



# All in the Family



Celebrate  
A row of stylized human figures in various colors (purple, green, blue, orange, red, grey) standing behind a horizontal line.  
**COMMUNITY**  


The Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities kicked off a year of **Celebrating CommUNITY** during March's annual National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

Throughout the year, Stark DD will feature stories across all ages and stages of life, from the beginning when a family is first getting involved with community resources, to the natural

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Stark DD, Walsh U compete together on the court



Mission  
Supporting people with disabilities and their families.

## **Superintendent's Message: Keeping people safe is our critical role**

I believe that we would all agree that **abuse of any kind is wrong and should be stopped**. I want to remind us of one of the most critical services we provide – the investigation and follow-up of allegations of abuse, and neglect.

We have eight investigative agents and a Deputy Sheriff that investigate over 1,100 incidents per year that potentially affect health and safety. Of those incidents in 2017:

- We had 121 allegations of physical abuse and 26 were substantiated.
- We had 74 allegations of verbal abuse and 23 were substantiated.
- We had 35 allegations of sexual abuse and 3 were substantiated.
- We had 78 allegations of misappropriation and 44 were substantiated.
- We had 94 allegations of neglect and 64 were substantiated.

If you  
**SEE SAY**  
something something



Report suspicious activity to  
MUI Reporting Hotline  
**330.477.4477**

**One confirmed incident is too many, and regrettably we substantiate about the same number of allegations from year to year.** So, how do we abuse proof homes, provider agencies (including ourselves), and our community to protect people with disabilities from harm?

First, we need to talk about this unsavory topic. If we are to improve something, we need to be aware of it. Unfortunately, abuse and neglect occurs within families, by neighbors, friends, providers, and strangers. Next, it compels us to define, promote and insist on healthy and emotionally responsible supports. There is a clear artistry to these supports that include:

- Knowing how to be central to a person's life without encouraging dependency
- Knowing how to make ordinary activities special
- Knowing how to avert or minimize emotional upset

There are other essential foundations that cannot go unmentioned. The obvious ones are: never causing or allowing harm by action or inaction; always being under control; recognizing emotional early warning signs; and not engaging in a test of wills. All of these are foundational and must be the collective expectations for anyone providing supports.

Stopping abuse before it happens is about all of us, the public included. We need to be constantly vigilant about what we see, hear, and feel when people with disabilities are being supported. **If something does not look, sound, or feel right, it may not be.** There are early warning signs in the attitudes we sense, actions that are disrespectful, inactions when we assumed guidance was needed, language used that dehumanizes, postures that are aggressive or apathetic, and relationships that are based upon power and control. These all can be an indication of abuse, and neglect.

**See something, say something,** is now the prevailing mandate for too many things in our culture and directly applies to the concerns we may have about the safety of a person with disabilities, a co-worker, parent, or ourselves.

**Our mission is supporting people with disabilities and their families.** The essence of what we do begins with making sure people are safe and secure in their homes, workplaces, and communities.

*William Green*

**FIX  
THE  
LIST.**

# It's time to

Learn more <http://www.fixthelist.info/>

People with developmental disabilities and their families have repeatedly voiced concerns that Ohio's waiting list for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers is overly complex and in need of simplification. The current waiting list confuses people with developmental disabilities and their families, misleads advocates, and hinders efforts by policymakers to direct resources to where they are needed most.

To better serve Ohioans with developmental disabilities, the organizations listed at right have been collaborating for more than 15 months to modernize Ohio's failed Medicaid Waiver waiting list. They believe replacing the current system will greatly improve the way Ohio's waiting list for HCBS waivers operates.

There are roughly 49,000 people with developmental disabilities on Ohio's waiting list for HCBS waivers. However, that number is misleading. Many people on the list receive some type of services because county boards have a variety of ways to meet people's needs – a waiver is just one of them. Those who are eligible for county board services can have their needs met through local funds as well as other resources.

**FAQ**  
A Transitional List will be established which will include the name and date of request for each person on the current Waiting List as of July 1, 2018. The local county board will administer the Waiting List Assessment Tool to each person in their county whose name is included on the Transitional List no later than December 31, 2020.

