

After 41 plus years, Mike Davis to retire

The staff member with the longest, continuous tenure in FCBDD history will close out his career at the end of April. Graphics and Printing Coordinator Mike Davis will leave the agency after 41 years and seven months of uninterrupted service.

Mike joined FCBDD (then called "Franklin County Program for the Mentally Retarded") in September, 1971. The agency was only four-years old then and had fewer than 300 staff.

The distance in time from then till now may be better appreciated when one realizes that in 1971, a gallon of regular gas cost just 37 cents, the new Chevrolet Vega was *Motor Trend's* Car of the Year, "Vietnamization" of the Viet Nam War was underway, and *My Sweet Lord* by George Harrison was *Billboard's* number-one single.

Mike began as an Instructor of a dually-diagnosed class at old Holy Family School. In June, 1972, he was promoted to Intake Coordinator, where he served until October, 1974. He was then named Media Specialist. Mike was promoted to Graphics and Printing Coordinator in January, 1981.



Mike grew up in Newark where he graduated from Newark Catholic High School in 1963. He went on to earn a B.S. in Education at Ohio State, a Master's in Communication from Xavier, and a Master's in Educational Leadership from Dayton.

Highlights of his career include leadership of the Program Evaluation and Planning Committee ("PEP"), his work with

Ohio Public Images where he helped start the annual DD Awareness Month campaign, and his training of staff in the use of "now primitive" audiovisual educational apparatus, particularly System 80 by Borg-Warner.

Among Mike's diverse duties was the design of many FCBDD publications, including annual reports and the monthly *Dateline*.

Asked for his parting thoughts, Mike said simply, "It is difficult to put into words. I just want to thank my coworkers for their patience with me and our consumers for their companionship."

According to Superintendent Jed Morison, "When I think of Mike's length of service, his dedication to our service recipients, and his outstanding, creative skills, I begin to realize the contribution he has made. He definitely will be missed."

In retirement, Mike plans to be busy. Besides teaching an Executive Communication course at Denison University, he will be working with *RunOhio* magazine.

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COSDA to host Legislative Day

The Central Ohio Self-Determination Association (COSDA) will hold its first Legislative Day on Friday, April 5th at FCBDD's Bixby Living Skills Center, 4200 Bixby Road, in Groveport. The event will begin at 10:30 a.m. with legislators expected to arrive at approximately 11 a.m.

The event is free of charge. Advance registration is not required.

The Central Ohio Self-Determination Association is comprised of individuals living in Franklin, Madison, Licking, Delaware, Pickaway, Union and Fairfield counties.

Please take advantage of this opportunity to speak with legislators and utilize advocacy skills.

Black history featured at West Central

An American tradition, Black History Month (also known as African American History Month) is celebrated each February. It is a special time to honor the achievements of African Americans throughout history.

To this end, two staff members from West Central School created an educational display that was exhibited on a large bulletin board in the facility. Titled "Dreaming Our Way to the Top," the display featured pictures of and information regarding many highly accomplished African Americans.



Charbeth Cooke (left), Pat Palmer (right), with display.

Thurgood Marshall, for example, was the first African American to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, which he did from 1967 to 1991. He had achieved national prominence in 1954 when he won the landmark *Brown vs. Board of Education* case ending the legal segregation of schools.

Special thanks to staff members Charbeth Cooke, Nurse, and Pat Palmer, Instructor Assistant, for creating the display.



Artists Robert Crites and Jerome Carter on break.

"Now You See Me"

Paintings by artists from ARC Studios will be exhibited at the Ohio State University's Urban Arts Space from June 11th through July 27th. Titled "Now You See Me," the exhibit will feature 50 paintings, 4 by 5 feet in size.

The Urban Arts Space is located at 50 West Town Street, Suite 130, in the historic Lazarus Building.

An opening party is planned for Saturday, June 15th, from 4 to 6 p.m. All are invited and welcome to attend. As the event will be catered, please notify Jackie Boyle (e-mail: Jackie.boyle@fcbdd.org) in advance if you plan to come.

ARC West artists recognized

Four artists from ARC West were recognized at an award ceremony on March 19th. Jill Davis, Wendi Olzsewski and Stephanie Spencer collaborated on an art piece, "Beethoven in the Woods," which won second place in the VSA Accessible Expressions 2013 show. Each winner received a certificate of recognition, a ribbon and a prize check for \$200.

