

Staff Person of the Year



Jackie Diebert, Work Specialist at the Hill Avenue Adult Services Center, is recognized as the 2015 Staff Person of the Year. Thank you, Jackie, for all of your hard work and dedication to the individuals that we serve.



Upcoming Events

- March 14 - Staff Inservice. Adult facilities closed.
- March 17 - People First Meeting at the Ability Center
- March 22 - Senior Fair at Larc Lane Center
- March 25 - Spring Holiday. All Board facilities closed.
- March 28 - Monthly Board of DD Meeting
- April 12 - Family & Advocate Forum with Superintendent Deb Yenrick

Update

Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities
January-February 2016

Patty Zawierucha recognized as the Self-Advocate of the Year

Patty, for the past six years has served as the vice-president of the Holland EAAC, Employee Advocate and Advisory Council. She is a true leader and all of the people she represents know they can come to her with their issues and she will address them with the council. She advocates every day for the rights of all people with disabilities and their right to earn a decent paycheck.

In 2014 Patty was diagnosed with cancer. Through all of her chemo and radiation treatments she rarely missed work. She has continued to be upbeat everyday through her treatment and even was encouraging to others. As of October 19, 2015, she is cancer free.



Patty with Sandy Coutcher, Work Specialist at the Holland Adult Services Center. Sandy nominated Patty for recognition as Self-Advocate of the Year.

Everyone looks up to Patty. They trust her opinion and suggestions. Perhaps one of her strongest qualities is her ability to lead by example. She is a wonderful sister, aunt, friend and co-worker. The Board is pleased to honor her as the 2015 Self-Advocate of the Year.

Spirit Award presented to Charlotte and John O'Neil



Charlotte and John O'Neil were recognized by the Board at its Annual Meeting with the annual Spirit Award, recognizing a lifetime of service on behalf of persons with developmental disabilities. The Board not only commended them for their advocacy and dedication, but also for their leadership - Charlotte with the Preferred Properties Board and John with terms on the Lott Industries Board and the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities.



**Brandon Blinn
recognized as a positive
role model**

The Board is pleased to recognize Brandon Blinn with the monthly Special Recognition Award. Brandon experienced some challenges in the past; however, he is now a shining example of someone who has demonstrated personal growth and successfully created a thriving business venture.

About 18 months ago Brandon began working on an independent employment opportunity, cleaning and reselling tools out of his garage.

Brandon has since moved his business and now cleans tools and refinishes furniture at the location of a local day program. It is still Brandon's business; however, he works at the day program site. He has an agreement to share space at the Antique Mall next to the day program site to sell his tools and furniture and gets paid when his merchandise sells, like any other businessman.

Brandon has gone from not working at all to working at least 4 days a week, and looking forward to his work days. He has been a positive role model for others, demonstrating tool cleaning techniques and encouraging his housemate to participate in community activities.

Brandon is very proud of his work and his business. We are also very proud of Brandon's success! Congratulations, Brandon.



Lott Industries this year celebrates its 60th anniversary. First incorporated in 1956, Lott Industries gained national recognition in 1990 when it became the first employment program for persons with disabilities to receive the prestigious Ford Motor Company Q1 Award. It wasn't long before Lott became a tier one supplier for the auto industry.

The idea of creating an employment program grew from a summer experiment in 1951. Older children attending the Lott Day School wanted summer work. Several parents, who were small business owners, provided the work.

The girls learned how to use sewing machines. The boys spent the summer cleaning and refinishing diaper pails.

The work was done well. The work ethic was strong. The experiment was a success. And more work was found for the young adults.

Lott Industries was born in 1956 as the Sheltered Workshop Foundation of Lucas County.

The first production facility was composed of two steel buildings purchased from the Oregon Schools. Each measured 24 ft. by 72 ft.

Today, dozens of businesses utilize Lott's almost 200,000 square feet of production floor and its steady, well-trained workforce for labor-intensive assignments such as light assembly, packaging, sorting, and secure document destruction.

A recent presentation in the Toledo Treasurers supplement of The Blade also called attention to job coaching and training for individuals who are seeking employment at community-based locations. Presently, about 200 individuals have found employment with area businesses.

Celebrating 50 years!



Martha Majewski celebrates her retirement after 50 years of employment flanked by staff at Employment Connections (from left) Debi Tyree, Manager; Tammy Clymer, Vocational Specialist; Martha; Brad Fankhauser, Vocational Trainer; and Erika Brooks, Service and Support Specialist.

