Higgins volunteer program takes to the streets

Cheryl Boniphant brushes out a cat while volunteering at the Stark County Humane Society. Called Higgins Helpers, the program is a big hit with participating individuals, staff and community organizations.

Higgins Helpers, the new community volunteer program was born from one of the Boards new directions outlines in the 2011-2013 Three Year Strategic Plan: To move from segregated to community environments.

The Plan is to develop relationships with business, civic, community and educational partners to further promote community involvement and integration of people with disabilities into the Stark County community. For adults attending the workshops, this means expanding volunteer involvement and community participation in any way they can.

“The staff of Higgins took this task to hand and created several opportunities for the individuals served at Higgins to gain life experiences through community based activities,” said Kristi Earle, Higgins Training Coordinator.

First, staff needed to discover what the individuals were interested in. An interest survey was given to each individual at Higgins. When the surveys returned an overwhelming number of individuals indicated they were interested in volunteering.

Earle began contacting area non-profit agencies in search of opportunities for potential volunteers. Each call or email began similarly – “I work with

Look inside:

Health Matters 3  Outdoor furniture made to last 6
School programs celebrate graduation 8, 9  Special Olympians bring home the medals 10
Bill Green, Superintendent • 330.479.3932

Looking Ahead at Stark DD

August

August 12
Early Intervention Staff meeting
No Services

August 12
Adult Social Night
Hoover Park, 6:45 pm

August 19
Stark DD Board Meeting
Whipple-Dale Centre Multi-purpose Room, 4:30 p.m.

August 23
Day Elementary PS Staff first day—work in rooms

August 24
Southgate Staff Work Day

August 24
Annual PS staff meeting at EG

August 25
PS Classroom work day

August 25
First Day of School
Southgate School

August 26-30
Preschool Home Visits

August 30
Preschool Open House 1-3pm

August 31
First day of Eastgate Preschool
1/2 students only

September

September 1
First day of Eastgate Preschool
1/2 students only

September 1 & 2

Volunteers

continued from page 1

Brittany Griffith helps clean up trash as part of the Higgins Helpers Neighborhood Clean Up Crew.

Individuals with disabilities through the Stark County Board of DD. We have a group of adults who would like an opportunity to volunteer with your agency.” The response received was also quite predictable — silence. Most agencies were taken aback by the request.

Earle said the calls became more of an introduction to developmental disabilities than creating volunteer opportunities.

“Once the agencies gained the assurances and knowledge regarding our potential volunteers you could hear their voices relax and their hearts and minds open to the idea of allowing the individuals served at Higgins this experience,” said Earle. "The individuals have pride in their accomplishments, their self-esteem seems improved and they understand that their work is having a positive impact on others' lives and their community."

“Everyone can be great because anyone can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t even have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

-- Martin Luther King Jr.

As the group left Higgins to start these new exciting activities a couple of the individuals were a little hesitant – unsure of what was ahead of them. All fears subsided when the group returned to Higgins. The same individual that was tentative came bounding in Earle’s office with a huge smile “I helped someone today!”

Since then, the Higgins Helpers have not only returned to the Akron Canton Foodbank, but also helped at the Beech Creek Nature Preserve, the Humane Society of Stark County and the Stark County Dog Warden.

Staff have also witnessed dramatic changes in the individuals who have chosen to participate in Higgins Helpers.

“A few weeks into the program staff noticed that the participants were making new friends with community members. The participants that were typically quite or shy were initiating conversations and helping to broaden their circle of friends and supports,” said Earle. “The individuals have pride in their accomplishments, their self-esteem seems improved and they understand that their work is having a positive impact on others’ lives and their community.”

Higgins Helpers have inspired other individuals and staff at Higgins to give back to their community as well. Currently the individuals at Higgins have three additional pursuits: The Neighborhood Cleanup Crew picks up trash and beautifies local area parks and playgrounds; the Recycling Club gathers paper and plastic products at Higgins workshop and takes it to the local recycling center; the Card Making Club makes and distributes handmade cards to local nursing homes and hospitals. Combined all four groups have contributed approximately 576 volunteer hours since April.
Healthy Matters is a real fit

More than 20 adults have celebrated the end of the 12-week Health Matters course with certificates of achievement and healthy snacks, not to mention feeling better about themselves.

