

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

Departing board members honored

Three members of the Franklin County Board of MRDD were recognized for their service to the county at the November 20th meeting of the board.

Mildred Blumenfeld, Paul Coppel and Ben Hale will end their tenures as board members next month.

Mrs. Blumenfeld was appointed to the board in 1997, and served as its President in 2004 and 2005. She had previously chaired the boards of ARC Industries, Council for Retarded Citizens and Franklin County Residential Services.

Mrs. Blumenfeld has worked to improve clients' health through better nutrition, and led efforts to obtain air conditioning of county buses.

Paul Coppel was appointed to the board in 1997 and served as President in 2002 and 2003.

A lawyer and business man, Mr. Coppel brought a balanced, practical approach to board deliberations. He stressed the need for financial controls, and provided valuable guidance on personnel and facility-related issues.

Ben Hale is the longest serving board member in FCBMRDD history, having served initially from 1982 to 1990, and again from 1997 to the present. He served as Chairman from 1988 to 1990, and as President from 2007 through the present.

Mr. Hale provided leadership in developing residential options, ranging from the county's ICFMR facilities to independent living arrangements through Creative Housing, Inc.

All three board members earned reputations as strong advocates for clients, staff and the general public.

Commenting on the board members, Superintendent Jed Morison said: "They truly are exceptional public servants. We have been very fortunate to benefit from their talents."



Mildred Blumenfeld



Ben W. Hale



Paul Coppel

Gov. Strickland visits cleaning crews

An ARC Industries celebration of the 20th anniversary of its contract with the state to clean the Vern Riffe State Office Tower became an even more special event when Governor Ted Strickland paid a surprise visit.

The gathering took place in the lounge on the tower's 19th Floor on the evening of November 5th. ARC employees and FCBMRDD staff had taken a break from their clean

From left are: ODMRDD Director John Martin, ARC Industries CEO John Mitchem, Superintendent Jed Morison, ARC Industries' Site Manager Doug Meier, Governor Ted Strickland.



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Governor Strickland, from p.1

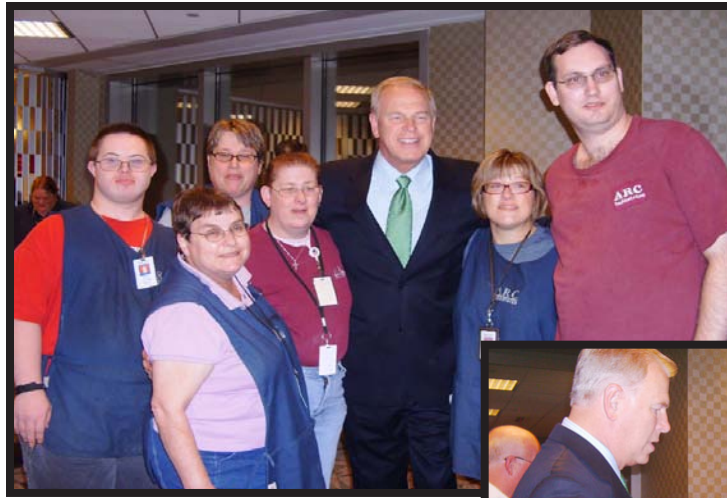
ing chores to observe the occasion and enjoy pizza, when the Governor dropped in. He was accompanied by ODMRDD Director John Martin.

Governor Strickland made no speech, but took time to chat with all the work crews, congratulating them on a job well done.

ARC Industries has cleaned the Riffe tower nightly since the building opened in 1988. Five FCBMRDD staff have worked there for the entire 20 years.

They are: Doug Meier, Site Manager; Les Smith, Assistant Site Manager; Susan Lee, Training Specialist; Peter Marshall, Crew Leader; and Bob Williams, Crew Leader.

ARC employee Doreen Rosen has also worked at the tower for 20 years.