Zoe Flaherty's ceramic totem, "Sponge Bob" was also selected to travel with the show. The totem was sold before the show opened.

Both pieces of artwork will be part of the show traveling throughout the state of Ohio over the next eight months. The artists and their instructors, Marian Brush and Jeanette Wehrle, are thrilled that the art was recognized and that many others will have the opportunity to see the wonderful art available in the art studio at ARC West.



From left to right: Morgan Green, VSA ; Wendi Olzsewski, artist ; Marcy Samuel, Director of Program Operations ; Jill Davis, artist ; Stephanie Spencer, artist ; Jed Morison, Superintendent ; Zoe Flaherty, artist.

2/4/2013

The sibling relationship

(Editor's note: On March 5th, FCBDD President Dean Fadel spoke at DD Awareness Day festivities at the Statehouse Atrium. We present his comments here.)

Thank you for allowing us to appear before you today and thank you to the DD Council for your support of Ohio Special Initiatives by Brothers and Sisters (Ohio SIBS).

March is always a special month. It is DD Awareness and Advocacy Month but it is also special for something else in our family. Why do we like March Jeffery? His birthday is on March 30th! How old will you be this year? 46 years old. Only four more years until you hit the big 5-0, grandpa!

That means Jeffery was born in 1967. It was also the year that the Ohio General Assembly created County Boards of Developmental Disabilities to act as the local government administrative authorities for our DD programs.

The foundation for this system was laid by parents and until now the programs have been run mostly by parents.

In 1967 the average life expectancy in the United States was about 70 years and today in this country we are living an average of over 78 years.

Jeffery's and my parents have long since passed and Jeffery has been as much a part of my life as I have been of his since the day he was born.

The one thing I have always stressed with Jeffery is to not be afraid to speak up for himself and I help him understand his rights. Nobody knows him better than I and few people know me better than he.

In increasing numbers, brothers and sisters are being called upon to be more involved in the lives of their siblings with disabilities. More than anyone, these siblings will be the most important source of information regarding their brothers and sisters. Today there are approximately 90,000 Ohioans who have some level of service in our state DD system and most of these people have brothers and sisters.

How many of you have a brother or a sister? People in Jeff's and my situation will become even more common in the future -- where all the family support comes from siblings.

Since I became more involved with Ohio SIBS and the Franklin County DD Board, I have met over one hundred siblings who are their brother's or sister's key partner.

While all the situations are different, they are also the same in that every sibling I have encountered wants nothing more than for their sibling to live a meaningful and safe life, and they have no regrets or hesitation in playing a major role in their sibling's life. Nobody ever says it is a sacrifice or burden.

Siblings will be in the lives of family members longer

than any other person and as Jeffery's sibling, I share most of the concerns that parents experience, including isolation, the need for information, concerns about the future and caregiving issues.

But the sibling relationship is also much different from the parent relationship. When my father would take Jeffery bowling, he would always get his shoes and his ball for him. But when he goes bowling with me, he has to go get his own ball. He brings his own bowling ball with him now and I try to make sure he doesn't beat me.

Jeffery will always be my little brother. He is the only person in my family who has never criticized my driving. Am I a good driver? He was the best man in my wedding. He is the best uncle to my daughter. He even gave her all of his Scooby Doo movies and toys!

People say he's lucky to have me, but I am lucky to have him. People say, "Oh, you are so nice to help him." But he never hesitates to help me. People say he's handicapped or disabled. But he makes me see how I am handicapped and disabled every time I am with him.

I know my parents would never have imagined Jeffery could live independently, work in the community and participate in two book clubs.

And his brother is going to make sure that self-advocacy is a part of Jeffery's ISP!

We would again like to thank the DD Council for their support of Ohio SIBS and for allowing us to have a moment today to raise awareness of the need to provide not just parents but siblings, with information, support, and tools to advocate with their brothers and sisters.

On behalf of Ohio SIBS, I would also like to thank Director John Martin for his acknowledgement of the sibling dynamic. We greatly appreciate your support and your leadership in helping the over 90,000 people in Ohio who are all part of our community. Thank you.



ARC Industries salutes business partners

As part of its celebration of 50 years of service, ARC Industries hosted a Customer Appreciation Event at the Creekside Conference Center in Gahanna on March 7th.