In addition, some people currently on the waiting list may not actually need the waiver they requested decades ago. An Ohio Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council study concluded that a large percentage of people with developmental disabilities and their families presently on the waiver waiting list expressed having no current, unmet need, but instead requested to be placed on the waiting list in anticipation of a long wait to receive waiver services.

To address these flaws, they are collaborating to develop a waiting list for HCBS waiver services that will identify people who have a current need for services and match those people to resources that will meet their unique assessed need(s). This will allow the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and local county boards of developmental disabilities to more effectively plan to meet current and future needs.

Through the efforts of this coalition and informed by the feedback of people with developmental disabilities and their families, we believe that a new approach to the way Ohio's HCBS waiver waiting list operates is needed.

**The coalition includes people with developmental disabilities, family members, and organizations representing guardians, county boards, and providers who believe it's time to Fix The List.**



## County Commissioners appoint Dr. Falvo Lang to serve on Stark DD board

Dr. Jessica Falvo Lang is a physician with over twenty years of experience. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Akron and her Medical Degree from Wright State University.

Dr. Falvo Lang is on the medical staff at Aultman and Mercy Medical hospitals. She is also an Assistant Professor of Family Medicine at the North East Ohio Medical University.

Dr. Falvo Lang is a member of the American Medical Association and is a Diplomat for the American

Academy of Family Physicians.

She notes within her Board member application, "As a physician serving a number of people with disabilities, I want to be able to provide them with the most optimal services, benefits, and opportunities available. More importantly, as the mother of a child with profound disabilities, I want to be able to advocate for all children and adults in our community with special needs."

She and her husband, Chris, are the parents of four children: Connor, Olivia, Jackson and Ronan.



Dr. Jessica Falvo Lang

Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities  
ALWAYS THERE  
50 YEARS  
MEET BRIAN AND AMY  
2017-2020 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT  
The Arc Ohio

### How are we doing?

Review our Annual Progress report at  
[starkdd.org/news-and-publications/newsletter-publications](http://starkdd.org/news-and-publications/newsletter-publications)

## After 27 years of hard work, Boy Scout Troop 35 Awards highest honor to Michael Busto

The Boy Scouts of America - St. Paul's North Canton Troop 35 bestowed their highest honor on Michael Busto on Sunday, March 11.

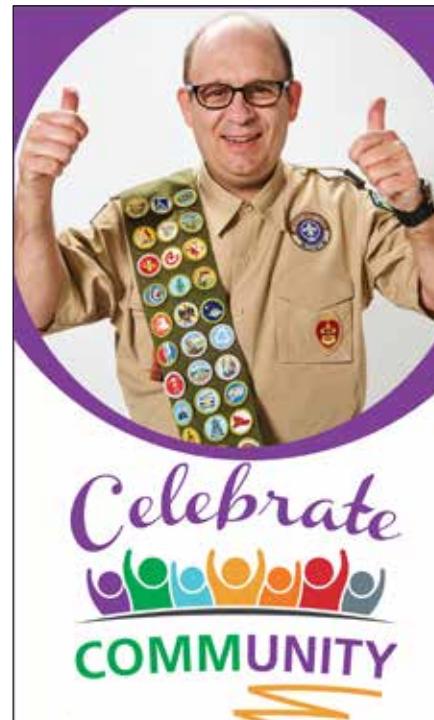
After 27 years in the scouting program, Michael has earned the rank of Eagle Scout. He was just one of five men who was introduced to scouting while working at The Workshop Inc. Cohen Joliet Center woodshop.

Rick Weber, retired Stark DD workshop specialist, initially took the group of men to meetings so they could experience going to Boy Scout camp. Weber continued to take the group for five years.

"Michael's first year he completed the leather working badge," said Weber. "He completed it without adaptations and took the test just like everyone else."

According to his mother, Martha Busto, Michael was the only one who stuck with it. "It took a while to find someone in the group who would work to modify the merit badges as needed for someone with developmental disabilities," said Mrs. Busto, "but Michael kept working."