From left are: Tommy Carroll, Cindy Blau, Diane Markovich, Ruth Ann Drake, Governor Strickland, Amy Kirk and Paul Miller.



Governor Strickland congratulates Patrick Stumpp.

Bowling fun set for Jan. 24

FCBMRDD staff bowlers and wannabes will wage a friendly battle among themselves at the Columbus Square Bowling Palace on Saturday afternoon, January 24th.

The fourth annual *For the Fun of It* bowling tournament will feature up to

64 teams of four. Each will bowl three games.

Awards will be presented for top team, top male and female bowlers, and low team.

The event will run from 1:15 to 4:45 p.m, with registration to begin at

12:30. A fee of \$20 will be charged. Proceeds will go to Franklin County Special Olympics.

For more information, please call Jack Brownley, Director of Schools, at 342-5960.

Program aims to combat obesity

Obesity is a growing epidemic among individuals with disabilities and affects their quality of life.

Obesity is caused by a lack of activity in a person's daily routine and leads to very low levels of cardiovascular endurance and physical strength. Lack of cardiovascular endurance prohibits individuals from withstanding long workdays, limits participation in leisure activities, and leads to a higher risk of disability and illness.

The impact of obesity on the lives of individuals with disabilities is thought to be even greater than the general

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population. The disadvantages associated with having a disability are compounded when an individual is diagnosed with diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, stroke, arthritis, respiratory diseases, and cancer.

Aspen Community Living has introduced a sports-based day program for individuals as a step to combat obesity, and improve overall fitness levels in people with disabilities. Recently, the program held a "Commit to Be Fit" hike at High Banks Metro Park. On a beautiful late October afternoon, the group completed a 2.5 mile, untimed hike

consisting of many twists, turns, ups and downs.

At times, the individuals had to push their staff to keep moving as they breezed through the 2.5 miles. Enjoying the outdoors on a challenging hike is just one of the many ways to which the Aspen team is attempting to fight obesity.

For additional information about Aspen and its sports-based day program please contact Michael Pierro at 614-880-6000 or michaelp@aspencil.com.

Stars' night sparkles

There were many bright, shining moments as FCBMRDD staged its 5th Annual Community Star Awards Banquet on the evening of October 29th. Nearly 700 persons attended the festivities, which were held at Villa Milano party house on Schrock Road.

Honorees included twelve individuals and two organizations. They were recognized for extraordinary efforts to help people with disabilities live, learn and work in the community.

In opening remarks, Superintendent Jed Morison commended the recipients for "stellar work on behalf of persons with disabilities."

"You are a big part of the reason for our agency's success," he noted.

Awards Chairman Frank New announced the winners and described their accomplishments. As each recipient came forward, the crowd erupted into a tumultuous ovation.

Special recognition was given to three county board members who are ending their tenures of service. Millie Blumenfeld, Paul Coppel, and Ben Hale were praised by Superintendent Morison as "exceptional and visionary leaders."

Dignitaries on hand included County Treasurer Ed Leonard and former FCBMRDD Superintendent Steve Pleasnick. The Dave Powers Trio provided musical entertainment.



Superintendent Jed Morison and Board Member Paul Coppel with Tori Sherman, winner for Child Participant.



Catherine Gordon, shown with Superintendent Jed Morison and Board Member Mildred Blumenthal, accepted the Star Award for Early Childhood Staff.



Vera Morris was honored as Adult Participant. She is shown here with Superintendent Morison and Board Member Paul Coppel.



Denise Clark, honoree for Support Services, is congratulated by Superintendent Morison and Board President Ben Hale.

Stars' night, from p.3



Patricia Williams, honoree for Adult Services Staff, shares a laugh with Board Member Mildred Blumenfeld.



Volunteer of the year, Dorothy Renner celebrates with Jed Morrison and Mildred Blumenfeld.



Carolyn Rowland accepts congratulations from Superintendent Morison. Carolyn was honoree for Management/Supervisory Staff.



