Waivers enable independence in the community

Meet Matthew Thoman. He receives various types of support from Stark County Board of DD so he can live, work and learn in our community.

With the financial assistance of an Individual Options waiver, Matthew is working toward his ultimate goal of living independently.

He currently lives independently in a staff supported home in the Stark community. But living on his own didn’t happen right away, said Matthew. It’s something he had to work toward.

“I have lived in a few group homes with different roommates and support staff,” said Matthew. “With each living situation I learned and grew.”

In the Fall of 2011, Matthew’s mother and his provider told him they thought it was time for him to get a place of his own. “I felt like God was

See Matthew Thoman continued on page 3

Matthew Thoman works part-time in the dairy department at Marc’s in North Canton.

Look inside:

Stallman appointed to Stark DD Board 2 West Stark Center Greenhouse is a hit 5
Graduates look toward future 9 Stark DD Special Olympians bring home medals 10

“Ama TheEn. Ery. One.”
Dear Stark County Residents,

Gratitude is a feeling or attitude in acknowledgment of an act of kindness that has been received. On behalf of the 3,400 people with disabilities we serve, we are grateful for the support of Issue 1 – a levy that combined a 1.9 mill levy expiring in 2013 and a 1.4 mill levy ending in 2014. We want the Stark County community to know:

- We will be effective stewards of the dollars we have been given;
- This money will help us fulfill our mission of “being the support that connects individuals with disabilities and their families with the services they need”;
- Given state funding reductions and decreasing property values, we will have to continue to find new and inventive ways to provide services to people with disabilities, so please expect us to continue to evolve and change.

With many thanks,

2012 Community Report is here!

Read it online at www.starkdd.org/keypublications

Stallman joins Stark DD Board

Rebecca Stallman, former principal for whom the Rebecca Stallman Southgate School was named after, was appointed to the Stark DD Board by the Honorable Judge Dixie Park. Stallman’s appointment came as a result of the sudden death of Board member Jack Calhoun in February. Judge Park was on hand to administer the oath of office to Stallman at the April meeting.

Stallman retired in 2004 after more than 38 years of serving the Stark County community as a special needs educator.

Throughout her career, Stallman received numerous awards and commendations. She was named Teacher of the Year in 1984 and Professional of the Year in 2001 by the Arc of Stark County.

In 2003, Stallman received her most esteemed award. She was selected as one of only 200 Stark County residents to have their name placed on the Stark County Wall of Fame. Individuals selected for the Wall were selected based on their positive influence on the Stark County community.
Security measures upgraded at Board buildings

During the spring, Stark DD assessed the safety procedures throughout the agency and upgraded security equipment and procedures at all buildings.

“In today's day and age, it is prudent to constantly review all building safety and procedures,” said Tim Beard, Stark DD safety officer. “We worked with an outside safety consultant who reviewed our building security systems. We are implementing some changes to ensure the safety of the individuals we serve and the staff.”

Beard emphasized there was no specific incident that called for the enhancements to security, but rather a need to be proactive in safety measures.

Effective in August all board buildings now have swipe card access to enter and move throughout the building. Staff must have their badges on them all times.

All visitors during business hours must enter the building lobbies and notify the receptionist. A staff person will need to escort any visitors to interior locations.

Matthew Thoman
continued from page 1

speaking to me,” said Matthew.

To keep Matthew as independent as possible, the staff provide Matthew help at home with some minimal care and cooking, and transportation to work and shopping for groceries.

Matthew has also grown in his ability to work and make money.

Once out of high school, Matthew first worked for The Workshops Inc. at the Whipple-Dale Centre, trying different job training positions including paycheck stuffing and receptionist duties.

After almost four years in the sheltered work environment, Matthew transitioned onto a Supported Employment Enclave. Through the enclave, Matthew worked in a variety of job placements, including Shearers and TWi’s Sure Scan.

Then, in 2011 Matthew achieved a new level of independence on the job. With the guidance of his Stark DD job coach Kailynn Marks, he has worked part-time as a stocker at Marc's in North Canton. Matthew is known as a polite, conscientious worker who is always on time and eager to do what is asked of him.

“It's heavenly to have Matthew on your team,” said Christine Cassidy, a department manager for Marc's. “He has such a positive attitude, and he's polite to the customers. He can change a bad day into a good day for anyone who is around him.”

Matthew is also pursuing his dream of studying computer science with the ultimate goal of achieving independence. This past year he completed his first course in Computer Exploration at Stark State University. “My goal is to get a degree in computers,” he said.

