A service club that Embraces Inclusion

The Aktion Club, an offshoot of the international Kiwanis Club, has come to Stark County, under the local sponsorship of the Belden Village and Canton clubs.

Aktion Club is the only inclusive service club for adults with disabilities, with more than 12,000 members worldwide. Aktion Clubs draw members from various organizations that support individuals with disabilities, as well as other community programs.

“Individuals who live with disabilities often have many talents but little opportunity to develop or apply them,” said Sandy Arnold, Aktion Club Coordinator for Stark County.

“Because they are often isolated and dependent, they have limited chances to interact socially.”

Aktion Club provides opportunities for members to make valuable contributions to the world around them by participating in service projects with other like-minded Kiwanis members.

Every year, Aktion Club members decide on a list of service projects.

Continued on page 3

Now is the perfect time to review Emergency Preparedness Plans for People with Disabilities

Submitted by Janet Winterstein, RN Health Improvement Policy Specialist Ohio Dept. of Developmental Disabilities

The calendar says winter is officially here.

It is a good time of year to revisit emergency disaster plans and kits to make sure the information and supplies are up to date, refreshed, and ready to use in case of emergency or disaster. On Page 9 are just a few of the handy information guides and resources you can use and share with others to help be prepared – just in case.....

Continued on page 9
With a sense of optimism and hope, I write to you as we begin 2016. I just returned from Higgins and West Stark Center on their first day back and found people working together to help everyone settle in. I am pleased with how this first day went and it is a credit to the individuals served, families, and to our employees.

We have embarked on several new endeavors with Just Imagine being relocated to an arts studio in downtown Canton. We have launched relationships with JR Coleman and Sarah Care, two senior centers where 17 of our seniors now attend.

We are eagerly awaiting our Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities Accreditation survey, which will occur at the end of January. One topic the DODD Accreditation team will delve into is our recently implemented person centered plan to ensure that it identifies what is important to and important for each person. We are proud of our new process and are expecting positive findings. We will let you know how the survey went in our next edition.

We expect 2016 to be the year we finalize the plan on how we will come into compliance with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) conflict-free case management provision. As a reminder, this is the regulation that prohibits us from being a provider of home and community based services and also being the author of the person centered plan through our Service and Support Administrators (SSA).

Although CMS adopted this regulation on March 17, 2014, the State of Ohio petitioned and received until March 17, 2024, to come into full compliance given the magnitude of this change for Ohio’s service delivery system.

While this may seem like a long time, we are required to meet a 30% benchmark by March 17, 2020. This means that we must reduce the number of people we serve in adult services (facility based and supported employment) by one hundred people per year, 500 people in total, to achieve the 2020 benchmark.

Unfortunately, we do not expect to reach the 2020 benchmark requirement without an aggressive plan that includes our relationship with the not-for-profit, TWi.

With this being said, I plan on convening a conflict-free case management compliance taskforce made up of no more than 25 people that will include individuals served, family members, providers, employees (both labor and non-represented), board members, as well as community members. This task force will have an outside facilitator and will convene in March 2016. The task force will submit their recommended plan, which will be incorporated into our 2017–2021 strategic plan, for feedback to all of our stakeholders.

Focus groups will be held and public forums scheduled to ensure anyone who wants to provide input has the opportunity. After input has been received, the strategic plan will be submitted to the Board for adoption by no later than June 2016.

So, by summer, individuals, families, and employees will have the information they need to make plans for the future and know how the Board will assist them when we are no longer a provider.

As you can see, 2016 will lay the groundwork for the future. While this required change can bring stress and anxiety, our focus will be living out a time honored Socratic saying: “The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new.”

Best regards for a happy and healthy New Year.

Bill Green, Superintendent
Stark County Board of DD
Aktion Club allows members to develop initiative and leadership skills in serving their communities while enabling their integration into society.

**Motto:**
Where development has no disability.

**Vision:**
To develop competent, capable, caring leaders through the vehicle of service.

**Mission:**
To provide adults living with disabilities an opportunity to develop initiative and leadership skills, and to serve their communities.

