

## New Board Member



*The newest member of the Lucas County Board of DD is Charisse "Nikki" Montgomery, the parent of an individual with a developmental disability. She was appointed by Judge Jack Puffenberger, the Probate Judge in Lucas County. She has a background in public relations and is presently employed at the University of Toledo. She holds Masters degrees in Education and English from the University of Toledo.*

## Upcoming Events

- March 6 - Glass City Beerfest at Lucas County Recreation Center
- CommUNITY Film Fest - 3:00 -5:00 at the Maumee Indoor
- March 13 - Staff Inservice; Adult Facilities are closed
- March 17 - Board of DD monthly meeting; 5:30 p.m. at 1154 Larc Lane
- March 28 - Goalball Tournament at Tam-O-Shanter
- April 3 - Spring Holiday; all facilities closed
- April 14 - Family & Advocate Forum with Superintendent Deb Yenrick; 9:30 a.m. at 1154 Larc Lane

# Update

Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities  
January-February 2015

## Sean Pool recognized as Self-Advocate of the Year

Let's take a moment to define the self-advocate. A self-advocate works to take control of his own life. The self-advocate speaks out on behalf of people with disabilities. And the self-advocate sets a strong example. That kind of person is our self-advocate of the year, Sean Pool. Sean is presently employed by Lott Industries in the shredder area but recently began training to work in the new cafeteria. He is currently the vice-president of EAAC, the employee advocate and advisory council. He is also a member of the Human Rights Committee. Sean is a strong advocate for the Employment First Initiative and can often be heard talking to his peers about everyone having more involvement with the community.



## Spirit Award presented to Roger and Margaret Bresnahan



Each year, the Lucas County Board of DD recognizes with its Spirit Award a lifetime of service to persons with developmental disabilities. There are certainly no two people who exhibit this commitment more than Roger and Margaret Bresnahan.

Roger is quick to point out that Margaret became involved in organizations before he did... when she became an early member of GOAL and the Larc Lane School Mothers' Club. And, then, as their son Kevin grew older, she became active with the Lott Parent

Group and the Parent Advocacy and Provider Council.

Roger's commitment as a parent advocate became evident when he led the campaign to restore summer day camp which led to his appointment to the Lucas County Board of DD in 1987. He was re-appointed to the Board in 1990... and served as president of the Board until 1996.

After leaving the Board because of time limits, Roger stayed connected with his appointment to the board of Community Living Options. He was re-appointed to the Board of DD in 2002 by the Probate Court in time to help with the planning of another successful levy campaign. Roger left the Board in December, again because of time limits, but has accepted a seat on the Lott Industries Board.

## Staff Person of the Year Honors



Rachel Roseman is a service and support specialist. It is a position she always wanted to obtain, but, because she

lacked the required post graduate professional experience she could not bid on the position until a Memorandum of Understanding between union and management allowed her to use her experience with the Board.

Since that time, Rachel has shown herself to be compassionate and professional in the handling of several challenging cases. Her co-workers describe as a “positive spirit” and we would agree.

Gloria Jones is that “go to” person when the need arises. She is always willing to assist. Gloria has been with the



Board for 14 years and is presently a Habilitation Technician at the Connections site on Woodley Road.

We could talk at length about the support Gloria gives to staff and persons served, but of special note is her willingness to serve as a Positive Culture Ambassador, raising morale of staff.

Her kindness and upbeat personality always bring smiles to your face.

The Staff Person of the Year is selected by a special committee within the Board’s Human Resources Department from individuals recognized as a Staff Person of the Month.

## Tyler Wiley lauded for his advocacy



*Tyler Wiley receives a City Council Proclamation from Councilwoman Sandy Spang. Also pictured is Toledo Schools Superintendent Romules Durant. Tyler was congratulated for successfully winning approval of Tyler’s Travel Pass.*

Tyler Wiley, a Rogers High School graduate and artist at Shared Lives Studio, is an avid follower of TPS sports teams but was finding it tough to pay the admission price for the events he wanted to attend as he is on a fixed income. The Board of Education approved his proposal for Tyler’s Travel Pass, which will now be issued to individuals with developmental disabilities who live within the TPS boundaries. Passes can be obtained from an individual’s Service and Support Specialist. The pass will allow the holder to get into all TPS home athletic events for free (excluding All-Star games, City League championships or state tournaments), as well as plays and musical performances at TPS schools.

## Safety and lower costs associated with remote monitoring

Individuals wanting more independence, more self-direction, and more privacy may want to investigate remote monitoring. The concept has a person’s home wired with video cameras and/or motion sensors instead of having a staff person on location.

Costs associated with remote monitoring - which are usually much less - are covered under the Individual Options and Level One waivers. Ohio was the first state in the country to have remote monitoring approved in a Medicaid waiver.

Remote monitoring is custom designed. The individual, family and team determine a system that can be of benefit and ensures safety. A thorough assessment is completed and an individualized remote monitoring plan is drafted and included in the Individualized Service Plan.

