



PORTAGE COUNTY BOARD OF
**DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES**

Expressions

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

September 2010
Volume 17, Issue 4

**Portage County Board of
Developmental Disabilities**
Dennis M. Coble
Administration Building
2606 Brady Lake Rd.
Ravenna, OH 44266-1657

Superintendent's Office:
330-297-7261

Board Office:
330-297-6209

Fax: 330-297-1202

Website: www.pcbmrdd.org

Business Office:
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
Fax 330-296-8875

Children's Services:
Happy Day School
2500 Brady Lake Rd.
Ravenna, OH 44266-1698
330-678-2400
Fax 330-673-3714

**PCBDD
Emergency Number
330-678-7559**

*PCBDD does not discriminate in
provision of services or employment
because of handicap, race, color,
creed, national origin, sex or age.*



Akron Rotary Camp Change is a Big Success at Happy Day School

Through a joint collaboration of PCBDD and ARC, a new and exciting camp for students with disabilities has been "born" for Portage County residents for the summer of 2010.

The Rotary Camp was founded in 1924 to provide activities in the summer for children with special needs. Over 1/2 of the funding for the camp comes from donations and grants and is heavily supported through the University of Akron and The Rotary Club of Akron. The YMCA oversees and manages the program.

The mission of the camp is **"to provide programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all."**

For 2010, Akron Rotary Camp operated camps at Rex Lake throughout the summer (their home-base), Hale Farm and Village, Medina County DD and Portage County Board of DD. Each program was tailor-made for the site and the students they were serving.

Through this joint collaboration, we were able to supplement the camp with some of our very seasoned Happy Day Staff. We supported the camp by continuing OT/PT and nursing services. This was a nice break from IEPs to let the students just have fun, interact with new people and new friends, be silly, laugh and experience new things.

The campers participated in arts and crafts, adventure hikes, motor and recreational activities, music/song and friendship building activities! The best part of each day was the end of the day activities that included camp songs, skits, stories, special visitors (Australian tap-dancer, the Washboard man, Stories by Josh and creatures that came to visit from camp). We saw our kids faces, the smiles, the belly laughs, they were "captured" in the moment! That's what it is all about!

Looking ahead to next year, the plan is to operate a 6-week program for up to 54 students that are Board-eligible in Portage County.

The pictures included highlight the Camp Counselor's that worked at Happy Day for the 2010 Summer and some of our kids having a blast at camp!



Macke's Message

About the November Levy Renewal



The Board will have a levy renewal issue on the November 2, 2010 general election ballot. The levy renewal will appear on the ballot as **Issue #9**. This ballot issue is a renewal of a current 1.8 mill, five-year term levy which expires at the end of 2010. The five-year renewal would cover tax years 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, &

2015. This levy was first approved in 1996 and was renewed in 2000 and 2005. Renewal of this issue **is not a tax increase**. Individuals will pay no more in property tax for this renewal than they did in 1996. The cost of this renewal for the owner of a home with a market value of \$100,000.00 would be about nine (9) cents per day.

This 1.8 mill levy generates approximately 3.9 million dollars per year and represents one-fifth of the Board's annual operating budget. The funds from this levy are essential for the continued operation and administration of programs, services, and facilities provided and funded by the Board. The Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities provides and/or contracts for an array of services and supports to approximately 800 persons with developmental disabilities in Portage County.

These services and supports include early intervention and special education programs at Happy Day School, adult day supports and vocational rehabilitation at Portage Industries and private agency day program providers, family support services, transportation services, residential supports to individuals living at home or in the community, therapy services, recreation and leisure activities, job training and follow-along, and service and support administration. Services are provided across the lifespan from infants to seniors.

Since the last renewal of this levy in 2005, approximately 125 additional individuals have received services; Medicaid residential waiver enrollment has increased to approximately 300 persons, and Federal Medicaid revenues have increased dramatically. Use of local levy dollars enables the Board to draw down approximately 2 million dollars annually in Federal Medicaid reimbursement. More persons are getting more services and supports while Board employment has decreased.

Board contracts with local vendors and agency providers, general purchases of goods and services, and staff salaries and benefits amount to an approximately fourteen (14) million dollars per year economic impact to the Portage County economy.

The renewal of this issue becomes even more critical given the state's budget crisis and the anticipated losses next year of state subsidies of approximately \$770,000.00 and tangible personal property tax funds in the amount of approximately 2.2 million dollars per year.

