The Workshops, Inc. (TWi) honored five Employees of the Year at an Appreciation Breakfast on October 6 at the Kent State University-Stark Campus. The celebration marked October as National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month. Also honored were top staff members who support TWi employees while on the job and the companies who provide work for people with disabilities.

This year’s breakfast highlighted the national theme “Profit by Investing in Workers with Disabilities.” The theme, promoted by the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy, honors the contributions of workers with disabilities, and serves to inform the public that these individuals represent a highly skilled talent pool that can help employers compete in today’s global economy.

Keynote speaker for the event was John L. Martin, Director for the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. Also on hand to congratulate the winners were Senator Scott Oelslager, representing the 29th Ohio Senate District, and Stark County Commissioner Dr. Peter Ferguson.

According to Tim Casper, Chief Executive Officer of TWi, individuals with developmental disabilities are the lifeblood of TWi.

Currently, 750 Stark County men and women with developmental disabilities are employed by TWi, including 330 working in the community
Looking Ahead at Stark DD

November

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

November 11
Veteran’s Day
All programs Closed

November 17
FANS Program
“Medicaid Waivers and Other Funding Sources”
Golden Key Center for Excp. Children
6 - 8 p.m.

November 18
RSSS Parent group sponsored
Pumpkin Fest
for students and staff

November 23
End of Preschool 1st Trimester
Day & Eastgate Classes

November 23-24
Thanksgiving Break
All Programs closed

November 28
No School
Conference Comp Day
Eastgate Preschool, Day, RSSS, Warstler Classes all Closed

December

December 1
Day & Eastgate Classes
Preschool Progress Reports Sent
Home

December 4
HandPrints and Friends
Christmas Concert
First Christian Church, 6 p.m.

Project STIR trains leaders

Initiative: Foster self-advocacy, community connections and opportunities to be involved in the community.

Read the complete plan at www.starkdd.org/StrategicPlan.pdf

In keeping with the Stark DD Board vision of “Ensuring opportunities for living, learning, working and pursuing dreams that will be self-directed by individuals served and/or their circle of support,” Sarah Warner, a TWi employee at West Stark Center, participated in Project STIR, a self-advocacy training program in August at Salt Fork Lodge in central Ohio. Warner was accompanied by Kristi Earle, Stark DD team leader.

Sponsored by the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) Project STIR stands for Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility. It is designed to provide individuals with the tools to advocate for themselves, encourage others in advocacy and gain leadership experience.

Project STIR training is held twice a year. The number of participants is limited to 25 individuals and 25 support staff. All sessions are led by self-advocate trainers and use several different teaching techniques, including videos, written exercises and group projects.

“Project STIR helps people with disabilities learn how to be their own advocate, how to make good decisions, and how to help yourself or find help to make it happen,” said Warner.

Warner and Earle have set goals for the coming year:
• To speak at and attend more board meetings
• To develop a Project STIR curriculum for Stark DD based on The Speak Up Guide and Project STIR training
• Get more individuals involved in the people first chapters at Stark DD and to participate in the Stark County Aktion Club through the Kiwanis.
• Encourage others from Stark DD to attend Project STIR trainings
• To attend regional OSDA Meetings

“For me, I want to become an Ohio Leader with Project STIR – Ohio Leaders are the people that lead Project STIR trainings across Ohio,” said Warner.

Stark DD plans to have five individuals, Warner and five staff members attend the next Project STIR training to help build a strong foundation of trained staff and individuals to further self-advocacy.
Stark DD Winter Weather Code System

Cold weather is just around the corner and families, caregivers and staff are reminded that there are several ways to receive information when inclement weather may affect services for the day.

Please use one of the following sources for retrieving site closing information:

- **AlertNow notification system.** All staff **MUST** have at least one contact number on record. 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 e-mail at helpdesk@starkdd.org.

- **On the radio at WHBC-AM (1480).**

- **Call our main number (330-477-5200)** to hear the automated message which will be recorded as early as possible to reflect the codes. The switchboard will open at 7 am and you can always call at that time and speak with the clerk on duty to check on the opening status of the program.