Nancy O'Neal was the honoree for Service Coordination Staff.



Kathy Bayliss, honoree for School Staff.



The Dave Powers Band includes, from left; Dave Powers, Andy Smith of ARC Industries South, and Dr. Michael Cox from Capital University.



Dee Hively won the Star Award for Parent/Family Member.



Susie Burke honoree for Residential Staff, was a rose between two thorns.



Mark Bobulski and Seiji Shiga represented Tiger Poly Manufacturing Co. which won the Star Award in the Employer category.



Sandy Ebner, honored as Transportation Staff Member, got the 'star treatment' from Superintendent Morison and Board Member Paul Coppel.



United Cerebral Palsy was honored as the Provider Organization.



Frank New served as emcee.

A note of thanks...

by Pam Weisbeck

My 7 year-old granddaughter, Tana, had just completed second grade this past June, when we learned that what had seemed to be a case of the flu was, in fact, a life-threatening virus. After being transported from Columbus to Cincinnati Children's Hospital, she was found to have Epstein-Barr virus and acute liver failure.

Blessedly, Tana underwent a liver transplant on June 27th. She remained very sick and lifeless. Then, due to

continuing complications, she had a bone marrow transplant on October 3rd. Since then, she has had a lot of ups and downs, but she has begun to walk and talk. The doctors are calling her "a miracle."

Through five long months of Tana's hospitalization, the staff and management of ARC South have "been there" for me. I want to thank them for their wonderful support, prayers, encouragement and concern.

I also want to thank the parents, providers and other county staff for their kind support.

I am so grateful to work with such a great group of people. You are truly a blessing!

(Editor's note: The author is a Training Specialist at ARC Industries South.)

Crisis training offered

Nick Boyer of FCBMRDD's Psychology Department will provide crisis intervention training on February 11th, May 13th, August 12th and October 14th.

The sessions, which will be held at the Pleasnick Center from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., are primarily for staff with limited previous training. Continuing education credit will be available.

To register, or obtain more information, please call 342-5952.

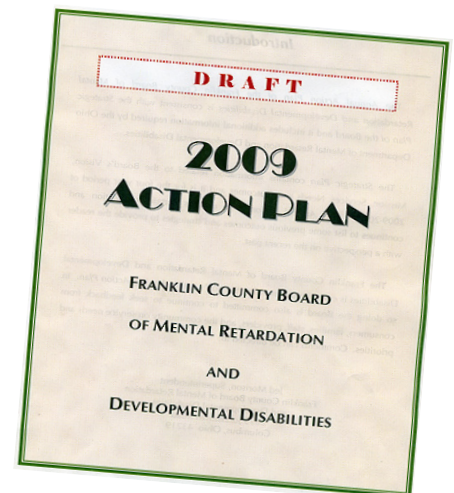
Hearing set on action plan

A public hearing regarding FCBMRDD's Action Plan for 2009 will be held on Monday, December 15th at 4 p.m.

The location will be the Pleasnick Center, 2879 Johnstown Rd.

The plan outlines the agency's projected needs, goals and strategies in major service areas.

All interested persons are encouraged to attend.



Your opinion, please

Readers are urged to complete the enclosed survey and needs assessment. By doing so, you will provide information to help FCBMRDD improve services and better meet the needs of individuals with disabilities.

This needs assessment is used in preparing the annual action plan.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey and return it to: Superintendent's Office, FCBMRDD, 2879 Johnstown Road, Columbus, OH 43219, by February 15th.

Anyone desiring additional survey forms may contact Linda Rockwell at 342-5950.

2009 DSACO Calendar

The 2009 DSACO calendar features pictures of the members playing and interacting with family and friends. Cost is \$10 each or 3 calendars for \$25. For information about the availability of the newest DSACO calendar, please call:

(614) 263-6020



Good For You

Notable Achievements in the FCBMRDD Community

Career Milestones

Scott Erenpreiss, FCBMRDD's Financial Services Manager, was honored as a *Partner in Excellence* by the Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD on October 29th. "Scott is the driving force behind the fund management programs that are used throughout Ohio," said **Dan Ohler**, Executive Director.



