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Throughout the course of a year, CCBDD serves more than 10,000 infants, children and adults.

Fifty-six percent of our annual operating budget of $202 million comes from a continuing levy approved by local voters in November 2005. Federal funds make up 34 percent of our funding, and state funds account for five percent.

A seven-member volunteer board oversees our organization. Five are appointed by the Cuyahoga County Commissioners; two, by Probate Court’s Presiding Judge:

Ara A. Bagdasarian, President
Steven M. Licciardi, Vice President
Tania J. Younkin, Secretary
David S. Crampton, Ph.D.
Diane Roman Fusco
Lisa M. Hunt
Richard V. Mazzola
Kelly A. Petty, Superintendent & CEO

Athlete hopes he’s worth his weight(lifting) in gold

Based on his past achievements, Walter Cummings has been selected to compete in powerlifting at the Special Olympics USA games this month at the College of New Jersey. In addition to powerlifting, the college will host basketball and bocce competitions, while other events will be held in Princeton.

Cummings, who enjoys sports of all kinds, had been limited in opportunities for participation because of his cerebral palsy. When powerlifting was added to the Special Olympics as a competitive sport, his emotions were lifted as were the weights he lifted.

The powerlifting competition consists of two events—the bench press, lying flat on a bench and pressing as much weight as possible off your chest, and the deadlift, lifting as much weight as possible from the floor to an erect standing position.

"Being chosen to compete is truly the highlight of my powerlifting career," he said. “At the close of the 2013 Ohio games, I discussed the possibility of going to the nationals with my coaches, and here it has happened. I couldn’t be happier for the opportunity."

Earlier in his powerlifting career, Cummings could bench press 100 pounds more than his body weight on numerous occasions. Now, at the age of 50 and weighing 120 pounds, he can still bench press more than 200 pounds.

Cuyahoga County Board of DD coaches Joe Terwoord and Ed Calhoun cannot recall a time during Cummings’ two-decade powerlifting career when he didn’t place first in the bench press. He often has placed second or third in the deadlift.

Since powerlifting scores are based on a combination of the two lifts, the majority of the times he placed first in the overall competition.

As successful as he has been, what has given him the most pleasure?

continued on page 2

Photo by Kolecki Photography
Special Olympian Walter Cummings speaks at the grand opening of Sheetz in Brooklyn.
A brother inspires

a life of advocacy

When Mark Smith Moyer was born in East Cleveland in 1954, a doctor told his parents, in the language of the day, that he was severely mentally retarded. He had the newly-developed APGAR score of a Mongoloid (Down syndrome), although he did not have the typical facial features. He went on to tell the couple that if they wished, the hospital would keep their infant son comfortable, but not feed him and let him die. If they wished him to live, the doctor recommended immediate institutionalization. He counseled that it would be the fair thing to do, to not rob the family’s normal children of parental attention demanded by what would-be the boy’s extraordinary needs.

Mark’s parents ignored the doctor’s advice and took their son home. School was not an option ordinarily, but thanks to a neighbor kindergarten teacher Mark attended kindergarten at Caledonia Elementary School. When he got to first grade, early in the school year he refused to continue, following repeated attacks of extreme bullying.

Once not in school, the neighborhood itself proved to be a cruel and violent place for the youngster, and he began to act out with aggression in response. With no other option available to them, his parents institutionalized Mark when he was eight in the first state institution with the first available “bed.” That came at an institution 150 miles away, the Columbus State Institution for the Mentally Retarded.

To control Mark’s behavior, staff there introduced him to cigarettes when he was nine years old. He continued to smoke until November 2013. Mark lived at the Columbus institution under barbaric conditions until he was 27, when he was returned to Cuyahoga County with Ohio’s move to return residents of institutions to their home counties and smaller facilities.

Jeff Moyer, Mark’s older brother, became a disability rights advocate and writer. Jeff’s efforts resulted in Mark’s eventual return to the community to a home Jeff established for him in Richmond Heights in 1995.

