

Published by the Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
"Helping people to live, learn and work in the community"

Star award nominees sought

Even star performers need a little boost now and then. Recognition can help them realize just how much their efforts mean to others.

With that in mind, FCBMRDD's Community Star Awards Committee is asking you to nominate deserving honorees now.

Established in 2003, the Community Star Awards are intended to honor persons and organizations who, through outstanding dedication, help FCBMRDD achieve its mission.

The committee is accepting nominations in 14 categories through May

29th. A nomination form is enclosed with this issue of *Dateline*.

For further information, please contact Frank New at 342-5972.

What's in a name?

"That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

So goes the famous line from *Romeo and Juliet*. These days, though, in the developmental disabilities community, the notion that a name is unimportant seems as ill-fated as those starcrossed lovers.

A lively debate is ongoing in Ohio as to whether to delete "mental retardation" from the name of county boards of mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

On March 11th, State Senator Jimmy Stewart of Athens introduced a bill, Senate Bill 79, that would rechristen the boards as county boards of developmental disabilities.

At the kickoff of MRDD Awareness month on March 5th, Governor Ted Strickland announced his support of changing the names of county boards and the Ohio Department of MRDD. "Respectful language is important," he said.

Supporters of the name change argue that "retarded" is increasingly used in a demeaning way. Also, they point out that mental retardation is a type of developmental disability, and thus, the current name is redundant.



Opponents counter that the use of derogatory language is unlikely to decrease due to the enactment of legislation. They fear that voters who support tax levies may become confused if "mental retardation" is omitted.

To date, FCBMRDD has taken a neutral stance. According to Superintendent Jed Morison, "We recognize this is a sensitive issue on which there is a wide range of opinion. We respect this diversity, and encourage everyone to express their views."

County boards were created by state statute in 1967. At that time, they served only those with mental retardation and were called county boards of mental retardation. "Developmental disabilities" was added to the name in 1980 when the boards became responsible for serving persons with other developmental disabilities as well.

Tell us your opinion

Do you have an opinion on whether "mental retardation" should be deleted from the name of county boards of mental retardation and developmental disabilities?

Let us know your views by e-mail at linda.rockwell@fcbmrdd.org. Please be sure to include the reasons for your position. *Dateline* will publish the results in a future issue.

Speakers bureau proposed

The mission of Brown Cooley Associates in Self-Determination (BCASD) is to increase public awareness, assist families exploring their options in critical life situations, teaching individuals to become self advocates, promoting an understanding with providers on how to best provide services and supports. Consistent with this mission, Brown-Cooley wants to promote a speakers' bureau.

The speakers' bureau will have five main purposes: 1) Raise disability awareness; 2) Educate communities, businesses and professionals regarding the issues impacting individuals

with disabilities; 3) Impact public policy at the local, state, and federal level; 4) Build a statewide network of advocates whose voice can be activated quickly; and 5) Promote inclusion of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of society.

The speakers' bureau will be comprised of individuals from around the state of Ohio with a variety of disabilities. The bureau will also work with other disability awareness groups and provide education on the issues. The speakers' bureau will work with local and statewide businesses to promote the speakers' bureau and develop con-

tracts with businesses from around the state.

Brown-Cooley will provide training to advocates, providing talking points on issues that impact individuals with disabilities. The speaker's bureau will allow individuals with disabilities to develop leadership skills, and promote advocacy and collaboration.

(We thank Christine Brown of Brown Cooley Associates for submitting this article.)

Mary Anne Ledinsky to address needs of aging

Mary Anne Ledinsky, member of the Board of Trustees of Franklin County Residential Services, and former Director of FCBMRDD's school program, will speak at the next meeting of Families United.

The topic will be, "Meeting the Needs of Aging Individuals with Mental Retardation."

The meeting will be held at Overbrook Presbyterian Church, 4131 N. High Street, on Thursday, April 9th at 7 p.m.

The public is invited.

Did you know?

According to the Ohio Department of Public Safety, more children die from traffic crashes each year than from all other causes combined.

The safest place for any child 12 years old and under is in the back seat. Every child should be buckled in a child safety seat, a booster seat, or with a properly fitting lap/shoulder belt.



In memoriam _____ Roger May

FCBMRDD's supervisor of grounds and facilities for the past 23 years, Roger May, passed away March 26th due to cancer. He was 62.