The remote monitoring system could include motion sensors, live audio and

visual feeds, and equipment for two-way communication with the person being monitored.

Cameras would only be installed in common areas such as kitchens and living rooms.

It’s important to note that staff who provide remote monitoring are providing this service exclusively. There also must be paid back-up or natural support in place.

There are presently four certified remote monitoring providers servicing our area.

This service will not be forced on anyone, but many families now using remote monitoring say they are happier without having staff in their homes 24/7.

Individuals or family members wishing to learn more about remote monitoring, can contact their Service and Support Specialists.

## Team's involvement helps PENTA grad succeed with his plan — to live in his own apartment!



The Lucas County Board of DD is pleased to recognize William Douglas for demonstrating the importance of setting goals and teamwork.

As graduation from PENTA approached, Will told his team his plan for his future - to live in his own apartment! He knew that the only way he could afford his own place was to get a job.

On Will's 23rd birthday, he received a job offer from Taco Bell and that is when things really started to happen. Will's team swung into action, securing payee services, job coaching, apartment hunting, and obtaining furniture and other needs for him to set up housekeeping.

Will has moved into his own apartment and continues to be in contact with staff from PENTA and participates in team sports with Special Olympics. His homemaker/personal care provider is helping him participate in even more community activities. Congratulations, William!

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## It may be winter, but there is still plenty to do!



*Marc Arnett received a first place award for his photo of a red winged blackbird in the University of Toledo Lake Erie Research Center photo competition. A second place honor went to Jeff O'Neil; a third place to Elise Wagner. This contest is for amateur photographers, focusing on the natural systems, plant, and animal life of Maumee Bay, Lake Erie, and the Maumee River watershed.*

Every Wednesday at the Ottawa Park ice rink it's time to learn about ice skating, hockey, and broom ball. The free time on the ice, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., is an inclusive activity with City of Toledo Parks and Recreation donating the time and skates. In this photo, Walleye player "Big Mike" Slowikowski assists Special Olympics athlete Steve Chirgott with his hockey technique.



*Todd Wilhelm and his mother Mary Lou dressed in cowboy fashion for the annual Style Show at the Holland Road Adult Services Center. The event is organized each year by Frances Bolton, Habilitation Technician.*

## University of Toledo seeking parents to help plan/participate in special education course

The University of Toledo's Judith Herb College of Education is currently recruiting parents who have an interest in making a positive impact in the education of future special education teachers. Our project involves the development of a Family and Professional Partnership in a Special Education course.

Parents, who have experience with the special education process, would have a chance to plan the course, choose topics, choose speakers, and, most importantly, nurture the development of future special education teachers of Northwest Ohio. This project requires a commitment from the participating parent but also comes with a stipend.

Participants would meet eight times in the Spring to plan curriculum and classroom activities. Then, they would meet with University of Toledo students in the evenings on a weekly basis in the Fall (a total of 16 meetings). Interested individuals can get details by phoning Dr. Dawn Sandt at 419-530-4123.

## Register your team for the 2nd Annual Goalball Tournament

It is time to register your team for the second annual Goalball Tournament, March 28 at Tam-O-Shanter. The event is again being sponsored by the Lucas County Board of DD and the Sight Center of Northwest Ohio. Goalball is a team sport designed for blind athletes. Eyeshades will be worn by all sighted and partially sighted players. Participants compete in teams of three using a ball that has bells embedded in it so the players can hear where the ball is. For a team registration form contact the Sight Center at 419-720-3937.



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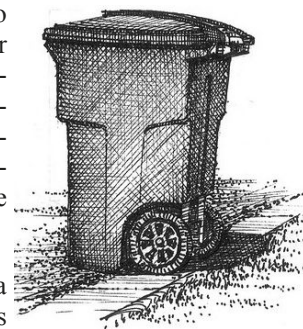
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mobile app**



Take key information from the Lucas County Board of DD with you wherever you go. The app is available free from Apple Apps and from Google Play. The mobile app is another way the Board will use to get timely information to its staff and the families we serve, such as closings and transportation delays because of inclement weather.

**Formalized program assists with trash collection**

A formalized program is now available for City of Toledo residents with disabilities who need assistance getting their trash and recycling to the curb. To request assistance, people with disabilities should call Republic Services at 419-936-2511. They will be sent a request form, then a supervisor from Republic will visit their home to determine a customized solution to ensure trash and recyclables get to the curb.



The Solid Waste Accommodation Program (SWAP) is a collaborative effort of Lucas County, the Toledo Lucas County Commission on Disabilities, Republic Services and the Department of Justice.

This collaborative effort should be applauded,” said Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken. “We are glad to offer this important community service to residents in the City of Toledo.”

“People with disabilities have the right to services just like any person, whether that means access to a building or trash removal,” said Steven M. Dettelbach, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio. “All the parties are to be commended for working together to find a solution that follows the law and meets the needs of all members of the community.”