

OPTIONS

"What is the quality of life if not for options"

October / November 2007 Vol. 15 No. 5



RECREATION FUN!

Thanks to everyone who returned the surveys that were sent out earlier this year regarding recreation activities.

After reviewing the surveys returned, the board has decided to provide a limited number of recreation activities. Before the end of 2007, we plan to provide one or two recreational activities for adults. In 2008, we plan to add a summer activity for children under age five and their families and a summer activity for school age children.

There will also be four activities held for adults but those will be spread out through the year. Most of these activities will be planned by the Special Olympics Technician.

Look for information to be coming out soon as we determine what the first activity will be this fall! If you have any questions, please feel free to give me call or drop me an email.

*Beth Friess, Children Services Director
bfriess@fultoncountyoh.com*

Senior Projects at the Fair

As Fulton County residents, we consider ourselves fortunate to be host to one of the finest county fairs in the state.

This year, four of our seniors entered projects of their choosing in the arts and crafts category. They put a lot of time and effort into their entries and we are so proud of them. Our outing to the fair this year was especially "sweet" with their work on display for all to see.

Officially, Dawn Waldo and Susie Murphy each won ribbons, first place for Dawn's latch hook wall hanging and second place for Susie's yummy chocolate fudge. Everyone was a winner in our eyes and special ribbons were also sent home with Margie Bodnar and Larry Ruffer. Margie crocheted a beautiful baby blanket and Larry created a lovely fall wreath.

We look forward to next year's entries from this group and hope to add even more participants.

Senior Interest Group and Staff



DOWN SYNDROME SUPPORT GROUP

The Down Syndrome Support Group will meet the second Thursday of every month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. The group will meet at the Board's main office at 1210 N. Ottokee St. in Wauseon. Childcare will be provided.

For more information or questions, contact Mary Johnson at 419-822-9139.



FISH FRY! ...VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We will be doing a Knights of Columbus Fish Fry on Friday, November 9. You can help support us by buying supper, volunteering your time to help or providing a dessert. To volunteer please call Reva at the Board at 419-337-4575. Proceeds from this event will benefit Triangular Processing, Inc.

Christmas Shopping Respite Offered

Families! Not only did someone give us feedback but it was **GREAT** feedback! (See what can happen when you fill out surveys?)

We are offering a unique opportunity for you, mom and dad! On Tuesday, December 18 from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., the Parent Group is offering to watch your special needs child while you go Christmas shopping.

Take this opportunity to spend time together!

Interested? Please RSVP by Dec. 11, so that the Emergency Medical Form can be filled out to hold your place. Space is limited.

Please check our website for updates and contact information:

http://www.fultoncountyoh.com/board_dd/parentgroup.htm

Thank You!

A special thanks goes out to Holy Trinity Catholic Parish for their donation to our Family Support Services Fund.

The Mission of the parish states: "We seek to imitate Christ by sharing the gospel message and serving those in need" and their donation is viewed as commitment from their parishioners as they contribute to the well being of their neighbors. Thanks again to all for generous giving!

Beth Friess, Children Services Director

From the Desk of the Superintendent ... Brenda Oyer

REMINISCING



Although my tenure as Superintendent has been a relatively short one, as my time here draws near to an end, I find myself reminiscing and feeling a bit nostalgic about the people I have gotten to know since I came in June of 2005.

I remember the smiles and the hugs given by the individuals we serve. A visit to Triangular Processing, our R.E.A.C.H. program, Senior Interest program, or Early Intervention classrooms has never failed to brighten my day.

I have not been able to spend nearly as much time as I would have liked visiting our programs and talking with individuals who receive our services, or their families. But when I have found time for such visits, I am reminded of the purpose behind all of the paperwork, emails, and other administrative duties that have demanded my time and attention – the children and adults who benefit from our services.

