

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

Becky Love to retire after 50 years of service to children & families

Even after so long, Becky Love says, the days still don't feel like work. There has always been so much to do and share and learn – and so many staff members on board with the mission – that it all seems more joy than job.

"It's been good," said Love, who is retiring at the end of December from her longtime position as Director of Early Childhood Education at the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. "I was able to spread my wings."

Love joined FCBDD in 1973 as one of the agency's first speech pathologists. She credits her mother, an assistant at the former A.G. Bell School in Cleveland, for spurring her interest in helping children with disabilities to communicate.

At the time, FCBDD had just begun providing "Early Childhood Training Classes" at various church sites throughout the community. Love soon latched onto a grander vision.



Rebecca Love



Becky Love wore her "Queen for a Day" cape when she and Jed Morison visited preschoolers at Christ Lutheran Church in Bexley.

Though her initial effort to build partnerships with other child-serving organizations yielded just two responses from the 400 letters she sent, Love wasn't daunted. She kept pursuing the relationships and support that would lead to a thriving, nationally recognized Early Childhood Education program, one that now includes: two regional centers, a multi-agency partnership, home-based services, services for children under 3 who have disabilities, and a blended program for young children with and without disabilities and delays.

"What we wanted was full inclusion," she said. "And then it went like *Field of Dreams*. Everybody wanted to come."

Love served as assistant director from 1981 until 1991, when she became director. Along the way, she has served on numerous panels and boards, nurtured dozens of educators and won awards for her commitment to children and families.

See **BECKY** on page 2

FCBDD Combined Charitable Campaign underway

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities recently kicked off its 2023 Combined Charitable Campaign (CCC) with a goal of raising \$57,200.

The CCC is a consolidated workplace charity drive that gives all Franklin County employees the opportunity to support charities of their choice, either through payroll deductions or one-time donations.

All staff members should have received a link to the [ePledge](#) giving portal, which also contains resources such as a searchable guide and alphabetical list of participating charities.

FCBDD controller **Jennifer Schueneman** is leading the FCBDD campaign. Department coordinators can answer questions or provide paper pledge forms:

Jack Brownley (administration/insurance/legal/schools/Special Olympics), **Larry Macintosh** (administrative support services), **Sarah Gillilan** (ECEFC), **Gretchen Uhl** (ECLC), **Mandy Holland** (fiscal), **David Ott** (human resources), **Travis Sherick** (IT), **Mike Boyce** (maintenance), **Randy Cuenot** (psychology), **Lee Childs** (service coordination), **Jane Pickens** and **Amy Kulow** (transportation), **Kelly Bowers** (West Central School).

Advocates invited to join Central Ohio Self Determination Association

The Central Ohio Self Determination Association recently hosted a kickoff gathering and is working to re-activate its regional self-advocacy work.

The group, a part of the Ohio Self Determination Association, had paused events during the pandemic. Meetings are now planned for every other month and are open to central Ohio residents with developmental disabilities who live in Franklin, Delaware, Fairfield, Licking, Madison, Pickaway and Union counties.

“We know it’ll take a while to get things going again, since we’re starting back after three-and-a-half years,” organizer Christine Brown said. “But I think the first one went really well.”

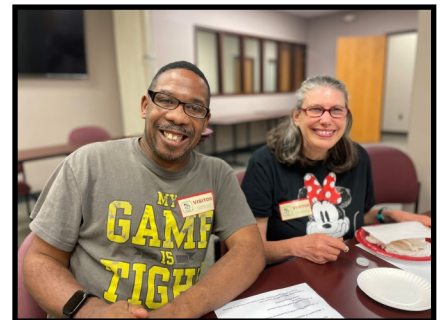
The aim is to provide a forum for people to speak out on issues and concerns, and to learn about advocacy opportunities. “I speak up for myself on a daily basis,” said Travis Dresbach, an advocate and Pickaway County Board of Developmental Disabilities staff member who attended the first meeting. “The most recent was when my transportation showed up an hour and a half late.”

In addition to transportation, advocates said other possible discussion topics include STABLE accounts, supported decision-making, volunteer opportunities for people with disabilities, Social Security, Medicaid and Project STIR (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility).