The program, launched in the winter, is part of the Three Year Strategic Plan to implement health and wellness awareness, beginning with adults with developmental disabilities.

The goals of the Health Matters program are: Improve fitness; Increase knowledge about healthy lifestyles; Teach family, staff and friends how to support the participants to achieve their goals.

The goals are met through a variety of components including an exercise program, nutrition and cooking classes, health education classes.

Participants in the program also received their own gym bags and water bottles courtesy of The Workshops, Inc.

Middle: Deziree Lubas learns basic stretching exercises using common office furniture while taking part in the Health Matters program through Higgins SE-Enclave program. Bottom: Christal Ramsier tries out a treadmill during a recent field trip to Dick’s Sporting Goods store in the Belden Village area.

Looking Ahead at Stark DD cont.

Southgate Healthy Screening Days

September 5
Labor Day
All Programs Closed

September 9
Staff In-service
All Programs closed

September 14 & 15
Eastgate Healthy Screening Days

September 15
Adult Social Night
Meyers Lake Ballroom

September 20 & 21
Preschool Fall Pictures

September 22
FANS Program

September 23
Stark DD Board Meeting
Whipple-Dale Centre Multi-purpose Room, 4:30 p.m.

October

October 1
Chorus for a Cause
Benefitting Stark County Special Olympics
Hoover High School Auditorium

October 6
Preschool Fall Parent Conferences
4:30-8:00 pm

October 10
Columbus Day
All Programs Closed
Looking Ahead at Stark DD cont.

October 20
Fall Parent Conferences
4:30-8:00 pm

October 21
Stark DD Board Meeting
Whipple-Dale Centre Multi-purpose Room, 4:30 p.m.

October 22
Stark DD Provider Fair
Walsh University
Barrette Business Center

October 28
Adult Social Night
Edward “Peel” Coleman Center

October 29
14th Annual Great Pumpkin Race
Whipple-Dale Centre; 8:30 am.

November

November 4
First Friday
RS Southgate Art Show Opening
Anderson Creative, Downtown Canton

November 11
Veteran’s Day
All programs Closed

December

December 16
Stark DD Board Meeting
Whipple-Dale Centre Multi-purpose Room, 4:30 p.m.

State Legislative Day a success

COLUMBUS, Ohio – More than 380 advocates from throughout Ohio have attended the Legislative Advocacy Day at the Statehouse April 14, entitled “Moving Forward: The Horizon for the Disability Community.” The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council and The Ohio State University Nisonger Center co-sponsored of the event.

The purpose of the event was to educate policymakers and advocates with disabilities and their family members about current issues related to necessary supports for community access and inclusion. After the program, advocates had the opportunity to meet with their legislators to tell their story about what living in the community means to them and how cuts in services would affect their lives.

Project coordinator Carmen Shelton said the event allowed advocates statewide to have their voices heard. “People with disabilities want legislators to understand our struggle to live our lives every day in our communities throughout Ohio,” she said.

This event was hosted by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Network, which is composed of two University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities: The Ohio State University Nisonger Center and the University of Cincinnati Children’s Hospital; and the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council and the Ohio Legal Rights Service.

Note: This story was provided by Ohio Developmental Disabilities Network.
Looking Ahead at Stark DD cont.

State Legislative Day a success
Above: (l to r) Harry Widder, Josh Wilfong, Joe Dinino, Garry Kennedy, and Ian Phillips, members of the People First of Ohio Stark County chapter carry the banner during the annual Hall of Fame Community Parade on Sunday, July 31. The chapter was just one of 100 plus units to march though downtown Canton. Right: Renee Sweany came prepared for the 92 degree heat to participate in the HOF Community Parade.

