



October is National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month

Geauga DD is committed to finding employment for the people we serve by partnering with local businesses and private providers. More than 58 area businesses have embraced this idea and currently employ individuals with disabilities. Geauga DD helped Emma (pictured right) to find and learn her job at the Geauga Family YMCA with the support of a job coach.

For more information on employment for people we serve, call 440.729.9406 or email metz@geaugadd.org.



Kira's Art Show

Kira Weber is an up and coming local artist. She held her first solo art show on August 30th at the Find Art studio in Chesterland, where she showcased over 25 pieces. Kira's art speaks for itself as the bright colors and fine details attract the eye. Her style is a mixture of realism, expressionism, pop art, and portraiture. Her inspiration to create comes from animals and nature. Congratulations on your accomplishment, Kira!



From Superintendent Don Rice

Happy Fall! The past few months have been as busy as ever at Geauga DD. The flexibility of our staff and those we serve has been amazing. We're now very comfortable with Zoom and Facebook Live, and we've even been able to adapt many of our services to be socially-distant. Pictured below is our Music Therapist Carol Columbo finding a new way to hold the ever popular Movin' with Music program.

We are grateful for our many provider partners and their direct support professionals, who have proven to be truly essential during these past several months. I'm proud of the work our team at Geauga DD has done to coordinate services, deliver extra personal protective equipment, and ensure the people we support have their needs met on a daily basis.

Feel free to call or email me with any questions or concerns.
drice@geaugadd.org - 440.729.9406



Josh's Success Story

Josh found his perfect job at Great Lakes Cheese in Hiram Ohio, where he works as a Bulk Cheese Handler. Since being hired in September 2019, he has fast tracked to a full time position and surpassed his original goals. Josh has been able to save enough money that he's now set his sights on moving into a place of his own.

Josh is proud to be a part of the GLC family and takes his work seriously. His position requires him to lift large blocks of cheese on to a conveyor belt, which sets the pace for the whole production line. Josh is happy to have a job that lets him build muscle and physical endurance. Fortunately, he can keep cool while working hard, since the cheese needs to stay below 50 degrees!

One of Josh's favorite parts of his job is "the routine of the work and the ability to talk a lot to other coworkers while working." He has made many friends at GLC and even started a Dungeons and Dragons group with some guys from the factory. In his spare time, he makes historical Warhammer models, reads, and plays video games.

Great Lakes Cheese has been in business since 1958, starting locally in Newbury Ohio. It has expanded to an eight-plant operation, spanning five states, and supplying cheese coast to coast.

At Great Lakes Cheese in Hiram Ohio, the plant packages on average 6 million pounds of cheese per week. This state-of-the-art plant is also home to the corporate headquarters and serves as the primary distribution hub for all facilities. The plant is almost 350,000 sq. feet with a 300,000 sq. foot addition soon to be completed.

Today, Great Lakes Cheese remains privately owned by the founding Epprecht Family and 3,300 dedicated employee-owners. It has placed in the top 20 places to work in the Cleveland Top Workplaces Survey the last three years in a row.



Double the Ducks!

The annual Duck Walk happened twice this year! For the first time ever, two separate mama ducks nested in the courtyard in May and June. Both mama ducks and their ducklings were safely escorted out of the Metz administration building to freedom. These were livestreamed on Facebook and have been viewed over 3,000 times! Thank you Mother Nature for sending us major cuteness!



What Metz Means to Me



Joe says:
Work & Play



Katie says:
Opportunity & Activity



Helen says:
Art & Community



Mike says:
Fun!

Check out the whole series at: Facebook.com/GeaugaDD

Survey Says...

Earlier this year, Geauga DD asked over 800 people about their preferences for programs and services. Here is a summary of the nearly 100 responses:

92% want recreation activities like sports, swimming, dinner club, etc. to be in small groups

89% want to see online options that were started earlier this year continue, such as Movin' with Music, yoga, aerobics, and Just Metzging Around

75% want education programs like Family Forums to be online

48% want social programs to be offered online

40% want programs like art class, cooking class, movie night, and bingo to be in small groups



Partner Spotlight

Solid Rock on Which We Stand has been partnering with Geauga DD since 2011. Today they provide residential services to 26 people throughout Geauga County.



Solid Rock was started by Tiffany and Justin Smetana, who said their philosophy is to treat and support their clients the way they would treat their own family members.

"We wanted to change the standard of care in our field," said CEO Tiffany Smetana. "We want to build lifelong relationships with both staff and clients so we can have a long-term effect on people's lives. We are constantly pushing each other to strive for the next level of excellence."

To learn more, visit: solidrock-llc.com

Each newsletter, we'll highlight one of our many partners. To nominate a partner, email metz@geaugadd.org

And now, a Joke from Andy



"My dad once took me to his foot appointment. There was a lady on the other side of the room who was going to have some sort of surgery. I was about to take a photo, when the lady asked 'Are you going to put that on Facebook?' I responded, 'No, I'm putting it on Foot Book!'"

**Geauga County Board of
Developmental Disabilities**
8200 Cedar Road
Chesterland, OH 44026

Getting Ready to Spread Good Cheer

The Metz Recreation department and their friends have been busy! Over 1,000 donated Christmas ornaments are being refurbished and having heartfelt messages written on the back, which will then be distributed to families and facilities during the Christmas Season.



For the latest info on upcoming events,
visit GeaugaDD.org or
[Facebook.com/GeaugaDD](https://www.facebook.com/GeaugaDD)

Night to Shine Adapts to Pandemic

For months, Geauga DD has been adapting events which are normally held in person to be either socially-distant or online. The popular Night to Shine event was modified to be a one-family-at-a-time red carpet walk, which drew lots of smiles!