- **On the web at www.starkdd.org under Alerts and Closings tab.**

- **On the television:** WEWS Channel 5 Cleveland.

**Status of closing shall be designated as follows:**

A. **Code 1:** Stark County/DD Adult Programs will be open but there will be no bus services. Code 1 means that clients may be present if transported to and from the facilities by private individuals. All Adult Program staff will report to work as usual. School staff will not report to work.

B. **Code 2:** Stark County/DD will be closed. Code 2 means that the entire program will be closed for all clients/students and staff. Some staff in the Buildings and Grounds department may be scheduled on a code 2 calamity day for the purposes of snow removal.

**ORDER NOW !!!!**

New TOGETHER t-shirts and Stark DD logo wear

ALLOW 2 – 4 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY

Sample shirts available at each site

To order, see any site representative:

- Bus Garage—Cindy Petree
- Whipple-Dale—Eric Wenhardt or Brad Hamilton
- Community Employment/Supported Employment — Scott Love
- Higgins—Cathy Degasperis or Mary Marchand
- West Stark—Juli Crowder
- North Place—Jessica Hoffarth
- Southgate—Kimm Luckring or Tina Gilbert
- Eastgate—Robin McAlister or Kim Mackintosh
- email Gloria Steiner—steinerg@starkdd.org

PAID FOR BY CITIZENS WHO CARE FOR DD—JOHN KOSHMIDER, TREASURER
Things are coming up all around West Stark Center adult workshop as individuals, staff and community members broke ground on a new greenhouse October 31.

The excavation was contracted, however the assembly and the rest of the work will be done by Board maintenance, West Stark Center individuals and the Whipple-Dale Centre wood shop. ‘The greenhouse will be a 16’x 32’ hoop house consisting of metal, wood and plastic. The goal is to have the greenhouse operational by March 2012.

“The original idea grew last year after Bill Wingert, workshop specialist II and a group of our individuals provided flowers and vegetables from seeds for the WSC landscape,” said Joe Benincasa, West Stark Center production manager. “Individuals were engaged in planting and assigned as caretakers for all the plants.”

The goal of the program is to provide positive greenhouse activities for more than 50 individuals with developmental disabilities and collaborate in related Stark community activities.

A committee will be planning the next year’s activities. Benincasa will be meeting with interested staff, individuals, and master gardeners from our community and local restaurants and nurseries to develop a plan for the 2012 greenhouse.

The committee will set up a growing schedule/plant selection, determine Best Garden Practices based on the current resources of the program. They will also develop a water conservation project for water runoff from the greenhouse, develop a garden friendly recycling program at WSC, and form a Garden Volunteer Program.

Attention Garden Lovers

To be a part of the West Stark Greenhouse committee or the Garden Volunteer Program, contact Joe Benincasa at 330-479-3972.
Looking Ahead at Stark DD cont.

Handprints and Friends
Christmas Performance

Save the Date:

Moonlight in March Serenade

Great Food • Entertainment • Auction

March 31, 2012
6:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Glenmoor Country Club
4191 Glenmoor Road, N.W. • Canton

Featuring the musical talents of:
Ms. Erin Byrne
Handprints Sign Choir

Tickets go on sale in January 2012.
For more information, contact Lisa Parramore at 330-479-3934.

Help Needed: Become a Volunteer Guardian

We are looking for volunteers to assist individuals with developmental disabilities through legal guardianships. Guardians would assist with medical and programmatic decisions with the oversight of Stark County Probate Court. There is no cost or payment to volunteers.

If you are interested, please call Sandy Bowers in the SSA Department at 330-479-3574 for more information.

Men and women representing the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities joined the national effort to raise money for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. The People First chapter at Higgins Adult Center raised $519 and sponsored a team (above) for the American Cancer Society Walkathon held in Canton on Sunday, October 23. Eastgate staff and families also raised $500 for the walkathon by holding bake sales, a Wall of Hope and walker donations.

Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Follow us on: Facebook  YouTube

Help Needed:

Join us for the 2nd Annual Jane Mathie Open Swim Invitational

Saturday, December 10
Noon to 2:30 p.m.

David YMCA in Jackson Township

This is an open invitation for teams from other counties to come to Stark to swim, eat and make new friends. This event is sponsored by the Stark DD Special Olympics Booster Club and Louisville area businesses.

In the Community

Christmas Performance

Sunday, December 4, 2011
First Christian Church
6900 Market Avenue North
Canton 44721

Doors open at 5:30 p.m,
Performance at 6 p.m.

Bake Sale and Basket Raffle

Free Event – Open to the Public – No Tickets Necessary

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Honoring National Disabilities

In honoring the five TWi Employees of the Year, Tim Casper, Chief Executive Officer for TWi, said “they have made us all proud with their attitudes, their dedication to hard work and their willingness to learn.”

**Mr. Jay Blosfield**
2011 Employee of the Year
Lester Higgins Adult Center
(Pictured on page 1)

What makes Jay Blosfield so deserving of this award is his great attitude. Jay possesses the rare combination of being good at what he does and working hard at the same time. Jay doesn’t let his disability stop him from trying new jobs and he tries to figure out ways to work around any issues. Jay is friendly with and well-liked by his peers.

**Mr. Robert Gallatin**
2011 Employee of the Year
Whipple-Dale Center

Bobby Gallatin is not just an extraordinary worker; he is also one of the nicest, most caring people you’ll ever meet. Bob is 80 years old and works as hard as or harder than any other worker. He always is willing to try a new job and does it without any complaints. He always does it to the best of his ability.

**Ms. Sarah Warner**
2011 Employee of the Year
West Stark Center

Sarah Warner went from a shy young lady to an invaluable asset to her supervisor and other supervisors at West Stark Center in Massillon. She is a hard worker and her confidence and ability have skyrocketed. Sarah always has a positive attitude and a willingness to

Appreciation Breakfast

continued from page 1

through the Supported Employment (SE) program.

“Individuals employed at TWi are no different than anyone else. The TWi work force is motivated, capable, productive and efficient, and take pride in what they do,” said Casper. “They enjoy receiving a paycheck and the satisfaction of a job well done.”

TWi’s customers keep that lifeblood nourished and flowing. Casper said that TWi’s customer base includes 80 businesses in the Supported Employment arena and 100 general contract employers.

According to state statistics gathered by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, Stark County rates among the top third in the state employing adults with disabilities in a supported community job.

Additionally, at TWi’s three workshop sites, individuals perform a variety of jobs, which includes: bulk mailing; assembly work; manufacturing picnic tables; and sorting and packing nuts, bolts, washers and other items. TWi also offers creative employment pursuits, as well, such as unique artwork sold at Just Imagine gift shops located in the Whipple-Dale Centre and the Second April Gallery in downtown Canton.

Recently, TWi has introduced new business ventures to include document scanning (SureScan), shredding (SureShred), and recycling obsolete computer equipment (SureCycle). Thirty-six adults with disabilities have found permanent work with these businesses.
help and learn. Sarah is a friend to all of her coworkers and an undeniable source of support. She is a very valuable part of the work activity area. Sarah is always upbeat, helpful, with supervisors and other individuals.

**Ms. Tonya Stocker**
2011 Employee of the Year
Supported Employment

Tonya Stoker has worked on the Rubbermaid crew for nearly five years. She works on a fast-paced production line beginning at 6:00 am each weekday morning. On average Tonya works 40 hours each week, often volunteering to work extra hours. Her attitude and ability to get along with others and her attention to quality and detail make her particularly valuable at Rubbermaid. Her goal is to pursue an independent job in community employment.

