



PORTAGE COUNTY BOARD OF
**DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES**

Expressions

Making the difference in meeting lifelong needs • www.portagedd.org

March/April 2011
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**Portage County Board of
Developmental Disabilities**
Dennis M. Coble
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2606 Brady Lake Rd.
Ravenna, OH 44266-1657

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330-297-8991

**Service & Support
Administration:**
330-297-4100

**Family Support
Services Program:**
800-237-6828

Transportation:
330-297-6462

Adult Services:
Portage Industries
7008 State Rte. 88
Ravenna, OH 44266-9134
330-296-2839
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Children's Services:
Happy Day School
2500 Brady Lake Rd.
Ravenna, OH 44266-1698
330-678-2400
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**PCBDD
Emergency Number
330-678-7559**



Jeanne Schmidlin, 2011 Board President; Jean Johns, 2010 Earl & Mary Lohr Community Service Award recipient; Brian Bialik, 2011 Board Vice-President and member of the 2010 Lohr Award Selection Committee.

PCBDD Recognizes Member for Outstanding Service to the Community

The Portage County Board of DD presented the 2010 *Earl and Mary Lohr Community Service Award* to **Jean Johns** at a recent Board meeting.

Jean Johns and her late husband, Tom, have a long family history of supporting Portage County residents with developmental disabilities.

Jean has served over 30 years on the Portage Industries, Inc. Board of Directors, with over 10 years as President, an office she currently holds. She also has served as a member and as an officer of the Parent Council for Developmental Disabilities. She volunteers for many events held at Portage Industries, Inc.

She was the driving force behind the protective canopies installation at Portage Industries, Inc. and Happy Day School at the pick-up/drop-off area.

Jean supports anything and everything that helps people with disabilities. She is an ambassador in the local community.

The Board congratulates and thanks Jean for her continued support of those with disabilities.

Macke's Message

Waiver Update



In one of my Expressions' articles a couple of years back, I focused my comments on how we could use Medicaid Home and Community-Based (HCBS) waiver enrollment to leverage our local levy resources. HCBS waivers, specifically Individual Options (IO) and Level One waivers, enable us to access federal financial participation (FFP) in the provision of adult

day program services, transportation to access adult day program services, and residential services and supports. When an individual is enrolled on an HCBS waiver, approximately 60% of the cost of day program, transportation, and residential services is offset by Federal Medicaid dollars. In contrast, the cost of serving individuals not waiver enrolled is 100% local levy dollars.

In this Expressions' column, I would like to give an update on where our HCBS waiver enrollment is currently and where it will continue to head. I would like to use as a reference point, the period from 2004 to today. I choose 2004 as that was the year we secured passage of new levy money which was targeted to address waiting lists for services. Today, the only waiting list for services is the residential wait list (i.e., persons wanting HCBS waiver enrollment).

In 2004, our IO waiver enrollment stood at 36 slots. Today, counting pending enrollments, it stands at 200 slots, an over five-fold increase! The IO enrollment expansion began most significantly in 2007 when we added 36 slots. In 2008, 2009, and 2010 we added 31, 13, 23 slots respectively.

Our Level One enrollment was 1 in 2004 and at the present time, it stands at approximately 110 slots! Paralleling the IO waiver expansion starting in 2007, from then until now we have added 106 Level One slots.

Clearly the Board incurs long-term financial liabilities with waiver expansion but those liabilities are to a significant degree offset by the provision of Federal financial participation in the cost of day program, transportation, and residential services. Approximately 90% of the individuals receiving day program and transportation services at Portage Industries are waiver enrolled. Almost all of the individuals receiving day program services at Hiram Farm, United Disability Services, Goodwill Industries, P.E.A.C.E., Hartville Homes, Hattie Larlham, and Coleman Adult Day Services are waiver enrolled. There are now only a few individuals receiving residential supports through the Supported Living Program.

In January 2010, the Board adopted a three-year strategic plan, of which one of the key components was the elimination of the residential wait list. Waiver enrollment, particularly IO, will continue steadfastly over the next several years. We have managed, and will continue to do so, our fiscal resources very efficiently over the last several years and are well-positioned to meet this strategic goal.

Respectfully,

Pat

Got a question or topic for future issues, drop me an e-mail at: patm@portagedd.org

CLEARCHANNEL

together

**...The Future is Brighter
...We Inspire Possibilities
...We Accomplish More**

PORTAGE COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Making the difference in meeting lifelong needs

Mackenzie Kiser, a True Champion!

Recently Happy Day School received the following email: Hello. My name is Kim Kiser and my daughter Mackenzie Kiser attended your school when she was a toddler around 1996-1997. She is legally deaf and that is why she attended your school for a time period. She is now 16 years old and is doing great. I wanted to thank you and your school for the involvement you had in my daughter's life as a young child. Every school she attended and teacher she had helped make her the young lady she is today. I would like to share the below story about my daughter and the success she has had in her life so far. She attended Happy Day preschool class and had a wonderful teacher while she was there. I consider my daughter a success story and consider the staff that worked with her during her time there part of what made her a success story. Thank you!