**Locally**
Sponsored by
Belden Village Kiwanis Club
www.beldenvillagekiwanis.org

Kiwanis Club of Canton, OH
www.cantonkiwanisclub.org

**Partners**
Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities
www.starkdd.org

The Arc of Ohio - Stark County
www.arcstark.org

For more information contact
Aktion Club Coordinator
Sandy Arnold
p 330-705-6769
e-mail: sndrrnld8411@gmail.com

Internationally
http://www.aktionclub.org/

Aktion Club allows members to develop initiative and leadership skills in serving their communities while enabling their integration into society.

They plan to do, some joint projects with sponsoring clubs and some of their own choice.

In the past year, Aktion Club members have joined in with the Belden Village and Canton Kiwanis service projects, such as Tailgate Against Hunger and Kiwanis One Day, as well as helping at the 18th Annual Great Pumpkin Race (see page 8) for Special Olympics.

Debbie Buerger, president of the Aktion Club, said her favorite event was helping to ring the bells for the Red Kettle Program for the Salvation Army. She enjoyed working with several other Kiwanis members in the Belden Village area.

“It’s a very nice group to be with,” said Debbie.

Plans for 2016 service projects and outings are already underway. In February club members will help fold donated baby clothes. In March, the group will travel to Columbus to participate in State Advocacy Day at the State Capitol.

**AKTION CLUB**

**Q.** How often does Aktion Club meet?
**A.** Usually once a month.

**Q.** When and where does it meet?
**A.** Saturdays for usually 1/2 to 2 hours at various project locations.

**Q.** How do I get to the meetings?
**A.** Caregivers, SARTA, on your own, or contact Aktion Club coordinator for assistance.

**Q.** How much does it cost?
**A.** $8 each year.

**Q.** How do I know when and where the meetings are?
**A.** The Aktion Club Coordinator will notify you by mail or email 2-3 weeks before an event.

**Q.** Is there food?
**A.** Lunch is provided by Kiwanis.
Ohio Association of County Boards of DD recognizes
Oelslager as Legislator of the Year

Senator Scott Oelslager was awarded a 2015 Legislator of the Year Award at the 32nd Annual Convention of the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities on December 2 in Columbus, Ohio. Oelslager represents Ohio’s 29th Senate District, encompassing most of Stark County.

The Legislator of the Year Award is presented annually by the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACB) to an elected or appointed official who exhibits high accomplishments in legislative leadership for people with developmental disabilities.

Senator Oelslager presently serves as Chairman of the influential Finance Committee – which develops the state’s two-year budget, and was instrumental in ensuring that this budget provided historic resources for people with disabilities.

At the presentation, Stark DD Superintendent William Green said, “No matter if he is sponsoring legislation, chairing the Senate finance committee, providing a lending ear to his constituency, or the personal efforts he makes to visit us to simply check on the welfare of the individuals served in Stark County, he does this with kindness and a gentle strength. “He is the perfect mixture of head and heart, a tried and true statesman.”

Watch the video presentation here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66WJbSyBxak

Stark DD provides tools to help families
Get Connected

Like us at www.Facebook.com/StarkDD and find information about local, state and federal information and trends.

On the Stark DD channel you can view videos from Family Information Sessions, agency promotions and more. Access our channel by clicking on the YouTube button on our website home page at www.stark.org.

Sign up to receive emails about upcoming events, agency publications and informational meetings. Email Lisa Parramore at parramorel@starkkdd.org to sign up.
Community welcomes new studio

Eight artists, and three Stark DD staff officially welcomed the community to the newly relocated Just Imagine Gift Gallery at December’s Light Up Canton and Canton First Friday events during the first weekend in December.

Located in the Canton Arts District at 201 - 6th Street NW, the combination retail shop and studio saw more than 500 shoppers peruse the one-of-a-kind art, and reached record sales during the first two nights.

Just Imagine is open Monday through Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and for First Friday events.

Free Choice of Provider and partnerships means Options for community integration

When Stark DD Adult Day programs reconvened January 4 after a two week winter break, what was three workshops became two.