As required of all who achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, Michael had to complete a project. So last year, Michael organized a Food Drive for the Massillon Salvation Army. Weber said Michael has also earned a fifth year pipestone, the highest of this honor.



"This is something I wanted to do. I didn't give up."

- Michael Busto  
Eagle Scout

The Arc Ohio  
Family Mentor Program  
Uniting families to build a stronger network of support.  
• Connect Families  
• Share resources and experiences  
• Overcome challenges and share triumphs  
• Provide tools to navigate the many, complex Developmental Disability Systems  
• Match families with trained Family Mentors  
Connect with a mentor -- contact  
The Arc of Ohio—Northeast 2717 South Arlington Rd. Suite: E Akron, Ohio 44312 P: (234) 571-5689 F: (234) 571-9827 [ProgramsNEOhio@thearcfohio.org](mailto:ProgramsNEOhio@thearcfohio.org)

ONE TO WATCH FOR: PHOTOGRAPHER SCOTT MUSSER  
During the month of April, the Just Imagine Gift Gallery will feature a photography exhibit by local talent Scott Musser.  
The exhibit will kick off at the April 6 Canton First Friday event in the downtown Arts District.

A collaboration between Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities and The Workshops, Inc., Scott's solo exhibit features ten framed photographs, all of which are available for purchase.

"This is our first solo exhibit," said Therese Heitkamp, Just Imagine Gift Galley manager. "We would love to host more exhibits to raise awareness about the amazing talents of artists who just happen to have a disability."

See some of Scott's photographs at [Facebook/JustImagineGiftGallery](#).

ABOUT THE ARTIST  
I am Scott Musser. I discovered my interest in photography about 5 years ago after visiting a photo studio while on vacation. I was immediately hooked by the various scenes and wildlife photos. I bought my first camera shortly after returning home and have taken thousands of photos since. My passion is outdoor shots from mountains to water scenes, animals to insects. I am 25 years old and have been a Stark County resident all of my life. I work at the Habitat Restore in Canton.



# Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Find our updated website at <http://www.starkdd.org>

*Continued from page 1*

integration in the community as an adult.

"It's imperative for us to connect the dots in our county and help our friends and neighbors understand that individuals with disabilities are a vital part of this community," said William Green, Superintendent of the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities. "Stories will focus on all services provided, not just workplace, but athletics, provider partnerships, families, direct support professionals, and SSAs."

Here are just some of the ways that students, families, Stark DD employees and area partners were ambassadors **Celebrating CommUNITY** during March.

## JUST IMAGINE: THE FUTURE EXHIBITION

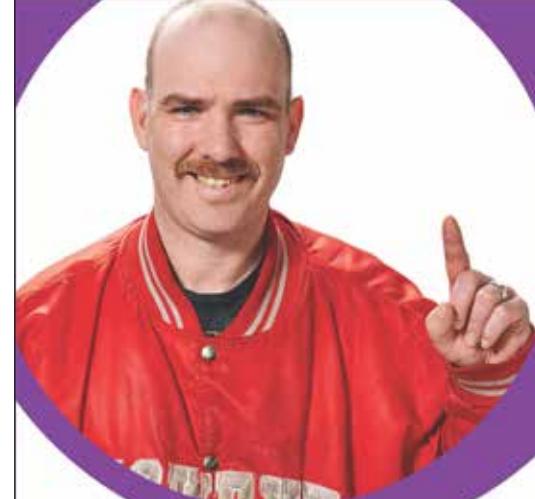
On display during March at the Stark County District Library - Main Branch was the Just Imagine Gift Gallery "The Future" Exhibition. This collaborative presentation pairs artists with developmental disabilities and poets from across the nation, challenging them to envision a one-of-a-kind future.



Above: Louisville High School Student Council and Key Club members spent a day at our Eastgate Early Childhood and Family Center playing with our preschoolers and overseeing activities.