The first meeting was held on Aug. 18 and the next is planned for 10:30 a.m. Oct. 13 at the FCBDD administration building, 2879 Johnstown Rd. For more information or to attend an upcoming meeting, please email Christine Brown at Christine.Brown@osumc.edu



Clockwise from left: Christine Brown, Marci Straughter and Travis Dresbach



Jeremy Ford and Karen Duemmel



FCBDD Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison speaks to self-advocates



Becky (continued from page 1)

“Becky is a good soul – a very good friend and an outstanding administrator,” said FCBDD Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison, who has worked closely with Love throughout their careers. “She can leave here knowing that so many kids and their families are better off. That’s a pretty nice legacy.”

Laura Billingham, administrative assistant to Love for the past 40 years, said Love has always been equally good at managing staff and connecting with young children. She pours her heart into both.



Becky and the late Thealka Lehman, the Early Childhood program’s first leader.

“She likes for her staff to have a say and be a part of what’s happening,” said Billingham, who lived near Love and her late husband, Andy, as a teen and babysat their two children. “Becky’s always looking at the big picture. I feel like she’s usually just a step ahead of where things need to be.”

Love plans to remain in Columbus but will travel often to Florida, visit family and friends around the country, and spend time with her family. She’ll also keep looking for ways to improve the lives of young children. “I’ve always told my staff that a problem is not the child’s problem,” Love said. “It’s our problem to figure out.”

Friends and colleagues are invited to gather for an informal celebration of Becky Love and her wonderful career from 5 to 7 p.m. Nov. 8 at The Railhouse in the East Market, 212 Kelton Ave. To register or for details, email amy.magginis@fcbdd.org or call 614-342-5950.

Families learn about new Ohio Department of Children & Youth

The Early Childhood Education and Family Center at the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities and Action for Children recently hosted a meeting for families to learn more about the new department that will oversee many child-focused programs throughout the state.

Gov. Mike DeWine signed into law the creation of the Ohio Department of Children and Youth, which advocates say will make service delivery more efficient and effective. The new department will oversee several programs from six different agencies, including early intervention, early childhood education and publicly funded childcare programs.



State officials have been participating in “regional listening sessions” so that families can share concerns and ask questions. Kathy Lawton, who will become director of the FCBDD Early Childhood Education program starting in January, said those who attended the meeting at FCBDD had plenty of questions. Some also discussed problems and difficulties they have had.

FCBDD will continue to administer the same early intervention and early childhood programs; only state administrative oversight is changing. To learn more about the new Ohio Department of Children and Youth, go to <https://boldbeginning.ohio.gov/>

Merger expands Boundless reach throughout Ohio

Franklin County-based I am Boundless, Inc. is combining operations with Koinonia, a disability-services nonprofit in northeast Ohio.

The two organizations will create Ohio’s largest service provider for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and one of the state’s five biggest health-and-human service organizations. Under the agreement, they were to be operating under the Boundless brand by Oct. 1.

“We are so glad that we can come together with Koinonia because our organizations are very like-minded in serving the whole person across their lifetime,” said Patrick Maynard, Boundless president and CEO. “Joining forces is a win-win that allows us to operate more effectively and pool our resources. We think this opportunity will benefit both the staff and those we serve.”

Programs, schedules and staffing will not change for people receiving services and their families, officials said.

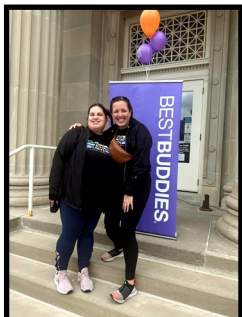
“Koinonia has a rich history of leading innovation, care and community integration among this population,” said Diane Beastrom, Koinonia president and CEO. “This step builds on that history in an important move toward best-in-class, whole-person care. I am confident this new organization will serve as a national model for years to come.”

Boundless revenues have increased from \$25 million to \$100 million during the past five years. With an additional \$35 million in revenue from Koinonia, the combined organization is expected to surpass \$135 million in 2024, making it the largest provider of its kind in Ohio. For more information, visit iamboundless.org

Best Buddies Citizens seeking Franklin County friendship matches

Would you like get involved in the community and help make central Ohio more inclusive?

Best Buddies is accepting applications for Best Buddies Citizens in Franklin County, a program that pairs an adult with an intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) in a one-to-one friendship with an adult without IDD from their local community.



The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities is partnering with Best Buddies on the Citizens initiative. Because many people with IDD experience a decline in opportunities for social interactions after leaving the educational environment, Best Buddies Citizens focuses on helping adults of all ages engage in public life.

