Community book clubs for people with intellectual disabilities are providing opportunities to read, socialize

Next Chapter Book Clubs (NCBC) are helping people with intellectual disabilities share a good book and a bit of conversation, while sipping a frothy latte in a fun, community setting such as a bookstore or café.

NCBC began in Columbus, Ohio in 2002 stemming from the interest of people with disabilities and staff working through The Ohio State University Nisonger Center. Since then, NCBC has grown from two book clubs in Columbus to nearly 300 clubs across North America, Europe and Canada. It is the largest community-based book club program for adolescents and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the world.

“it’s one thing to live in a community, it’s another to be included as part of your community, After they graduate, opportunities are limited for people with intellectual disabilities to maintain the literacy and reading skills they’ve developed. We all continue to learn and grow.”

Jillian Ober
Trainer/Facilitator
Next Chapter Book Club.

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Get Involved Today!

The Next Chapter Book Club is a program of The Ohio State University Nisonger Center

How does it work? Members meet weekly for one hour at local bookstores, libraries, coffee shops and cafés to read and discuss a book of their choosing. Anyone can participate, no matter their reading or ability level. Trained volunteers facilitate each group. They include students, parents, retirees, people with disabilities, and various community members.

Why join the Next Chapter Book Club? NCBC members improve literacy skills, make friends, take part in the community, and have a lot of fun doing it!

If you would like to get involved, contact:
Beth Sutter 330.806.6369
dsutter1@neo.rr.com
Lisa Parramore 330-479-3934
parramorel@starkdd.org

Jillian Ober, NCBC program manager, provided affiliate training to eighteen people from Stark County on February 18th. This included Stark DD staff, providers, advocacy support groups and family, friends and community volunteers. From this training, a pilot NCBC started meeting on at Books-A-Million at the Strip. A second club, recently started at The Front Porch in Hartville, is looking for more members. Book clubs include five to eight people, regardless of their reading skills and abilities, and 2-3 volunteer facilitators.

Members meet in public places where the general community gathers such as local bookstores and cafés to read aloud and discuss a book for one hour each week. Much like members of any other book club, NCBC members choose the book they want to read and how they would like to structure their club.

NCBC members read adapted classic novels (i.e. Little Women and Treasure Island) as well as current, popular literature. NCBC maintains “loaner” sets of books for affiliated clubs. Stark County is looking to collaborate with the Stark County District Library as well as seeking community donations to purchase sets of books for a local library.

“Our members (including some who cannot read) love books for the same reasons most people do. They enjoy being transported to different worlds where they meet interesting characters and learn about exciting new things. Taking that journey with a group of friends makes it even more delightful and fun,” said Ober.
Stark DD Family Information Series topics aim to educate, inform on what’s trending

Stark DD launched the Family Information Series in 2015 to help individuals, families and caregivers learn more about issues and trending topics related to intellectual/developmental disabilities.

The free evening sessions take place at the Whipple-Dale Centre, and typically run the second Monday of the month from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Speakers have included Stark DD staff as well as community resources.

For those who can’t attend, each session is also videotaped and made available on the Stark DD YouTube Channel. Viewers can access the YouTube channel through our website homepage by clicking on the YouTube icon, or by using the link https://www.youtube.com/user/StarkCountyDD.

Future Family Information Series events can be found on the Community Calendar at http://www.starkdd.org/calendar. You can also sign up to receive email notifications by contacting Lisa Parramore at 330-479-3934.

Coming Up Next:

September 12: What is a STABLE Account? Presented by Tanya Rutner, Director of Financial Literacy-Ohio State Treasurer’s Office. 10:30 a.m. in Room 116 and 5:30 p.m. in the Cohen Room. Due to the anticipated interest in this topic, we have added a day session.

November 14: Help! How Do I Pick a Provider? Presented by the SSA staff. 5:30 p.m. in the Cohen Room. Learn different ways to identify what is important to you and how you can use that to pick a provider. Learn the tools that are available to get information about providers.

What have I missed?

