



METZENBAUM CENTER

The Geauga County Board
Of Developmental Disabilities

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

Spring 2020

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

We are all being challenged with the COVID-19 issues right now. We want to assure you that our top priority is serving our clients during the declared emergency.

The Governor's orders have impacted our community events, sports and person-to-person meetings, but our primary services are still in place. This is new territory for all of us. We are focusing on the basics of health and safety for our clients.

We are working closely with all the providers to assist where we are needed. We are working to make sure that staff are in place to meet the clients' needs.

Please stay calm and be patient as we recover from this declared crisis. Call or email me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Don Rice
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Join us Live on Facebook!

METZENBAUM MESSAGE

Each year for the month of March, we proudly celebrate Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. We hope this annual campaign inspires our community to provide inclusion opportunities in employment, education, recreation and housing. The Geauga Commissioners also supported this cause by acknowledging our mission at their Feb. 25th meeting, stating that the Geauga community is stronger when everyone participates.

Also in March, we held our 5th Annual Free Community Carnival at the Metzenbaum Center. It is a great way to bring awareness to supporting the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities and the services that are provided to them while having fun with games, prizes, and free food. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this family friendly event, especially our dedicated staff and volunteers!

Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the upcoming 5K/1 Mile Fun Run, which was scheduled for May 17, has been postponed as well as all other community events, sporting events, and happenings. We have also decided to cancel our annual golf outing for this year, but it will be back on for 2021. The rescheduled dates for all the activities is not yet known but please keep checking into the GCBDD website, Facebook page, or call for any new updates. For now, the safety and health of our community is the top priority, and we will continue to abide by the state's guidelines for COVID-19.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation during this difficult time as we are looking forward to seeing everyone at future events.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS — BOWLING LEAGUE

Although all Special Olympics sports have been suspended until further notice, the Spring Bowling League had a great turnout with a record number of over 30 participants. The season was cut short but it was fun while it lasted. Thank you to Ernst Lanes in Chardon for going above and beyond to accommodate and cater to these amazing athletes.



MARCH DD AWARENESS MONTH RECAP

At the Feb. 25th Geauga County Commissioner meeting, March was recognized as being Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Pictured below is the GCBDD Board President Mark Jackson, the County Commissioners and two individuals receiving services from GCBDD.



AMISH VS. YANKEE BASKETBALL GAME

It was an exciting night for the Amish vs. Yankee basketball game on Friday, Feb. 28. As the Yankees dominated the first three quarters, it was looking like the Amish had no chance to take control of the game. But, on a last-minute rally with three seconds left, the Amish took an unbelievable three-point shot stealing the win.

The game has a rich history of more than 30 years in traditions and fundraising as 2 cultures come together for a great cause. This year's game was no different as the gymnasium was packed with spectators and raised more than \$600 for the Sunshine Training Center. Thank you to everyone who came out to support the players and all the generosity!



DINNER CLUB

Every second Tuesday of each month, Dinner Club members meet and have the opportunity of sharing a meal with each other to develop relationships and socialize. But the main goal is to have fun.

Because of the popularity of the club, members get to pick 1 out of 2 restaurant option locations to choose from to accommodate travel time and group sizes. The month of March was Mexican food and members met at either La Mexican Cantina & Grill in Chesterland or El Patron Mexican Grill in Middlefield.

To join the Dinner Club, please contact the Metzenbaum Recreation Department at 440.729.9406 ext.1117.



5TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY CARNIVAL

More than 700 people attended our 5th Annual Free Community Carnival where we were able to celebrate Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month with the community. With this event, we were able to educate the public about who we serve and what we do at GCBDD. It also gave our clients the opportunity to mingle with the general public and be included in a typical activity.

Everyone had a fun time eating, drinking, playing games and winning prizes. In addition to the hotdog lunch with cookies or chips, we had plenty of popcorn, snow cones and cotton candy to go around. Every year, we celebrate Development Disabilities Awareness Month with this carnival on the first Saturday in March.