Stark DD chapters make plans

People First of Ohio-Stark County Chapter meets at each of the adult service sites.

People First of Ohio believes “that all people with disabilities should be treated as equals and be able to speak up for what they want by serving as leaders and working together as a tea with all members of the community.”

The Whipple-Dale Centre group meets each Wednesday afternoon. Officers are: Sammy Leatherwood, president; Joe Dinino, vice president; Louise Cox, secretary; Harry Widder, treasurer; and Cheryl Campian, sergeant of arms.

Currently this group hopes to erect a memorial wall and garden on the side of the building in honor of Whipple-Dale Center TWi employees who have passed away. The group is making plans for various fundraisers to pay for the materials.

Group members at the Higgins workshop have had three meetings and are interested in fundraising so they can do a project that will give back to the community.

The West Stark Center group too have had preliminary meetings to see what they would like to do.

Members of all three groups participated in the Annual Hall of Fame Community Parade on Sunday, July 31 in downtown Canton.

Ohio SIBS

11th Annual Ohio Adult Sibling Conference
November 11-12, 2011
Columbus Airport Marriott

Siblings with and without disabilities and other interested individuals are welcome to join us for an opportunity to meet and collaborate with other adult siblings, to become better informed decision makers and gain the tools to prepare and secure the future health and well-being of individuals with a disability and their families.

Registration Deadline is October 31, 2011

For more information visit www.ohiosibs.com
Who says things aren’t made to last?

Outdoor furniture production, sales a staple for TWi employees

In today’s disposable use it once and throw it away environment it’s nice to know there are still locally made products that are built to last.

Solid, handcrafted wooden picnic tables, benches and planter boxes from The Workshops, Inc. (TWi) have been a staple in Stark County for over 30 years. Made from pressure treated lumber that withstands both the sultry Ohio summers and the long, cold northeast winters, TWi picnic tables are made with pride by the hard working individuals at the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities Whipple-Dale Center in Canton.

Each seven-foot picnic table is cut to demanding specifications using kiln dried yellow pine. The bolts, nuts and fasteners used in assembly are coated to resist rusting. The one-quarter inch thick bracing is painted steel.

For user comfort the tables feature recessed screws to prevent snagging and the edges are routered to prevent splinters.

If your picnic table is rickety and on its last leg, now is the perfect time to invest in a tough, well-made replacement that will be around for seasons to come.

“We just purchased 30 picnic tables and 10 benches from TWi for our camp club and I was amazed at how sturdy and well-built they were. We’ve had nothing but compliments from our membership about the outstanding quality. It’s also great to know our purchased helps people with disabilities earn a pay check. It’s certainly been a win-win for us,” said John Pettini of Springwood Lake Camp Club.

Brighten Heights Charter School recently purchased picnic tables from TWi as part of a school art project which school administrator’s hope will be a big success. The tables didn’t disappoint. “We just purchased eight picnic tables from TWi for our schools and they look very nice in our playground area. We are very pleased with our purchase,” said Elizabeth Hibbs, Assistant Administrator of the Brighten Heights School in Canton.

When the Reed Funeral Home was looking for picnic tables to complete their recently constructed pavilion they found them at TWi. “We wanted to buy the tables locally and support an organization like The Workshops,” said Eric Lundquist of Reed’s North Canton Chapel.

“Buying 16 picnic tables from TWi allowed us to get a high quality product and support their mission to find work for people with disabilities.”

In addition to picnic tables TWi also manufactures five foot park benches and planter boxes that measure 3’ x 3’ x 3’.

Don’t Fall behind on your yard clean up.. hire us to do it for you!

TWIG

The Workshops, Inc.
Groundskeeping

• Mulching
• Raking
• Yard clean-up
• Planting

For information on TWIG, contact Dave Ulrich at 330-484-9032
Who says things aren’t made to last?