Jeff’s public voice led to many hearing Mark’s story as an exemplar of the movement toward greater civil rights for people with cognitive disabilities. That story has been heard on National Public Radio, in a Chicken Soup story, in countless presentations, in Jeff’s recorded albums of music and a documentary Jeff produced about Ohio’s state institutions, Lest We Forget, available through www.jeffmoyer.com.

Mark’s later life included many happy years living in his supported living home and learning and working at the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities’ Euclid Adult Activities Center, attendance at the First Baptist Church’s East Side Ministries Sunday School and many family celebrations.

Mark died in March 2014 with his brother Jeff by his side. During the last few days of his life, he lived at the David Simpson Hospice House in a beautiful room beholding the icebound expanse of Lake Erie. His life was celebrated at a memorial concert performed by his brother Jeff at the Euclid AAC.

Mark’s absence will be felt by all who knew this gentle and sweet man who overcame the violence and abuse he suffered and expressed a joyful, forgiving and generous spirit and nature.

— Jeff Moyer

Athlete hopes he’s worth his weight(lifting) in gold (continued)

“I enjoy the competition,” he said, “but I get the most excitement from the camaraderie with my fellow competitors, teammates, coaches and friends I have met along the way. They are what I truly value the most, and without the Special Olympics I don’t think my life would be as complete.”

Prior to the June Special Olympics, Walter followed a rigorous training program. On the more positive, less demanding side, he received training outfits, promotional items, cruises in New York Harbor, a stay in a beautiful hotel and special celebrity appearances.

He and Board of DD Rocket (men’s basketball team) Floyd Osborne made a celebrity appearance at the grand opening of a Sheetz gas station where they accepted a donation to the Area 12 Special Olympics Chapter from the company.

Cummings, a habilitation aide at the Green Road Services Center, is a 30-year “veteran” SAW, Inc. employee and was recognized last year as Employee of the Year from the North/Mid Central Employment Region.

“Working for SAW has made me exceptionally proud as I am able to do meaningful work and assist individuals who are less fortunate than me. I love the Special Olympics and working, but most of all I love the carryover benefits from both that enable me to lead a fulfilling life.”

InSight is published by the Public Information and Communication Department of the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities, 1275 Lakeside Ave. East, Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1129, for enrollees and their families, staff, volunteers and concerned friends. Please send suggestions for articles and contributions of information to the editor at the above address, call (216) 736-2691 or e-mail Robertson.Lula@CuyahogaBDD.org.

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A royal thank you, volunteers, our crown jewels

More than 250 CCBDD volunteers made a difference in the lives of the children and adults supported by the Cuyahoga County Board of DD this past year by contributing 11,694 hours of service, worth $263,699, based upon the average current value of a volunteer hour of $22.55 (as reported by Independent Sector). Those who contributed more than 36 hours of service were honored at a brunch at the Holiday Inn-Rockside Road in May.

Each year volunteer supervisors, in conjunction with other staff, make a difficult choice when they select a site volunteer of the year. This year’s honorees are:

- Beachwood – Dmitriy Naku
- East Cleveland – Theodore Guzik
- Euclid – Dana Heil
- Maple Heights – Irmi Hummel
- Parma – JoAnn Conte
- Rocky River – Beverly Donnelly
- Southwest – Linda Smith
- Special Olympics Roller Skating – Raymond Ujlaki

Milestone awards went to several volunteers who reached 100, 250, 500, 1,000, 1,500, 2,000, 2,500, 3,000, 6,500 and, most remarkably, 7,000 hours of total service during their tenure as volunteers. Jenny Peak, who volunteers at our Southwest Adult Activities Center, is the dedicated volunteer who reached that 7,000-hour mark!

Also, at this year’s volunteer brunch, the Board of DD presented Inclusion Awards to Netshape Technologies, Evergreen Packaging, University Hospitals and the Ohio State University Extension-Cuyahoga County.

