

Dateline

May 2010

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"Helping people to live, learn and work in our community"

FCBDD dedicates Watermark building

April 22nd took on historic importance for the FCBDD community as staff, service recipients and supporters gathered for the dedication of the new offices of the Service Coordination Department.

A ribbon-cutting was held just outside the main entrance of the building at 1600 Watermark Drive in northwest Columbus.

County Commissioner John O'Grady, and Board President Helen

Ninos addressed the crowd, as did Dot Yeager, Chief Financial Officer, and Jack Beatty, Director of Service Coordination.

Superintendent Jed Morison served as master of ceremonies.

The county bought the 3-story, 44,000 square foot office building last fall for \$2.5 million. Its market value is \$4.1 million according to the Franklin County Auditor.

Service Coordination staff moved into the facility after renovation work was completed in late February. The work included accessibility improvements as well as various environmentally friendly measures.

The department had been in leased offices at 350 East Broad Street since 1991.



From left are: Board Vice-President Dean Fadel, County Commissioner Marilyn Brown, ESD employee Elaine Thomas who works in this very building and County Commissioner John O'Grady.

Galen Stover ends service on board



Galen Stover resigned as a member of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities on March 24th.

Mr. Stover served as Board Secretary and Chairman of the Human Resources Committee.

The resignation was necessary due to the acceptance by Mr. Stover's wife of employment with the Children's Center for Developmental Enrichment. State law prohibits the families of board members from being employed by providers certified by the

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

The Westerville resident had been appointed in 2008 by then-Judge Lawrence Belskis of the Probate Court.

"Galen has been heavily involved in the personnel and business aspects of our agency's operation, and has contributed much to its success," said Superintendent Jed Morison. "I'm very sorry to see him go."

Mr. Stover is Assistant Vice-President of Nationwide Insurance.

Research group recruiting children with autism

A team of researchers from The Ohio State University Nisonger Center and Nationwide Children's Hospital made the Autism Speaks 2009 "Top Ten" List of Achievements in Autism Research. The team worked with colleagues from Indiana University, Yale and the University of Pittsburgh. Their research study concluded that medication and parent training combined are more effective for reducing serious behavioral problems in children with autism than medication alone.

The team is part of a group known as the Research Units on Pediatric Psychopharmacology Autism Network (or "RUPP Autism Network"), created in 1997. The RUPP's first medication trial compared risperidone and placebo ("sugar pill") in children with autism and severe behavior problems.

The study compared risperidone alone to risperidone plus parent training in behavior management (PMT). Children ages 4-13 had severe behavior problems, including temper tantrums, aggression, self-injury, and irritability. All children in the study received risperidone. Sixty percent of the families also received training in behavior therapy.

After 24 weeks, the children were measured on scales of behavioral compliance, irritability, hyperactivity (ADHD), and "noncompliance." The children whose parents received PMT had significantly better improvements on these scales. Further, the children on combined treatment needed significantly lower doses of medicine than did the children on risperidone alone.

The RUPP group is conducting other studies to look at a wide range of treatments and outcomes in children with ASDs. Most are still recruiting participants. Children who enroll will not only help to advance scientific research, but they will also benefit in one or more ways.

One study looks at whether abnormally low cholesterol may help cause autism spectrum disorders (ASD) in some children. Many children ages 4-11 with ASD are being screened for cholesterol level. Those with low cholesterol will have a 12-week trial of cholesterol supplements or placebo. The goal is to see if this improves the core symptoms of autism. For another 12 weeks, all of the children with low cholesterol will try it.

Another study is a trial of Strattera (also known as atomoxetine) and PMT

in children who have both ASDs and ADHD symptoms. Half of the participants will take the active medicine and half will take a placebo for 10 weeks. At the end, everyone will have a chance to try the Strattera. Likewise, half of the families will receive PMT and half will not (until after the study is completed).

Yet another study is looking at a medication used to treat patients with Alzheimer's disease. It will evaluate how well the drug memantine may reduce the core symptoms of autism and enhance communication skills. Children will take either memantine or placebo for 14 weeks. At the end, all participants will have the chance to enroll in a 48-week study of known active medication.

The RUPP Autism Network is also planning a study of parent education for preschoolers with ASD and behavior problems. One goal is to see if medication can be avoided. Participants will receive one-on-one supervision by a psychologist for up to six months.

Drs. Michael Aman and L. Eugene Arnold are directing these studies, which are based at Ohio State's Nisonger Center. Families who want to learn more should contact Bethany Bates at 292-3698 or go to the RUPP website at www.psychmed.osu.edu.

Space open for May 5th seminar

You're in luck if you want to attend FCBDD's estate planning seminar on Wednesday evening, May 5th. Space is still available.

The seminar is intended to provide parents of persons with developmental disabilities and others who may be interested a basic understanding of options available in the estate planning process.

Discussion will include wills, trusts, powers of attorney, guardianship and Medicaid eligibility.