Stark DD announced in January 2015 that due to individuals choosing other community providers and the subsequent declining enrollment at all three of the Stark DD Adult program sites, Whipple-Dale Centre would become an all administrative building and Adult Service day habilitation programs would consolidate into the Lester Higgins and West Stark Center facilities.

Over the course of the year, individuals and caregivers worked with their SSA to select another community day program, or transfer to either of the Stark DD facilities. Additionally, community options for some people included a community art studio (see left) and integrating into JR Coleman and Sarah Care Senior Centers.

Community information sessions, site field trips and planning transfer meetings helped individuals choose their new location for January.

Once the dust settled, West Stark Center welcomed 112 new individuals and 29 staff; Lester Higgins welcomed 46 new individuals and 6 staff.

The Move by the Numbers

**People**
- West Stark Center
  - 112 transferred Individuals
  - 29 transferred Staff
- Lester Higgins Center
  - 46 transferred Individuals
  - 6 transferred Staff
- Just Imagine Gift Gallery
  - 8 Individuals; 2 Staff
- JR Coleman Senior Center
  - 8 Individuals; 2 Staff
- Sarah Care Senior Center
  - 7 Individuals; 2 Staff

**Building/Equipment**
- 16.5 box truck loads
- 13 total classrooms (desks, cabinets); 3 offices for Managers

**Computers/Phones**
- 28 computers
- 20 phones physically moved
Actions by President Obama and Congress

President Obama’s Executive Order – February 2014
In February 2014, President Obama issued an Executive Order raising the minimum wage to $10.10 for federal service and concession contract workers.

Workers with disabilities working under contracts with the federal government will be paid $10.10 per hour minimum wage protection regardless of their time-studied productivity.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act – July 2014
This bipartisan-bicameral negotiated bill, championed by U.S. Senator Tom Harkin, D-Iowa and U.S. Congressman Pete Sessions, R-Texas, passed Congress and was signed by President Obama on July 22, 2014.

Within the bill are significant changes for students with disabilities transitioning to adulthood.

- Prohibits individuals with disabilities age 24 and younger from working in jobs paying less than the federal minimum of $7.25 per hour unless they first try vocational rehabilitation services, among other requirements.
- Mandates that state vocational rehabilitation agencies work with schools to provide “pre-employment transition services” to all students with disabilities.
- Requires state vocational rehabilitation agencies to dedicate at least 15 percent of their federal funding to help those with disabilities transition from school to work under the measure.

In Stark County, Stark DD has designated three Service and Support Administrators as Transition Specialists to support students, families and school districts while preparing to move from school to adulthood. (see All in the Family, August 2015 issue).

One story of transition from school to adulthood

Michael Patterson has loved dogs since he was a baby. He has a couple dogs of his own and has taken great joy and pride in taking care of them. His dream in life was to have a job working with animals. Through his hard work, dedication, and volunteering at local organizations, he is now living his dream of working with animals.

He attended Transition U through North Canton City Schools, and, with the help of his parents and his teacher, Michael was able to do job exploration at Tails R Waggin’ in North Canton. By establishing his employment goals during high school, he was able to try out a job of his choosing to see if he had the skills necessary to be successful.

North Canton School District’s Transition U, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD), Stark County Board of DD’s Transition and Supported Employment units all contributed to the success of his employment at Tails R Waggin’.

Michael works 12-15 hours per week. He is responsible for entertaining the dogs, cleaning up, caring for their daily needs, and just being their friend. His future dream is to get certified so that he can work in a veterinary clinic one day.
Federal Rule changes affect Independent Providers

On October 6, U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts denied an application that would have stayed implementation of the U.S. Department of Labor’s Home Care Final Rule. The rule applies minimum wage and overtime protections to domestic service workers. The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) will begin making overtime payments to eligible independent providers who bill for more than 40 hours, or 160 fifteen-minute units, in a work week for dates of service beginning January 1, 2016.

Additionally, on December 9, the Ohio General Assembly clarified in law that an independent provider who provides services to an individual on Medicaid is not a public employee.

