

THE MESSENGER

THE LOGAN COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

SPRING 2010

From the Desk of Superintendent Joseph F. Mancuso

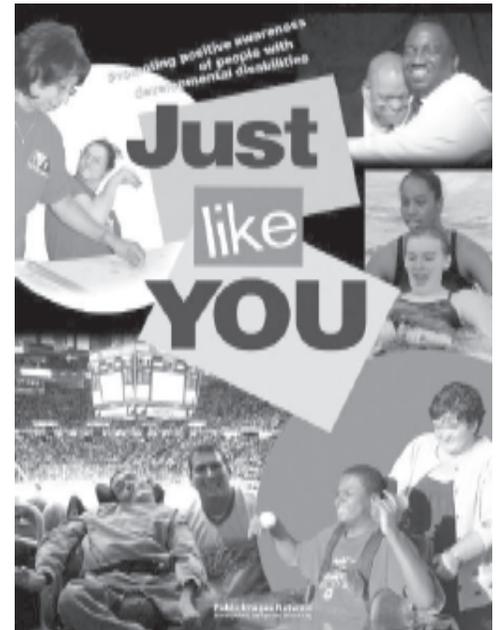
In case you haven't noticed, this year's theme is the same as last year; "Just Like You." Of all the words and phrases used to convey the essence of our public awareness campaigns, those three words say it all. The "Golden Rule," so to speak, of how we wish persons with developmental disabilities are viewed and accepted in our community. Since, we all, regardless of abilities, share more similarities than differences, we can better understand and accept each other if we focus on those traits, needs and desires that are common among us.

The people we serve want to enjoy life's successes, such as achieving education and career goals. They desire to have loving families, good friends, neighbors, and to enjoy the recreational opportunities offered in our

community. This is an example of the common thread that binds us together as human beings.

Our differences are mainly evidenced in our levels of abilities. We all are on a continuum of abilities; some people have more than us, while some have less. This is true in every domain of our lives, intellect, music, sports, art, business acumen, medicine, etc. We are not better than another person because we have more ability and we are not less worthy if we have less ability. We all still share the commonality listed above.

How we perceive and ultimately treat others, therefore, depends on our person focus; is it on the differences in our abilities, or on those common traits that define us as humans. It is a choice and we sincerely hope that, more often



than not, you choose to view people with developmental disabilities as being "JUST LIKE YOU."

Voting Rights and Resources for People with Disabilities

People with developmental disabilities have the right to vote, and to have access to information to help them do that. If you are a person with a disability, or work with someone who may need information, reassurance, or assistance to vote, please note that in addition to the U.S. Constitution, laws that protect this right to vote include the Voting Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act; and the Help America Vote Act.

If a poll worker says a person with mental retardation or another developmental disability cannot vote, the law says that the poll worker must allow the person to complete a special ballot named a Provisional Ballot. The person should complete the Provisional Ballot before leaving the polling place. Later, an election worker will determine whether or not the vote can be counted.

The law says that everyone is allowed to cast a ballot.

If you have questions before or on Election Day, November 2, 2010, call "The Election Protection Hotline" at 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683).

At this number people will speak with you (not just an answering machine) and lawyers are available to help voters with disabilities get advice and help with voting issues.



Geranium Sale

Parent Education at Discovery Center

Goes to

Brazil



Part of the Discovery Center experience is the Parent Education events. Each of the 3 events scheduled during the school year is focused on parent/child interaction. The teachers choose topics and plan the events based on "The Creative Curriculum for Preschool". Social Studies was the focus of our March event and those attending "traveled to Brazil". Parents and their children engaged in a variety of activities including: a story read in Portuguese, making the Brazilian flag, a slide show of the Brazilian culture, a taste of the delicacies, participating in a native dance and experiencing the rainforest with its various critters and vegetations. We enjoyed working with a couple of our families, the Nelsons and the McKenricks, to plan the Brazil trip. The Parent Education events are a fun way to present our school's curriculum while the parents enjoy an evening with their children.



Logan County Summer Academy

The Summer Academy is a summer program for children identified jointly by their home school district and the Logan County Board of Developmental Disabilities who are on the autism spectrum and/or have a severe emotional disturbance.

The purpose of the academy is to:
Prevent difficult transitions for students at the start of the school year with the development of a structured, stable, and consistent summer program.

Provide families and their children of this target population, the opportunity of quality, professional summer care, and education for their children that has historically been challenging to find in this rural community.

As a result of these efforts:
Students will maintain the knowledge and skills they acquired during the school year over the summer months, enhancing teaching and learning.

Positive social behaviors will be increased.

Caregivers will experience less stress, strengthening family bonds and reducing the risk for child abuse, neglect, and dependency.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Your Local School District Special Education Director

The Logan County Educational Service Center

The Logan County Board of Developmental Disabilities

The Summer Academy is administered on behalf of the Logan County Autism Workgroup by the Logan County Educational Service Center.

937.599.5195

When Striking Out Is A Good Thing –

Adam loves to hear the cracking sound of ten bowling pins collapsing at once – and the friendly cheers from the crowd afterwards. He's heard this a lot more lately. Adam is a member of the Logan County Braves Special Olympics bowling team. He's proud to know that Don Oswald, one of the bowling coaches, believes he is the most improved player on the team. Mr. Oswald cites Adam's improved technique and pride in his performance as the two outstanding characteristics that made this title an easy one to give.

Adam's family supports his decision to bowl for the team and helped him learn to use the arrows on the lanes to direct the ball. Adam thinks this is the most valuable lesson he has been taught.