The loss of this levy renewal would result in a significant reduction of programs, services, and critical supports for this most vulnerable segment of our population.

The levy renewal effort will be directed by the "Citizens' Committee for Developmental Disabilities" with the theme of "For Them, Today, Tomorrow, Across the Lifespan". Remember, the levy renewal will appear as **Issue # 9** on the November 2 general election ballot. Voter registration locations and voter registration applications are available from the Portage County Board of Elections at: <http://www.co.portage.oh.us/election/#RegLoc>

Respectfully,
Pat

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





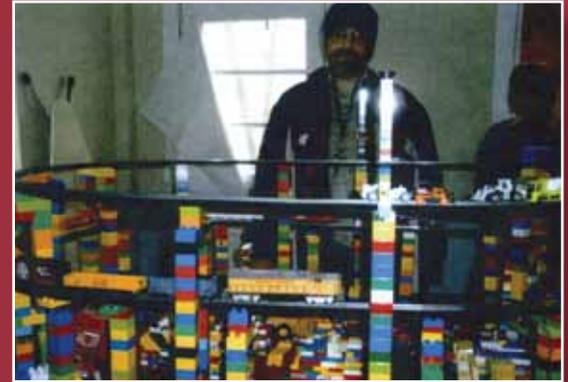
Trinity Farm Offers Something for Everyone

Trinity Farm of Western Reserve is a therapeutic horse riding facility but also offers full care boarding, riding lessons, access to an indoor riding facility and 25 acres of beautiful pasture. They offer a combination of therapeutic, recreational and agricultural programs in a Christian environment. The farm is designed to be handicapped accessible so that no person is restricted from participating due to structural barriers. For more information, please contact **Katherine Trimble** at 330-618-0654 or TrinityFarmWR@aol.com.

New Website for Those Impacted by Autism

A new website is launching at www.autism.ohio.gov! Ohio's Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA), facilitated by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities is pleased to announce its new site that will introduce you to the IWGA partnership of state agencies, allow you to follow the group's progress and give input toward its work. This site allows you to:

- Learn about autism spectrum disorders;
- Keep up-to-date on emerging state initiatives;
- Find public resources that can assist individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families across the lifespan;
- Keep informed of autism-related legislation and national news highlights; and
- Stay current on autism related training and professional development opportunities.



Scaling New Heights

Joshua "Josh" Graves attends Portage Industries. Josh has always had an interest in trains and likes to build and design his own train tracks. Recently he constructed a creative train track with the support of Legos.



Perfect Attendance Pays Off

Christina Miller wanted to improve her attendance at Portage Industries. Christina had only been working 2 to 3 days a week for years. Christina is in the process of getting her own apartment so she set herself a goal of perfect attendance for 100 days and to earn larger checks with a goal of \$100.00.

Christina has surpassed both of her goals and continues to come to work each day working hard and having a wonderful time. Way to go Christina!

Retirement News

Congratulations to the following individuals recently retired from the PCBDD:

Karen Dedinsky, Language Development Specialist
15.5 years of service

Karen LeMon, Instructor Assistant
24 years of service

Judy Norman, Account Clerk 1
16 years of service

Marsha Stidd, Personal Service Assistant
20.5 years of service

School's Open, Drive Carefully

Please remember that students are back in school and to use caution. Please slow down, put that cell phone down and do NOT text and drive!



In Memory

Our condolences to the family & friends of **Marcy Geer** who passed away in August. Although Marcy had moved to Summit County in the past year, she was served by the PCBDD for many years.



Earl and Mary Lohr Community Service Award

Nominations are being accepted for the 'Earl and Mary Lohr Community Service Award.' Please submit nominations to Bev Puleo at PCBDD, 2606 Brady Lake Rd., Ravenna, OH 44266 by October 29, 2010.



On a Roll With New Wheelchair

Mathieu Arotin has Spinal Muscular Atrophy, a form of Muscular Dystrophy. But once you meet Mathieu, you quickly forget all that. His personality takes over.

The only thing Mathieu can not do is walk. His dad, Joe, has to carry him from the house to his wheelchair, but from there Mathieu takes over. If it wasn't for the wheelchair, Mathieu Arotin would be a normal, everyday eight year old. But from the time he was born, he had trouble walking. Eventually he was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

"Absolutely terrifying. We were told that our child was going to die. We were told that he was never going to walk, and we were told that the average life span for this was 28," said Mathieu's mother, Neeka Arotin.