Based at Administration, Roger coordinated the maintenance work throughout the agency. He had many friends, known as he was for his affable nature. Roger was a strong supporter of blood drives.

According to Superintendent Jed Morison, "Roger could always be counted on for doing excellent work. He also had a wonderful way of relating to people. He will be greatly missed."

Roger was survived by his wife Sue, daughter Tammy Wolfe, and son Jason.

What organ donation means to me by Shannah Risor

Five days after giving birth to my twin daughters, I went into congestive heart failure and was given a 25% chance to live. I'd developed cardiomyopathy, and was left with only 15% of my heart function. I was told that in order to survive, I would need a heart transplant. When my daughters were six-months old, I received that life-saving transplant.

It has been twelve amazing years since my transplant, and in that time, I

have heard my daughters say their first words, and witnessed them take their first steps. I've gone from being permanently disabled to working full-time again and owning my own home. I've gone from not being able to walk one block, to having no physical limitations. I've gone from taking many things in life for granted, to appreciating every day.

Organ donation, to me, has meant being able to see my daughters grow

up, being able to see one more day; one more sunrise, smelling one more flower. Without my donor, and her family's decision to carry out her last wishes, I would not be here today.

(The author is a receptionist at ARC Industries East.)

Lives are worth saving

For some people, organ transplantations -- kidney, liver, heart, lung, pancreas, intestine -- are life-saving procedures with high rates of success.

Unfortunately, however, many people with organ failure pass away before a suitable transplantation becomes available. This is due to a severe shortage of donated organs.

April is Organ Donation Awareness Month. It is an ideal time to become better informed about this potentially life-saving decision.

One source of information is the web site of Lifeline of Ohio (www.lifelineofohio.org)

In addition, the Nisonger Center operates a national program that

serves as a resource center for information on donation and transplantation. The Lives Worth Saving hotline is for any individual who has a disability and may need a life-saving organ transplant.

The Lives Worth Saving hotline number is 1-800-637-2316.

DSACO names director



There's a first time for everything, and the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio has named its first ever Executive Director. **Nancy Brantner** previously served as Executive Director of the Epilepsy Foundation of Central Ohio.

Nancy will be responsible for supervising staff and managing all aspects of the organization's operations.

Disabilities workshop set

"Beginning and Growing a Disabilities Ministry in your Church" will be the subject of Dr. Jim Pierson's workshop at Christ's Church at Mason, 5165 Western Row Road, Mason, Ohio on Saturday, May 2nd.

For more details, please call 937-352-4095 or send e-mail to ohio@joniandfriends.org. Registration closes April 27th.

World games in Idaho

by Jennifer Cunningham

In February, I attended the Special Olympics World Games in Sun Valley, Idaho. I had a great time with Team USA and especially the cross country ski team. The games were wonderful.

Everyone was very nice. The town knitted scarves for every person who attended. We met athletes from other countries and traded souvenir pins. I got two bronze medals and Bryan Fox got one silver and one bronze. They are beautiful!

(The author, a Special Olympian, is a FCBMRDD staff member at Administration.)

Below: Coach John Seals relaxes with Jennifer and Bryan.



Jennifer Cunningham and Bryan Fox await their turn on the slopes.



Customized employment workshop set

“The Process of Customized Employment” is the title of a conference that will be held at the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio, 2080 Citygate Drive, on June 4th and 5th.

The theme of the session will be assisting individuals with disabilities acquire and retain gainful employment

The presenter, Norciva Shumpert, is a private consultant working with Marc Gold and Associates and Employment For All, a non-profit organization committed to employment for all.

The conference will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., both days.

For more information, please call 805-5998.

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Good For You

Notable achievements in the FCBMRDD community

Career Milestones



At the courthouse, **David Migliore** has become the new Director of Franklin County's Job and Family Services Department. He had been Deputy Clerk with Franklin County's Clerk of Courts.

Tornado safety took center-stage at the Pleasnick Center recently. Eight staff have volunteered to serve as tornado wardens. They are: **Paul Chenderlin, Mona Decker, John Fleming, Jeri Gilbert, Maggie Hart, Toss Horton, Kay Nophsker** and **Karen Reynolds**.