Outdoor furniture production, sales a staple for TWi employees

Bunnie Thomas and Darryl Terrell pause during the Adult Formal Dinner Dance on July 15, at the Canton Memorial Civic Center. More than 600 adults attended the annual event.

TWi honors top employees

Please congratulate the following 2011 Employees of the Year. Each person has achieved or excelled this past year and will be recognized for their accomplishments at the Formal dinner dance July 15th at the Canton Memorial Civic Center.

Supported Employment- Enclave
Tonya Stoker

Supported Employment-Community
Heather McElroy

Lester Higgins Center
Marvin Hankins

West Stark Center
Sara Warner

Whipple Dale Center #1
Dolly Miller

Whipple Dale Center #2
Robert Gallatin

Bob Hale is just one of the many individuals at the Whipple-Dale Center who assembles picnic tables sold by The Workshops, Inc.

Pearline Thomas and Darryl Terrell pause during the Adult Formal Dinner Dance on July 15, at the Canton Memorial Civic Center. More than 600 adults attended the annual event.

Read about it in The Repository:
Made in Stark: The Workshops makes outdoor furniture
The Repository’s weekly look at a Stark County manufacturer. http://www.cantonrep.com/archive/x2084235089/Made-in-Stark-The-Workshops-makes-outdoor-furniture

Bob Hale is just one of the many individuals at the Whipple-Dale Center who assembles picnic tables sold by The Workshops, Inc.

00. Both the benches and the planter boxes are made to the same exacting standards as the picnic tables and use the same long-lasting, high quality lumber and hardware.
Preschoolers look toward kindergarten

On June 2, 46 students from Eastgate Early Childhood and Family Center received their diplomas and entered the next phase of their educational journey.

These students will head to a variety of destinations to continue their schooling.

Among the students, 11 will attend Stark DD school age programs, while other students will enter into their respective school districts. Two students will enter kindergarten needing no services at all because they are achieving at grade level expectations, said Tammy Maney, principal at Eastgate Early Childhood and Family Center.

“We are thrilled to see the growth and progress that being in Eastgate Preschool has provided for each student,” said Maney. “We know that only wonderful things await each child beyond our walls.”

Preschool graduate Ally O’Harrow shows off her flowers and diploma during the Eastgate graduation ceremony in June.

The Stark County Provider Fair
Saturday, October 22th

Walsh University
Barrette Business & Community Center
2020 East Maple Street • North Canton, OH 44720

Please join us to learn more about the services available in Stark County for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Are you Up-to-Date?
Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities uses the AlertNow notification system to provide up-to-date information on agency emergencies. Stakeholders can receive alerts by many methods...phone, e-mail and text message to a cellular phone. If your contact information changes at any time during the program year, it is your responsibility to update this information by calling the Stark DD AlertNow help line at 330-479-3816 or via email at helpdesk@starkdd.org.
New Hires

Rhonda Hoover McBryer
Clerk

Catherine Gasper
Michelle Meyer
Intervention Spec. Asst. Sub

Elizabeth Strong
Intervention Spec. Sub

Margene Rannigan
Sara Rockwell
Karla Zachary
Workshop Spec. I Sub

Kathryn Bowman
Elizabeth Gill
Kathryn Murphy
Program Substitutes

Rehired

Amanda Pendleton
Intervention Spec. Asst. Sub

Promotions

Kathleen Burfield
Clerk

Barbara Eversole
Custodian

Kim Goodrich
Intervention Specialist Asst.

Judy Hunter
Training Coordinator

Jill Jacobsen
Intervention Specialist

Kelley Lewis
Asst. Cook

Class of 2011 receives diplomas

On June 3, the 12 members of the Class of 2011 of Rebecca Stallman Southgate School put on their caps and gowns, and received their high school diplomas.

Bill Green, superintendent for the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities, addressed the graduates during the ceremony. Carmen Crum, director of Stark DD Adult Services officially welcomed the graduates to their next stage in life.

Myrna Blosser, principal of Southgate School, wished the graduates best of luck in their next journey.

