

## Star award winners announced

The recipients of FCBMRDD's Community Star Awards for 2008 have been named.

Established in 2003, the annual awards program recognizes individuals and organizations who have made extraordinary efforts to carry out the agency's mission. There are 14 award categories.

The recipients will receive the awards at a banquet on Wednesday evening, October 29th, at Villa Milano, 1630 Schrock Road. The event will include a social hour, dinner and musical entertainment.

This year's recipients are: **Vera Morris, Tori Sherman, Dee Hively, Pat Williamson, Kathy Bayliss, UCP of Central Ohio, Dorothy Renner,**

**Sandy Ebner, Cathy Gordon, Susan Burke, Carolyn Rowland, Denise Clark, Nancy O'Neal and Tigerpoly Manufacturing, Inc.**

Reservations for the banquet are now being accepted. A form for this purpose is enclosed in this issue of *Dateline*. For more information, please call Linda Rockwell at 342-5950.

## New directors come aboard

The FCBMRDD community welcomes 2 new management staff members this month.

**Joe Edwards** has become Director of FCBMRDD's Psychology Department. He succeeds Sue Sherwood, who relocated to Hawaii in March.



A licensed psychologist, Joe has experience in overseeing mental health services at the Buckeye Ranch, where he was employed for the past 16 years.

He has a Bachelor's in Business Administration, as well as a Masters and Doctorate in Human Development and Family Science, all from the Ohio State University.

Sharing some impressions from his first weeks on the job, Joe said, "I'm getting to know people, and am very excited to be a part of such a great agency."

Joe lives in southwestern Franklin County with his wife Shivani, who is a social worker. They are expecting a child at the end of December.

**Linda Monroe** is the new Director of Bixby Living Skills Center, succeeding Dave Tisdale, who retired in June. She took the helm August 11th.

Linda has 28 years of experience with Goodwill Columbus. Most recently, she was Program Director of Sage Senior Services at the Edgehill facility.

Linda's educational background includes a Bachelor's from Capital University and an Associate's in Mental

Health and Mental Retardation from Columbus State.

"Everyone here has been very welcoming. I'm looking forward to working with such a terrific group," she said.

Linda and her husband of 28 years, Max, reside in Reynoldsburg. They have 2 sons, Matthew, age 24, and Ryan, 20.



# Kathy Mortimer retires after 25 years

Kathy Mortimer, an Assistant Director in FCBMRDD's Early Childhood Department since 1992, is retiring this month.

She began her career with the agency as an infant-level teacher in 1983. She had been a student teacher in 1982 in the home-based program.



*Kathy Mortimer shares the spotlight with Teresa Johnson in the ECE playground.*

Kathy's responsibilities included overseeing the Summer Center, as well as the Cherry Creek program. She also handled professional development, certification and liaison activities with local universities. In addition, she supervised infant and toddler classes.

From Kathy's perspective, the highlights of her career were "being part of our great partnership... all the renovations and expansions... and working with a visionary person like (Early Childhood Director) Becky Love."

"I've learned so much from Becky and my co-workers. It is hard to leave when you love the people so much," she added.

Rebecca Love, Director of Early Childhood, reflected on Kathy's contribution to the department: "I cannot put into words what Kathy means to Early Childhood. Her 'wings' spread across this community and have touched the lives of hundreds of children, staff, university professionals, student interns and so much more. She will be missed by all who have worked with her."

Kathy is looking forward to spending more time with her family, including children Kevin, Patrick and Kim, daughter-in-law Beth, son-in-law Marc, and grandchildren Jack, Julia, Charlie and Lucy.

She and her husband, Rick, will reside in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida, where they have a small home.

Teresa Johnson, an instructor with Early Childhood, will succeed Kathy as Assistant Director.

We wish Kathy all the best in her well-earned retirement!

# "Irreplaceable" Robin Reed retires

ARC Industries West Habilitation Specialist Robin Reed, who worked at the facility for over 30 years, has retired.