After five years in the consulting field, **Mary Lou Langenhop** has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of Children's Hunger Alliance. Mary Lou spent thirty years in human services, most recently as Director of Franklin County's Department of Job and Family Services.



West Central Principal **Barbara Michael-Jones** reports that members of the **Prader-Willi Syndrome Association** have made a generous donation to the school. The funds will be used toward the purchase of a "bubble tube" for the sensory room.

ARC Industries West employee **Robert Newman** was honored at the March 26th board meeting of the FCBMRDD. Superintendent **Jed Morison** presented Robert a "Good for You" paperweight in recognition of his assistance in ensuring the accuracy of calendars in the agency's annual reports.

Special thanks to ARC Industries West staff member **Jo Ellen McKnight** for her work on Operation Feed.

Final totals won't be available until the next issue of *Dateline*, but current donations exceed \$7,000 and 2 tons of food.

30 years

Scott Buffington

25 years

Angela Wright

20 years

Jill Lacivita
Kurt Schmitter
Deborah Seeds

15 years

William Aberegg
Andrew Cole
William Meier

10 years

Leonard Amicone
Angel Carter
Terry Kellenberger
Tammy Stainer

5 years

Althea Houpe
Phyllis McKinney
Anthony Morton
Doris Thomas
Winston Tidwell
Jennifer Turner
Sherry Wade
Marsha Whitehead

Proposal made, accepted at South Compound

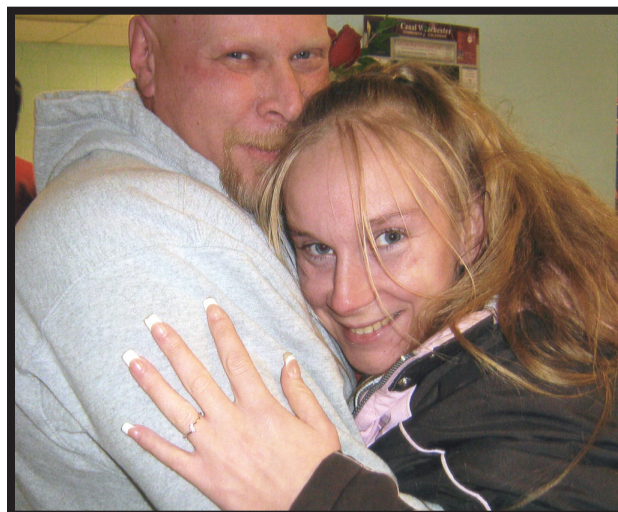
by Dorcas Sharp

The man came to the window with a bouquet of red roses and asked me if I remembered him. He looked a little familiar, but I couldn't. He said his name was Jeff McCrackin, and that he was Anessa Bush's boyfriend, and that he had come to propose to her. Could I hide him? I said, "Yes" and I told him to come into the office.

When Anessa walked up to the building, I told him to go into the hall. He did. He came up behind her. When Anessa noticed him, and turned, the man went down on one knee. Through the muffles I could hear him ask her to marry him. She said, "Yes" and then everyone in the area started to clap and cheer.

Tammy Wright, who never carries her camera with her, had it with her and took pictures.

(We extend best wishes to Amanda Bush, bus assistant at the South Compound, and her fiancé, Jeff McCrackin.)



Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation
and Developmental Disabilities

Jerry Saunders
Helen Ninos
Dean Fadel
Galen Stover
Lito Ramirez
Renee Stein
Jean Williams

Superintendent Jed W. Morison

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The following FCBMRDD staff contribute to the
monthly publication and distribution of Dateline.

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Information about FCBMRDD
is always available on the internet at:

www.fcbmrdd.org

Calendar

April, 2009

- 1 April Fools Day!
- 8 Passover
- 10 Staff Development Day
- 12 Easter
- 13-17 Spring Recess for ECE, Northeast, and West Central Schools
- 14 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.
- 15 Income tax deadline
- 15 Parent League meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.
- 22 Administrative Professionals Day
- 23 FCBMRDD Finance and Human Resources Committees meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4:00 p.m.
- 23 FCBMRDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5:00 p.m.
- 27 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Holiday Inn On-the-Lane, 11:30 a.m.

"Quotable quotes"

"If we had no winter,
the spring would not be so pleasant:

if we did not sometimes taste of adversity,
prosperity would not be so welcome."

-- Anne Bradstreet