This year’s royal theme was reflected in the bright blue, red and green colors of the artwork created by Maple Heights artist Tracy Flask that appeared on the invitation and program. Her original drawing of a jewel-encrusted crown, matted and framed, greeted guests as they entered. It will become part of the permanent collection of works by artists with developmental disabilities housed at the Michael A. Donzella Administration Building.

Always a highlight at the event are the gift baskets assembled and donated by Board of DD staff that volunteers can win in a chance auction. This year there were 29 different themed gift baskets.

Photo by Holly Grady
Volunteers Judy Wilson, Mary Jo Allen, Jenna Allen and Jo Clements get into the “royal” theme with tiaras and boas.

But the hit of the day was a photo booth, along with royal paraphernalia like crowns and tiaras, where guests could ham (or glam) it up for the camera. For more photos, go to www.Facebook.com/CuyahogaBDD and view the volunteer recognition album.

The ‘Bucky’ stops here as Just-A-Buck stores top all others nationally

Two of SAW, Inc.’s three Just-A-Buck stores—Parma and South Euclid—were big winners of Buck-E awards in the corporate Just-A-Buck 2013 sales evaluations. The third SAW store, in Rocky River, opened midway through the year and was not eligible to compete.

The two stores were best in three of five categories and received honorable mention in two others among the 12 categories evaluated, Kim Pritchard, Just-A-Buck manager, said. They received “Bucky” plaques recognizing their achievements.

The South Euclid store was first in the percentage of increased sales and percentage of increased customers. The Parma location was first in the best average sales increase and received honorable mention in the percentage of increased sales and best average sales categories.

South Euclid Mayor Georgine Welo, who had just purchased items from the store for a local school activity, said—“in addition to congratulating the men and women at the stores—“Be prepared next year when South Euclid pulls ahead of Parma, because as everyone knows, in South Euclid we don’t like to come in second best.”

The corporate announcement reporting on the stores’ success stated, “The accomplishments of these stores, and the determination of not only the management, but the individuals working in the stores, cannot be understated. The resolve of their individuals to present a clean and organized store and offer superb customer service is an inspiration to us all.”

Apparently it is an inspiration to many others who wish to provide employment to those with developmental disabilities, according to Kim Pritchard.

“Two other stores [in other areas of the county] are run by agencies similar to ours,” she said, “and several others are interested. We have hosted several organizations who have visited us to see how we operate as they look forward to the possibility of opening similar franchises.”
DID YOU SEE US AROUND TOWN?

‘Cap-ability’ not ‘dis-ability’ promoted during DD Awareness Month

This year’s “Ability @ Work” theme was devoted to proving it’s “cap-ability not dis-ability” that matters during Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March.

Locally, the Cuyahoga County Board of DD, as did similar organizations across the state and the nation, planned special events, promotions and programs to raise public awareness of the abilities people have, regardless of their disabilities.

Although we want people to be aware of the abilities of those who have developmental disabilities throughout the year, in DD Awareness Month we place special emphasis on encouraging people to learn more about those we serve and to recognize that each of us has a talent and ability to offer that not only improves our community, but also the lives of the people in our community.

“Ability @ Work” continues throughout the year as a theme in Board of DD ads, publications and other media.

You look marvelous!

Once again, our Rocky River and Euclid centers received a generous donation of Clinique bags and oodles and boodles of make-up, cleansers and skin care products. Both centers will put this donation to good use for a class called “You Look Marvelous.” The participants really enjoy learning how to apply their make-up, and they get to keep the products and the bag! Here, Lana Brown gives Donteisha Boynton some tips on eye shadow technique.

Photo by Mary Schwartz
Twenty-nine-year-old Kevin Andexler, a graduate of ITT Tech with an associate’s degree in applied science in web development, has not let his arthrogryposis stand in the way of working as a certified Disney travel agent, visiting Disney World more than 20 times and maintaining a Disney blog and Disney-related Facebook page.