I will miss the times of holding a baby while she and her mom wait in the front office for their therapy appointment. I will miss seeing little kids press their noses against the window to my office or wave at me while they wait with their mom or dad for an appointment with their Early Childhood Specialist. I will miss the joy of having one of the adults who typically is very quiet talk to me about sports.

I also remember some of the most truly dedicated, knowledgeable, and caring staff I have ever worked with. I can't even begin to tell about the value of the management team members in leading

this organization, because I wouldn't know where to stop. Nor can I begin to tell about the countless ways our staff makes a difference every day in the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families. I will miss feeling proud about the great work that is accomplished by our staff, and hearing stories of progress or success. (Actually progress *is* success!) I will miss the genuine compassion I hear in the voice of an SSA or Service Coordinator as they speak lovingly about a client who has passed away. I will miss Floyd's corny sense of humor. I will miss the sense of satisfaction I feel in seeing increasingly positive relationships between "management" and "labor" and the camaraderie among staff.

I also remember, and will miss, the pleasure I feel when I speak to community groups about the services we provide and the impact of those services on people's lives. I will miss the expression of appreciation I hear when I talk to parents. I will miss being a part of such a worthy cause and purpose.

Because this is likely the last newsletter article I will write, I want to take this time to thank some people. **Thank you to the Board members** for their dedication and genuine concern for the people we serve. They volunteer their time and energies with very little recognition or appreciation, in their efforts to ensure we provide the best services possible for people with developmental disabilities and their families in Fulton County. **Thank you to the Fulton County Commissioners and to Vond Hall**, the Administrator, for their support and assistance over the past couple of years.

And finally, **thank you to the people of Fulton County** for supporting us with their votes in our past two levies. It is my sincere hope and prayer that the people of Fulton County will continue to understand the value of our services and to support their neighbors with developmental disabilities in the years to come.

Our Goal

For people with disabilities to utilize natural supports to fully participate in their community all day, every day.

Farewell!

We wish a fond farewell and best wishes to the following staff who recently left employment with the Board.

✧ **Lindsey Ames.** Lindsey was our Special Olympics Technician since August of 2002. She is now staying home to take care of her 1-year-old daughter, Tess, as well as to provide childcare for other families.

✧ **Terri Blue.** Terri served as an Administrative Assistant since October of 2006. Terri will be pursuing a bachelor's degree through Franklin University.

✧ **Mary Johnson.** Mary was our Family Support Specialist since December of 2000. She will be working for the Northwest Ohio Educational Services Center as a Classroom Aid at York School in Delta.

"OPTIONS"

A newsletter of the Fulton County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Questions, comments and letters are encouraged. Please send or contact us with news releases and story ideas.

To be considered for publication, articles must be submitted by the 1st of the month preceding the month to be published. Circulation is currently 850.

Feb / March issue	January 1
April / May	March 1
June / July	May 1
August / September	July 1
October / November	Sept. 1
December / January	Nov. 1

Special thanks to the employees at Triangular Processing, Inc. for their able assistance in preparing this publication for mailing.

Welcome to New Staff

Tara Short

Tara joined us on September 4th as the coordinator of our Special Olympics program. Prior to coming to the Board, Tara worked as an Activity Therapist for a retirement village in Toledo. She graduated from Archbold and Bluffton College with a major in Therapeutic Recreation. While at Bluffton she also played soccer. Tara lives in Archbold with her 4 year-old son, Braden. In her spare time she enjoys, reading, gardening, and spending time with her son.



Myndee Wrostek

Myndee, who works as an assistant in our Early Childhood classes, began working as Family Support Specialist on August 13th. Myndee will be available to make home visits and phone calls with families. Also, she will complete a quarterly newsletter for families. Myndee will attend monthly Early Childhood Collaborative Meetings and the group's monthly Parent Advisory Group.



Myndee grew up in Toledo, graduating from Bowser High School. She now lives in Delta with her husband, Mike and three boys, Michael, age 7; Mason who is 4; and Mathew who is 2. Mason started receiving services from the Board in 2003 from extreme premature birth. This is when Myndee was first introduced to the Board's Early Childhood services. Mathew is currently receiving services in the Early Intervention class.