Matthew feels that he never would have been able to accomplish all that he is doing without the support of his family, friends, staff and God.
Study to Evaluate Needs of People Waiting for Services

More than 40,000 Ohioans with disabilities are waiting for a Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver in Ohio, according to recent estimates provided by the Ohio Colleges of Medicine’s Government Resource Center. The number often raises eyebrows among advocates and policymakers, but currently little is known about what services people actually are waiting for or need.

“It’s disheartening when you hear the number,” says Carolyn Knight, Executive Director of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council). “But it’s just a number, and it doesn’t really tell the whole story about who is on the list and what they are really waiting for.”

Knight says that is why the DD Council -- in partnership with DODD, the Government Resource Center, and Kent State University -- is funding a study to examine the current and future needs of people with disabilities who are on the waiting list for a HCBS waiver.

The study will include a telephone survey of 1000 individuals who have been randomly selected from the HCBS waiver waiting list. People with disabilities or their family members, caregivers, or guardians will be asked a series of questions about what they need to help them be more independent, or what they might need in the future.

Kent State University will be conducting the telephone interviews beginning in August. Each phone interview is expected to take about seven minutes to complete, and all personal information will be kept confidential. The surveys are expected to be finished sometime in November. Knight emphasized,

DODD Director John Martin added that he hopes the study will help to demystify the waiting list, stating,

“Generally, everyone knows the waiting list for a waiver is large, and keeps growing,” said Martin. “That’s about the extent of most people’s knowledge of the issue. A study like this will really help everyone understand the nature of the waiting list, and take some of the guesswork out of what people on the list need.”

He added that the study could help the Department, and local County Boards of DD identify needs that can be addressed in the future. Study findings will be made available in 2014. For more information: http://www.ddc.ohio.gov/
WSC Greenhouse hits pay dirt

The West Stark Center Greenhouse Project literally hit pay dirt in its first year of operation.

The Greenhouse Project, however, didn’t grow overnight. Planning started in 2011 and was spearheaded by WSC Bob Young, Joe Benincasa and Bill Wingerter.

The greenhouse hoop house was constructed in 2012. Raised beds were constructed in the area adjacent to the hoop house to plant vegetables. Volunteers from Project Rebuild as well as Higgins volunteer group and WSC individuals built the raised beds from recycled wood. A large charitable donation funded temperature control for the hoop house.

Greenhouse planting began in 2012 as an activity for individuals interested in learning gardening. At that time it was an unpaid project; a pilot program to measure the success of individuals, staff and grounds.

By February 2013 the greenhouse staff planted 300 flats of various perennials, vegetables, and herbs and 50 hanging baskets, with the guidance of master gardener Roger Warner.

The first annual Mother’s Day sale netted over $3000 in profit, selling out of hanging baskets, perennials and most vegetables. The five day sale was manned by the greenhouse staff and supervised by Benincasa and Glenda Willis.

As spring turned to summer the garden around the hoop house was planted with 300 tomato plants, squash, beans, onions, peppers, herbs, and a newly added pumpkin patch. Produce from the garden was sold at local farmer’s markets and to walk-in customers.

The greenhouse also has verbal agreements with Mr. DD’s Cafe and Bugsy’s Pasta House, a local restaurant across from WSC to supply produce for their menus at a discounted rate.

The Greenhouse Project has grown more than plants—it’s grown pride in a job.

“My daughter is so excited about planting that she can’t wait to get up in the morning and go to work,” said Mr. May, parent of a greenhouse staffer.

“I take everyone on tours of the greenhouse to see all the work I did,” said Kenny Lynch. “I love working in the garden!”

“I have seen such a change in my daughter since working in the greenhouse and garden. She loves to go to work and is excited about seeing the plants grow. She even cried the other night because one of her plants had died,” said Mrs. Flinskenger.
Job satisfaction scores high when part of the team

There's a new team of employees in the town of Macedonia these days, and rather than being part of the “special teams unit” these adults with disabilities are part of the regular huddle, right alongside of their coworkers.

Design Molded Plastics and The Workshops Inc. began back in January incorporating enclaves of TWi employees into the production line at the family owned company that specializes in plastic and custom injection molded items for many of the leading industrial companies.

Some of the better known items include Vita Mix blenders, Kirby sweepers and Ridell football helmets.