#CelebrateCommUNITY

#2018DDAwarenessMonth



Celebrate  
COMMUNITY

Stark County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

330-477-5200 • [www.starkdd.org](http://www.starkdd.org)



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[STARKDD.org](http://STARKDD.org)

Celebrate  
COMMUNITY

Clean up your language...  
Take the pledge to use  
PEOPLE FIRST LANGUAGE -- put  
the person first, not the disability.

Say...  
He has a cognitive disability.  
Instead of:  
He's mentally retarded.

Say...  
She has autism.  
Instead of:  
The autistic girl.

Say...  
He has Down syndrome.  
Instead of:  
He's Downsyndromedmongloid.

Say...  
She has a learning disability.  
Instead of:  
She's learning-disabled.

Say...  
He has a physical disability.  
Instead of:  
He's a quadriplegic/crippled.

Say...  
She uses a wheelchair.  
Instead of:  
She's wheelchair bound.

Say...  
He receives special ed services.  
Instead of:  
He's special ed.

Say...  
Typical kids, or kids without disabilities.  
Instead of:  
Normal or healthy kids.

Say...  
Brain injury.  
Instead of:  
Brain damage.

Stark County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities  
[Learn more at  
www.STARKDD.org](http://www.STARKDD.org)

Top: Raising awareness in our community continued with the help of our students and staff at Rebecca Stallman Southgate School. Throughout the month they visited each of our local Stark County District Library branches and the North Canton Public Library, giving out our People First Bookmark. If you are a library visitor, be sure to grab one for yourself...and a few extra to share!

Above: In the newspaper, on the radio and billboards throughout the county, March Awareness Month ambassadors celebrated CommUNITY.

Left: Employees from Stark DD transportation department took time between their routes this week to read to preschoolers at Eastgate Early Childhood and Family Center and our Preschool Class at Taft Elementary.

## DD Awareness & Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse has Advocates, legislators talking together

Submitted by Lora Gray  
People First Adviser,  
West Stark Center

Self-advocates from West Stark Center's People First group attended the DD Awareness and Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus on March 7, 2018.

This annual event is held in March for Ohioans with developmental disabilities, their families and allies. Attending from Stark County was Robert Klink, Chris Sauber and Dana Wiley, along with advisers Lora Gray and Brad Hamilton.

This year's agenda featured a number of speakers from across Ohio, including DODD Director John Martin. Each speaker was eager to share their own story. They celebrated community. They spoke passionately about being seen, being heard and working together to affect change for better services.

**Find more on DD Awareness & Advocacy Day on Facebook/OhioDDAwareness**

**LOOKING FOR SUMMER EMPLOYMENT?**

The Arc of Ohio is looking for a **CAMP DIRECTOR, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CAMP COUNSELORS and ASSISTANT COUNSELORS** who are seeking experience working with individuals with developmental disabilities.

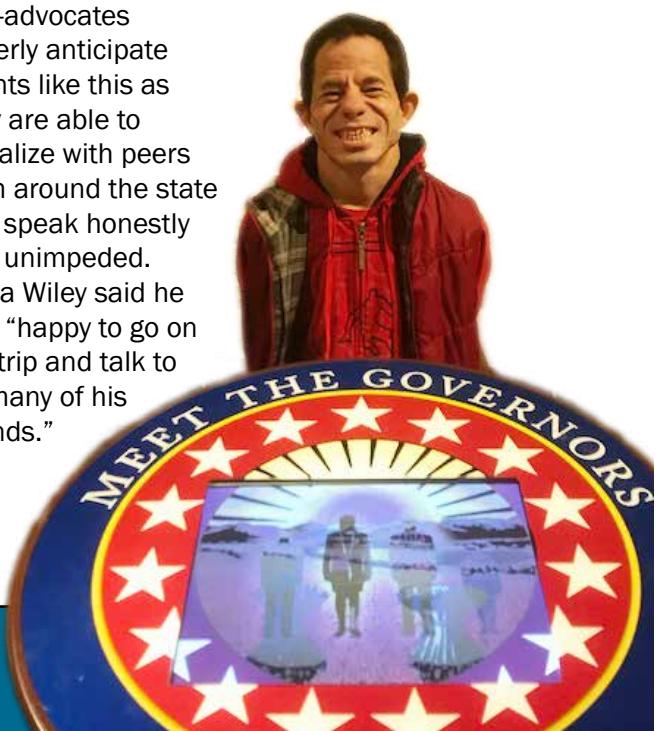
The Arc of Ohio's 2018 Summer Camp Program: Monday-Friday 8:30 am – 2:30 pm July 9 – August 3 at Baylor Beach Park , Navarre, Ohio