Chloe Miller

Chloe began working as a Vocational Habilitation Programmer (VHP) on August 27. She also served as a substitute VHP for us this summer, so she has already gotten to know the clients and her job duties! Chloe graduated from and lives in Wauseon. Her interests have been in the gymnastics program where she has competed in state tournaments since she was 6. Chloe likes to volunteer her time with Board clients outside of work. She enjoys spending time with the clients at baseball games, picnics and home visits. She hopes to be here a while and learn and grow into the programs.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Here are this summer's softball results for Fulton County:

- Won against Henry County (7-6)
- Lost to Wood County Blue (5-23)
- Won against Wood County Silver (10-5)
- Lost to Sandusky County (3-10)

Good Job Fulton County!!!



Special Olympics

Want to find out about or participate in Special Olympics sports?

Please call Tara Short at 419-335-6243
or email her at tshort@fultoncountyoh.com

PARENT GROUP MEETINGS RESUME

The Parent Group is starting up again this October. Our purpose is to meet and share information on how we can make our families' lives easier while supporting one another through tears, laughter, and friendship.

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Fulton County Board of DD. Please refer back to our website frequently for updates and contact information! http://www.fultoncountyoh.com/board_dd/parentgroup.htm

PARENT GROUP 2007-2008 SCHEDULE:

- October 16, Tuesday, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm: Grief
- November 17, Saturday, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm: Sib Shop (RSVP required by November 9 and EMF)
- December 18, Tuesday, 5:30 pm-8:30 pm: Parents Christmas shopping Respite (RSVP required)
- January 15, Tuesday, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm: Sensory
- February 19, Tuesday, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm: CPR
- March 18, Tuesday, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm: Waivers
- April 15, Tuesday, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm: Bonnie Kelly

Mark your calendars!

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If you would like information on how our company can help your company, please call Larry Restivo at 419-337-9640.

"Thank You" to our dedicated VOLUNTEER Board Members:

2007 FCBDD

Executive Board Members

- Penny Earl, President
- Ken Baumgartner, Vice Pres.
- Karen Cordrey, Secretary
- Tim Coll
- Susan Dominique
- Kathie Donaldson
- Marle Weber

NonProfit Board Members

- Shirley Colon - President
- Jennifer Durbin - Secretary
- Helen Rashley - Treasurer
- Ann Case
- Joann Pinkava
- Jerry Matheny
- Manette Seady

Check Out Our Bulletin Board

OCTOBER

- 2 1 pm - FSS/SL Advisory Committee Meeting
- 11 6:30 pm - Down Syndrome Support Group
- 15 7 pm - Board Meeting
- 16 6:30-8 pm - Parent Group Meeting at the Board

NOVEMBER

- 8 6:30 pm - Down Syndrome Support Group
- 17 9 am-12 noon - Parent Group - Sib Shop
- 19 7 pm - Board Meeting
- 22/23 Board Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday

CALAMITY DAY PROCEDURE

WEATHER DELAYS And CANCELLATIONS will be announced on the following Radio and TV Stations:

- WMTR - Archbold 96.1 FM
- WNDH - Napoleon 103.1 FM
- WDFM - Defiance 98.1 FM
- WSPD - Toledo 1370 AM
- + "Clear Channel" Stations WTOL - Toledo Channel 11 - TV

- 1 Hour Delay: 0-2 Program in session
- 2 Hour Delay: 0-2 Program cancelled for the morning

7th Annual Ohio Sibling Conference

October 12 & 13, 2007 at the Marriott Airport Hotel Columbus, Ohio

This unique gathering is unlike anything else in the United States. Designed to give adult siblings of brothers and sisters with disabilities an opportunity to meet, befriend, and develop relationships with people in similar situations.

For more information and registration, go to: www.ohiosibs.com

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