Mathieu's father had the same concerns and fears.

"I was devastated. I was destroyed. I was just like her, worried. I didn't know what was going to happen. How long he was going to live? Is this reversable? Kind of mad at God in a way," Joe said.

But then Mathieu grew up. He started to talk and think and smile, always smiling. Visitors to the Arotin home can't help but be enthralled with his personality. He loves to play video games, is proud to sport his Mohawk hair style and to demonstrate what his new wheelchair can do.

"I can watch up in the sky. It can go back and tilt up like that, and see some fireworks come up in the air," Mathieu explained.

Mathieu's wheelchair is the Permobil K-450, the cadillac of wheelchairs, but it'll drop him to ground level. Drop a pencil, and Mathieu can get it himself. But he, or his family, can't do everything. Occasionally they need help from the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

"Anything that I could possibly think of that the MDA could help out with, they do. They're amazing!" said Neeka. Mathieu was featured in the 33 WYTV news to promote the annual Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon for Muscular Dystrophy.



Parent Council News

Parent Council is the organization that started the awareness in Portage County for education and supportive services for individuals with developmental delays. It predates the DD Board and actually began the education program and built the first Happy Day School building. Membership is open to parents, clients, teachers, supportive staff, extended family members, and anyone in the community at large. Membership is \$3.00 per year for individuals and \$5.00 per year for families. All meetings and events are open to the public. The membership dues help to defray the costs of publicity for events.

Parent Council meets the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the multipurpose room of Happy Day School. Special events, such as the annual craft auction, are publicized in the newsletters and local media.

It is essential to develop and maintain a support system as you navigate early intervention, preschool, school and adult services with your loved one. Each area has its own criteria, language, strengths and pitfalls. Interacting with others who are experiencing the same challenges makes it much more tolerable. Financial planning is another area of life-long concern. Much can be learned from others who have faced the same challenges.

We encourage everyone to attend the September meeting as we plan the events for the next year. We plan to have **Cynthia Wallace** from the Portage Learning Center speak at the October 11th meeting at Happy Day School. The more people involved – parents, staff, administrators- the better our programming can be. Let us know if babysitting is needed. Please call **Debbie Kempisty** at 330-678-2400 or **Annette Dowling** at 330-297-0302.



Volleyball Team Reaching New Heights in 2010

The Blue Streaks Volleyball team coached by **Gail McCalister** took the Bronze at State Games!

After two years of building a team and learning the skills to play regulation volleyball, the team did it! They played a lot of scrimmages against staff and other DD teams in preparation for the games. They had to serve consistently and learned to spike the ball on occasion. This is the first year that they received a medal in regulation.

Congratulations to the following: **Jerry Dowling, Donald F., Chris DeJanovitz, Scott DeGroff, Ben Salvo, Kevin Garlitz and Logan Cox.**



A Week of Fun at the Portage County Randolph Fair!

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to work the PCBDD booth at the Portage County Randolph Fair. Volunteers handed out balloons and tattoos to children and provided

the community with information about services individuals can receive from the Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Please visit the PCBDD booth at the Balloon A-Fair in Ravenna on September 18th.

Mark Your Calendar!



Craft Show & Silent Auction

Mark your calendars! The Annual Silent Auction & Craft Show will be held at Happy Day School on Saturday, October 23, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Please note that this is a change from previous years! Also new this year will be vendor tables. The cost to have a vendor table is \$15.00 and you must provide your own heavy duty extension cord. Vendors must also provide a basket to be raffled off. Other activities at the craft show will include the silent auction tables, 50/50 raffle, specialty item raffle and concessions. Come out and enjoy this great event and get some Christmas shopping done! The event is sponsored by Parent Council.

Homecoming Dance

September 24, 2010
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Happy Day School

Feel free to wear your fancy clothes and join us for a fun filled evening of friends, music and dancing. Snacks and drinks will be provided.



Powerlifter Celebrates Personal Success!