Each session of the Family Information Series has been videotaped.

Visit our Stark DD YouTube Channel and watch past sessions!

https://www.youtube.com/user/StarkCountyDD

Archived Family Information Sessions topics include:

August 2015
• Our New ISP: What is Person Centered Thinking?
• Don’t Let the Bed Bugs Bite!

October 2015
• Understanding Provider Certification and Training
• Person Centered Planning: Finding out who “I am” really is

December 2015
• Waivers 101
• Transition Planning: What it is and why it’s important

February 2016
• Let’s Get Moving: Exploring Community Health and Wellness programs for all abilities
• Community Bound: Preparing On-the-Go Healthy Snacks & Lunches for children and adults with disabilities

April 2016
• Your Individualized Service Plan (ISP): A New Person-Centered Meeting
• Family Support Service (FSS) Funding: Assistance for those living in the Family Home without other Funding Supports

May 2016
Miller’s Trust: New Requirement for HCBS Waivers Holders
Ohio, Stark DD play integral part of national organization that focuses on employment, self-sufficiency for Americans with disabilities

Stark DD Supported Employment Specialist Jim Keller was honored as the 2016 National Certified Employment Support Professional of the Year at the 2016 National Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) Conference in Cincinnati during June.

More than 1,000 attendees, including people from Japan, France, Ireland, Australia and Canada, came to Ohio to network and learn best practices for supporting people with disabilities working in the community.

Keller was recognized for his leadership role in the large scale CESP certification effort that occurred this spring and summer. Keller served as Lead Proctor for all eight exams that certified 113 professionals across the state of Ohio. Because of this effort, Ohio now ranks second nationally for having the most CESP, and Stark County ranks number one in the state.

“I was extremely humbled at receiving the delineation of ‘National Certified Employment Professional of the Year.’ I also wish to thank Bill (Green) and the Board for supporting me and allowing me to travel, learn and share the advancements being made in Stark County. It is my hope that people will understand what we are doing in Stark County. Ohio is really a step forward and in no way diminishes the work and effort of the all the people who worked tirelessly to advocate for equality and community inclusion,” said Keller.

Jim Keller (above) was awarded the 2016 National Certified Employment Support Professional of the Year during the National Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio by Allison Wohl, Executive Director APSE National during the National Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio in June. Stark County staff attending the national conference included (front, l to r) Pam Barrett, Jayme Riley, Peggy Leitzel, Linda Allison, Cindy Burga. (back, l to r) Jim Keller, Ken Bates, John Bryson and Paul Wolf.
Stark County Board of DD celebrated the graduation of 13 students from Rebecca Stallman Southgate School on May 27. The graduates are actively working with employment specialists searching for jobs in the community or pursuing their interests in our Stark community through a local provider.

Fifty-two preschoolers in our Early Childhood program also celebrated “moving on;” 47 of these students have returned back into their home school districts for kindergarten, while five are attending specialized programs or additional preschool classes.
Stark DD Board sets transition of adult services, transportation initiatives to help people integrate into

In keeping with a federal mandate, the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities trustees voted at the June 28 meeting to approve the agency’s transition of all adult program services to private providers effective July 1, 2018.

Recent federal rules by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services mandate that agencies nationwide can no longer provide both case management and Medicaid waiver services, such adult day services, supported employment and adult transportation.

While agencies must comply by 2024, a Stark DD task force initially recommended the Board accelerate this time line and complete the privatization of services in January of 2018 instead of 2024, to reduce the disruptive effects of a lengthy transition. After considerable input from focus groups and from public hearings, the Board agreed to delay the transition to July 2018 to allow individuals served and agency employees two full years to plan for the change.

Find a complete breakdown of the meetings and findings that led up to the Board’s decision on our website at http://www.starkdd.org/starkddinthecommunity.

Update: State agencies set to launch pilot projects that are establishing Provider Platinum Standards

One of the recommendations from the task force was to develop Provider Standards that exceed the minimum requirements to better assist individuals and families during the provider selection process.