Robin handled a wide range of duties at ARC West, including communication with providers and families, maintaining files and teaching "Try Another Way" courses to new staff.

Robin chaired the Employee Council at ARC West for many years, and led many fundraising events. She also supervised interns from Columbus State Community College.

"Robin's knowledge and experience are irreplaceable," said ARC West Director Jan Montgomery. "Her personality and sense of humor will be greatly missed by all."

Robin plans to stay busy, in part, by working part-time at Columbus State. She will cherish the memories of her career.

"I'm the lucky one... to have had the opportunity to work with so many wonderful people... my life has been so enriched."



*Superintendent Jed Morison with Robin at her farewell party.*

Good luck to Robin in the next 30 years and beyond!

# Dye is cast for families

Mary Dye, manager of ADDvantage Center, will be guest speaker at the next meeting of Families United.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, September 11th, at 7 p.m., in Overbrook Presbyterian Church, located at 4131 North High Street, Columbus.

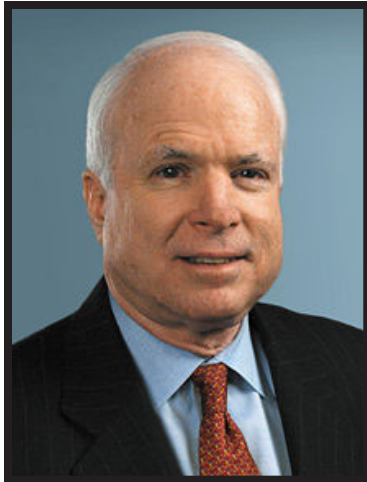
The public is invited.

# Candidates discuss disability issues

"This is America, we should include *all* citizens."

This comment by a participant at the "National Forum on Disability Issues" captured the theme of the discussion.

Held in Columbus on July 26th -- on the 18th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), --



Senator John McCain

the conference was intended to allow U.S. presidential candidates the opportunity to explain their positions on disability issues.

Participants heard Republican candidate, Senator John McCain, via satellite. Senator Tom Harkin, appeared in person representing Democratic candidate, Senator Barack Obama, who was out of the country.

Senator Harkin spoke about the need to pass an ADA Restoration Act and the Community Choice Act. He stated that the Supreme Court has eroded some of the protections that were built into the initial law.

Senator McCain also spoke of the importance of continuing work on the ADA by clarifying the definition of disability. He stated that the blame is not on the Supreme Court, rather the problem is with a lack of clarity in the original legislation.

The forum, coordinated by the American Association of People with Disabilities and the Ohio Disability Vote Coalition, was held at First Church of God Conference and Technology Center on Refugee Road. Judy Woodruff, news anchor and journalist, served as moderator. A total of 82 organizations, including the Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD, sponsored the event.

Actor Robert David Hall, who plays Coroner Dr. Robbins on the popular television show, *CSI: Crime*

*Scene Investigation*, spoke of his accident in 1978 that resulted in amputation of his two legs. He emphasized the power of 35 million voters who have disabilities.

The Ohio Disability Vote Coalition provided signs to remind people to register to vote. For details, please contact the coalition at 866/ 575-8055.



Senator Barack Obama

## Oct. 6 is voting registration deadline

In the general election on November 4th, Ohio voters will help choose the next President of the United States.

They will also select U.S. Representatives, Ohio Attorney General, state legislators, and various county and local officials.

In order to vote in the November 4th election, it is necessary to be registered to vote by October 6.

### **How can I find out if I'm registered to vote?**

Contact the Franklin County Board of Elections by calling 462-3100, or visiting the web site at <http://vote.franklincountyohio.gov/boe/>, or visiting in person at 280 East Broad Street, Room 100.

### **How can I register to vote?**

You may go in person to any public library, any public high school, or the Board of Elections. You may also

obtain a registration form from the Board of Elections either by mail or online.

To register you must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old on or before the date of the election. You must also have been a resident of Ohio at least 30 days before the election.

### **Must I declare my party affiliation when I register?**

No. Your party affiliation is determined by the ballot you request in a primary election.

### **What if I've changed my address?**

If you are already registered and have moved, you must report the change of address to the Board of Elections. You may do this by mail, in person, or at any public high school or library. A form may be obtained at the Board of Elections web site.

### **If I have a developmental disability, can I still vote?**

Yes. Citizens with developmental disabilities have the right to participate in the political process. This is expressly stated in Section 5123.62 (W) of the Ohio Revised Code.

### **Can I obtain help in casting my vote?**

Yes. Any voter who tells the poll workers that he or she is unable to actually mark the ballot due to illiteracy or physical infirmity may receive help. Also, if a physical infirmity is apparent to the poll workers, the voter may be aided by a near relative who is permitted to be admitted to the voting booth. A person who is blind may be accompanied in the voting booth and assisted by any person of his or her choice.

## OSDA conference set

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The Ohio Self-Determination Association will hold its annual conference at the University Plaza Hotel in Columbus on Tuesday, September 16th and Wednesday, the 17th. The theme will be "What People Really Want."

The conference, aimed at professionals, families, self-advocates and others, will feature a variety of speakers. The keynote speaker will be former Notre Dame and Moeller High School football coach Jerry Faust.

People First of Ohio will celebrate the organization's 10th anniversary on Tuesday evening.

For more details, please call Christie Ward at 890-9822, or send e-mail to: [ohiosda@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ohiosda@sbcglobal.net).

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## West Central benefit to feature Mari Kay Dono

Do you want to enjoy an afternoon of beautiful music while helping a great cause? Then circle Sunday, September 28th on your calendar, and plan to be at the Josephinum's Jessing Center, 7625 North High Street, Worthington.

The event, which will include a silent auction at 1 p.m., will feature an hour-long vocal performance by highly acclaimed singer Mari Kay Dono at 2:30 p.m. She will be accompanied by

pianists Casey Westfall and Barbara Michael-Jones.

Mari Kay's performance will cover a variety of music, including classical, opera, a tribute to Italy, Jazz, and Broadway. It will include the debut of a piece of original music by local composer, Craig Courtney, which has been written especially for the event.

Mari Kay is a member of the Columbus Symphony Chorus, the Columbus

Chamber Singers and local church choirs. She has been with Vaudvillities for 2 years.

Tickets are available for \$20. All proceeds will benefit West Central School's Parents Group.

Please call 390-6925 by September 22nd to reserve tickets or obtain further details.

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## Verboten

Through cruel misuse, good words become bad and are retired.

A move by county mental retardation boards in Ohio to remove the R-word from their names isn't surprising, but it's a shame to lose a descriptive term with a precise meaning.

Ignorant slurs using retard and retarded have made many people cringe when they hear any form of the word. Their intentions in shunning the word are good, but in doing so, they contribute to the perception that being retarded or having a loved one with mental retardation is an embarrassment.

Many people know little about mental retardation, other than to feel badly for people they've seen teased or otherwise mistreated. They figure being identified as retarded must make someone feel bad.

So, with a vote in October, the Ohio Association of County Boards of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities could change its name to one that refers only to developmental disabilities, a term that encompasses mental retardation and other conditions. Ten of Ohio's 88 county agencies, formerly known by the acronym MRDD, already have taken *mental retardation* out of their names.

Some supporters of the agencies will wonder whether the public will recognize the term *developmental disabilities* as clearly as they do *mental retardation*. Some even worry that voters, who have typically supported MRDD tax levies, will be less likely to vote yes without seeing the term *mental retardation* on the ballot.

Many people want to avoid seeming insensitive to any particular group of people. And the tendency to retire

words that make someone uncomfortable is part of human nature.

*Moron, imbecile* and *idiot* once were scientific terms describing specific degrees of mental retardation, but all long have been far outside the bounds of polite speech because they were misused in cruelty.

Society would be better off if we could change the attitudes rather than the language.