**Ms. Heather McElroy**
2011 Employee of the Year
Community Employment

Heather McElroy’s name was submitted by her employer -- Corky’s Restaurant as the Supported Employment-Community Employee of the Year. She was nominated for her overall improvement in work performance and her willingness to take a leading role in the kitchen. Heather gladly took on more work responsibility in a fast-paced work setting. She scored exceedingly high in her employer assessment which evaluates all the skills needed to work independently in the community.

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**Also Recognized at the 2011 TWi Appreciation Breakfast**

**2011 TWi Staff Specialists of the Year**
2011 Specialist of the Year, Whipple-Dale Center – Ms. Deb Kempthorne
2011 Specialist of the Year, West Stark Center – Mr. Bryan Stuck
2011 Specialist of the Year, Lester Higgins Adult Center – Ms. Marti Hermann
2011 Specialist of the Year, Supported Employment – Mr. Rex Rounds

**2011 TWi Employers of the Year**
2011 General Contract Employer of the Year -- Cable Manufacturing and Assembly
CMA was the innovator of the tail gate cable used on most pick-up trucks today, and each week thousands of those tailgate cable assemblies are painstakingly manufactured at all three TWi sites. In 2010, CMA provided daily work to over 380 people with disabilities.

2011 Supported Employment - Employer of the Year -- Rubbermaid
Rubbermaid employs three crews of 10 employees on a fast paced production crew. These people have been welcomed into the Rubbermaid family, including company dinners. TWi work crews wear their Rubbermaid shirts with pride. In 2010, Rubbermaid provided over 21,500 hours of work to 30 people with disabilities, helping TWi fulfill its employment mission.

2011 Community Employment - Employer of the Year -- Marc’s
Marc’s theme is “Fun for your Money” and that’s because they understand the value of a dollar and the value of employing people with disabilities.
In Memoriam
Kim Virgil Lee Thomas
Attended Cohen-Joliet
Received SSA services

Clarice Gipp
Received SSA services

Vera Mae Mills
Retired from TWi
Received SSA services

Maria Charlikowskyi
Attended Whipple-Dale Centre
Received SSA services

Janell A. Prysock
Attended Higgins workshop
Special Olympian
Handprints Sign Choir member

Mary Lou Ryan
Received SSA services

Robert L. Kline, Jr.
Received SSA services

Kenya Mingo
Received SSA services

Hannah Rose Wilson
Graduated RS Southgate School
Attended West Stark Center

Paul Eckroate
Received Board and
SSA services

Donna May Fruchey
Attended West Stark Center
Received SSA services

Barbara Kramer
Received SSA services

Richard A. Murray
Received SSA services

Eastgate preschoolers, their families and school staff cheered under the Friday night lights during Eastgate Night with the Canton South Wildcats on September 21. The annual event, put together by Wildcats Head Coach Moe Daniska (right) and Eastgate Intervention Specialist Asst. Kay Clark, gives the preschoolers a chance to hangout with the football players and cheerleaders in the locker room prior to the game and out on the field for the pre-game warm up.

Breakfast With Santa
Saturday December 10, 2011
9:00 am – 11:00 am

Eastgate Early Childhood & Family Center
2121 Ashland Street • Louisville, Ohio 44641

$4.00 for adults - $4.00 for children*
* Price for children includes photos with Santa.

Menu:
pancakes, sausage, orange juice, coffee, milk
(gluten-casein free items available with advance notice only)

Call Eastgate Early Childhood and Family Center
330-479-3440 for reservations

Sponsored by Family & Friends of Eastgate
Grant helps students capture “Our View Through the Lens”

Southgate School, opened for a two-week show Friday, November 4, at Anderson Creative Studio in the downtown Canton Arts district. The exhibit, part of the First Friday events, was made possible through a $4,000 Arts in Stark grant.

A total of 62 students with varying developmental disabilities participated in the project creating visual stories using digital media. This program gave students the opportunity to use cameras and editing software, which many had never experienced. The equipment, some of which had to be adapted to assist students in taking the photographs, was purchased through GovConnection.

The yearlong project included students learning the photographic process and production of the storyboards/photos and downloading pictures through peer collaboration and team teaching with GlenOak High School photography students.

The project also included learning about art by taking 12 field trips to special interest locations around the community, as well as touring the Canton Museum of Art and the Second April Gallery in downtown Canton.
The Special Olympics Booster Club has announced the Special O winners for 2011.

**Darryl Terrell**
The Men’s 2011 Special O award winner is Darryl Terrell (above, left). He is a veteran Special Olympian who has competed for many years in basketball skills, bowling, and softball skills.

To each of these sports, he brings cooperation, enthusiasm, loyalty, perseverance and dependability always accompanied with a smile. Softball Coach Bryan Stuck said that Darryl is a friendly person who gives 100 percent with all he does. “He is good at introducing people to each other, which is much appreciated at competitions to break the ice. Darryl is just a good person to be around,” said Coach Stuck.

Darryl’s success is measured by his great attitude. He is a winner no matter where he finishes and celebrated by being an “Outstanding Special Olympian.”

**Shannon Pirolozi**
The Women’s 2011 Special O award winner is Shannon Pirolozi (above, right). She has been a “Year Round” Special Olympian for several years, having competed in basketball skills, bowling, bocce, softball skills and swimming.

To each of these sports, she brings cooperation, enthusiasm, loyalty, perseverance and dependability, always accompanied with a smile. She works hard to improve her own skills and is there to help a teammate who might need encouragement.

Her success is measured by her great attitude with her coaches, her teammates and especially with everyone during her competitions. She is a winner no matter where she finishes and celebrates by being an “Outstanding Special Olympian.”

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**Promotions**
- Karen Lester
  Accounting Clerk
- Michelle DeLuca
  Teresa Knight
  Vehicle Operator-CWE
- Kristi Earle
  Team Leader
- Maureen Dolan
  Kathryn Murphy
  Intervention Specialist Asst.
- Michelle Abraham
  John Baker
  Theresa Westlake
  Bus Driver
- Susan Henderson
  Bus Rider
- Linda Allison
  Workshop Spec. II

**Recalled**
- Scott Love
  Paul Wolf
  Alice Woodring
  Workshop Spec 2
- Philbert Fisher
  Bus Driver

**Rehired**
- Larry Harper
  Custodian Substitute
- Sandy Evans
  Intervention Spec. Asst. Sub
- Verne Davis
  Workshop Spec. I
- Carol Eckroate
  Intervention Spec. Asst. Sub
- Janet Schillig
  Cert. Occupational Therapy Asst.
Race benefits Special Olympics

More than 500 area walkers and runners joined the 14th Annual Great Pumpkin Race on Saturday, October 29, at the Whipple-Dale Centre in Canton. The annual event, which raised more than $5,000 for Stark DD Special Olympics, offered families and walkers a 1-mile non-competitive run/walk, while serious runners raced in a 4-mile Subway Challenge Series competition.

Sponsors included Plain Township Fire/Rescue Department, Plain Township Rotary, Subway, News-Talk 1480 WHBC, The Repository, The Karcher Group, The Stark County Safety Council, United Travelers of America, Pepsi, Aultman Hospital, AultCare, Fox and Hound, and MaryAnn Donuts.

Whipple-Dale Centre artist Matthew Leyman of Alliance won the 2011 Pumpkin Race logo design contest. Leyman’s original drawing of a running jack-o’-lantern sporting a Special Olympics ball cap was featured on the front of this year’s t-shirt.

Artists from The Workshops, Inc. participated in a contest to design original artwork for shirts that race participants received. The annual contest, which began three years ago, was open to all TWi employees. Leyman, age 19, received $50 for creating the winning entry. He was on hand at the October 29 race to autograph participants’ t-shirts.

Three-hundred and sixty runners competed in the Subway Challenge 4-mile competitive race portion of the 14th Annual Great Pumpkin Race.
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

Follow us on:

Publisher:
Lisa Parramore, Communications Manager

The All in the Family is a quarterly publication of the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities.
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