On April 24th, the Portage County Board of DD powerlifting team went to Columbiana County to participate in the Bob Baker Classic Powerlifting tournament. The athletes from Portage County DD were **Craig Hughes, Matt Sisley, Mike Hegsted, Jennifer Rogers, Michael Mohan, Marty Zacharias** and **Donny Shardy**. All of the powerlifters had a great time and worked very hard at lifting their best. **Donnie Shardy** received the “Bob Baker Trophy” for trying really hard and getting his third and final lift. Mrs. Baker was very impressed by his effort. The coaches that went with the athletes were **Clarence Williams** and **Sue Vogt**.

Alumni Returns

After graduating as a Kindergarten-age student in 1997, **Craig Hughes** went on to further his education in the Ravenna School district, but never forgetting his start at Happy Day School. **Gail McCalister**, Director of Children’s Services at Happy Day School, approached his mother, **Denise**, after being reminded of his piano skills and asked him to come play for the students. It was decided that Craig could come and play for the graduation ceremony on June 9, 2010. Craig came early on graduation day with music in hand and played the piano while the families trickled in to find seats for the ceremony. What a touching tribute it was to have our former alumni “give back” to our program.





Halloween Costume UNSKATING PARTY

Roller Skating for EVERYONE!

**Tuesday, October 19, 2010
6:00-8:00 p.m.**

**Springfield Lake Roller Rink
1220 Main St., Lakemore, Ohio 44250**

Sponsored by Springfield Lake Roller Rink and the Southeast/Field and PCESC Parent Mentor Program

Supporting us once again!

- Live Demonstration by the Northeast Ohio Roller Derby Team.
- Kids! Skate with your favorite Derby Girl.
- Raffle drawing for Derby merchandise.
- Wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, canes, and shoes permitted in the rink.
- No fee. Free skate rental. Refreshments provided.



Show your support to the derby girls by attending one of their bouts, all of which benefit local charities. All home bouts are held at The Summit Co. Fairground Arena 1100 North Avenue Tallmadge, Oh 44278 Doors open @ 5pm/Bouts start @ 6pm * Visit www.NEORollerDerby.com

New this year!

Meet the Volunteers of **Portage County Jr. PowerCorp**

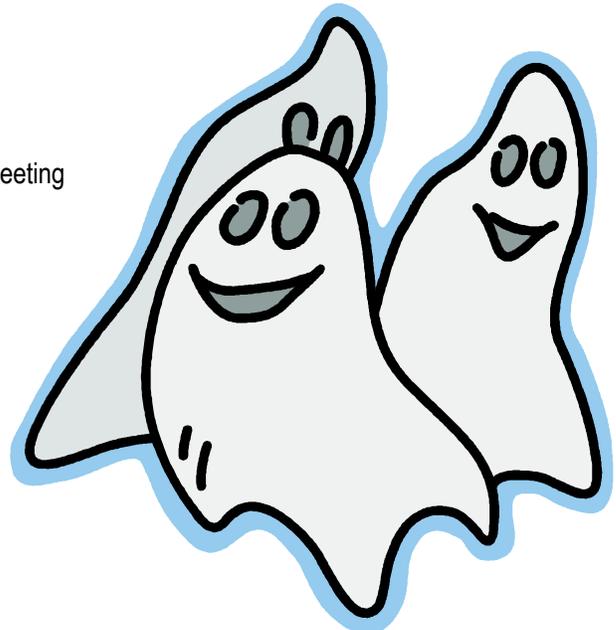
Find out about:

- Getting involved with exciting social activities
- Participating in rewarding community events and making and meeting great new friends

For more information contact **Sandy Craft** at 330-678-2216 x1226, sandra.craft@neo.rr.com or **Robin Howard** at 330-673-2659, rhowardpm@aol.com

Directions to Springfield Lake Roller Rink:
Rte 224 to Canton Rd/Rte 91 South, go 1/4 mile, turn right on Springfield Lake Dr., follow road to rink.
Doors open @ 5 p.m./Bouts start @ 6 p.m.

Visit www.NEORollerDerby.com





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**DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES**

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2606 Brady Lake Road
Ravenna, OH 44266-1657

Calendar of Events

September/October/November 2010

September 15, 2010	Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.	Happy Day School
October 20, 2010	Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.	Dennis M. Coble Administration Building
October 22, 2010	Agency In-Service/Staff Recognition		Programs Closed
October 23, 2010	Annual Silent Auction & Craft Show	11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Happy Day School
November 17, 2010	Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.	Dennis M. Coble Administration Building
November 25 – 26, 2010	Thanksgiving Break		Programs Closed
November 29, 2010	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.