As part of its 25th anniversary celebration, the **Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD** honored the eleven founding members of the organization at its annual convention in October. Retired FCBMRDD Superintendent **Steve Pleasnick** was one of the honorees.



Judy Beck is the teacher of a collaborative unit at Herbert Mills School in Reynoldsburg. Her class is participating in the "Look Who's Walking Now Club" in support of **Cindy Morehart**, a fellow teacher who is planning to hike from Mexico to Canada on the Pacific Crest Trail. **Andrea Cambern** from WBNS-10TV recently joined the group for a walk.

30 years

Cheryl Miller

25 years

Rhonda Fout
Joellen McKnight

20 years

Brenda Lackey

15 years

Edith Collins
Laurie Green-Lauber
Kathleen Moran

10 years

Kimberly Ferrell

5 years

Peter Madison
Phyllis Stewart



A group from the **Hague Living Skills Center** walked in honor of their buddy, **Andy Higgins**, a participant at HLSC, at the September 28th Buddy Walk. "Higgie's Helpers" spent a great day at Crew Stadium and raised over \$1,200 to benefit the

Down Syndrome Association. The group is pictured at left. Standing: **Kristine Shackle**; "Grandma" **June**; **Deb Wellmes**; **Annick Parker**; **Lisa Bowman**; **Brian Jones**; **Scheryl Sinclair**; **Tammy Suttle**; **Corrine and Mike Suver**; **Greta and Anthony Milburn**; **Becki**, **Aaliyaha** and **Kelly Nelson**. Kneeling: **Carrie Vamos**; **Rae Wilhelm**; **Kierstin**, **Melissa**, **Mackenzie** and **Ashley Nelson**.

DSACO offices move



Denise Showalter and Marge Barnheiser on moving day. Photo by Rick Grawemeyer.

Due to the need for more space, the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio has moved to:

510 E. North
Broadway
Columbus, Ohio
43214
(614) 263-6020

Tune in for closing news

Weather-related closings are a fact of life during the winter months.

For information concerning closings, please listen to the following after 5:30 a.m.:

Radio AM	Radio FM	Television
WBNS (1460)	WCOL (92.3)	WCMH (4)
WMNI (920)	WCVO (104.9)	WSYX (6)
WOSU (820)	WNCI (97.9)	WBNS (10)
WTVN (610)	WSNY (Sunny 95)	WOSU (34)
	QFM (96)	

Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

Ben W. Hale, Jr.
Jerry Saunders
Mildred Blumenfeld
Paul S. Coppel
Dean Fadel
Helen Ninos
Galen Stover

Superintendent Jed W. Morison

FCBMRDD does not discriminate in employment or services on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, or handicap.

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

Jed W. Morison Carl Scott Mary Linden
Michael Davis Amy Magginis Martin Kerscher
Jennifer Cunningham

News releases, story ideas, and suggestions should be sent to Martin Kerscher at:

2879 Johnstown Road
Columbus, Ohio 43219
(614) 475-6440 FAX 342-5001

Calendar

December, 2008

- 9** Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 11 a.m. Please call 844-3800 for location.
- 15** Public Hearing on FCBMRDD's Annual Action Plan, 2879 Johnstown Road, 4 p.m.
- 17** Parent League meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.
- 21** Winter begins.
- 21-22** Hanukkah
- 24-1/2** Winter recess for ECE and schools. Classes resume January 5th.
- 25** Christmas Day - all county facilities closed.
- 26-31** Winter recess for adult services. Programs resume January 2nd.

"Quotable quotes"

"What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult for each other?"

-- George Eliot

Information about FCBMRDD is always available on the internet at:

www.fcbmrdd.org