



# Board Talk

A Pickaway County Board of Developmental Disabilities Newsletter

Winter

2013

## 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

- **Early Intervention and SSA staff enjoyed wonderful weather and turnout for the Slate Run Farm Fall Festival.** Several members of the department volunteered their Sunday to assist the over 2,000 attendees with craft activities.



-**In October, PCBDD launched a new and improved County Board website.** The new format is user friendly, and offers detailed descriptions of services available for enrollees. Updated features also include calendars, resource information, and a link to our latest newsletter.

-**As part of PCBDD's strategic plan goal to raise awareness of services,** Early Intervention and SSA staff participated in the Pickaway County Poverty Taskforce resource fair. This event offered community members a chance to ask questions and gather information about local resource agencies, and provided networking opportunities for the agencies represented.

## Resource Information

### Pickaway County Board of Developmental Disabilities

200 East High Street  
Circleville, Ohio 43113  
Phone: (740) 477-3353  
Fax: (740) 477-6772  
www.pickawaydd.org

### 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

### **Early Intervention Thanksgiving Feast**

November 14<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM  
Brooks-Yates School

### **Special Olympics Basketball**

**Youth Open House**  
November 16<sup>th</sup>  
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Brooks-Yates School

### **Special Olympics Basketball**

**Adult Open House**  
November 20<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 PM -7:30 PM  
Brooks-Yates School

### **Breakfast with Santa**

December 14<sup>th</sup>  
  
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:

Marie Wilbanks, SSA Director  
mwilbanks@pickawaydd.org

Amy Miller, Service and Support Administrator  
amiller@pickawaydd.org