Toledo City Councilwoman Sandy Spang talks about a pioneering spirit



Toledo city councilmember Sandy Spang, speaking to the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities at its annual meeting, equated the evolution of services for persons with developmental disabilities with the lives of pioneers, whose efforts turned dreams into reality. Reflecting on the life of her brother, Steve, she followed a progression of no services available, to segregated schools and workshops, to expanding opportunities in the community today.

“Look what we have witnessed in just one lifetime,” she said with an inflection in her voice that made all think of what we have witnessed and participated in.

It was in Lucas County where voters approved the first property tax levy in Ohio to fund a school for children with developmental disabilities. Larc Lane School opened in 1962. And could there be any doubt that individuals with developmental disabilities are viable and productive members of the community workforce after Lott Industries achieved the prestigious Q-1 Award from the Ford Motor Company?

We have been pioneers.

And we continue to be pioneers. The Mission Statement of the Board keeps our vision focused on increasing opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to live, learn, work and play in community-based settings – “Improving LIFE so that individuals with developmental disabilities reach their full potentials.”

Lucas County Board of DD receives CARF accreditation



The Lucas County Board of DD has maintained its accreditation by CARF International. CARF has extended the accreditation for another three years. This accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the Board's substantial conformance to the CARF standards. According to CARF, "An organization receiving a three-year accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process and has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit that its programs and services are of the highest

quality, measurable, and accountable."

CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of persons served. Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, the accrediting body establishes consumer-focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services.

Circle the date! Senior Fair will be March 22

What fun and interesting things are happening at senior programs? You'll be able to find out at a fair to be held March 22 at Larc Lane Center. You may stop in between the hours of 4:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Larc Lane Center is at 1155 Larc Lane, Toledo 43614.

A graphic with a pink background. On the left, a white arrow points upwards and to the right. To the right of the arrow, the words "change ahead." are written in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. The word "change" is on the top line and "ahead." is on the bottom line.

Lucas County Board of DD takes steps in 2016 toward major systemic changes

Never before has the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities faced such mammoth changes in its operation and description. The Board is in the process of phasing out direct services – notably adult services and transportation – and will concentrate on Service and Support Administration, supports to providers, Medicaid administration, and children.

Individuals that have relied on the Board of DD to provide transportation to and from day programming must now receive that service from a provider in the public sector. The phase out of transportation services is expected to finish by mid-year.

Lott Industries, a not-for-profit corporation, must end its direct link to the Board of DD. That means Lott Industries will no longer avail itself of the Board's financial and staff support. The consolidation of contract work at the Hill Avenue facility is a step in that direction.

The major catalysts to these changes are two directives from Medicaid.

The Board can no longer be the entity that administers Waiver dollars and also accept those dollars to provide services. Medicaid also wants services provided in non-segregated environments.

The Board has outlined how it will accomplish these tasks in a plan recently accepted by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. This plan has benchmarks, or timelines, that must be met to ensure the transition is on schedule to be completed over the next few years.

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Rene Reau honored as Staff Person of the Month



Rene performs many significant functions for the Board in our role as the waiver administrator. These behind the scene tasks keep us compliant with many federal and state rules and regulations. Rene completes the Waiver enrollment and disenrollment, she manages the Lucas County Board of DD Residential waiting list and tracks all of the priority categories. She also serves as the liaison with the Jobs and Family Services worker who offers services at Larc Lane and is the Board's liaison for individuals moving out of NODC until they are assigned a SSA.

Rene is patient, supportive and professional. Thank you Rene for all that you do to further the Board's mission of improving lives for individuals so they reach their full potential!

Board officers re-elected



Mark Frye has been re-elected President of the Lucas County Board of DD. Mark was first appointed to the Board in 2009. He was a past Secretary-Treasurer of Lott Industries.

Re-elected Vice-President was Rick Henzler. Rick has been a Board member since 2012 and is a former officer with The Arc. Re-elected Recording Secretary is Dr. Jeanne Brockmyer, a Board member since 2009.

Board Public Information Manager receives Distinguished Service Award

Lon Mitchell, Public Information Manager, was honored with the annual Distinguished Service Award by the Ohio Association of County Boards of DD. Lon was recognized for his work as the Executive Director of Ohio Public Images, a not-for-profit organization that promotes positive images of persons with developmental disabilities.



The award nomination notes, "Lon has found hundreds of opportunities to encourage people with disabilities, spotlight their abilities and contributions to their communities, and share information and ideas with individuals and families served by Ohio's DD system."

Lon was also acknowledged for his efforts as a founding member of Maumee Valley Civitan and its efforts to support inclusive activities for persons with dd.