"You see an NFL helmet, then it was made right here in Macedonia," said Brent

2013 TWI Employees of the Year Announced

The 2013 Employees of the Year were announced at the annual TWi Summer Formal on Saturday, July 20 at the Canton Civic Center. They are:

David S.- Whipple Dale Center
David comes to Whipple Dale prepared to work or do whatever activity we have planned. He always puts forth 100% effort in everything he does and aims to please!

Jennifer Mayberry- West Stark Center
Jennifer is very helpful not only to her area supervisors but also to her coworkers in her area and throughout WSC. Jennifer is a recent Project STIR graduate and uses those skills as an advocate for herself, her siblings with disabilities, and her peers.

Ryan Long- Lester Higgins Center
Ryan is a hard worker and is always willing to help out or do whatever is asked of him. He has become a stronger self-advocate and is an advocate for his peers and others with disabilities.

Brent Howell -Supported Employment–ENCLAVE
Brent works on the TWIG Grounds Keeping Crew. He has developed a very positive work ethic and shown development in his ability to adapt. Brent can follow orders well and can also see what needs to be done and does it. (no photo available)

Danny Neal- Supported Employment-Community
Danny has cleaned the automotive showroom at Sears for nearly 8 years. He has garnered respect for his attendance, work ethic and effort. (no photo available)
Holzopfel, technical manager at Design Molded Plastics.

Holzopfel was familiar with the high quality and dedicated employees of TWi from his previous company, who also employed several enclaves staffed with adults with disabilities.

When Holzopfel moved over to Design Molded Plastics and saw the robotic-like production line, he knew he had the perfect job for the employees at TWi.

Prior to the enclaves start in the production room, Holzopfel took great care in educating the 130 full time and 95 temporary Design Molded staff about the mission of TWi and working alongside people with disabilities. The company posted awareness fliers that included the Rights of Ohioans with Developmental Disabilities and how to use People First Language.

Currently two enclaves, composed of eight adults with disabilities work on the production line, Monday through Friday in four hour shifts, earning minimum wage. Five additional employees work full eight hour shifts. All employees are driven to and from the worksite by Stark DD Supported Employment staff. These same staff provide on the job supervision and help.

“One of the best components of this working relationship is that TWi sends a supervisor with the crew,” said Diane Hanson, human resources for Design Molded Plastics. “Any employee issues are handled by support staff and don’t take HR time.”

Hanson added that the crew is completely part of the team and acceptance is not an issue. “They swipe in with a badge just like everyone else,” she said. “They come to work everyday with a smile on their face and they are focused on the job.”

The job satisfaction among the crew of thirteen runs high.

Shawn Neubauer concentrates on the small details on the job at Design Molded Plastics. He is one of five employees who work eight hour shifts at the Macedonia plant.

“I like the responsibility,” said Diane Riehl, one of three who pulls an eight hour shift. “I help out as much as I can and have a lot of different responsibilities. I enjoy it.”

Shawn Neubauer acknowledges the clean environment where he works his eight hour shift. “It’s a nice place to work. The people are nice and friendly,” he said.

The satisfaction also comes from Stark DD job supervisors. “I’m so proud. They’ve all done so good,” said Shannon Kelley. “It is so gratifying to help such a good crew.”

Holzopfel is already looking at his production line and thinking about other “perfect jobs” for TWi employees.

Do you have the “perfect job” for employees with developmental disabilities? Contact Tim Casper, CEO for The Workshops Inc. at 330-479-3958 to get TWi on your team.
Stark DD Early Childhood Programs celebrated graduation on May 30. A total of 46 children completed their preschool education: 35 from Eastgate Early Childhood Center and 11 from Day Early Childhood Center. Of those graduates were 29 children with special needs, and 17 typically developing peers. Of these 29 children, ten will be attending a SCBDD kindergarten class either at RS Southgate School or in the satellite classroom in Plain Local Schools. The remaining 19 children will be entering kindergarten in their home school districts.

Some of these typically developing peers who graduated, one of these children had actually been a child with an Individual Education Plan the past two years at Eastgate. He progressed so well, half way through this school year he no longer qualified for special education services and finished the school year as a typical peer.

Another six preschoolers received Movin’ On certificates as they have progressed so well they are able to leave Stark County Board of DD preschool services to go back to their home districts for preschool.

In all, May 30 was the final day of SCBDD early childhood services for a total of 52 preschoolers. That is a lot of children to exit out in one year.

Look out Kindergarten, here we come!