Please Note: The following is re-printed with the permission from the assistant sports director of WKBN/WYFX/WYTV who wrote the article for myvalleysports.com.

Mackenzie Kiser's teammates glow when talking about their starting center.

"I've seen her progress a lot," says a Champion junior. "She's become such a high level player."

"She's intense," says another player. "If she gets the ball she is going to take it to the hoop."

"She's aggressive," says another teammate. "She does what she can to win. But she's also a great teammate."

But it takes a lot more work than most for Kiser to be a great teammate.

"It gets frustrating when you don't know what the plays are or you don't know what's going on," says Mackenzie Kiser. "Then you feel like it's your fault sometimes."

If Kiser is guilty of anything it's succeeding. She's completely deaf in her left ear. In her right ear she wears a hearing aid. That gives Kiser the ability to hear up to fifty percent of what a healthy ear can, but that's just in one ear.

"It's not a disability. You can't hear but you can do anything else. You can be whoever you want to be. You can be whatever you want to be," says Kiser. "That's how I view myself as a deaf person."

Kiser lives out that belief. She takes all mainstream classes at Champion high school, carrying a 3.8 gpa. On the court she started both her freshman and sophomore years. This season she averaged 10 points and 11 rebounds per game. She also started as a freshman on the varsity softball team.

"When the game is going fast," says Kiser. "I think it's taught us to get along more and work together."



Mackenzie Kiser

"It's helped me communicate with everyone else," says her teammate. "I'm more understanding that we really need to talk to each other and be good teammates."

Kiser's father, Chad, is the boys head basketball coach at LaBrae. That perspective has allowed him to better understand communication barriers Mackenzie overcomes every time down the floor.

"She feels strongly that she is a deaf child. She's proud of that," says the elder Kiser. "She doesn't try to put it behind her or hide it and say just because I'm speaking and can hear a little bit that I'm not deaf. She's proud of what she is."

"My deaf friends I just tell them 'Who cares what anybody else thinks about you. Be who you are,'" says Mackenzie, "If you have confidence in yourself you can overcome it."

That mindset has proved valuable on the court, where Kiser finds a few advantages to being hearing impaired.

"When I go to the foul line. The student section is always trying to distract me and make all these noises," says Kiser. "I just turn off my hearing aid and it's like I can't hear you, it really doesn't matter so what's the point in trying."

So while Kiser may choose to not hear you, you can bet you'll be hearing a great deal from her in the future.

**Joey Griffin pictured with
the volunteers**



Cynthia McMullen and Galen Godfrey

Valentine's Dance Highlights

The Valentine's Dance was held on Friday, February 11, 2011 at Happy Day School. Everyone had a wonderful time dancing, listening to music and enjoying the company of their friends. It was nice to have new people from the community join in the fun and all the volunteers from Kent State University. Our next dance will be Friday, April 15, 2011 at Happy Day School. The theme for this dance will be a Luau.



**Judy Overton
and Ross Bartasevich**



Nathan Lambert and Belva Wade





Happy Retirement!

Submitted by: Vicki Silvey

Congratulations to **Jacob Scheiben** on his retirement. Over the last 26 years, Jacob has worked many different jobs through Portage Industries, Inc. For the last 10 years he had been working at the Hattie Larlham Center in Mantua at the Portage Industries enclave. The first 6 years Jacob worked in Pod A which is now Cascade falls. He helped clean wheelchairs, equipment, stocked briefs and supplies, helped on field trips and transported individuals throughout the building. The last 4 years at the enclave, Jacob worked in the adult program at Hattie Larlham called Achieve. In Achieve, Jacob participated in crafts, special events, transported individuals, helped on field trips, collected recycling for the entire building and stocked the bath areas.

On Friday, December 17, 2010, the Achieve employees, Outreach Academy School employees and his coworkers from Portage Industries enclave all enjoyed lunch together in Jacob's honor. Following the lunch, the employees of Hattie Larlham center wished Jacob the best in his retirement and enjoyed cake and punch. Jacob's cake was made by Shawna from Achieve. Jacob was showered with gifts, well wishes and hugs. A scrap book of Jacob's friends and events from the day is being made for him.

Personally, I have had the privilege of knowing and working with Jacob for the past 26 years. Jacob and I have golfed together for the last 14 years. Jacob is the only guy I know that has multiple "holes in one" in a round of golf in every round. As many know, Jacob has never met a stranger and is always happy and friendly. Jacob will be starting at Coleman Adult Day Services program. I would like to wish him the best of luck in his retirement. Thanks for all your hard work. You deserve to take it easy now! I will be keeping my eyes on you and look forward to you once again being in my foursome at the golf outing. Jacob is invited to come to visit Hattie Larlham Center any time. Congratulations Jacob! I will miss you buddy.



Mark Your Calendar!