We were planning to deem providers as “platinum standard providers” if they met criteria that was mutually agreed upon and was above and beyond requirements. The purpose of providing such a designation is to provide individuals and families with additional information that could be used when choosing a provider.

Stark DD began this initiative and intended to model the North Star program established within Hamilton County by their providers and county board. Hamilton County was the first to facilitate such standards that were mutually agreed upon.

Given the present state-wide interest in designating providers who go above and beyond the minimum standards, county boards need approval through the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) to proceed. The Ohio Association of County Boards of DD, understanding the need to ensure a uniform roll-out of these designations, is working with DODD and has agreed to oversee any implementation of advanced standards, like the Platinum Standard, by offering six pilot projects state-wide. County boards and providers interested in participating must apply and be accepted prior to developing any provider designations.

Applications to participate are expected to go out in the fall and be awarded by year’s end.

With this direction, Stark County’s initiative has been placed on hold but we will apply to participate in the pilot project. Unfortunately, we will be unable to launch this program by January 1, 2017, as we had planned. The good news is that we have enriched our relationships with the provider community and know their eagerness to jointly establish higher standards on not only what makes for a “good” provider, but a “great” one.

We will keep you updated on this topic as well as others through our All In The Family publication, on our website, through family information series, and on social media.
More than 40 Perry High School students and their teachers launched a Best Buddies chapter during the 2015/16 school year.

As part of the monthly meetings, the students learn about building their Panther community stronger through their relationships with each other. They talk about self advocacy as well as plan monthly community outings. Wednesday’s are know as “Buddy Lunch Day.”

On March 2, the group brought the international “Spread the Word to End the Word” campaign to school by selling T-shirts, making an awareness video that played during the morning announcements, and collecting hundreds of signatures from people pledging to end using the R-Word.

“This club has given me great opportunities to come out of my comfort zone and talk to other people that I usually wouldn’t get the chance to.”

Jessica Middaugh

Website
https://bestbuddies.org

What is it?
Best Buddies is a non-profit organization established in 1989 by Anthony Kennedy Shriver. The mission of Best Buddies is to establish a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Who can be in it?
In middle schools, high schools, and colleges, Best Buddies operates as a student-run friendship club, which creates buddy pairs between students with and without disabilities. Best Buddies helps to create an inclusive school climate for students and a community culture of acceptance.

By the Numbers:
- 1,972 total Chapters
- 99,715 total Participants
- In 50 states
- In 54 Countries
- In 6 continents
- 313 Middle School Chapters
- 1,131 High School Chapters
- 413 College Chapters


Where we’ve been this SUMMER

Camp Jukebox – Celebrates America!
For the past 18 years, Stark DD has sponsored the week long musical arts camp for children with developmental disabilities. This year’s camp paired 23 campers with 23 peer counselors to perform the choreographed street show during the Canton First Friday event on July 1 in the downtown arts district. Also included this year, each camper learned about the fitness benefits of dance by tracking their movements using MovBands, donated by the Aultman Foundation. Other sponsors included SummerTime Kids, Arts in Stark and GentleBrook.

The Arc of Ohio-Stark County Summer Camp for Kids.
Stark DD continued their support of the four week camp held at Baylor Beach in Navarre. A total of 53 kids attended the camp with an average of 30-35 per week. The Arc hired 22 counselors this year, nine of which served strictly as 1:1’s. Activities included swimming, arts and crafts, kickball, swimming, putt-putt, basketball, dance parties, Zumba, visit from The Hall of Fame Court, piñata party, and a fiesta food day! The camp also served as a clinical site for the Aultman School of Nursing the first three weeks of camp.

UDS All-Star Jam.
Stark DD Special Olympians and staff took their moves to the court on July 30 during an integral 3 on 3 basketball tournament in Akron. The inaugural event raised money for the UDS All-Stark Training Club, which is an inclusive sports program where children and adults of all abilities can play together competitively.
Olde Muskingum Trail in Jackson Township and Canal Fulton continues to be the project of the West Stark Center People First chapter. Over the past two years, the advocates have partnered with the Stark Parks to keep the trail clean for our community.

Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festivities kicked off in late July. Hall of Fame inductees Joe DeLamielleure and Billy Shaw stopped by to visit folks at the downtown Sara Care Senior Center. Artists from Just Imagine Gift Gallery were invited to meet and greet.
Social

Jesus Prom
September 9 from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the Chapel in Green, 1800 Raber Road, Uniontown. This is a FREE event for teens and adults (16 years & older), DD staff members, parents and caregivers. Register before Aug 28th at thechapel.life/greendisability

Adult Services Formal Dinner/Dance
September 24 from 5:30 p.m.-10 p.m. at the Canton Civic Center 1101 Market Ave. N, Canton. Tickets $25 ea. Purchase deadline Aug. 31. Must be 18 years of age and over to attend. Call 330-479-3760 for ticket information.

Adult Social Night
October 31 from 7 p.m.- 9 p.m. at the St. George Cultural Center, 364 First St. SE, Massillon. Must be 18 years of age and over to attend.

Community

Monthly Board Meeting
Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities; September 27, 6 p.m. at 2950 Whipple Ave. NW, Canton.

Street Fair: Community Resources in Your Neighborhood
October 8, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 2950 Whipple Ave. NW, Canton. We will have community organizations, agencies, and providers on hand to answer your questions about services and supports for children and adults with various needs.

Recreation

Bob Meister Special Needs Fishing Derby
September 10 at Sippo Lake Park & Marina. For ages 4-18 only. Reservations are required online or by calling 330.409.8096

Special Olympics State Softball Tournament
September 10 at Oregon, Ohio. Qualifying teams and individual skills competition are featured in this one day tournament.

Special Olympics Swim Team Sign-ups
September 17 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Louisville YMCA. Athletes must be able to demonstrate they can independently swim the length of the swimming pool.

Education

Family Information Series
September 12 - 10:30 am in Room 116 and 5:30 p.m. – in the Cohen Room at Whipple-Dale Centre, 2950 Whipple Ave. NW. “What is a STABLE Account?” presented by Tanya Rutner, Ohio State Treasurer’s office.

16th Annual Ohio Adult Sibling Conference: Reaching for Well-Being

19th Annual Great Pumpkin Race
October 29, 8:30 a.m. at 2950 Whipple Ave. NW, Canton. Benefits Stark DD Special Olympics. Register at https://runsignup.com/Race/OH/Canton/GreatPumpkinRace

Special Olympics State Softball Tournament
September 10 at Oregon, Ohio. Qualifying teams and individual skills competition are featured in this one day tournament.

Special Olympics Swim Team Sign-ups
September 17 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Louisville YMCA. Athletes must be able to demonstrate they can independently swim the length of the swimming pool.

Monthly Board Meeting
Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities; October 25, 6 p.m. at 2950 Whipple Ave. NW, Canton.
In Memoriam

The Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities extends sincere condolences to the families of the following:

The Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities extends sincere condolences to the families of the following:

Eleanor Louise Fidler – Eleanor, age 90, passed away on January 5, 2016. She received SSA services.

Becky Lynn Byrd – Becky, age 56, passed away on January 10, 2016. She received SSA services and previously attended the Stark County Board of DD day program.

Nancy L. Fisher – Nancy, age 60, passed away on January 17, 2016. She received SSA services.

Felipe Katigbak – Felipe, age 73, passed away on December 21, 2015. He received SSA services and recently worked at Creative Life and Work Services. He was previously employed at the Stark County Board of DD day program.

Daniel (Danny) J. Fulmer – Danny, age 54, passed away on January 24, 2016. He received SSA services.

Joseph Louis Francis Champagne – Joe, age 56, passed away on February 3, 2016. He received SSA services and was employed by Lomeda Services. He was previously employed at the Stark County Board of DD day program.

Marion Theresa Fosnight – Marion, age 97, passed away on February 19, 2016. She received SSA services and was retired from the Stark County Board of DD Seniors program at the Whipple-Dale Centre.