Commitments: Participants commit to at least a one-year friendship; get together in person at least once a month; maintain weekly contact (phone, email, social media, etc.)

Matches: Ideally of similar ages; share common interests; live or work near each other; have a genuine interest in forming new friendship

Requirements: Age 25 or older; submit a membership application (bestbuddies.org/join); complete a criminal background check; participate in an interview

To learn more, contact ohio@bestbuddies.org or visit <https://www.bestbuddies.org/ohio/friendship>

Voiceover artist with autism strives to put his talent to work

Hunter Primmer was just 2 years old when he discovered that he could captivate his family – and himself – by changing his voice. The characters, dialects and scripts have been flowing ever since.

“It’s a lot of fun,” said Primmer, 25. “I love it.”

Primmer, who markets himself as ‘Hunter P Voice,’ has autism. He sees it as more catalyst than hurdle, shaping both his talent and focus. Primmer can easily transform his voice to sound like a young child, teen or adult; an earnest hero or endearing nerd; a villain, beast, wizard or even a carnival barker.



“Hunter is a really interesting guy,” said Nicole Nawman, his service coordinator at the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. “He’s got his own website, he did a commercial for the Licking County Board of DD, and he has a sound studio that he built in his apartment. It’s a really good studio where he reads and practices.”

Primmer’s mother, Dr. Joette Greenstein, said she’s been trying to help her son find a talent agent. Getting noticed isn’t easy. “It’s a tough field,” she said. “The ultimate dream would be to work for Pixar. But he’d also be phenomenal at reading children’s books. He adds flavor to everything.”

Primmer attended the Ohio State University TOPS (Transition Options in Postsecondary Settings) program and also the Ohio Media School, where he earned a certificate in broadcasting in 2020. He received a scholarship from the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation and is now an ambassador for that organization, which helps people and families affected by autism “to live life to the fullest.”



Greenstein said she’s proud of her son’s abilities and is hopeful that he’ll soon be able to go from occasional gigs to making a living with his voice. “Music is his thing, too,” she said. “When he was little, he would orchestrate those Baby Bach videos. He loves to be the conductor.”

For now, Primmer works full-time at a healthcare distribution center and spends much of his spare time on his voice acting. He does quizzes on TikTok, inviting listeners to guess the movie voice he’s performing. “I have talents,” he said with a smile. “My mom’s working on that. She’s my agent.”

To learn more, listen to audio reels or contact Primmer, go to www.hunterprimmer.com

Improv classes for people with disabilities offered online

The Improvaneer Method, an improvisation program that helps people with disabilities, ages 16 and older, build social and problem-solving skills, is offering online classes now through October 24.

THE IMPROVANEER METHOD ONLINE STYLE!

IMPROV FOR ALL: LEVEL 1, SESSION 1

“Using improvisation to greatly increase social, workplace and lifetime opportunities for those with developmental disabilities!”

CONNECTION SKILL BUILDING FUN!

Home-delivered meals now can be delivered elsewhere

People with developmental disabilities who receive home-delivered meals through their Medicaid waivers now can choose to have the food brought to alternative locations.



The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities said the new option went into effect in July.

The need for home-delivered meals must be documented in a person’s Individual Service Plan (ISP), so anyone requesting a new delivery site should contact their service coordinator, said Lee Childs, Service Coordination Director at the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

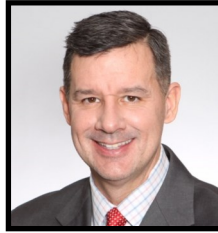
Day programs, job sites, or the homes of family members could be alternative sites for delivery, ensuring that people don’t miss out on meals.

Program participants generally are eligible for up to 14 noon and evening meals each week.

Good For You

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Michael Wilkos of the United Way of Central Ohio came to our management-staff meeting in September and provided a great presentation on the growth and ever-changing demographics of Franklin County. With virtually all of our state's population increase centered here in central Ohio, it's important for our agency to be informed about the trends. Thanks, Michael!



Career Milestones

35 Years
Mike Boyce

25 Years
Amy Lare

20 Years
Mary Pappada



We appreciate the advocacy of FCBDD Board member Marci Straughter, who recently attended the HCBS (Home and Community-Based Services) Conference in Baltimore. She also took part in a federal advocacy trip to Washington, D.C., with a coalition of people with disabilities and disability advocacy organizations. Way to represent, Marci!