New Hires

Leslie Pierce
CFO/Business Manager

Katie Tritt
Administrative Assistant

Christina Mick
Service & Support Administrator

Hope Wagner
Workshop Spec. I

Esha Evans
April Gerich
Robin Miller
Taria Parks
Cheryl Pribula
Joann Shaw
Workshop Spec. I Substitute

Suzanne Cartrett
Dawn Fish
Rachael Grimm
Laura Haas
Rebecca Smith
Intervention Spec. Asst. Substitute

Kaitlyn Holshu
Frank Kruger
Ashley Schlattman
Supported Employment Substitute

Melinda Maxwell
Bus Driver

Raymond Parrish
Mechanic

Jerald Catanzarite
Joseph Snyder
Custodian

Above, left: Ann Slagle, Stark DD Intervention Specialist introduces preschool graduate Eddie Reed. Above, right: Preschool graduate Mattie Mesic is excited with her diploma and flowers.

Raith Pendleton, left and Preston Csonka, right, perform a song during the May graduation ceremony at Eastgate Early Childhood and Family Center.
Graduates look toward future

On May 30, the 15 members of the Class of 2013 of RS Southgate School put on their caps and gowns, and received their high school diplomas.

Of the graduates, three are attending Board workshops, one is going into supported employment, and eight are attending day services with another provider. Three are still in planning process.

Graduates Raquel Casline, Brian Dalton and Mathew Frye gave the student address before the packed gymnasium filled with families and supporters.

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.

“This was such an outstanding group of students,” said Myrna Blosser, principal of Southgate School. “They had such an impact on our school and they will be missed. We wish the graduates best of luck in their next journey.”

Promotions

Sonja Galevska
Service & Support Administrator

Sue Moffet
Workshop Spec. 1

Lynn Phillips
Workshop Spec. 2

Taria Parks
Becky Pruitt
Clerk

Rhonda Miller
Bus Driver

Rehired

Pamela Domenico
Rhonda Miller
Bus Driver Substitute

Edward France
Bus Rider Substitute

Retired

Sharon Kraner
Workshop Spec. 1

Cynthia Baumgart
Intervention Specialist Assistant

Donna Schmidt
Intervention Spec. Asst. Substitute

Robert Spence
Purchasing Manager

James Kelly
Bus Rider

Teacher honored on Stark All-Teaching Teams

Stacy David, a teacher in Stark DD School Programs at Warstler Elementary was honored at the Education Celebration in May. The annual event honors the dedication of Stark County’s top educators.

David joined top teachers on the All-County Teaching Team. Honorees must display a history of “going above and beyond” to educate his or her students. The teachers also were honored for inspiring students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn, and for playing an active role in their communities and their schools.
Special Olympians representing Stark DD brought home 40 medals from the State Summer Games held June 28-29 at the Ohio State University. Almost 50 athletes competed in track and field, bocce, and bowling. The final medal count was 21 golds, 13 silvers, and 6 bronze for the Stark DD team.

Six athletes were double-medal winners. John Daniels, Massillon, brought home double gold medals for the Running Long Jump and the 200M Run. Russell Johnson, Canton, won gold medals in both the 100M Run and the Shot Put. Four athletes brought home double medals: Ben Drake, Canton – Gold 200M Run, Silver 100M Run; Jen Eaglowski, Massillon – Gold 200M Run, Silver Standing Long Jump; Stacy Perine, Canton – Gold Standing Long Jump, Silver 100M Run; and Larry Watts, Canton – Gold 100M Run, Silver Shot Put.

Indoors, the bowling lanes were hot for Stark athletes as six bowlers nabbed gold medals; five silvers medals, four bronze medals, and five athletes finished in 4th place.

Stark DD Bocce teams also scored well this weekend, grabbing four gold and two silver medals.

Project STIR graduates future leaders

Project STIR (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility) curriculum focuses on learning about self advocacy, self determination, as well as other topics, such as communication and assertiveness, problem solving, rights and responsibilities, and how to set and accomplish goals.

Above, left: Whipple Dale Centre graduates, Susan Snow and Nick Doll. Above, right: Higgins graduates Lisa P, Ryan Y (from Supported Employment), Tyrell P and Ryan L.
Registration Information

1 Mile Fun Run/Walk: Pre-registration: $22.00  
Race Day Registration: $27.00

4 Mile Run/Walk: Pre-registration: $22.00  
Race Day Registration: $27.00

Family registration for 1 Mile and 4 Mile:  
Pre-registration: $70.00  
Race Day Registration: $80.00  
(Parents/Children, Brothers/Sisters only.)

