Special Olympians shine for Nation, World

Six Stark County athletes played their way to medals in the 2014 USA Games this summer in New Jersey. One athlete will take her speed to California.
Shaun Holmes receives EDSY Award; the epitome of a self-advocate

Shaun Holmes received the 2014 EDSY award from the Ohio Self Determination Association at the Synergy Conference in Dublin, Ohio on October 1-3, 2014.

The award recognizes individuals or entities that have promoted the principles of self determination which affected their own lives or the lives of others. Those principals include Freedom, Authority, Support, Responsibility and Confirmation.

In his nomination, West Stark Center staff Lora Boyce wrote, “Shaun is such the epitome of a self-advocate. He started a group that monthly sends a signed petition to our state legislators, mayor, and governor, stating how it’s unfair and changes need to be made to Ohio law that if individuals with disabilities earn too much money at their job (which they all work very hard to earn that money) their SSI check is reduced. His group feels they are being penalized for trying to be independent and they will continue to fight this.”


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Under the Employment First Initiative decreed by Governor John Kasich in 2012, we are helping young adults discover a path to employment that aims for community employment as the preferred option after graduation from high school.

Business leaders in Stark County are realizing the professional contributions people with disabilities bring to the workplace. If we can open wider the doors of opportunity for people with disabilities, we will all reap the benefits of a richer, more diverse community.

Learn more about creating meaningful paths to employment for people with disabilities at:

Ohio Employment First – http://www.ohioemploymentfirst.org/
Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities – http://www.ood.ohio.gov/
Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities – http://dodd.ohio.gov/
What Can You Do – http://www.whatcanyoudocampaign.org/
The Board is committed to the safety and security of people with disabilities, their families, staff, visitors, and the broader provider community. When weather conditions or other emergency conditions (mechanical, electrical, health) necessitate the Board programs be delayed, early dismissal, or closed, we will make one of the announcements listed below. We attempt to make closure decisions by 5 a.m., however rapidly changing weather conditions can result in a later closure notification.

**Two hour delay. (NEW THIS YEAR)**

All preschool classes are cancelled; Early Intervention, school and adult facility programs will begin two hours later than regularly scheduled. Transportation routes will operate 2 hours later. Individuals working in Supported Employment enclaves will work and Board van transportation is provided.

**Code One**

A Code 1 means that all schools are closed; Early Intervention services are cancelled; adult programs are open, but there is no yellow bus transportation. Clients may be present if transported to and from the facilities by private individuals. Individuals employed on Supported Employment enclaves will be working and are to report to Higgins.

**Code Two**

Code 2 means that all program services are closed for the day for all students, adults and staff.

**Early Dismissal**

The superintendent will notify department heads and managers to follow procedures for parent/provider notification prior to any individual dismissal. Children or adults will only be sent home if staff can confirm an approved caregiver will be at the drop off point.
Stark DD Trackster runs for USA in 2015 World Summer Games

Fresh off a Gold medal win in the 2014 USA Games this summer, Special Olympian Breana Miles has been chosen to represent the United States in the 2015 World Games scheduled for July 25 - August 2, 2015 in Los Angeles, California. She will compete for the USA Track & field team in the 100 meter, 200 meter, and 4x4 Relay.

Los Angeles will welcome more than 7,000 Special Olympics athletes from 170 nations to compete in 25 Olympic-type sports. It’s a world stage for athletes to demonstrate on the playing field their courage, determination and spirit of sportsmanship.

Breana is currently participating for Stark DD Special Olympics in sports such as basketball, softball, and track.

Special Olympians bring home medals from 2014 USA Summer Games

Four athletes from Stark Public Special Olympics and two from Stark DD Special Olympics came away with medals from the 2014 USA Games held in New Jersey this summer.

Cory Amatangelo, Max Broom and Ken Warner participated on the Team Ohio Softball Team, each earning a Gold medal as they defeated Team New Jersey in the Finals 20-10.

On the track, Stark County athletes proved their medal. Breana Miles won gold in the 100m dash. Tyler Cramer, grabbed a Silver Medal in the Pentathlon in his Division, finishing just two points behind the Gold medal winner.