ANDREW



ANDREW'S STORY

Andrew has been happily working at Walmart in Chardon since January 2017. His job coach at his vocational school helped him apply for the job online. She also accompanied Andrew on the job interview to help him through the process. Andrew was offered his choice between a maintenance position or a role as a cart associate. He chose cart associate and has been thriving in the role ever since.

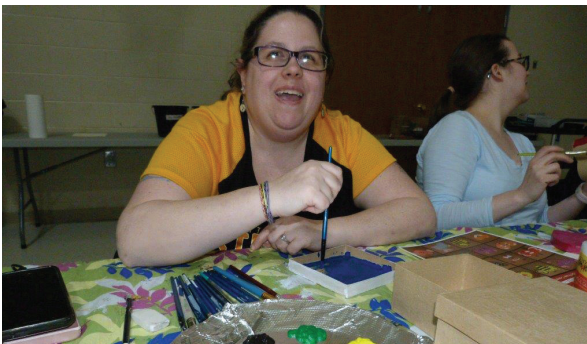
As a cart associate, Andrew is responsible for returning carts to the store entrances and making sure there are always enough large and small carts for people to use when they come into the store. It is important to collect the carts in a timely manner because loose carts in the parking lot can blow into cars or block driving lanes. Andrew enjoys using the electric cart pusher because it allows him to double his cart load, pushing up to 20 carts at a time instead of the 10-12 he can do by hand.

Not only has Andrew learned many new skills through his work, including the value of being kind to customers, but he has met many new friends as well. While the rain and freezing temperatures can sometimes make his work more difficult, Andrew still feels lucky to have a job and make his own money.

When Andrew is not at work, he likes to watch game shows and the Cleveland sports teams on TV. He also enjoys spending time doing activities at Metzenbaum Center's recreation department. Andrew enjoys constructing with Legos and putting together puzzles. In warmer weather, you may see him riding his bike and visiting people in his neighborhood.

ART CLASS

Art class regularly meets every Wednesday but is currently postponed until further notice. During art class, students learn about art techniques, artists and a variety of styles. This art class is a fun way to explore all the different types of art through education and painting. This class always fills up quickly, so please call Jessica at 440-796-6796 to register.



GCBDD NATATORIUM

The natatorium at GCBDD is offered to individuals of Geauga County for swim lessons, exercise classes and small groups including the local senior center. You do not have to be a swimmer to participate in or benefit from the water therapy. The pool is wheelchair accessible, and our on-staff pool instructor Brenda has more than 15 years of experience in the field. Please call the Metzenbaum Center and ask for the Recreation Department for more information.



NIGHT TO SHINE

The Early Intervention Program at GCBDD is sad to announce the postponement of its Night to Shine event but hopes to reschedule very soon! In the meantime, while we are all practicing social distancing, the Early Intervention Program is staying connected with families and individuals through phone calls and video chats. Also, they are hosting Moving with Music live on the Geauga County Early Intervention Program Facebook page every Wednesday for anyone who wants to sing and dance. For more information, please contact Meredith Myers at 440-729-9406, ext. 1530.

**Geauga County Board of
Developmental Disabilities**

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JOIN US LIVE ON FACEBOOK!

Tuesday's at 11am Yoga with Sue.

Wednesday's at 11am Music with Carol.

Thursday's at 11am Metz Rec Exercises.

The Geauga County Early Intervention Program: Play, Learn, & Grow Facebook page is also hosting a Movin' With Music class for little kids every Wednesday at 9:30am.

Our Rec Department has started doing Zoom meetings with clients if they would like to stay in touch other than over the phone. If anyone wants to Zoom with any department or person at Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Please call or email to set up a meeting!

Our **Family Forums** for April and May will be rescheduled. The Family Forums for July, August, and September are still on as planned.

MISSION

Helping people Live, Learn and Earn in our community.

VISION

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