NOTE: Three graduates were not allowed to be listed.

2012 Moonlight in March Committees forming

We are now forming the committees for the 2012 Moonlight in March.

Moonlight in March is the primary annual fund-raising event for Citizens Who Care for People with Developmental Disabilities PAC. The proceeds fund the political education efforts of Citizens Who Care-PAC that support passage of Stark DD levies and improve the quality of services to Stark County citizens with disabilities.

• Dinner Committee
• Live Auction
• Silent Auction Solicitation
• Silent Auction Set Up
• Entertainment/Program
• Event Volunteers
• Decorations/Set up
• Publicity
• Invitations/Ticket Sales
• Sponsorship Solicitation
• Thank You Committee
• Program Committee

Contact Lisa Parramore at 330-479-3934 to volunteer your talents!
Special Olympians representing the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities brought home 92 medals from the State Summer Games held June 24-25 at the Ohio State University. More than 50 athletes competed in track and field, bocce, and bowling. The final medal count was 30 golds, 24 silvers, and 28 bronze for the Stark DD team.

Several athletes were multi-medal winners. Michael Connor, of North Canton, brought home double gold medals for the 800 m run and the 200 m dash, and a bronze in the 4 x 100 m relay. Jennifer Eaglowski, of Massillon, won the gold medal in the standing long jump, a silver in the 4 x 100 m relay and a bronze in the 200 m dash. Stacy Perine, of Canton, brought home the gold in the 100 m dash, and two silver medals for the standing long jump and the 4 x 100 m relay. Mindy Preble, of Canton, won three silver medals for her performances in the standing long jump, 100 m dash and the 4 x 100 m relay.

Other gold medalists in track and field include: Max Bailey (Shot Put), Cole Bauer (100 m dash), Nick Dagenhardt (Running Long Jump), Matthew Leyman (100 m dash), and Alan Poston (Mini Javelin).

Eleven bowlers also received gold medals: Benjamin Beitel, Eugene Boyd, Debra Buerger, Dave Burgess, Joe Cale, Joey Kent, Theresa Miller, Shawn Neubauer, Ronnie Smith, John Walters, and Kenny Warner.

Bocce players Renee Hunter and Jeff Rohrer each won two gold medals in the 2-person and 4-person team divisions.

For more photos and a complete listing of the State Summer Games results visit our website at www.starkdd.org/specialolympics.
Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities and The Workshops, Inc. present the

14th Annual GREAT PUMPKIN RACE
presented by STARK DD & THE WORKSHOPS, INC.

1 Mile Fun Run/Walk & 4 Mile Run/Walk

Saturday, October 29, 2011
8:30 am • the Whipple-Dale Centre
2950 Whipple Ave. NW, Canton

all proceeds benefitting the
Stark DD Special Olympics

• Register online at www.ohiochallengeseries.com by Friday, October 28 at noon.

• Download the registration form on our website at www.starkdd.org and return by mail.

Pre-registration: $20.00
Race Day Registration: $25.00
Special Olympians: $10.00
Board Members
Robert Milliken, President
Richard Hoffman, Vice President
Roger Gines, Recording Secretary
Tom Bucka
Jack Calhoun
Carlene Harmon
Larry Marcus

Superintendent
William Green

Reach us by e-mail at starkdd@starkdd.org
or visit us on the internet at www.starkdd.org

Published by the
Stark County Board of
Developmental Disabilities
Whipple-Dale Centre
2950 Whipple Ave. N.W.
Canton, OH 44708
phone: 330-477-5200
e-mail: starkdd@starkdd.org
fax: 330-477-2545

The All in the Family is a quarterly publication of the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities. News releases, story ideas, comments and suggestions should be addressed to All in the Family at the Whipple-Dale Centre, 2950 Whipple Ave. N.W., Canton, OH 44708. Circulation is currently 2,500.

The Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities · 
Accredited by CARF, NAEYC, DODD · 
Equal Opportunity in Employment, Access and Services. M/F/H. ·