Katie Kestner, who participated in tennis - singles and doubles, earned a Silver Medal in Singles and came in fourth place in Doubles.
Jim Keller, Job Coach in Supported Employment, has been elected by The General Ohio APSE Membership as a new Ohio APSE Board of Directors Member.

APSE stands for the Association of People Supporting Employment, which has recently established the Employment Support Profession Certification Council to oversee the first national certification program for employment support professionals.

Keller, and Stark DD Job Coach Peggy Leitzel were two of the pioneers in Stark County for the Certified Employment Specialist Training, each gaining their certification last Fall. They are also certified in “Proctor Training” and oversaw the first certification testing at the Hall of Fame in May.

“I am really excited to position ourselves (Stark DD) on a more formal state level and continue to be an advocate for change. I really appreciate the support I’ve received from you and my supervisors,” said Keller.

For more information about the Association of People Supporting Employment (APSE) visit www.apse.org

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Many of you may not know but the majority Stark DD Job Coaches are Certified Employment Support Professionals or are seeking the Certification.

The process requires submitting related course work then once approved by the commission a person is permitted to sit for the 3 hour test.

Once again our Coaches have met or exceeded National Standards in Supported Employment. Just one more way Stark DD is leading the charge for “Employment First” for all working age adults with disabilities within our community.

**Become a Certified Employment Support Specialist**

**Stark County Board of DD** and **National APSE** are partnering together to offer the first national certification program for Supported Employment professionals

**Saturday, Feb. 28, 2015**

9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities
2950 Whipple Ave. NW
Canton, OH 44708

Federal and State legislative decisions are changing the expectations and rules for providing employment, day programs and residential services to people with developmental disabilities. Below is a brief summary of the major federal and state events that have motivated people to look at how we can offer disability services in the community.

### The Olmstead Supreme Court Decision

The Olmstead vs. L.C. case began with two women, Lois Carter and Elaine Wilson, from Georgia who filed suit under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for release from an institutional setting, and seeking disability services in the community. This 1999 United States Supreme Court’s decision upheld the ADA’s “integration mandate” saying that people with disabilities should have the right to receive services in the “most integrated setting” appropriate to their needs. The Olmstead case has cultivated the movement of people with disabilities out of institutions and into community-based living situations. The emphasis is now shifting to include that employment and day services also be delivered in the most integrated setting where a person’s needs can be met.

### The United State Department of Justice

The enforcement of the Olmstead decision and ADA “integration mandate” is the responsibility U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). In 2011, the DOJ issued guidelines on how the ADA and the Olmstead decision apply to public entities like Stark DD. A public entity would be in violation of the ADA integration mandate if it directly or indirectly operated facilities that segregate people with disabilities; finances the segregation of individuals with disabilities in private facilities; and/or has a planning/support system that relies on segregating people with disabilities in private programs. Since then, the DOJ, assisted by state designated protection and advocacy groups, has been involved in more than 40 Olmstead matters in 25 states, including most recently Oregon and Rhode Island.

### The Rhode Island Settlement...the footprint going forward

In April of 2014 the United States, under the direction of the DOJ, entered into the nation’s first statewide settlement agreement supporting the civil rights of individuals with disabilities who are unnecessarily segregated in sheltered workshops and facility-based day programs. The settlement agreement with the State of Rhode Island...
Island said that the State’s day activity service system over-relied on segregated settings, including sheltered workshops and facility-based day programs, to the exclusion of integrated alternatives, such as supported employment and integrated day services. As a result, Rhode Island is in the process of transforming their system into one that supports and funds integrated, community-based services.

**DOJ and Disability Rights Ohio (DRO) look at Ohio**

Disability Rights Ohio is a non-profit corporation that provides legal advocacy and rights protection to a wide range of people with disabilities. This includes assisting individuals with problems such as abuse, neglect, discrimination, access to assistive technology, special education, housing, employment, community integration, voting and rights protection issues. Disability Rights Ohio is also Ohio’s federally mandated Protection and Advocacy System for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI), which is guided by the PAIMI Advisory Council.