The event saluted ARC's business partners. Over 100 guests attended.

Dom Cappa, Editor of *Business First* and immediate past president of the ARC Industries Board of Trustees, assisted Teresa Kobelt, Adult Service Director, in recognizing companies that have provided work opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities.

FCBDD Superintendent Jed Morison reviewed the history of ARC. As an added attraction, guests watched a video featuring the 20-year partnership between ARC and Simpson Strong Tie.

ARC has also adopted a "50 Acts of Gratitude" campaign which will involve staff and individuals from all adult services locations giving back to the community through a series of volunteer opportunities.



Teresa Kobelt congratulates Doug Montgomery of Simpson Strong-Tie.

Happy opening day by Toni Jeffers, RDH, Nisonger Dental Program

What could be better than birthdays and holidays? If you were to ask the men in my house, they would say Opening Day. Opening Day is the day professional baseball leagues open their regular season, and it is always in the first week of April. "April" comes from the Latin word *aperire* which means "to open." April is also a time when the buds and ground open and everything becomes green again.

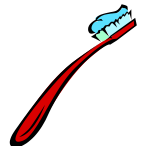
This April, I would like to ask you to open something too, your mouth. As a dental hygienist for the Nisonger Dental Program, I often notice a need for better tooth brushing. Sometimes tooth brushing can be forgotten.

Teeth are coated with many types of bacteria which the dental community calls biofilm. Many people with special needs take medications that are cariogenic, which means they promote tooth decay. Teeth can rot, gums can become inflamed and the supporting bone around teeth can be destroyed when the biofilm is not brushed off teeth. The dentist will diagnose these conditions as diseases called Caries, Gingivitis, and Periodontitis, all of which can be prevented.

You may think, "No big deal, the dentist can fix it." The Nisonger Dental Program is fortunate to have three highly skilled doctors, who are also part of the faculty at Ohio

State's Dental College. They provide excellent care for their patients, but sometimes even great doctors have to pull teeth. If someone loses his teeth, that person will have a lower quality of life. Tooth brushing is important for keeping teeth healthy for life.

Don't strike out with your oral care. Please remind your friends and their staff to open and brush daily after each meal, floss daily after each meal, and see a dentist every six months.



Coaches study sign language by Chelsea Cannon



Franklin County Special Olympics held its first ever American Sign Language (ASL) class on Thursday evening, March 7th. The 2-hour class was offered to teach basic ASL to the Special Olympics coaches. The class was attended by 45 coaches.

The class was created and taught by former Special Olympics intern Amber Nowell, who is employed at the Deaf

Services Center. The class covered the ASL alphabet, numbers, signs about sports, emergencies, and simple conversational signs.

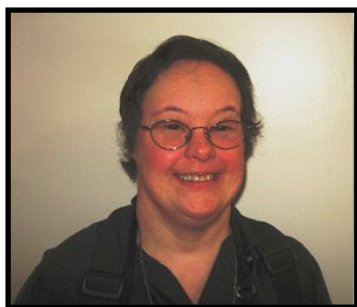
According to Special Olympics Director Ryan Phillips this was a "groundbreaking class."

"I was very proud, to see 45 volunteers take an evening out of their busy lives to come to this. Amber did a fantastic job."

Good for you

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Congratulations to **Sally Joe Dale** upon her 25th anniversary at **Friendship Village** where she cleans dishes and makes sure residents get clean plates, glasses and silverware. Sally's boss compliments her "upbeat, positive mood." Way to go, Sally!



A tip of the hat goes to the 20 generous staff member who supported the **American Red Cross** blood drive at 2879 Johnstown Road on March 4th. Unlike most previous blood drives, this one took place in a bloodmobile parked in the front parking lot. Special thanks to coordinators **Mary Martin** and **Jeff Baird**, who wish to remind readers that the annual **Roger May Memorial Blood Drive** will be coming in May.

Columbus Dispatch reporter **Rita Price** was among those honored by **Ohio Public Images** at a luncheon during the Ohio Association of County Board Superintendents gathering on March 11th. Rita's award recognized her for a series of articles she wrote concerning Down Syndrome. Congratulations, Rita!

The Governing Board of the **Educational Service Center of Central Ohio** has selected **Tom Goodney** as Superintendent of the Center. According to **Joyce Galbraith**, President, "We know that Tom will hit the ground running and we look forward to working together in our collective mission of advancing education and helping students achieve."