Jacqueline (Jackie) Marie Upperman – Jackie, age 61, passed away on February 23, 2016. She received SSA services and retired from the Stark County Board of DD day program.

Patricia (Tricia) Clare Sober – Tricia, age 51, passed away on March 3, 2016. She received SSA services, had attended the Stark County Board of DD day program, and most recently attended GentleBrook.

Thomas Glen Williams – Thomas, age 46, passed away on March 5, 2016. He received SSA services, was a graduate

of Southgate School, and attended the Community Connections day program.

Lynette Geriann Gelmini – Lynette, age 60, passed away on March 11, 2016. She received SSA services, was employed at Creative Learning Workshop, and previously worked in the Stark County Board of DD day program.

Michael Steven Kovik – Michael, age 62, passed away on April 3, 2016. He received SSA services, formerly worked for ARRAY, and previously worked in the Stark County Board of DD day program.

Ronald Dean Fitzwater – Ronald, age 55, passed away on April 10, 2016. He received SSA services.

Richard Matthew Mastri – Richard, age 61, passed away on April 13, 2016. He received SSA services.

Michael “Mike” Kevin King – Mike, age 59, passed away on March 26, 2016. He received SSA services and previously worked in the Stark County Board of DD day program.

Ronald “Ron” Len Bennett – Ron, age 69, passed away on April 2, 2016. He received SSA services and worked in the Stark County Board of DD day program.

Robert Sydney Finch – Robert, age 76, passed away on April 14, 2016. He received SSA services, recently retired from the Caring Hands day program, and previously worked in the Stark County Board of DD day program.

Caroline Jane Ziegler – Caroline, age 58, passed away on April 24, 2016. She received SSA services, worked at GentleWorks, and previously worked in the Stark County Board of DD day program.

Linda Ann Dunn – Linda, age 71, passed away on April 26, 2016. She received SSA services and previously attended the Stark County Board of DD day program.

Joseph “Niki” Fish – Niki, age 70, passed away on June 8, 2016. He received SSA services and previously worked in the Stark County Board of DD day program from 1984-2009. He was then employed at GentleWorks until his retirement in 2015.

James Caloin Arney – James, age 81, passed away on June 28, 2016. He received SSA services, attended Creative Learning Workshop, and previously attended the Stark County Board of DD day program.

Judith “Judy” Marie Kimble – Judy, age 59, passed away on July 10, 2016. She received SSA services and previously attended the Stark County Board of DD day program.

Richard Edward Brezinski – Richard, age 69, passed away on July 11, 2016. He received SSA services and was an artist at Just Imagine.

Terri Kay Young, age 59, passed away July 12, 2016. She attended the SCBDD workshop program, and received SSA services.

Jacquelyn “Jackie” Lucille Grigsby, age 80, passed away on August 2, 2016. She received services from the SSA Department, and recently retired from the SCBDD workshop program.

Kimberly Sue Morrell, age 57, passed away on August 9, 2016. She received services from the SSA Department, and had previously attended the Board workshop program.

LeaAnn Legg, age 55, passed away on August 11, 2016. She received services from the SSA Department, and had previously attended the Board workshop program.

STAFF

Laura C. Idoine – Laura, age 63, passed away on July 16, 2016. She worked as a sub in adult services, then went on to work as a follow along at Rebecca Stallman Southgate School.

Becky Mikus – Becky passed away on July 31, 2016. She was a substitute RN having worked in the various sites throughout Stark DD. She had just retired in April 2016.
Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities
2950 Whipple Ave. N.W.
Canton, OH 44708

Board Members
Daniel Sutter, President
Todd Frank, Vice President
Roger Gines, Recording Secretary
Carlene Harmon
Richard Hoffman
Rebecca Stallman

Superintendent
William Green

Visit us on the internet at www.starkdd.org

Follow us on:

Mission:
To be the support that connects individuals and families
with the services they need.

Camp Jukebox Celebrates!

All in the Family