July 3, 2014 Disability Rights Ohio sent a letter to Governor Kasich, and Directors McCarthy (Office of Health Transformation), Moody (Ohio Department of Medicaid) and Martin (DODD). In the letter, DRO says it believes Ohio is violating the ADA and the Olmstead decision because, they allege, the system favors segregation and institutional placement.

In its letter, DRO requested the state reduce the number of individuals residing in Intermediate Care Facilities, reduce reliance on sheltered workshops and increase support for supported employment, and reduce reliance on facility-based day habilitation support and increase support for community-based day supports. DRO and the state are currently in discussions. Additionally, DRO and The Arc of Ohio have held public meetings at various sites across the state to inform families about their requests sent to the Governor, as well as get feedback. Representatives of DRO and DOF have also conducted visits to several county board adult day sheltered workshop sites throughout the state to learn more about how adult services are administered. To date, we are not aware that the Department of Justice and DRO have visited any facilities in Stark County.

This is part one of a series of articles discussing the changes in legislation and regulations affecting the DD system and what this means to us in Stark County.

**Upcoming:**

**Winter 2015**
Centers for Medicaid & Medicare: The New CMS Rule and Why We Care

**Spring 2015**
Employment First Nationally and Locally

**Summer 2015**
Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act and Transitioning Youth from school to adulthood

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This series contains excerpts from several sources: an article written by Allan I. Bergman and Lisa A. Mills, PhD. entitled “National Landscape Impacting States’ And Counties’ Provision Of Employment And Day Services To Individuals With Disabilities” prepared for The Ohio Department Of Developmental Disabilities’ Public Forums On Employment First Funding Redesign; the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities website, the U.S. Department of Labor website, and the Ohio Employment First website.
YMCA Teen Leaders & GentleBrook Clients Work Together to Disable the Label

Submitted by Dianna Huckestein, Executive Director, Corporate Communications, GentleBrook

GentleBrook and the Teen Leaders from the Lake Community YMCA have joined together to take a stance on the use of the “R” word.

Natalie Mudd a Teen Leader from the YMCA said, “The ‘R’ word is very hurtful to those who are called it and disrespectful to the developmentally delayed! I am so happy to be a part of this project because we are a voice for the voiceless.”

The Teen Leaders accepted the challenge to take part in the Spread the Word to End the Word Campaign. Joining forces, GentleBrook and YMCA together started a campaign and then made a video to help further their impact.

“We are making a difference and spreading the awareness to others about their choice of words that they use. One small act of kindness can make a huge difference in someone’s life. I am thankful to be in YMCA’s Leaders Club to take a stance!” Hunter Bussey said.

The video was made to emphasize that all people should be accepted and respected. It is very apparent in the video that there is mutual acceptance, love and respect between the YMCA teens and the GentleBrook staff, workers, and residents.

There is a great amount of pride to see the progress that is being made!

“At GentleBrook, we are so inspired by this young group of individuals, they truly are making their mark on the world by spreading the word and embracing differences.”

Watch the video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLUQNi7M8BM
Area Special Olympic athletes benefit from Annual Great Pumpkin Race

On Saturday, October 25, more than 500 area walkers and runners participated in the 17th annual Great Pumpkin Race, raising more than $7,000 for local Special Olympic programs.

Hosted by Stark DD and the Sanctuary Digital Marketing Group, the event included a 1-mile fun run/walk that began at 8:30 a.m., while the runners began a 4-mile timed race at 9 a.m.

As with previous years, an artist with disabilities designed the race t-shirt. This design was chosen as part of a contest sponsored by The Workshops Inc.

Southgate student artist wins International safety poster contest

A safety poster created by Chloe Johns, a student at RS Southgate School, tied for second place in the United Commercial Travelers 2013-2014 International Safety Poster Contest-Upper Level, Intellectual Disabilities Division. This design also won first place in the state competition.

Chloe was presented her ribbon and cash prizes at the September meeting of the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities by local UCT representative Rick Gruszecki.

Did You Know?

• Retired Plain Township Fire Chief John Sabo designed the four-mile course in 1998.

• The Great Pumpkin Race course is certified by the USA Track & Field.