Adam gets a lot of practice throughout the season during team practice and



bowling with friends recreationally. The team goes to T.P. Lanes weekly to work on their techniques and learn new skills. Adam and his friends also enjoy bowling during Rock-n-Bowl on Friday evenings.

Adam is looking forward to participating in the Special Olympics bowling tournament on June 10, 2010 from 4:30 until 6:30 p.m. at T.P. Lanes in Bellefontaine.

Woodworking Hobby Turns Into Business Adventure ...

"My name is Phillip, and I have a hobby that has turned into a business for me. I love woodworking and have been making things out of wood since 1999. I make lots of different characters, like Mickey Mouse, Tinkerbell, Brutus, animals and Spiderman. My favorite things to make are South Park and Family Guy people. I cut shapes out of wood and then paint them.

I have been selling my wood art in the RTC Store "Pos-Abilities. It's exciting to see other people buying what I love to do. Someday I would like to make a Jesus, but I have not tried that yet. I work every day because it takes me a couple of days to make something. I really like to work from home because sometimes I get shy around lots of people."



Editor's Note- Phillip's artwork is available at the Pos-Abilities store located at 334 E. Columbus St. Bellefontaine.

RTC Employer Appreciation Breakfast

"Just Like You" was the theme for this year's RTC Employer Appreciation Breakfast, held on March 9th in the Logan County Board of Developmental Disabilities community room. The event is held each year during March which is Developmental Disabilities Awareness month to show appreciation for the many businesses that contribute work and employment sites for persons with disabilities.

This year's breakfast was very well attended by representatives from a wide variety of community businesses. Mary Crace, from Cleaners Extraordinaire, was the guest speaker. She spoke of the success many individuals with disabilities from RTC have had with her company and praised the supports provided by the RTC Employment Services' job coaches and developers. This team of staff accompanies employees to the job site and provides extra support while they learn the proper steps of a job. Once the employee has mastered the skills, the job coaches gradually spend less and less time as the employee is able to independently be successful with his or her job. Currently over 50 employees eligible for Logan County Board of DD's services are successfully working in community based settings.



Photo courtesy of the Bellefontaine Examiner

COOKING CLASS



RTC has been offering cooking classes twice a month to individuals attending RTC Industries. The instructor, Mr. Bob Taylor, is a volunteer that we are very fortunate to have. Mr. Taylor is a graduate of the Milwaukee Area Technical College, where he earned a degree in Hotel and Restaurant Cookery. His cooking background includes Food Service Director at Mary Rutan Hospital, AVI and Armark. His culinary expertise is a real benefit to associates.

The focus of cooking class is on trying new recipes that incorporate healthy eating and learning cooking techniques. Lower sodium and low fat products are purchased for the recipes to encourage healthy eating. We encourage associates to try new recipes at home, and to share their ideas during class. Associates have tried a variety of new recipes, such as shish-kabobs and cooking with tofu and they are learning how to use a grill. Traditional recipes are also included, such as making and decorating cookies at Christmas time.



MARCH

29- Discovery Center Spring Break

APRIL

- 2 Discovery Center Spring Break
- 2 Good Friday - All programs closed
- 15 LCMRDD Meeting @5:30 pm
Mobile Dentist Discovery Center
for more info. contact Deb Shotts @ 292-3060
- 19 Last date to order geraniums
- 27- Discovery Center *Spring program
- 28 @ Bellefontaine HS Auditorium - 7:00pm

MAY

- 7 Pick up geraniums @Discovery Center 9am to 6pm.
 - 20 LCBMRDD meeting @5:30 pm
 - 31 Memorial Day - All programs closed
- *Spring program will be two nights, each child will be in one program (one night only)*

LCBDD Auxiliary Committee is currently selling the famous Geraniums! We will be taking orders from **March 22nd - April 19th.**

Your basket of flowers will be ready for pick-up on **Friday, May 7th** at the **Discovery Center Preschool** from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Please mark the pick-up date on your calendar!

You may order your flowers by calling the office at 592-2009, completing this form and faxing it to the Discovery Center office at 592-3098, or e-mail chall@logancbdd.org



This year we are encouraging pre-payment and checks should be made out to LCBDD Auxiliary Committee.

You may mail your payment to:
LCBDD Geranium Sale
c/o Connie Hall
P.O. Box 710, Bellefontaine, OH 434311

Each basket will contain 6 single geraniums, all the same color in a 4" pot and are sold for \$15.00 each!



Name: _____

Phone No.: _____ (required)

Number of Baskets and Color Choice:

_____ Pink _____ Red _____ Salmon _____ Fuchsia _____ White

WE are going GREEN! After you plant your flowers, place your pots and baskets (from our sales only) in the recycle container at the back of RTC Industries/DD facility located @ 1851 St. Rt. 47 West through May 31st.



THE LOGAN COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Joseph F. Mancuso, Ph.D., Superintendent • Pamela Hickman, Editor

www.co.logan.oh.us/mrdd



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Fax: 937-592-5615

DISCOVERY CENTER

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Fax: 937-592-3098

RTC INDUSTRIES

Telephone: 937-592-0025
Fax: 937-592-3001

BOARD MEMBERS

Denyse Bayliss, Vice President
Bernard Tuttle, Secretary
Jennifer Thornburgh

Angelia Parsons
Connie Hudson
Mike Hassel
Zebulon Wagner

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT

Early Intervention	62
Preschool	225
Adult Services	115
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Adults	155
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Residential Services group Home/apt.	81