Arthrogryposis is a genetic condition, which, according to Andexler, meant, “I never kicked while in my mother’s womb. Technically, I am still in the fetal position, and all of my joints are contracted. However, I do not let that interfere with how I live. I simply choose to adapt to the best of my ability.”

Obviously, he has adapted well enough to visit the Florida site quite often. And that was not an easy decision.

“When I was young,” he said, “I did not enjoy going to Disney World. I was always a homebody and hated to travel. Then one night, while lying in bed, I thought, ‘Why am I fighting this? I had visited Disney World roughly six or seven times before I made this realization. From that night on, I was hooked.”

Andexler is not only “hooked” on Disney World as a visitor, but he also is a certified Disney travel agent, working for one of only a handful of Northeast Ohio agencies trained to book Disney vacations. To achieve certification, he had to go through about three hours of on-site training and successfully complete an online course.

Insofar as his Facebook page is concerned, Andexler is quick to point out his “friends” are “a mixed bag when it comes to being more interested in me as a person or about my knowledge of Disney. I like to keep business on my Facebook page based on my blog Facebook.com/beyondthecastleblog.”

Andexler is still working on the concept for a new web site which will be information-based and have hours of the individual parks and feature a great deal of user interaction, including a chat room and discussion forum.

That’s for the immediate future. What about long-range future?

“After getting my first client, build a huge clientele and have a wife and kids to come home to.”

The Cassanos, long-time Cuyahoga County Board of DD volunteers, have been recognized as the Special Olympics Outstanding Volunteer Family for their unique and lasting contribution to the lives of Special Olympics athletes.

The Cassano family–Ginny and Gerry Cassano, daughters Wendy and Michelle Randolph, and Michelle’s children, Brittany, Katherine and Christopher—all were on hand to receive the award.

Ginny Cassano is the head coach and organizer for our Special Olympic roller skating program and does everything from coaching to organizing special events to making sure all competition paperwork is submitted on time.

Daughters Wendy and Michelle Randolph, assistant coaches, help with whatever is needed. The latter, an EMT, provides medical support at meets, practices or exhibitions, as needed.

Grandchildren Brittany, Katherine and Christopher handle everything from making and selling baked goods to Chris’s active role as the pacer for speed skaters, skating alongside them to give them the motivation to push themselves to give just a little bit more and make even more progress.

HE’S NOT A SUPER BOWL WINNER, JUST A WINNER AND, HE’S GOING TO DISNEY WORLD–AGAIN!
Betty Holley: A Voice
Is Stilled

The calm, reassuring voice of Betty Holley, well known to those who called the Cuyahoga County Board of DD’s Transportation Department, was stilled forever late last year when she passed away three days after her 63rd birthday.

Betty’s 37-year career began as a station wagon driver transporting people with DD. It didn’t take long before she became a bus driver, a dispatcher in 1979 and then main dispatcher in the department, a position she held until her retirement in August 2011.

As the person most likely to answer the phone before 8:30 a.m. or after 5 p.m., Betty not only got to know our families and staff, she was the voice of reassurance to families placing their young children on the bus for the first time.

Betty had the ability to calm people down and focus on what needed to be done even when she could only visualize what was happening at a particular location. She herself was able to focus on more than one thing, long before multitasking became the “in” thing. Betty had the ability to talk on the phone while listening to a call on the radio without losing information from either source.

At the annual January organizational meeting, board members elected officers for 2014. Ara A. Bagdasarian was elected president of the seven-member board, after serving two years as vice president. A Solon resident, he retired this spring as the executive vice president of TravelCenters of America, whose corporate headquarters is in Westlake. He has two children who have Fragile X syndrome, and both he and his wife, Leslie, are active with the Fragile X Syndrome Society.