Speakers will be Columbus attorneys Kevin Craine and David Zwyer.

The seminar is free, but those attending are requested to register in advance by calling Amy Magginis at 342-5992.

ARC to host golf scramble



ARC Industries will hold its first Golf Scramble for the benefit of the Citizens Committee for Persons with Developmental Disabilities on Saturday, August 7th.

The event, which will be held at Foxfire Golf Club in Lockbourne, will run from 12:30 to 6 p.m.

Entry fees are \$75 per person or \$300 per team of 4. The fees cover driving range, green fees, golf cart, dinner and award ceremony.

For more details, please call Mark Isenhardt at 436-4800.

Project STIR meetings set

People First of Franklin County is hosting a new program aimed at increasing independence and responsibility of persons served by FCBDD.

Project STIR will focus on: knowing yourself; communication; self-

advocacy and problem-solving; rights and responsibilities; disability history; and starting or getting involved in a self-advocacy group.

The program meets monthly from 6 to 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month. The location

is Goodwill Columbus, 1331 Edgehill Road. The next meeting will be May 12th.

For more information, please contact Christine Brown at 592-8214 or by e-mail at Christi628@sbcglobal.net.

Good luck, Donna! by Julie Kaber

Donna Jean Standiford retired on April 16th after having worked with ARC Industries for 41 years.

In recent years, Donna worked as a day porter at the administration building and early childhood. Donna enjoyed her job, not only because of the nature of the work, but also because she was able to socialize and interact with many co-workers. Approximately 100 well wishers attended.

Many remarked "It won't be the same without you," and "Please come back and visit."

Donna received a Certificate of Appreciation from Superintendent Jed Morison, a paperweight and an ARC Industries watch.

Donna will be taking some time off to go on vacation with her family and then will begin a new chapter in her life at Sage/ Edgehill.



Donna was congratulated by Superintendent Jed Morison.

Search is on for star nominees

Top performers sometimes avoid the spotlight. Their efforts might even go unrecognized if no one speaks up.

This is where *you* come in.

If you know an individual or organization who is doing an extraordinary job in the service of FCBDD's mission, please complete the nomination form enclosed with this issue, and send it to: FCBDD, Community Star Awards Committee, 2879 Johnstown Road, Columbus, 43219.

The deadline for nominations is May 28th. The awards will be presented on the evening of Wednesday, November 3rd.

For more information, please call Linda Fleming at 342-5950.

Siblings invited to 'community conversation'

Do you have a sibling with a disability? Do you ever wonder how to advocate for your brother or sister? Would you like to meet other siblings?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then mark your calendar for Thursday, May 6th, and plan to join the Sibling Community Conversation.

Sponsored by Ohio SIBS, the free event will be held at FCBDD's administration building, 2879 Johnstown Road, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Superintendent Jed Morison will be presenting. Pizza and beverages will be provided.

Please notify Michelle Truby at truby.5@osu.edu or 571-4542 if you plan to attend.

Bowlers close out season

Franklin County Special Olympics bowlers ended the 2010 season on Saturday, April 17th, at HP Lanes. Nearly 200 bowlers competed this season.

Bowlers have made their way to Palace Lanes every Wednesday and

Friday to practice and improve their skills to get ready for tournaments. On April 17th, all in attendance enjoyed a day of friendly competition.

Some will continue practice in preparation for the 2010 Summer Games that will be held at The Ohio

by Danielle Ulry

State University June 25th through 27th. Others made the choice to participate in other summer sports including tennis, power lifting, gymnastics, bocce, roller-skating, volleyball, and track and field.

For more information about the upcoming 2010 Summer Games, including volunteer opportunities, please contact Ryan Phillips at ryan.phillips@fcbdd.org. To visit the blog, go to www.franklincountyflyers.blogspot.com.



Picture is Andy Dratch



From left are: Melinda Dillon, Laurene Krall, Linda Rickly, Julie Dexter, Susan Walker and Stephanie Miller.

Apartments offered

Village Shalom House is a 10-unit apartment building located on Astor Avenue in Bexley. The HUD subsidized building offers maximum independence and professional support services. Village Shalom Apartments is part of the Wexner Heritage Village.

Village Shalom House is accepting applications from prospective residents. For further information, please call Denise George, Property Manager, at 239-1999.

The green spot

by Ben Burke

If you are an avid *Dateline* reader, you are aware that FDBDD is a designated "Green Spot" in the city of Columbus.

In upcoming issues, many of the Green Team members will be contributing brief articles about projects they are currently undertaking. These articles will help define our organization's place in Columbus' green community.

This article highlights our new stance on the purchasing and use of eco-friendly cleaning supplies and cleaning methods.

Each building's maintenance team is focused on purchasing supplies that carry the seal of Green Seal Certified. This indicates that the supply is conceived green, transported green, and disposed of in a green manner. The seal is the highest rank achieved by any eco-friendly supply.