Jackson Laughs Race for the National Fragile X Foundation



Fragile X Syndrome is one of the leading causes of developmental disabilities and affects millions of families worldwide. On Saturday, April 9, 2011, the Jackson Laughs Race for the National Fragile X Foundation will take place at Kent State Universities' Dix Stadium. There will be a 5K, 25K and one mile fun run. The 5K and mile are also walking events. There will be prizes and kids are also allowed to participate in the one mile. For more information, please contact **Bruce Koberna**, Race Director at 330-328-0374 or you may pick up information about the event at Happy Day School.

Portage County Transition Fair

The Portage County Transition Fair will be held April 9, 2011 from 9 a.m. -12 p.m. at Maplewood Career Center, 7075 State Route 88 in Ravenna. This free event will offer information about services and activities for youth, provide information to assist in transition planning for IEP team and assist families in knowing the options available to them. There will also be information about post-secondary education and training. This fair will also offer information specific to Social Security, Guardianship, Adult Services, and Independent Living options. Light refreshments will be provided.

12th Annual Easter Eggstravaganza



Sponsored by: Ravenna Parks and Recreation and Unison Health Plan Saturday, April 23, 2011 at John Tontimonia City Park.
9:30 a.m. – Participants arrive
10:15 a.m. – Easter Bunny arrives via fire truck
10:15 a.m. – Egg Hunt for children with disabilities ages 1 -18 years old
11:00 – 11:30 a.m. – Egg Hunts for children of other ages
Games, prizes and photos with the Easter Bunny!



John Terlecky, Danny M., Joanne Overberger, and Maria Bednarik

Field Trip to Board Office

Ron Overberger, bus driver, took some of the consumers on another field trip. This time they went to the Portage County Board of DD Dennis M. Coble Administration Building for a tour. Most of the consumers had never been to the Board Office, so it was a great opportunity to see all the staff who work there and see how busy they are and what work is done at the Board Office.



Dr. Macke, right, speaking with the tour group comprised of Ron Overberger, John Terlecky, Danny M., Eric Zavodny, Michael Kinford, Jackie Homza and Maria Bednarik.



Eric Zavodny pictured answering the phone in one of the offices.





Parent Council News

The Annual All Community Carnival will be at Happy Day School on April 9, 2011. This has been great fun for all ages and all abilities. Come and enjoy the raffles, games, food, bake sale and cake walk.

The May Dinner will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2011. Please look out for the flyers.

Parent Council is an organization that provides support, education, advocacy, networking and social opportunities to all members of Portage County that are developmentally delayed, their families, their teachers, their staff and all in the community who are interested in their well being. Membership is \$3.00 for an individual and \$5.00 for a family. Participation does not require membership.

Questions? Call **Debbie Kempisty** at Happy Day School 330-678-2400 or **Annette Dowling** at 330-297-0302

Racers Gearing Up for Super Kids Classic

The Greater Ohio Area Super Kids classic will be held at Derby Downs in Akron on Saturday, June 4, 2011. The event will kick off with a parade at 10:00 a.m. This event is for children with special needs from ages 8 – 18. The children will ride down the hill in a derby car driven by a racer from the All American Soap Box Derby. There is no expense to families thanks to the generous contributions of local businesses and individuals.

For more information on sponsoring a car or participating, please call **Denise McCoy** at 330-296-0671 or **Debbie Kempisty** at 330-678-2400.

Thunder Basketball

Submitted by : George Paroz, Thunder Basketball Coach

The Portage County Thunder recently wrapped up their 2010-2011 basketball season. The Thunder finished the year with a close loss to the Mahoning County Public Warriors in the North Section Final - one game away from advancing to the Division IV final four. The Thunder finished the year with a 9-5 record which was a major improvement from the one win season the year before. I would like to take this time to congratulate all the players on a great season. I would also like to thank all the parents, staff and bus drivers who helped make the year a success. Special thanks to Linda Fiorentino, Lucien Pruszynski and Jim Folan for helping to coach and keep score.

Members of the Thunder Basketball Team are: **Mason Lease, Josh Horner, Joe Horner, Chad Howe, Justin Lisonbee, Jason Servey, Jim Folan, Shawn Heffernan, Michelle Reed, Shanna Gentile, Jacob Scheiben, Kevin Wilson, Kevin Moore, Bryan Wymer, Josh Graves, and Martin Zacharias.**



Gas Prices

Feeling the pain at the pump? Go to <http://ohio-gasprices.com/> and enter your zip code to get the best prices on gas in your area.





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Ravenna, OH 44266-1657

Calendar of Events

March/April/May 2011

March 28 – April 1	Spring Break	Programs Closed	
April 4, 2011	Programs Resume		
April 20, 2011	Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.	Dennis M. Coble Administration Building
April 22, 2011	Spring Break II	Happy Day School Closed	
April 25, 2011	Calamity Make-Up Day	Happy Day School	
May 6, 2011	In-service	Adult Services Programs Closed	
May 18, 2011	Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.	Dennis M. Coble Administration Building
May 30, 2011	Memorial Day	Programs Closed	
May 31, 2011	Programs Resume		

The mission of the Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities is to ensure the availability of programs, services, and supports that assist eligible individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities in choosing and achieving a life of increasing capability such that they can live, work, and socialize in the community, and to assist and support the families of these individuals in achieving this objective.