



Board Talk

Spring

2013

A Pickaway County Board of Developmental Disabilities Newsletter

What's New

Superintendent's Corner

This year, the theme for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is "Look Beyond". When I think about this theme, I imagine the Wright Brothers, Orville and Wilbur, who decided to pursue their dream of flight. Orville and Wilbur had many critics who told them, "If God had intended us to fly, He would have given us wings." The brothers, however, refused to let their physical limitations stop them from achieving their dream. They looked beyond natural limitations, and succeeded in their goal of flight.

Last year's awareness theme encouraged us to see the abilities of people. "Look Beyond" is a natural progression that pushes us to see possibilities, recognize talents and abilities, and see the potential in all people. Through awareness and education, we begin to understand that our community is better when people with developmental disabilities are actively engaged and participating in schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, and places of worship.

As an agency devoted to serving individuals with developmental disabilities, we are planning many special events this March to help raise public awareness. This year we are hosting a school district basketball game involving each of Pickaway County's four school districts, and a Community vs. Special Olympics basketball game.

In addition, our agency is partnering with the Pickaway County Library to sponsor "I Can..." story times, which are book sharing events, open to the public, to support, encourage and celebrate the abilities of all children.



We encourage everyone to come to these events to gain a deeper understanding of people's abilities, and to "Look Beyond".

-Mike Pelcic,
Superintendent

-People First representatives Mike Groleau, Sarah Hicks, and Nikki Giffin, along with advisor **Barb Phillips** (pictured below), participated in a training for Project STIR. This training is designed to teach individuals with developmental disabilities to self-advocate. Topics covered over the four days of sessions included money management, learning to "speak up", and a review of self-advocacy from a historical perspective. Sara reported that the role-playing skits were most helpful and fun.



-Brooks-Yates School is holding its second annual Art Show and Silent Auction: "Celebrating the Artistic Abilities of All". The art show will feature art from the students of Brooks-Yates School, along with submissions from community members and local school districts. The event will be held on May 18th from 6 PM – 9PM at Brooks-Yates School.

-The Early Intervention program will again be holding story times at the Pickaway County libraries to celebrate Developmental Disabilities Awareness month. This year, story time events have expanded to the Ashville library, in order to reach families living in northern Pickaway County. Find event details under "Upcoming Events".

-For interested individuals and families, the Pickaway and Ross Counties Support Group is holding meetings at Tyler Memorial United Methodist Church in Chillicothe Ohio. Meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of the each month, and refreshments and childcare are provided. Contact Kim Kuehnle (kimberly.turtle@gmail.com) for further information.

-The SSA department participated in the Westfall/ Teays Valley Autism Shoot-Out on February 16th. Staff assisted with selling 50/50 tickets, and SSA Pat Sullivan donated several signed OSU football items for raffle. Event coordinator Amy Noltemeyer reported that the game raised approximately \$3,500 for Autism Speaks, an autism advocacy organization.

Resource Information

Pickaway County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

www.dodd.ohio.gov

Find us on **Facebook** at:
Pickaway County Developmental Disabilities

Board Members

Jessica Mullins (President)
Cathy Leatherwood (Vice President)
Denise Kuhnheim (Secretary)
Greg Miller
Jeff Rawlins
Barry Burns
Gwen Wolford

Upcoming Events

"I Can" Library Events

March 4th

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Pickaway County Library (Ashville)

March 7th

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Pickaway County Library (Circleville)

March 9th

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Pickaway Co. Library (Circleville)

March Madness Basketball Game

March 14th

6:00 PM (Logan Elm vs. Westfall)

7:15 PM (Circleville vs. Teays Valley)

Circleville High School

Community Basketball Game

March 20th

6:00 PM

Ohio Christian University Gym

BYS Art Show and Silent Auction

May 18th

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Brooks-Yates School

For more information on upcoming events, including Early Intervention playgroups, visit the PCBDD website.

Looking Beyond

This February, a very special girl received a very special donation. Hannah Layne had watched her friends and family ride bicycles, and wanted a chance to ride too! However, because of the nature of her disabilities, Hannah was unable to keep her feet on the pedals of a regular bike, and could not stay in the seat. Through the help of her parents, Hannah was linked with an agency called Christopher's Promise, a non-profit organization that provides special adaptive equipment to children with disabilities. Their goal is to make "typical childhood experiences accessible to all children". Hannah and her parents submitted a letter of request, explaining why Hannah would



like to be considered for an adapted bicycle. Volunteer Lauren Lichtenauer from Christopher's Promise then coordinated the effort, in conjunction with Roll: Bicycles, Clothing, Gear; Kenda Tire; and Keen Footwar, to present Hannah with her very own bicycle, adapted especially for her. Hannah was presented with the bike at a special ceremony, and even got to be part of a news story!

Success! Vivian Powers' Story

Meet Vivian Powers and her family! Vivian is a sweet, active 21 month old who has overcome a lot in her short life. When Vivian was born, she was diagnosed with VATER (Vertebral, Anal, Trachea, Esophagus, Renal) Syndrome, which is a group of random birth abnormalities. In Vivian's case, a primary concern was an 8cm gap in her esophagus, which inhibited her from eating by mouth, and required her to have a g-tube inserted at just two days of age. While Vivian was in the NICU during her early months, her parents completed their own research to find the most effective treatment, which in Vivian's case was the Foker Technique. During this process, sutures are placed on the disconnected ends of the esophagus, and small amounts of tension are applied every day in order to grow the two ends of the esophagus together. To complete this process, Vivian and her family travelled to Boston Children's Hospital where Vivian was sedated and paralyzed for two and a half months, in order to give her esophagus a chance to grow. The results were well worth the wait, and Vivian came home to her family in February of 2012. At this time, her g-tube has been removed and she is eating exclusively by mouth. She has also made huge developmental strides, catching up to her peers in areas such as communication skills. Her family attributes much of Vivian's success to her older sister, Addie, who inspires Vivian to try "big girl" things every day. The family also emphasizes the importance of parent advocacy, research, and being unafraid to push for the best care for your child. Vivian's mother, Lisa, says the best part of Vivian's success is that she is no longer the "sick kid". Congratulations, Vivian and Family!



To submit story ideas, news releases, or suggestions, please contact:

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