Building cleaning methods have changed to reusable goods and metered use of materials. Janitorial staff are using reusable towels, wet mops, and dust mops that decrease their environmental footprint. All buildings have incorporated chemical dispensing units, which allow chemical concentrates to be used. Extending the use of products decreases the number of plastics used.

Stay tuned for more updates from the Green Team.

Correction

Last month's *Dateline* gave incorrect contact information for Felicia Shanklin, the organizer of a provider support group. The correct e-mail address is: fashanklin@yahoo.com. The correct telephone number is 836-4685.

Good For You

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Early childhood staff, parents and children got an early start on Earth Day activities on April 17th. With the help of the ecology organization **Local Matters**, the group completed a major clean-up of both the Johnstown Road and Marburn Road properties. Some 300 baskets donated by **ARC Industries** came in very handy!

Over 70 FCBDD staff who serve as volunteers in the "Ready When the Time Comes" program of the **American Red Cross**, are getting a refresher course. In case of a disaster, the volunteers would help run an emergency shelter for individuals with disabilities. **Jack Brownley**, Director of Schools, coordinates the training.

The February issue of **Guideposts** magazine featured an article "Living on Faith" by **Gary Levox**, lead singer of the Rascal Flatts. Recalling his early career as an instructor with FCBDD, he said "Before I started my band I had another job... that inspires me to this day." Gary's mother, **Judi Harmon**, was a longtime agency staff member before retiring in 2005.

Hubert Watson, principal of Central Crossing High School, paid a visit to West Central School on February 12th. He enjoyed his tour, provided by West Central principal **Barbara Michael-Jones**, as well as the opportunity to watch a basketball game featuring the WCS Pintos. The team includes 3 Central Crossing students: **Brittany Brokaw**, **Joshua Ford** and **Rashon Gibson**.

The **McDonald's at Easton** has generously agreed to donate 10% of sales, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 5th, to FCBDD's Early Childhood Department. The funds will be used toward the new outdoor learning environment. The restaurant is located at 4131 Morse Crossing.

Governor Strickland has tapped Franklin County Probate **Judge Eric Brown** to fill the remaining term of the late Ohio Supreme Court Justice **Tom Moyer**. Judge Brown will be remembered by many FCBDD staff for his assistance with staff training and for his participation in the 2009 Community Star Awards banquet.

The **ARC of Ohio** and the **Foundation for the Challenged** have developed a new group purchasing program for persons with disabilities. **Empowered Group Purchasing** received a grant of \$57,000 from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council. An article regarding this appeared in the March 26th issue of **Business First**.

Career Milestones

30 years

Thomas Stevens

20 years

Kimberley Buchanan

Richard Robertson

15 years

Louise Dixon

Margaret Hart

Joseph Martin

Julie McCarthy

Joy Montgomery

Roger Ward

10 years

Deborah Harris

Rebecca Nelson

Valerie Smith

Vikki Zaremski

5 years

Deborah Harris

Kemberly Conteh

Joshua Marriott

Danielle Norman

Jennifer Siddell



Hubert Watson, principal of Central Crossing High School and Barbara Michael-Jones. At right are the West Central Pintos.



Comedy benefit tickets on sale

What do you get when you put a mechanic, a PhD, a job coach, a salesman and a farmer together?

A stand up comedy laughapoloza benefiting the Citizen's Committee for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. The show will be at the Funny Bone on Monday, May 17th at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are on sale. Please contact Debbie Schafer at 342-5715 or debbie.schafer@fcbdd.org for more details. The benefit is open to the general public.

The stand-up comics include: Mike Paramore, Christian Altera, Patsy B., Chris Coen, Jack Wilson and Jay Hendren.



Social Security session set

Family Advocates for Adult Children (FACE) will present John LaMotte, Social Security Representative, on Tuesday, May 25th, at 11 a.m. He will speak about Social Security, SSI, SSDI, and retirement. The free presentation will be held in Conference Room A at 2879 Johnstown Road.

For more details, please call Elaine Benchant at 939-0992.

Calendar

May, 2010

- 4 Election Day - remember to vote!
- 5 FCBDD Estate Planning Seminar, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 7-9 p.m.
- 6 Siblings Community Conversation, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- 9 Mother's Day
- 11 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.
- 12 Project STIR meeting, Goodwill Columbus, 1331 Edgehill Rd., 6-7 p.m.
- 17 **A Laughing Matter**, a comedy benefit, Funny Bone at Easton, 7:30 p.m. Please call 342-5715 for details.
- 19 Parent League meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.
- 20-21 OACB 2010 Spring Conference, Marriott Northwest, 5605 Blazer Parkway. Call 341-0616 for details.
- 20 FCBDD Finance and Human Resources Committees meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 20 FCBDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.
- 24 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Fawcett Center, 11:30 a.m.
- 31 Memorial Day observance - all county facilities closed.

Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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Superintendent 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.

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Information about the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

is always available on the internet at:

www.fcbdd.org

“Quotable quotes”

"Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome."

-- Booker T. Washington