• The Race has been part of the Subway Challenge Series since 2004, making it the fifth in line for long-standing participation.
Toddler Playgroup
Each Friday, 10 a.m. - 11:30 am at Eastgate Early Childhood and Family Center. An opportunity for you and your children to interact with other children and families in a relaxed, play-based, social setting. Typically developing children and children with developmental disabilities are invited to join this community wide event.

Adult Social Night
December 11, 2014 from 7 p.m.- 9 p.m. at the St. George Serbian Center 4667 Applegrove St., North Canton. Must be 18 years of age and over to attend.

Grape Possibilities Wine Tasting & Auction
January 14, 2015 at the Canton Civic Center McKinley Room. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. The Arc of Ohio-Stark County presents this annual event, with proceeds to benefit The Arc. For tickets, call 330-492-5225.

Adult Social Night
January 29, 2015 from 7 p.m.- 9 p.m. at the St. George Serbian Center, 4667 Applegrove St., North Canton. Must be 18 years of age and over to attend.

Family Advisory Council
January 15, 2015 – 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. at R.G. Drage Career Center, 2800 Richville Dr. SE, Massillon; Denise Sawan-Caruso will present “Employability: What Does it Take to Get a Job?” https://www.sst9.org/Parents_Families.html

Family and Educator Series
February 19, 2015 – 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.; at R.G. Drage Career Center, 2800 Richville Dr. SE, Massillon; Chris Wnoroski, SLP, MA, CCC SST9 Consultant will discuss “Communication Technology”. https://www.sst9.org/Parents_Families.html

Monthly Board Meeting
Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities; December 13, 2014, 10:30 a.m. at 2950 Whipple Ave. NW

Stark DD Elementary School Holiday Program
December 16, 2014, 9:45 a.m. at RS Southgate School. The elementary students will perform “FLAKES,” a musical presentation of snow, slush and snirt!! The signing choir will also perform.

Stark DD Early Childhood Holiday Program
December 18, 2014, 1 p.m. at Eastgate Early Childhood and Family Center. Taft preschool holiday program will also be on this day; time to be announced.

Stark DD Special Olympics Bowling Team Sign-Up Day
January 10, 2015, 9-11 am at the Whipple-Dale Centre-Cohen Room.

Monthly Board Meeting
Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities; January 24, 2015, 10:30 a.m. at 2950 Whipple Ave. NW.
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.

In Memoriam

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

Robert Henry Krems, Jr.
Robert, age 61, passed away on Sunday, September 7, 2014. He received SSA services and attended the Community Connections day program.

Jutta Elizabeth Wrann
Jutta, age 60, passed away on Saturday, September 27, 2014. She received SSA services and had attended the Board’s workshop programs for several years.

Kenneth “Kenny” Kline
Kenny, age 62, passed away on Sunday, October 12, 2014. He received SSA services and previously worked at Whipple-Dale Centre.

Heath Andrew Kelly
Heath, age 39, passed away on Monday, October 13, 2014. He received SSA services, was a graduate of Rebecca Stallman Southgate School, and previously attended the Board workshops.

James “Jimmy” Eugene Davis
Jimmy, age 51, passed away on Friday, October 17, 2014. He received SSA services.

Victoria “Vicky” Ann Kannal
Vicky, age 55, passed away on Tuesday, October 21, 2014. She received SSA services and formerly attended the Board’s day program.

Sandra Kay Engelhardt
Sandra, age 57, passed away on Wednesday, October 29, 2014. She received SSA services and previously attended the Board’s day program.

Jack Winston Shook
Jack, age 83, passed away on Friday, October 31, 2014. He received SSA services and retired from the Board’s day program several years ago.

Kathleen “Kathy” Ann Zavoda
Kathy, age 67, passed away on Sunday, November 2, 2014. She received SSA services and attended Peak day services.

John P. Berdel
John, age 73, passed away on Monday, November 3, 2014. He received SSA services. He most recently attended the Cornerstone day program and prior to that attended the Board’s workshop program.

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Canton, OH 44708

Board Members
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Roger Gines, Recording Secretary
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Larry Marcus
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William Green

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Follow us on:

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

Bringing home GOLD

All in the Family