Congratulations to Wallace Peck and the Open Door Art Studio & Gallery for hosting a wonderful opening exhibition to celebrate Peck's 60th birthday and his talent. Peck is a popular, prolific local artist with a signature style. The exhibit runs through Oct. 6.

Goodwill Columbus recently opened its third and largest job-training center at its Brice Road location. Through a partnership with the state, the center is offering free training for jobs in broadband technology, as well as day and night courses in IT, health care, hospitality and more. The location also has a storefront, donation center, warehouse space and Franklin County's only Goodwill outlet store.



OSU students offer painting program for teens, adults with disabilities

Palette Pals, a new student organization at the Ohio State University, is inviting teens and adults with developmental disabilities to take part in a free, recreational art program.

Organizer Kaitlin Herman said the aim is to create interaction among OSU students, people with developmental disabilities and their families, while empowering the creativity of the disabilities community.

Herman was a Special Olympics coach back home in Medina County and worked with the county board there to offer painting nights. "That's how I got started, and I wanted to do something similar here," she said.

Palette Pals provides all painting supplies. Painting nights are planned for 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays at West Central School, 1481 W. Town St. Click on the QR code to register or email palett palsosu@gmail.com



JOIN US FOR PAINTING NIGHTS

Come join us for social paint nights!
Hosted by the student volunteers of Palette Pals at The Ohio State University

Questions? Email palett palsosu@gmail.com

Scan me for interest form

Calendar

October, 2023

- 13 Central Ohio Self Determination Association meeting. at FCBDD Administrative Building, 2879 Johnstown Road, Columbus. 10:30 a.m. For details contact Christine.Brown@osumc.edu
- 19 FCBDD Early Childhood Education and the Mid-Ohio Food Collective Produce Drive through from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the ECEFC Bus Lane (accessed via Marilyn Lane). For more details, contact Sarah Gillilan at 614-342-5803.
- 19 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board meeting at Noon (12:00 p.m.), 2879 Johnstown Road, Columbus, Ohio, via Zoom for the public. Please contact Amy Magginis at 614-342-5950 for details or click on the following link to connect:
[FCBDD Board Meeting Link \(Zoom\)](#)
- 25 Salute to Pandemic Heroes and Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison. Social Hour at 5:30-6:30 p.m. Dinner and Salute begins promptly at 6:30 p.m. Villa Milano, 1630 Schrock Road. Registration is required, please contact Amy Magginis at 614-342-5950 for details.



Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Michael Underwood, President
Marie Crawford, Vice President
William W. Wilkins, Secretary
John Bickley
Samuel Davis
Beth Savage
Marci Straughter

Superintendent/CEO **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 disability.

The following staff contribute to the monthly publication and distribution of *Dateline*:

Carl Scott **Amy Magginis** **Rita Price**
Jennifer Cunningham **Carla Maynard**

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

Rita Price, Communications Coordinator
2879 Johnstown Road
Columbus, Ohio 43219
(614) 342-5161 FAX (614) 342-5001
e-mail: rita.price@fcbdd.org

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

www.fcbdd.org

Monday Night Swim resumes at West Central

The aquatics center at West Central School will again be open on Monday evenings to people served by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, their immediate families and FCBDD employees.

The Monday Night Swim event takes place from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Mondays now through May 20 at West Central, 1481 W. Town St. A one-time charge of \$10 covers an entire family for the full school year.

Lifeguards are on duty, but people who need assistance in the pool must have a family member or provider in the water with them. The pool is heated and ranges from 3 to 5 feet deep, with a diving area that is 10 feet deep. There is a lift for non-ambulatory access and an adjacent baby pool.

Monday Night Swim will not be held on Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan. 15), Presidents Day (Feb. 19) and April 1.

Sign-up sheets are available at West Central. For more information, call the aquatics center at 614-342-5265.



Follow FCBDD on social media!

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities also shares stories, photos, videos and news about our community on social media.

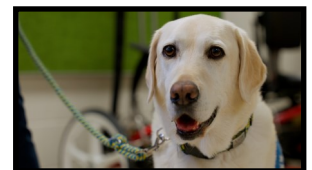


We recently celebrated the friendship between Neil and Lakota during Direct Support Professional Recognition Week (Sept. 10-16)

To watch Neil & Lakota click here or go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/3brub7up>

And if you haven't had the pleasure of meeting Lion, check out his wonderful work with students at West Central School (September was National Service Dog Month):

To watch Lion's video, click here or go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/37kjr8pr>



You can find us on Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter) and YouTube.