The new vice president is Steven M. Licciardi. A resident of Westlake who has a brother enrolled at our Rocky River Adult Activities Center, he is serving his first term on the board. He has been active in several developmental disabilities-related organizations, including Welcome House, and serves as the treasurer of the PTCU Foundation. He is an associate vice president, senior portfolio manager with Morgan Stanley Wealth Management.

The new recording secretary is Tania J. Younkin, who is also in her first term on the board. She has a daughter who receives services from United Cerebral Palsy of Cleveland. The Cleveland Heights resident is the quality manager for Energizer Battery Manufacturing, Inc. in Westlake.

In March, County Executive Ed FitzGerald, with the approval of Cuyahoga County Council, made an appointment to fill the board vacancy created in January when Dr. Maggie Jackson retired after serving the maximum three terms. The new board member is Lisa M. Hunt of University Heights.

Hunt has a 14-year-old son who is enrolled in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Schools and eligible for our services. She brings to three the total number of board members who are parents of individuals with DD and to five the total number who are immediate family members of individuals with DD.

A graduate of Cleveland State University, she holds a B.S. in urban studies and a minor in dance and a master’s degree in nonprofit administration. She has worked with CSU’s Modern Dance Company and its Center for Health Equity as well as the Broadway School of Music and the Arts and other community arts organizations. She has served as the National Organization for Disorders of the Corpus Callosum’s Ohio Family Partnership leader. NODCC is a national organization built around advocacy and support for families of individuals with disorders of the corpus callosum, a neurological condition that her younger son has.

Five of the board members are appointed by County Executive FitzGerald; two, by Presiding Probate Court Judge Anthony Russo. At least two of the county appointments must be the parents or immediate family members of individuals enrolled with the Board of DD, and one of the Probate Court appointments must be the parent or immediate family member of an individual eligible for services. Board members are volunteers.

The board also established its meeting schedule for the coming year. The regular meeting date will be the fourth Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at the Michael A. Donzella Administration Building. Board meetings are open to the public. For specific information about board meeting dates, visit our website at www.CuyahogaBDD.org.
PROJECT STIR
STIRRING ADVOCATES TO SELF-DETERMINATION

Maumee Bay

Project STIR (Steps Toward Independence & Responsibility) is a hands-on training program for self-advocates and their supporters. It is designed to provide individuals with the tools to advocate for themselves, connect with others in advocacy and gain leadership skills and experience.

Late in 2013, the Cuyahoga County Board of DD participated in its first four-day training program at Maumee Bay Lodge & Conference Center, thanks to the support of Superintendent Kelly Petty, CFO David Visocky and General Manager of Adult Activities Barry Kuzmickas.

Each training opportunity is designed for 30 individuals with developmental disabilities who have family, staff or an ally committed to participate in the training and provide ongoing support to the participant.

Attending the November program were Ashley Clark and Robert Turnage, accompanied respectively by Habilitation Supervisor Paula Granville from our Maple Heights Adult Activities Center and Adult Program Specialist Kevin Kohl from our East Cleveland AAC.

The topics covered rights and responsibilities, knowing yourself, problem solving, starting a self-advocacy group and speaking up for yourself.

The primary objective of this “train-the-trainer” opportunity is to empower individuals with developmental disabilities to empower others. Unlike our historic role as service providers, we have to learn to take a BIG step back and support and foster the growth of the people we serve by staying in the background as much as possible.

The success achieved by Clark and Turnage in their November training program when they, with Granville and Kohl, shared their Project STIR experience with the Adult Activities Department management group. Each participant, using a PowerPoint presentation created with the assistance of Habilitation Supervisor Michael Dyess, spoke about his or her experiences.

Now it’s time to put into practice what they learned! As more participants go through Project STIR training and there is greater representation throughout our organization, they will develop their own committees to bring training and meetings for their peers, staff and families. There are no limitations, and the groups will develop any ideas they want to cultivate.