On December 10, DODD communicated to the approximately 1,500 independent providers who regularly work more than 40 hours in a work week. Information shared included how overtime will be calculated and how to submit for overtime payments. These details were included in the December 14 edition of Pipeline.

Currently, there are about 3,000 providers with active certification to deliver waiver services in the state of Ohio.

That 3,000+ is divided among Agency Providers and Independent Providers. The simple difference between the two? Agency providers have the ability to hire and utilize staff to provide services while independent providers are their own entity or a sole proprietorship.

Taking a closer look, there are 246 total active providers working in Stark County. Of those 246: 114 are agency providers and 132 are independent (sole proprietor) providers.

Questions about the rule changes for Independent Providers?

Questions can be directed to the DODD Support Center at 800-617-6733.
ArtsinStark grant award will provide
Art Therapy for preschoolers

Stark DD’s Eastgate Early Childhood and Family Center has been chosen to receive a $1,290 grant from ArtsinStark as part of their 2016 Special Projects grantees. The Eastgate project was one of 25 receiving grants out of more than 45 organizations that applied.

For the project, Angela Paul, art therapist from the Domestic Violence Project, Inc., will coach special education teachers at Eastgate Early Childhood and Family Center in how to help their students learn to express their emotions through art. The 100+ preschool children will use sponges and/or strings to paint cutouts of their own images. Physical therapists, occupational therapists and speech-language pathologists will provide adaptations to the activity so that every child can participate no matter his/her ability.

Once finished, approximately ten finished pieces will be chosen to represent a cross-culture of the students and their varying backgrounds and abilities. Chosen artwork will be mounted on Masonite and be accompanied with biographies depicting that student.

“Angela’s lesson will incorporate vocabulary regarding feelings and how we use our bodies to express our emotions,” said Patti Swinehart, Speech and Language Pathologist for the Early Childhood programs. “The biographies will highlight expressions of their emotions (i.e. what makes me happy, sad, mad, etc.) and lessons learned during this project to illustrate how we are all the same on the inside, despite how we might look on the outside.”

The mounted pieces will be displayed at Eastgate Early Childhood and Family Center and possibly another community location as part of the National Disabilities Awareness Month activities in March.
Individuals, Caregivers should plan for Emergency Preparedness Planning for year round

Preparing for an emergency can be difficult for individuals with developmental and other disabilities. To help address the needs of individuals with disabilities, the Red Cross created “Preparing for Disaster for People with Disabilities and Other Special Needs.” http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m4240199_A4497.pdf

For more in-depth information get a copy of “Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities” http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared/disability.pdf

Disability Rights Ohio has many handy forms for creating emergency preparedness plans and kits on their web site: http://www.disabilityrightsohio.org/topic-emergency-planning

The Ohio Department of Health has more great resources and tools: https://www.odh.ohio.gov/healthpreparedness/emergencypreparedness.aspx

Ohio Disability Health Program web site where can find many resources for training planners and first responders to assist people who may have unique needs associated with a disability including a free video training available for viewing anytime via You Tube. http://www.nisonger.osu.edu/odhp/emergencyplanners

Stark DD Closure Procedures
www.starkdd.org/alerts&closings

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.

**Two hour delay.** 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** 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** 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.

**NOTIFY ME 101**

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:

- **Stark DD Notification System**: All Stakeholders receive alerts by either phone, e-mail and text message. For more information call the Stark DD Notification help line at 330-479-3816.
- **Call our main number** at 330-477-5200 to hear the automated message.
- **On the web** at www.starkdd.org under Alerts and Closings tab.
- **Facebook**: www.facebook.com/StarkDD
- **Radio**: WHBC AM (1480)
- **Television**: WEWS Channel 5 Cleveland
OUTING
6TH ANNUAL
GOLF CITIZENS WHO CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PRESENTS
Friday, May 20, 2016
Glenmoor Country Club
JOIN US FOR A GREAT DAY OF GOLF. HELP SUPPORT PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY.
To register visit the event page at http://birdeasepro.com/2016CitizensWhoCareGolfOuting

Toddler Playgroup
Each Friday, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. 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.