For information please contact:  
Brittany Kuhn—Family Advocate/  
Summer Camp Director  
(234) 571-5689



In addition, those who registered were able to speak with their local legislators to discuss any number of issues from reducing the waiver waiting list to the direct support workforce crisis.

Self-advocates eagerly anticipate events like this as they are able to socialize with peers from around the state and speak honestly and unimpeded. Dana Wiley said he was "happy to go on the trip and talk to so many of his friends."



## Unified Sports® Intramural Program brings Walsh University, Special Olympians together



In March, Walsh University and Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities, launched a new Unified Sports® Program that paired 25 Walsh students with 25 Special Olympic athletes for intramural basketball.



Spearheaded by Walsh's Intramural Coordinator Nick Wright with support from Special Olympics Ohio and Stark County DD, the teams included Walsh students as well as Special Olympic athletes from Stark DD. The program was created with the mission to promote social inclusion through sports training and competition experiences. This is the first Unified Sports program in Stark County.



In Unified Sports, teams are made up of people of similar age and ability. Participants were divided among four teams of 10-12 players, with each game refereed by an official.



"I participated in the Unified Sports Program my senior year at Ohio State," said Wright. "I really enjoyed my time on the team and wanted to bring the same opportunity to both our Walsh and local communities. To help launch the program, we intentionally reached out to students in disciplines such as Physical Therapy, Campus Ministry and Student Wellness, who will be working with individuals with disabilities throughout their careers. This is a unique opportunity to have some fun while helping to break down social barriers."



"Our athletes were so excited to be a part of a unified sports program, and actually play with athletes of all abilities," said Paula Gardner, Special Olympics Coordinator for Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities. "This is a great example of how Stark DD is working to make sure that people with disabilities are fully included in their community. Our hope is to launch more Stark County unified teams in the various sports."

The Intramural season ran on Wednesday evenings, March 14 through April 4, from 7 to 9 p.m., in the Walsh University Cecchini Center.

Photos by Craig James Photography.



For more information, visit:  
[www.playunified.org](http://www.playunified.org)  
or [www.soh.org](http://www.soh.org)  
Special Olympics Ohio  
3303 Winchester Pike  
Columbus, OH 43232  
614.239.7050 (phone)

Unified Sports is an integral part of Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools, which was founded in 2008 and funded through the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs at the U.S. Department of Education to use Special Olympics as a way to build inclusion and tolerance in schools. Unified Sports are now in more than 4,500 elementary, middle and high schools in the United States. Also, 215 U.S. colleges and universities have Special Olympics College Clubs on campus, providing ongoing Unified and inclusionary activities for students and Special Olympics athletes.



# Calendar

Find more events [www.starkdd.org/calendar](http://www.starkdd.org/calendar)



## Education

### Family Information Series

April 9, 5:30 p.m. in the Cohen Room at Whipple-Dale Centre, 2950 Whipple Ave. NW. "Caregiver Fatigue." Theresa Niewiadomski, Area Agency on Aging. Contact Misty McGirr at 330-479-3632.

### 2018 Annual Conference for Families and Educators of Diverse Learners & Avenue of Answers

April 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at R.G. Drage Career Technical Center, 2800 Richville Dr. SE, Massillon. Presented by State Support Team 9. Find out more at [http://www.sst9.org/Trainings/2018.04.14\\_SaveTheDate\\_Parent\\_Educator\\_Conf.pdf](http://www.sst9.org/Trainings/2018.04.14_SaveTheDate_Parent_Educator_Conf.pdf). Registration is required.