As Turnage told the management group, “As a citizen of the United States, it is my right to advocate for myself.”

With the success of our initial involvement, we look forward to more individuals participating in this training, with the next Project STIR program scheduled for spring.

For more information, visit www.ohiosda.org, or contact Kim Wideman at (216) 681-4433 or Wideman.Kimberly@CuyahogaBDD.org.

– Kimberly Wideman
Habilitation Manager
East Cleveland Adult Activities Center

Deer Creek

Six participants who receive Cuyahoga County Board of DD services, along with six adult services professionals, attended the STIR conference at the Deer Creek Lodge, near Columbus, in early spring along with others from counties throughout Ohio. Representation came from our Beachwood, Euclid, Parma and Rocky River centers.

STIR, which stands for Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility, helps individuals with developmental disabilities learn more about becoming more independent in their daily lives, taking active steps toward living the lives they want to live, knowing when to ask others for help, knowing whom to ask for help and self-advocacy, both locally and state-wide.

Presentations and activities throughout the day were delivered by STIR professionals, many of whom receive services from County Boards of DD throughout Ohio. Participants gained knowledge through PowerPoint presentations, followed by group activities related to each concept, allowing the ideas to become more practical and helping forge friendships for many people. Evenings were full with ice-breaker games and activities, along with a dance and pizza party on the participants’ last night at the lodge!

When asked, participants shared that they loved the STIR program and could not wait to return to the next conference. They appreciated the friendships they forged, the ideas that were shared, the activities and, of course, the dance on Wednesday evening!

Deer Creek Lodge, 30 miles southwest of Columbus, is a scenic and remote part of the Ohio State Parks system. Surrounded by water, woods, trails and area wildlife, it is a lovely location for participants and support professionals to enjoy. After each daily session, people took advantage of the amenities, including area restaurants, the pool and hot tub, exercise room and scenic grounds.

Overall, participants and professionals alike thoroughly enjoyed the process and are eagerly waiting for “What is next” for STIR and for their own lives as a result from this experience!

– Amy Christopher
Habilitation Supervisor
Beachwood Adult Activities Center

WWW.CUYAHOGABDD.ORG 7
Where does the money come from

In the face of $9 million in reduced income from the property tax levy that provides nearly 60 percent of our income, the Cuyahoga County Board of DD is dipping into the sustainability fund to support a spending level of $202.5 million for the 2014 Program and Expenditure Plan, an increase from $196.5 million in 2013.

The reduced levy income is the result of the state’s elimination of the tangible personal property tax, which has reduced levy income by $9 million annually, and reduced property values during the recession, once again negatively affecting levy income.

The board continues to serve more than 10,000 individuals annually, manage the reduction in state/local funding, identify funding resources for all individuals receiving day services and modestly expand through the funding of 40 additional Individual Options (I/O) waivers. Although space does not allow for all of the program details, here are a few highlights that emphasize growth and expansion.

**Adult Activities**
- Continue to expand the self-advocacy program.
- Implement the “Employment and Me” curriculum to help every individual receiving services in an adult activities center understand what it means to work in the community with a goal of assisting those who want to do so to work in the community

**Employment Services**
- Increase the number of consumers moving from supported employment work sites to competitive employment.
- Continue to increase employment opportunities at Cleveland Crops by bringing all properties to full production and developing food processing/production.

**Early Intervention Services**
- Increase frequency of home visits.
- Improve the overall teaming process and assess consistency across teams.

**School-Age Service & Supports**
- Develop a parent satisfaction survey, reflecting the work of the technical support teams (behavior and curriculum support specialists, occupational and physical therapists, speech-language therapists, MOVE® specialists) in public schools.

**Assistive Technology**
- Develop an eLearning training unit and modules for common and frequently repeated in-services.
You Are Cordially Invited!

Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening
of
Cleveland Crops
Stearns Farm
Wednesday, July 30th, 2014
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Near 6900 Randolph Drive, Parma, Ohio 44129
In collaboration with

Please RSVP to Rich Hoban at 216.736.4570  hoban.richard@cuyahogabdd.org

Off-site parking generously provided by:
Target at 6850 Ridge Road, Parma, Ohio 44129 near the corner of Regency Drive and Ridge Road

and where does it go?

Community & Medicaid Services
- Enroll an estimated 25 individuals from the waiting list on the Individual Options waiver.
- Continue expanding the number of individuals using the SELF waiver and enroll up to 200 additional individuals on the Level 1 waiver.

Program Review & Provider Support
- Provide additional information to families and individuals to assist in the provider selection process.
- Continue to refine our system of provider oversight.

MUI
- Complete implementation of the state’s MUI rules revisions.

Behavioral & Health Supports
- Pilot an internally developed and structured behavior support needs assessment tool.
- Collaborate with the Red Cross and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health to explore development of a Board of DD disaster shelter.
- Pilot at two adult activities centers the “Health Matters” curriculum, educating individuals about healthy habits and community resources.

Building Operations & Risk Management
- Increase energy efficiencies by evaluating lighting, heating and cooling.
- Continue to increase alternative transportation options for community-based transportation.
- Integrate the three Transportation software applications into one system.

Transportation
- Provide additional information to families and individuals to assist in the provider selection process.
- Continue to refine our system of provider oversight.

Public Information & Communication
- Increase public awareness related to Employment First efforts.
- Publish a comprehensive organizational history.

Human Resources
- Enhance wellness programs to include an incentive program for covered members that will help change behaviors and assist in controlling costs.
- Complete transition to the Kronos electronic timekeeping system.

Information Technologies
- Deploy mobile options to community staff.
- Redesign the Board of DD’s Intranet.

Business & Planning
- Manage fiscal trends by meeting budget objectives for 2014.
- Continue to grow the DD Stat management process and assist with a new 2014-2016 Strategic Plan.

For a summary of the complete plan, go to www.CuyahogaBDD.org and choose “Annual Plan” under “About Us.” Or call (216) 736-2647 to have a copy mailed to you.
Making the right choice:
Important tips and tools for choosing a provider

Learn how to choose a provider who is qualified, reliable, responsive, compassionate and kind.

Tuesday, September 9, 2014
6:45 - 8:45 p.m.

Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County
6393 Oak Tree Boulevard, Independence, Ohio 44131

For more information, check our website at www.CuyahogaBDD.org or email duffy.susan@CuyahogaBDD.org

Good for You!

• Kudos to Kathy Ziemba, support administrator at our Big Creek Center, for nominating the SAW, Inc. cleaning crew there for Office of the Day on WMJI-105.7 FM radio. As winners, the crew got $75 in Mr. Hero gift cards.

The radio station said it was the first time someone had nominated someone else to win, and not himself or herself.

SAW custodial crews clean at 40 locations throughout Cuyahoga County. If you are interested in hiring a crew for your company, call Marilyn Jare, SAW sales manager, at (216) 736-4581 or email her at jare.marilyn@CuyahogaBDD.org.

• Our Brooklyn Adult Activities Center earned the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce Small Business Member of the Year award, along with the Hampton Inn-Brooklyn. The center was one of the chamber’s founding members in 2002.

David Nodge, manager of the center, has served on the chamber’s board of directors, chaired the scholarship and education committee and recently became the vice president when asked to fill an unexpected vacancy. He has volunteered countless hours at all chamber events, donated prizes and solicited donations from other local businesses, all in support of the organization’s mission, according to Valerie Thompson, assistant director of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. Way to go, David!

• Congratulations to the Cuyahoga County Board of DD Eagles. The Special Olympics unified basketball team won the Trumbull County Unified Basketball Tournament in early March. For the third season in a row the team has remained undefeated, and both the team and coaches are talking dynasty. The team is coached by Developmental Specialist Mary Oravec, Greg Williams, retired adaptive physical education teacher, and University Hospitals’ Doctor Robert Tarr. The pressure is already building for next year.