With its recent celebration of 50 years of service, **ARC Industries** has unveiled a new logo and web site. The customer-friendly site presents a summary of the organization's capabilities and notes that in 2012, ARC provided services to 250 businesses. For a look, please go to arcind.com.

ARC North staff member **Mary Brooks** and ARC South staff member **Edwin Brooks**, her husband, have been nominated as family members for the *Making a Difference Award* from the **Cincinnati Children's Hospital**. Mary and Ed are the parents of **Edwin Brooks**, who is a patient at the hospital on an ongoing basis. Thanks for "making a difference," Mary and Ed!

Northeast School's 26th Annual Spaghetti Dinner, held March 16th, was a great success thanks to the many staff, families and friends who supported it. According to Principal **Carol Rantala**, many have worked at the dinner for years, and keep coming back to help. Besides raising funds, Carol notes, the dinner serves to bring families and friends together.

Career Milestones

25 years

- Cheryl Collins
- Fred Copsey-Pearce
- Brenda Isenhart
- Thomas Jude
- Mark Lowery
- Theodore Rhodes
- Tamara Rucker
- Brenda Toney

20 years

- Julie Williams
- Connie Willis

15 years

- Marla Mills

10 years

- Amber Dzodan
- Jessica Elder
- Carla Lynch

5 years

- Jennifer Coleman
- Melissa Miller
- Lori Rains
- Eugene Schultz

"Quotable quote"

"Let us never forget that authentic power is service."

-- Pope Francis

Volunteers needed for walk

Autism Speaks is looking for volunteers to assist with the Autism Walk to be held at Huntington Park on October 13th. A committee meeting will be held on Monday, May 6th, at 470 Glenmont Avenue, Columbus, at 6:30 p.m. Marci Ingram will be the Honorary Chair this year and Jerod Smalley of NBC4 will serve as Chairman of the walk.

The green spot by Cindy Massenelli

With incidents of identity theft and fraud on the rise in the Columbus area, we can never be too careful when handling personal information. FCBDD contracts with Fireproof for secure document shredding and data destruction services.

Fireproof ensures that information is safeguarded through the entire shredding and destruction process. Thus, after placing documents into a shred-smart receptacle, we can be confident that the task is in safe and reliable hands.

In addition, Fireproof document shredding paper is 100% recycled, supporting our agency's environment-friendly Go Green initiative.



On a different note, are you about to begin spring cleaning at your home? If so, here are some environment-friendly tips.

Use vinegar to clean house. Check out vinegartips.com for more information.

Instead of paper towels, use rags to clean. Then the rags can be washed and reused.

For sweeping, try a Dinuba Broom which is made with completely recycled plastic bristles and sustainable wood.

As weather permits, open your windows and enjoy the fresh air. You may find you can reduce your use of air conditioning and save on your energy bill.



After 41 plus years, from p. 1

He also hopes to rebuild his ice boat and do some remodeling at home.

A reception in Mike's honor is planned for Thursday, April 25th at Administration, from 1 to 3 p.m. All are welcome. For more information, please call Linda Fleming at 342-5950.

Congratulations Mike, and thanks for everything!

Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Dean Fadel, President
Renée Stein, Vice-President
Linda Craig, Secretary
John Bickley
Helen Ninos
Beth Savage

Superintendent / C.E.O. **Jed W. Morison**

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities does not discriminate in employment or services on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, or handicap.

The following staff contribute to the monthly Dateline:

Michael Davis **Carl Scott** **Martin Kerscher**
Linda Fleming **Amy Magginis** **Jennifer Cunningham**

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Information about the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities is always available on the internet at:

www.fcbdd.org

Calendar

April, 2013

- 1 April Fool's Day
- 1-5 Spring Recess for ECE, Northeast, and West Central Schools
- 5 Legislative Day by Central Ohio Self-Determination Association at Bixby, 4200 Bixby Rd., Groveport, 10:30 a.m.
- 9 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.
- 15 U.S. income tax deadline
- 17 Family Support, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.
- 22 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Fawcett Center, 11:30 a.m.
- 24 Administrative Professionals Day
- 25 FCBDD Human Resources and Finance Committee meetings, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 25 FCBDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.