### Autism Awareness Day Workshop

April 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Whipple-Dale Centre, 2950 Whipple Ave. NW. Presented by the Autism Society of Greater Akron. Guest speaker: "Brain Mapping and Autism Spectrum Disorders." Jacquelyn N. Kraps, Ph.D., Vice President/Chief Clinical Officer, The Counseling Center of Wayne and Holmes Counties.

### Guardianship Training Session

May 10, from 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. This free training is hosted by Guardian Support Services. Reservations

are required. Call 330-437-3720 or e-mail [volunteer.guardians@gmail.com](mailto:volunteer.guardians@gmail.com)

### Family Information Series

June 11, 5:30 p.m. in the Cohen Room at Whipple-Dale Centre, 2950 Whipple Ave. NW. "Stark DD Navigation Tool." Emily Martinez, Director, Stark DD Community Integration and Supports. Contact Misty McGirr at 330-479-3632.

## Social

### Toddler Playgroup

Each Friday, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Eastgate Early Childhood and Family Center. Play groups are intended for children, birth through 5 years old. For a complete list of activities go to [www.starkdd.org/](http://www.starkdd.org/)



### Adult Social Night

April 26 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.

### Adult Social Night

May 10 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.

## Recreation

**Adult Social Night**  
June 14 from 7 p.m.- 9 p.m. at the Massillon Knights of Columbus, 988 Cherry Road NW, Massillon. Must be 18 years of age and over to attend.



### Stark County Exceptional Olympics

May 11, 9 a.m. at Perry High School, 3737 13th St SW, Massillon. Student athletes, elementary through high school from area districts, compete in both field and indoor style events.

### Canton Challenger Baseball Opening Day

May 12, 10 a.m. at Barr Elementary School. Nine Regular Division (ages 4-18) and two Senior Division teams (ages 16+) kick off the league season. 2000 47th St NE, Canton.

### Special Olympics North Canton Jaycees/Stark DD Invitational Track Meet

May 26, 9:45 a.m. at North Canton High School Stadium.

Track and Field events and Bocce competition will take place. Individual or groups of volunteers needed. Contact Mike Sturdivant, North Canton Jaycees at 330-274-2272 to volunteer.

### 2018 Special Olympics Ohio State Summer Games

June 22 thru June 24 at The Ohio State University, Columbus.

## Community

### Monthly Board Meeting

Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities; April 24, 6 p.m. at 2950 Whipple Ave. NW, Canton.

### Monthly Board Meeting

Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities; June 26, 6 p.m. at 2950 Whipple Ave. NW, Canton.

### Monthly Board Meeting

Stark County Board of

Developmental Disabilities; May

22, 6 p.m. at 2950 Whipple Ave. NW, Canton.

**CITIZENS WHO CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PRESENTS**

**8th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING**

**Glenmoor Country Club Friday, May 18, 2018**

**JOIN US FOR A GREAT DAY OF GOLF. [HTTP://BIRD-EASEPRO.COM/2018CITIZENSWHOCAREGOLFOUTING](http://BIRD-EASEPRO.COM/2018CITIZENSWHOCAREGOLFOUTING)**

**TWI**  
Title Sponsor

### Camp Jukebox

July 10 - 14, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at GentleBrook Center, 940 West Maple, Hartville. A performance arts camp for youth ages 10-21, with a public performance on July 14. For information contact Arts for All representative Norma Capoccia at 330-499-0749.

## All in the Family

Published by the  
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Developmental Disabilities

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The Stark County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

- Accredited by CARF, NAEYC, DODD
- Equal Opportunity in Employment, Access and Services. M/F/H.
- Ohio Self Determination Association member (OSDA)



**Stark County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities**  
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Canton, OH 44708

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**Superintendent**

William Green

Visit us on the internet at [www.starkdd.org](http://www.starkdd.org)

Follow us on:



Celebrate  
  
COMMUNITY

# All in the Family



Stark County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

**Mission:**  
Supporting people with disabilities and their families.