Adult Social Night
February 11 from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the Massillon Knights of Columbus, 988 Cherry Rd. NW, Massillon. Must be 18 years of age and over to attend.

Night to Shine
On February 12, First Christian Church be hosting Tim Tebow Foundation’s Night To Shine prom for people with special needs. You can sign up to volunteer or find out more about it at http://frst.cc/nts2016.

Adult Social Night
March 17 from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the St. George Serbian Center, 4667 Applegrove St. NW, North Canton. Must be 18 years of age and over to attend.

Guardianship Training Session
February 25 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. or March 31 at 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the Goodwill Campus, 408 Ninth St. SW. Speakers will include representatives from Guardian Support Services and Stark County Board of DD. These free, monthly training sessions are hosted by Guardian Support Services. Reservations are required by calling 330-437-3720 or emailing volunteerguardians@gmail.com

Family Information Series
February 8 - 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. in the Cohen Room at Whipple-Dale Centre, 2950 Whipple Ave. NW. Family Information Sessions are offered six times per year and are hosted by Stark DD. Contact Kristin Palosi, palosik@starkdd.org for information and to RSVP.

Monthly Board Meeting
Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities; February 23, 2016, 6 p.m. at 2950 Whipple Ave. NW, Canton.

Monthly Board Meeting
Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities; March 22, 2016, 6 p.m. at 2950 Whipple Ave. NW, Canton.

Monthly Board Meeting
Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities; April 26, 2016, 6 p.m. at 2950 Whipple Ave. NW, Canton.

www.starkdd.org/calendar
In Memoriam

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

William “Pete” Gary Stonebrook
Pete, age 72, passed away on August 29, 2015. He received SSA services and previously attended the Stark DD day programs.

Antoinette “Toni” Marie Rex
Toni, age 59, passed away on September 16, 2015. She received SSA services, attended Cornerstone, and previously attended the Stark DD workshop program.

John William Price III – John, age 49, passed away on September 29, 2015. He received SSA services.

Patricia (Patty) Lee Hinton – Patty, age 62, passed away on October 5, 2015. She received SSA services and previously attended the Stark DD workshops.

Shawn Richard Mann – Shawn, age 44, passed away on October 16, 2015. He received SSA services.

Annette Marie Lehman – Annette, age 44, passed away on October 20, 2015. She received SSA services and attended West Stark Center.

Louis “Lou” Del Gallo – Lou, age 72, passed away on October 23, 2015. He received SSA services.

Tina Marie O’Dell – Tina, age 48, passed away on November 1, 2015. She received SSA services and attended Whipple-Dale Centre.

Joan M. Vohar – Joan, age 75, passed away on November 12, 2015. She received SSA services and previously attended the Stark County Board of DD workshop program.

Michael Clayton Harper – Michael, age 62, passed away on November 13, 2015. He received SSA services and most recently attended Higgins Workshop.

Darin Bernard Colbert, Jr. – Darin, age 11, passed away on November 18, 2015. He received SSA services and attended Rebecca Stallman Southgate School.

Kathryn “Kathy” Ann Burcaw – Kathy, age 64, passed away on November 24, 2015. She received SSA services.

Stephen P. McHenry – Stephen, age 66, passed away on December 5, 2015. He received SSA services and previously attended the Stark County Board of DD workshop program.

Sarah Elizabeth Andrick – Sarah, age 27, passed away on December 16, 2015. She attended Whipple-Dale Centre and received SSA services.

Marilyn Powers – Marilyn, age 45, passed away December 23, 2015, received services from the SSA Department, and previously attended the Board workshops.

STAFF

Joseph Jack Frient – Jack, age 65, passed away on September 12, 2015. He retired in 2011 after working in Adult Services for 26 years.
Mission:
To be the support that connects individuals and families with the services they need.

Bringing home GOLD

All in the Family

Visit us on the internet at www.starkdd.org

Follow us on: