

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

## ARC Industries completes shift from workshop model

A few years ago, the relationship likely would have played out differently: Instead of having people with developmental disabilities working on site, Simple Times Mixers would have exported some of its production to a nearby ARC Industries workshop.

That's how Simple Times founder Mark Tinus envisioned things when he first spoke with Dave King, director of career services at ARC Industries. "Dave said, 'Well, we really don't do that anymore,'" Tinus said.

Tinus, whose local company makes handcrafted, all-natural cocktail mixes, soon learned about the nationwide shift away from sheltered workshops, which some advocates consider segregated settings. Federal policymakers began pushing for the change several years ago; temporary program closures and work stoppages during the pandemic pretty much completed the process in Franklin County.

"The old method would be for companies to bring their work to our place," said Bob Gaston, CEO of ARC Industries. "Now, we go there."

ARC, a program of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities until 2019, now is a separate organization that provides supportive services to people with developmental disabilities. It no longer has any workshop production or sub-minimum wage work, Gaston said. ARC offers a range of habilitation and vocational opportunities, from competitive and group employment in the community to job training and soft-skills development.

"Our mantra is, 'If you want to work, we'll find it for you,'" Gaston said.

At Simple Times, working with ARC has allowed the company to further diversify its workforce and contribute to expanded opportunities for people with disabilities. "There are a lot more people seeking employers who are purpose- and community-driven," Tinus said. "It reframes the way everybody walks in the door. If you're not impressed by what this program is, then you probably don't belong inside these walls."

Simple Times is a wonderful partner, King said, and embraces the notion of inclusive employment. "Culture is one of the big things we're looking for. Our folks are part of the team there, which is just what you want," he said.

**"There are a lot more people seeking employers who are purpose- and community-driven. It reframes the way everybody walks in the door."**

**-- Mark Tinus, founder of Simple Times Mixers**

Kyle McLean, who is served by FCBDD, said he enjoys his work at Simple Times Mixers. "I'm trouble, but in a good way," he joked.

McLean has had many jobs over the years and says he always strives to be productive. He feels better when he knows he'll be out in the community. "I'm a guy who likes to work," he said. "I'm not a guy who likes to sit on his rear, watch TV and be alone all day."

McLean's mom, Carla May, said she can easily see the positive difference in her son's life since ARC linked him to the Gahanna-based company. "This job has been so good for Kyle," said May, an FCBDD service coordinator.

ARC is focused on connecting with more employers willing to learn how they, as well as people with disabilities, can benefit. "We know there's interest," said Amanda Smith, chief services officer at ARC. "Educating these employers, and finding those that are open to this, is an opportunity."



**Bob Gaston,**  
ARC Industries CEO



**Kyle McLean works on packaging products at Simple Times.**

# Dole remembered for contributions to disability community



**Sen. Bob Dole, pictured at the World War II memorial, was wounded during the war and had disabilities for the remainder of his life. Photo courtesy of the Dole Institute of Politics.**



**Sen. Bob Dole poses with Honor Flight veterans. Photo courtesy of the Dole Institute of Politics.**

Former U.S. Sen. Bob Dole, who died on Dec. 5, is being recalled as a champion of rights for people with disabilities. Dole has said that the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 was his greatest accomplishment as a senator.

His passion was rooted in personal experience: The Kansas native became a service-disabled veteran after he was severely injured in World War II. Dole also developed further disabilities as he aged, and was 98 when he passed away.

The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) credited Dole with helping to establish not only the legislative foundation of the modern disability rights movement, but also in launching the organization.

“The world as we know it today is more accessible and inclusive for people with disabilities because of Sen. Bob Dole. Sen. Dole worked to elevate the voices and perspectives of people with disabilities, encouraging greater leadership opportunities for disabled people, and sharing his experience of disability with his colleagues to build bipartisan consensus for disability policy issues,” Maria Town, AAPD president and CEO, said in a statement. “His passing represents an enormous loss for AAPD, the disability community at-large, and the nation.”

Dole was proud of the ADA but knew it was just one of the tools necessary to foster greater independence and dignity for people with disabilities in the United States and worldwide, the AAPD said. In 1994, he requested that the nation include the status of people with disabilities in its annual report on human rights. That became the launching point for Dole’s advocacy for what would become the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

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## Kim Hauck named to lead state DODD

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities is starting the new year with a new leader.

Gov. Mike DeWine appointed Kim Hauck to replace Jeff Davis, who retired as department director at the end of December. Hauck had been serving as DODD deputy director for the Division of Policy and Strategic Direction.

DeWine thanked Davis for his decades of service and said his passion was obvious. “Director Davis once told me that to do this kind of work, you really have to have a love for it,” the governor said. “He has had that love for the work and the individuals whom he served.”

DeWine also said he’s proud to promote Hauck to the department’s top job. “Her diverse background, leadership talents, and compassion will help the department continue to serve Ohio families,” he said.

Davis stopped by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities in December, where administrators and staff wished him well.

“His passion and vision for creating a kinder, gentler, and more responsive DD service delivery system in Ohio is a legacy we must all work to uphold in his absence,” said Bridget Gargan, CEO of the Ohio Association of County Boards. “We look forward to building upon our strong relationships with Kim Hauck and the senior leadership team at DODD to support people with developmental disabilities in 2022 and beyond.”



**Kim Hauck, Director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.**

## ***A note of gratitude from our Superintendent***

As we reflect on 2021 and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, there are many words that can describe our thoughts. The one that most often comes to mind is a simple and heartfelt **THANKS**.

**Thank you** to all the individuals and families we serve for striving to keep your loved ones and others safe by wearing masks, getting vaccinated and following other safety protocols.

**Thank you** to the teachers, bus drivers, assistants, mechanics, service coordinators, therapists, office staff and all employees of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities for consistent, high-quality work to maintain services for the thousands of people.

**Thank you** to all the providers and direct support professionals for your outstanding, and sometimes heroic, service to people in their homes. We know you go the extra mile because you care.

**Thank you** to Franklin County Public Health, Columbus Public Health and Nationwide Children's Hospital for leadership and assistance in so many ways throughout this pandemic, including vaccine clinics and personal protective equipment for people with developmental disabilities and their staff.

**Thank you** to Service Coordination and Medicaid/Administrative Support staffs for coordinating efforts to get people registered and transported to vaccine clinics.

**Thank you** to Storeroom and Fiscal staff for securing personal protective equipment for thousands of people with developmental disabilities and providers in Franklin County. PPE saves lives.

**Thank you** to Information Technology staff for ensuring that your colleagues have what they need to do their jobs, and keep up services, remotely.

**Thank you** to our first responders and health care professionals for saving lives and providing compassionate care over many long, exhausting months.

**Thank you** to our Franklin County Commissioners and their staff for providing outstanding leadership and support to agencies and residents.

**Thank you** to Gov. Mike DeWine, recently retired DODD Director Jeff Davis and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities for prioritizing people with developmental disabilities for vaccines and services.

**Thank you** to families who have supported their loved ones when providers faced difficult staffing shortages.

**Thank you** to Health Commissioners Joe Mazzola and Dr. Mysheika Roberts for keeping lines of communication open every day. Your leadership and guidance have helped us all as we navigate this pandemic.

**Thank you** to the scientists who developed a life-saving vaccine.

This has been one of the most challenging years in our history. But through goodwill and collaborative efforts, we are doing our best, looking forward to 2022 and starting the new year with hope that life will return to the "new normal" soon.

*Thank you all!*  
*Jed Morison*



# Advocates work to remove language from state law

More than a decade after a successful push to strike the R-word from county boards of developmental disabilities, advocates are urging legislators to rid Ohio statutes of remaining derogatory language.

House Bill 281, known as the Mental Health and Disability Terminology Act, takes aim at the use of offensive words to describe people with disabilities. Terms such as “idiot,” “lunatic,” “mentally retarded,” “deaf and dumb” and others still occur in several parts of the Ohio Revised Code.

“Those words do harm,” said Katherine Yoder, executive director of Adult Advocacy Centers.

The advocacy centers are among a broad coalition of disability organizations, including the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, that support the terminology bill and are pleased it won approval in the Ohio House.

“People don’t understand how mean and painful these words are for individuals with disabilities,” said Columbus resident and longtime self-advocate Marci Straughter. She and other members of the Ohio Self-Determination Association, along with many community groups, are promoting a letter-writing campaign to win support for the legislation in the Ohio Senate.

Rep. Dontavius Jarrells, who co-sponsored the House Bill, congratulated advocates and said the effort gives him hope. “This is the next step in reducing institutionalized stigmas related to people with mental illnesses and disabilities,” he said in a statement.

In 2009, after a legislative victory by advocates, former Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland signed a law removing the term “mental retardation” from state agencies, county boards, councils and other public entities.

To learn how to support the current legislation, watch this video from Adult Advocacy Centers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U0fCob6Qf8Y>



## New leader named to FCFCFC

Veronica Brady has been hired as executive director for the Franklin County Family and Children First Council (FCFC).

Brady comes to the position with deep experience in the disabilities field. She has been the director of the Logan County Family and Children First Council for the past two years and in previous employment served as a service and support administrator for the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

The Family and Children First Council works to improve services provided to multi-need children and their families in Franklin County through shared member planning. Services include Help Me Grow Service Coordination and Early Intervention, multi-system care teams, and the Building Better Lives initiative to prevent child-abuse and neglect. All public child-serving agencies in Franklin County participate.

Brady began as executive director in December. She replaces Jane Whyde, who retired earlier this year.

## Rep. Humphrey visits FCBDD

State Rep. Latyna Humphrey recently visited the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities to learn about services provided.

A former bailiff in Franklin County Common Pleas Court, Humphrey represents Ohio’s House District 26, which includes part of Columbus, Bexley, Groveport and Reynoldsburg. She joined the House last fall to replace Erica Crawley, who is now a Franklin County Commissioner.

Following her meeting with FCBDD Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison, Humphrey toured the Early Childhood Education and Family Center with Becky Love, director of Early Childhood Education.

Humphrey also is Past President of the Central Ohio Young Black Democrats.

Rep. Latyna Humphrey, left, is greeted by Frosty as she visits the Early Childhood Center with Director Becky Love and Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison.



## Project STIR offers leadership training for self-advocates

Do you or someone you know want to learn how to be an even better advocate? The Ohio Self Determination Association is hosting a three-day Project STIR leadership training event Feb. 1-3 in Columbus.

Project STIR (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility) is a training program for self-advocates designed to give people with developmental disabilities the tools to advocate for themselves, mobilize others and gain leadership experiences.

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities is a sponsor and covers most of the fee for people who receive services from FCBDD and an ally. Those who wish to stay at the hotel overnight must pay for their lodging. Recipients of SELF waiver services might be able to pay a portion of their cost through participant directed goods and services funding.

The event takes place Feb. 1, 2 and 3 at the Crown Plaza Hotel-North, 6500 Doubletree Ave., Columbus, 43229. To reserve a room, call 614-885-1885.

Franklin County residents with questions can contact Crystal Schneider, [crystal.schneider@fcbdd.org](mailto:crystal.schneider@fcbdd.org); 614-342-5545.

**Registration deadline is Jan. 15.**

## Boundless to host FCBDD Board

I am Boundless, Inc. is hosting a Board retreat/in-service and Board meeting for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities on Jan. 27, which will include an update on the multi-system youth residential program at Kimberly Woods, 2397 Kimberly Woods Dr.

The Board In-Service will be held from 1-5 p.m., followed by the Board's organizational and regular monthly meeting at 5 p.m.

The multi-system youth residential program operates for four individuals. Boundless provides the services, which are supported by local, state, and federal funds. FCBDD, Franklin County Children Services, the Franklin County Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board (ADAMH) and Franklin County Family and Children First Council jointly support the program.

"This is a unique and very successful collaboration," said Jed Morison, FCBDD Superintendent/CEO "Boundless does excellent work and we are proud of the partnership with all four of our county agencies."

Youth placed in this program are able to stay in their local community, and parents do not have to surrender custody in order to obtain needed care. Current plans are to expand the service at Kimberly Woods, which is on the city's East Side.

## Free or reduced-cost internet offered for use of remote supports

Creative Housing is teaming up with the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities to help provide high-speed internet in homes where people try out remote support.

The project is set to launch early this year with support from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities' Technology First funds, said Cristy "Critt" Buenconsejo, president and CEO of Creative Housing. The nonprofit organization provides safe, accessible and affordable housing to people with disabilities in the Columbus area. "Everyone is really excited to see this go," Buenconsejo said. "The use of technology is not only our future, but must be our now."

Eligible participants must use some type of remote support for at least eight hours a week for eight weeks in order to receive the subsidy, which covers all or part of the cost for whole-house internet. If successful, the hope is that remote supports would continue past the trial period.

Remote supports allow off-site service providers to monitor and respond to health, safety and other needs – everything from medication reminders to troubleshooting HVAC problems -- via live communication. Advocates say that can give people with disabilities more privacy and independence, while reducing some of the demand for staff to work in homes.

The effort also aims to help address internet affordability. Medicaid won't pay for the service, even though it has placed electronic reporting requirements on providers. And people with developmental disabilities often live on low and limited incomes.

"We're also trying to focus on showing Medicaid that broadband improves communication," Buenconsejo said. "There's a fear that people will hole up in their homes and interact less. We hope to show it will increase integration."

During the pandemic, for example, people with disabilities dramatically boosted their tech savvy, using the internet for socializing, recreational activities, education, health information and employment. Buenconsejo said the network comes with security measures to protect against hacking and to block harmful or obscene content.

"Today, with so many things virtual, the internet is very important," said Jed Morison, FCBDD Superintendent CEO. "These connections will help individuals living in the homes, and also the providers."



**Critt Buenconsejo,**  
*President/CEO of  
Creative Housing*

# Good For You

*Notable achievements in the FCBDD community*

Congratulations to Brandon Grandominico of the FCBDD transportation department for serving as the new central Ohio regional director of the Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association. We know Brandon will help keep the wheels rollin' throughout our area!



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Thanks to Jeff Davis, outgoing director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, for his December visit to FCBDD. We were glad to get the chance to present him with a 'Good for You' memento from our agency. All the best in retirement, Jeff!



# Career Milestones

**35 Years**

Laura Billingham

**25 Years**

Janice Tartell

**15 Years**

Dana Johnson

Darren Thompson

**5 Years**

Bibha Suvedi

Trinity Wolfe



# Dateline

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

**[www.fcbdd.org](http://www.fcbdd.org)**

# Calendar

*Editor's Note: The following calendar is tentative due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Call 614-342-5950 before attending any meeting to see if it is still scheduled.*

## January 2022

- 1 Happy New Year!
- 3 FCBDD early childhood and West Central classes resume.
- 17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed -- all county facilities closed.
- 19 Family Support meeting, 10 a.m. via Zoom. Please contact Amy Magginis at 614-342-5950 for details or click the following link to connect: [Family Support Meeting Link \(Zoom\)](#)
- 27 Franklin County Board of Development Disabilities In-Service and Retreat, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Kimberly Woods, 2397 Kimberly Woods Drive.
- 27 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Annual Organizational Board meeting and regular meeting, 5 p.m. at Kimberly Woods, 2397 Kimberly Woods Drive. Please contact Amy Magginis at 614-342-5950 for details.