, we are looking forward to helping the individuals we serve make new memories in 2020 while continuing to provide them with high-quality services that enrich their lives, the lives of their family and the community. We would also like to take a moment to thank our supporters for a terrific 2019 and reflect on some of the year's highlights.

One of our biggest highlights occurred in November with the passage of our renewal levy. On behalf of the Metzenbaum Center and the Geauga County Board of DD, we would like to thank you for your continued support. Nearly 70% of our funding comes from levies so passing this levy was integral to being able to fulfill our mission. We literally could not do it without the backing of the community.

Throughout 2019, we also celebrated many successful fundraising events. We held our Fifth Annual Metzenbaum Run for Fun 5K/1 Mile at the Metzenbaum Center with 64 runners and 136 walkers registered and our 14th annual golf outing happened on the last Saturday in June at Berkshire Hills Golf Course. All of the funds raised from these events and the others we hold throughout the year go directly to supporting individuals with DD. We also held two craft shows that not only helped showcase local artisan but proceeds were also donated to the Metzenbaum Foundation.

We are so grateful to the support we've received for these events and all of the others we partake in throughout the year and are already busy planning for the remainder of 2020. Please keep an eye on our website ([www.geaugadd.org](http://www.geaugadd.org)) or our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/GeaugaDD](http://www.facebook.com/GeaugaDD)) for information on upcoming activities and any current news.

Wishing you a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

## JOIN US ON THE SECOND SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH FOR FREE BINGO!

Bingo is a family-friendly event and is open to the community. Fun prizes will be provided for the winners! Bingo takes place on the second Saturday of the month at the Metzenbaum Center from 6:30-8 p.m.

We are looking forward to having you join us!



## GET CREATIVE, HAVE FUN AND LEARN AT THE WEEKLY INTERACTIVE AND EDUCATIONAL ART CLASS

The Metzenbaum Foundation is excited to host interactive and educational art classes every Wednesday from 6-8 p.m.

The classes cost \$5 each and will be held at the Metzenbaum Center. Each week, students in the class will learn about art techniques, artists and a variety of mediums. This art class is a great way to explore all of the different types of art through education and painting.

To sign up, please register with Jessica Bauer at 440-796-6796. The art class is open to the public, ages 10 and up.



## HELP ME GROW HOLIDAY POTLUCK

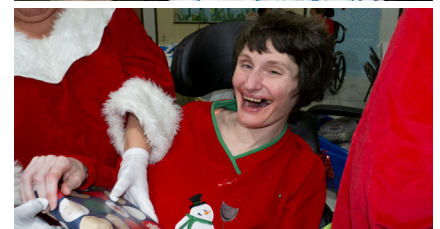
Our Sixth Annual Help Me Grow holiday potluck was a huge success! We had 20 families in attendance with more than 30 kids in total. Geauga JFS donated money to go toward buying gifts for the kids after they each had a chance to chat with Santa. Our staff and the families brought delicious treats and side dishes for the annual potluck.

We are so grateful for all of the support! Without it, we would not have been able to have such a fun and positive event.



## ICF HOSTS ANNUAL HOLIDAY EVENT

On Thursday, Dec. 12, the Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) hosted its annual holiday party for the families and close friends of the residents of the Metzenbaum Center. They all gathered to enjoy a fun night together. This wonderful event was sponsored by donations from the Kiwanis, Chagrin Valley Jaycees 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. We thank everyone who came out for the evening, and we wish everyone a wonderful holiday season!



## COME CHEER ON OUR SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEAMS

Our winter sports are concluding. We thank all who supported our men and women basketball, swimming and bowling teams! They had a great season! We are looking forward to our spring sports consisting of track & field, golf, and bowling.



# JIM BARIL



## JIM'S STORY

Since April 1, 2016, Jim has been happily greeting clients, visitors and staff members as the receptionist for his office job three days a week. As the first person visitors see, Jim is a vital member of the team. He greets everyone with a smile on his face and is always happy to help them find where they need to go.

Jim's favorite part of his job is answering the phones and providing excellent customer service. Jim is very sociable and enjoys talking to his co-workers. He is known to go above and beyond for his job and for helping to create a positive work environment.

Jim enjoys learning all sorts of new things, and this job has allowed him to do that. He has learned how to operate the security camera and phone systems, which he was able to pick up in one day! He is very dependable and his co-workers describe Jim as a pleasure to be around. After work and when he is not in the office, Jim enjoys playing video games.

**THE GEUGA COUNTY BOARD IS COMMITTED TO FINDING EMPLOYMENT FOR THE INDIVIDUALS WE SERVE BY PARTNERING WITH PRIVATE PROVIDERS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES. OVER 58 AREA BUSINESSES HAVE EMBRACED THIS IDEA AND CURRENTLY EMPLOY INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.**

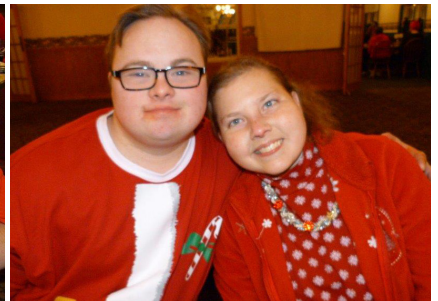
## GOOD FOOD AND GOOD FRIENDS AT MONTHLY DINNER CLUB EVENTS

Dinner Club is more than just good food. It is also good fun! Dinner Club meets monthly, on the second Monday of each month, from 5-7 p.m. Each month, our individuals are given a choice between two local Geauga County restaurants at which to meet and enjoy a meal. In September, we combined the groups and went to West Woods in the Geauga County Park District.

In December, we combined again and enjoyed an evening at Mary Yoders. In addition to dinner, we celebrated with a Christmas gift exchange in which everyone brought a \$5 edible gift. Typically, between 35-45 individuals attend each month, which has been growing and going on for more than 12 years.

We loved seeing the individuals make new friends and catch up with ones they may not have seen in a while. There is tremendous conversation and laughter that goes on during the two hours! Dinner Club also gives the individual's parents an opportunity to eat out, go shopping or meet up with other parents and friends for the evening.

Thank you to everyone who attends and makes our Dinner Club outings memorable!



**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 winter:

### **March is DD Awareness Month**

**Carnival – March 7**

**Movie Night – April 4**

**5K/1-mile Fun Run – May 17**

**Talent show – June 12**

**Golf Outing – June 27**

### **Parent Forums – 6 - 8 p.m.**

**Good Deeds – January 28**

**County Board Services & Updates – April 28**

**STABLE Acct – May 19**

**Estate Planning – July 21**

## MISSION

Helping people Live, Learn and Earn in our community.

## VISION

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