The Cuyahoga County Board of DD Rockets participated in the Special Olympics State Basketball Tournament in March at Bowling Green State University. In its first game, the team took on the Clark County Tigers. In a hard fought game that saw the score change hands several times, the Rockets suffered a tough loss by a score of 76-75 in the last second! The following day, they battled the Summit County Warriors. The Rockets won 72-47, taking third place in the tournament.

Congrats to the team and coaches.

• The Cuyahoga County Board of DD took three awards at this year’s Ohio Public Images Media and Awareness Awards. The 2013 DD Awareness Month billboards and the new video Making Choices both won awards of excellence. Insight, the publication you’re reading right now, won an award of merit.

Channeling the Andrews Sisters

The Four Gees, an original inclusive musical theater performance at the Beck Center in Lakewood, had the audience swooning, crooning and boogie woogieing through the decades the first weekend in May. The show, in its fourteenth year, is a joint project of the Beck Center and our Rocky River Adult Activities Center. Madonna Dezsi, Heather Wilson and Suzanne Hardy (left to right) put on their GI hats to recreate an Andrews Sisters World War II ditty.
Artists from our Euclid Adult Activities Center, working through the winter at our Forest Hill studio, completed a commissioned sculpture for Nancy’s Garden at the Michael A. Donzella Administration Building. The garden is a memorial to Nancy O’Connor, who worked for many years in the Cuyahoga County Board of DD’s Human Resources Department and then in Residential Services. Here, artist Lindsay Williams prepares lettering for the piece.

Dave Greenspan, Cuyahoga County Council Member representing District 1, has announced that he will be hosting a town hall meeting on August 21, 2014 at 7 pm at our Rocky River Adult Activities Center, 20120 Detroit Road.

In an attempt to keep the subject matter contemporary, the topic for the meeting will be announced two weeks ahead of time. Councilman Greenspan’s town hall meetings are open to all residents of Cuyahoga County.

The format also provides an opportunity for constituents to address any issue, subject or concern that is important to them, the district and the county.

Greenspan says he believes that these meetings demonstrate “responsive and responsible” leadership. His district includes the far western suburbs—Bay Village, Fairview Park, North Olmsted, Rocky River and Westlake.

For more information, check our homepage (www.CuyahogaBDD.org) or Facebook page (www.Facebook.com/CuyahogaBDD) closer to the date of the event.

More than 900 students from school districts throughout Cuyahoga County and 300 volunteers, teachers and staff took part in this year’s VSA Festival at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds in Berea. This year’s theme was “The Arts Tell a Story,” and all of the activities focused on books. The festival is sponsored by Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Cuyahoga County Agricultural Society, Aurora VFW, Beck Center for the Arts, Sultanaz Mahdi Caravan, Pat Catan’s, American Pride Car Washes and the NASA Glenn Research Center. For the book Charlotte’s Web, students wove their own webs.
Our mission is to support and empower people with developmental disabilities to live, learn, work and play in the community.

From ART to PROSE

We’ve profiled Aaron Broadstreet, 24, here in Insight before when we showed our readers some of the art he creates using parts from the watches, typewriters and sewing machines that he dismantles. Now, add author to his list of accomplishments.

Broadstreet from Oakwood, has Asperger syndrome, a form of autism. After several years of journaling his life experiences, struggles and feelings, he decided to share the life lessons he’s learned in a book to help others with autism and their families. His insightful reflections are simple and to the point, but profound. Sound Bites: Life Lessons by a Boy Who Has Autism offers life navigating instructions not just for people with developmental disabilities but for all of us.

To buy the book, go to www.lulu.com and type “Aaron Broadstreet” into the search box.

Another interest that Broadstreet pursues with great attention to detail is model trains. Here, he shows us the complex display that he has built with his father.