SPECIAL OLYMPIAN FEE: $10.00  
FOR 1 OR 4 MILE

Register for race online at www.ohiochallengeseries.com by Friday, October 25 at noon or by mailing the below form to  
2013 Great Pumpkin Race • Stark County Board of DD • 2950 Whipple Ave. NW • Canton, OH 44708, Make checks payable to Stark DD.

Saturday, October 26, 2013  
1 Mile Fun Run/Walk 8:30 a.m.  
4 Mile Run/Walk 9:00 a.m.

all proceeds benefitting Stark DD Special Olympics

Cotton long sleeve T-Shirts to the first 500 registered.  
*Early registrants can upgrade to Wicking Shirt.  
Order by October 14 to guarantee availability.

Chrono Track Systems timing for  
4 mile participants only.

Overall and age group awards for 4 mile race.

Costumes are welcome!

Register for race online at www.ohiochallengeseries.com by Friday, October 25 at noon or by mailing the below form to  
2013 Great Pumpkin Race • Stark County Board of DD • 2950 Whipple Ave. NW • Canton, OH 44708, Make checks payable to Stark DD.

Saturday, October 26, 2013  
1 Mile Fun Run/Walk 8:30 a.m.  
4 Mile Run/Walk 9:00 a.m.

all proceeds benefitting Stark DD Special Olympics

Cotton long sleeve T-Shirts to the first 500 registered.  
*Early registrants can upgrade to Wicking Shirt.  
Order by October 14 to guarantee availability.

Chrono Track Systems timing for  
4 mile participants only.

Overall and age group awards for 4 mile race.

Costumes are welcome!

Register for race online at www.ohiochallengeseries.com by Friday, October 25 at noon or by mailing the below form to  
2013 Great Pumpkin Race • Stark County Board of DD • 2950 Whipple Ave. NW • Canton, OH 44708, Make checks payable to Stark DD.

YES! Sign me up:  
[ ] 1 Mile  [ ] 4 Mile

Check one: [ ] INDIVIDUAL  [ ] FAMILY  
(Family entries must complete a form for each family member and submit together.)

First Name _______________________________  Last Name _______________________

Address ____________________________________________________________  
City ___________________  State ________

Zip ___________  Birth Date _______/_____/______  Age ______  Sex:  [ ] M  or  [ ] F

E-mail ________________________________________________________________

Shirt Style & Size:  [ ] Cotton T-shirt  or  [ ] *Wicking Shirt  
(will be an additional $10, no youth sizes)

[ ] Youth Medium  [ ] Youth Large  [ ] Small  [ ] Medium  [ ] Large  [ ] X-Large  [ ] XX-Large

Amount enclosed:  [ ] $10.00 Special Olympian  [ ] $22.00 1 or 4 Mile  [ ] $70.00 Family

In consideration of this entry accepted, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, waive & release any & all rights and claims for damages I may have against the organization & sponsors holding the event, its agents, representatives, successors & assignees for any & all injuries suffered by me at said event. I hereby, attest & certify that I am physically fit & have sufficiently trained for this athletic event. I give permission for organizers & sponsors to use any photographs taken of me in conjunction with said event. I also understand there are NO REFUNDS of my registration fee if I cannot participate.

Signature (Parent or Guardian if under 18): ______________________________ Date __________

Race Packets will be available for pick-up on day of event. No early pick-up will be available.

Can’t participate? I cannot attend the race, but I would like to donate to Stark DD Special Olympics. A donation of $_________ is enclosed.
Board Members
Larry Marcus, President
Richard Hoffman, Vice President
Roger Gines, Recording Secretary
Tom Bucka
Carlene Harmon
Rebecca Stallman
Daniel Sutter

Superintendent
William Green

Visit us on the internet at www.starkdd.org

Follow us on:

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

Throughout the course of a year Stark DD serves more than 3,300 infants, children and adults. Nearly 59 percent of our annual operating budget of just under $50 million comes from a combination of continuing and limited term levies approved by Stark County voters. Federal funds make up 20 percent of our funding, and state funds account for 21 percent.

A seven-member volunteer board oversees our organization. Five are appointed by the Stark County Commissioners; two by the Probate Court’s Presiding Judge.

Publisher:
Lisa Parramore, Communications Manager

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 2,000.

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