*(Editor's note: The above editorial appeared in The Columbus Dispatch on July 11, 2008. It is reprinted here with permission.)*

# Good For You

## Notable Achievements in the FCBMRDD Community

## Career Milestones

The **Aquatics Department** made quite a splash this summer. **Tina Pashovich**, Director, accepted the Columbus Health Department's "Healthier, Safer People Award" recognizing "an exemplary record of inspections" at West Central's swimming facilities.

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**David Dawson** of the Transportation Department continued his swimming success in the senior competition at Dublin Community Center. He took gold in backstroke and freestyle, and bronze in breast stroke.

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It was a high-scoring affair at the Great American Ballpark in Cincinnati on July 23rd. The Reds beat the Padres 9-5, much to the delight of the eleven **FCBMRDD participants** in the stands. Thanks to the **Recreation Department** for arranging the trip.

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Former ODMRDD official and Richland County Superintendent **Don Bashaw** has replaced **Bill Gibson** as President/ CEO of the Association for the Developmentally Disabled (ADD). Bill retired after 34 years of distinguished service.

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FCBMRDD staff again showed strong support of the American Red Cross Blood Drive, donating 30 units in July. Special thanks to **Mary Martin** of ECE and **Carl Scott** of Administration for coordinating the drive. Congratulations to ECE staff member **Theri Brady** who won 2 tickets to Cedar Point.

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Above, from left are Shawn Bivens, Susan Sarto and Mary Kay Moore. Photo by Roberta Lehman.



The **600 Club** sponsored a "One On One" bowling tournament for the **Recreation Department's Saturday bowlers** at East Main Lanes on August 2nd. The Club presented participants medals, and provided lunch as well. Many thanks go to the 600 Club!

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Seen above, from left are: Don Neely, Bob Overfield, Cyndi Leach, who is the leader of the 600 Club, and Mark Nuby. Photo by Gary Brundage.

*35 years*

**Rebecca Love**

*30 years*

**Cynthia Harman**

**Dee Hively**

**Diane Martin**

**Nancy Rossel**

**Cynthia Sheets**

*25 years*

**Cheryl Janes**

**Kathleen Mortimer**

**Beverly Ryan**

**Deborah Sorrel**

*20 years*

**Shirley Butcher**

**Deborah Evans**

**Debra Hughes**

**Mark Isenhardt**

*15 years*

**Kimberly Collins**

**Michelle Cooper**

**Julia Thornton**

*10 years*

**Tanya Goolsby**

**Karen Laub**

**James McSwain**

**Jenny Mercer**

**Linda Walraven**

*5 years*

**Janet Brunson**

**Paul Chenderlin**

**Robert Helber**

**Cynthia Hill**

**Donald Kantner**

**Kathleen Lawson**

**Thomas Summerford**

**Pauliana Talabert**

# Siebold scholarships awarded



In the center front are: Mary Snelling, Jessica Siebold and Lisa Pomeroy representing the Siebold family. Scholarship recipients include, from left: Kim Collins, Karen Reynolds, Jerry Rose, Danielle Abel, Erin Harmon, Jack Karner, and Melissa Wren.

## 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

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

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Michael Davis	Amy Magginis	Martin Kerscher
Jennifer Cunningham		

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

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

## Calendar

### September, 2008

- 1 Labor Day - all county facilities closed.
- 9 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.
- 11 Families United meeting, 4131 N. High St., 7 p.m.
- 16-17 Ohio Self-Determination Association Conference, University Plaza Hotel, 3110 Olentangy River Rd. Please call 890-9822 for details.
- 17 Parent League meeting, 2879 Johnstown Road, 9:30 a.m.
- 18 FCBMRDD Finance and Human Resources Committees meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 18 FCBMRDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.
- 22 Autumn begins.
- 22 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Holiday Inn On-the-Lane, 11:30 a.m.

## "Quotable quotes"

"I'm a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it."

Information about FCBMRDD is always available on the internet at:  
**[www.fcbmrdd.org](http://www.fcbmrdd.org)**

--Thomas Jefferson