National Disability Employment Awareness Month celebrates "The Right Talent, Right Now"

Observed annually in October, NDEAM celebrates America’s workers with disabilities both past and present, and emphasizes the importance of inclusive policies and practices to ensure that all Americans who want to work can work, and have access to services and supports to enable them to do so.

In a press release issued from the U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta said: “Every day, individuals with disabilities add significant value and talent to our workforce and economy. Individuals with disabilities offer employers diverse perspectives on how to tackle challenges and achieve success. Individuals with disabilities have the right talent, right now.”

Locally, we will celebrate by telling the stories of adults working in our community, and how Stark DD, business owners and community providers, are empowering them to achieve their career goals.

Know Me...Know My Story...Know Stark DD
Read their stories, along with others, on our website at StarkDD.org/OurStories.

Greg, utility bagger, Fishers Foods, Massillon

Heather, artist, Etsy Store Owner, Just Imagine Gift Gallery, Canton
Superintendent’s Message:
Technology supports can improve quality of life

“We are changing the world with technology.”
– Bill Gates

A group of us visited the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities Custom Living Environment (CLE) that showcases a smart home for people with disabilities.

Bill Gates’ words are in motion within Ohio’s service delivery system as all Medicaid waivers cover the cost and maintenance of assistive technology and remote supports to promote independence for a person with a disability.

Within the CLE, the smart apartment highlights technology such as a ceiling mounted lift system, a standing wheelchair, a live remote support demonstration, a robotic feeding device, adapted cookware, smart assistants that control a variety of appliances and fixtures and a sensory area. This smart apartment features technology from the simple to the complex and the inexpensive to the expensive. It demonstrates how technology can be used so that people with disabilities can have more independence by providing personalized support for daily tasks or by offering supports from a distance.

Lori Mago, General Manager of Assistive Technology and Children Services, shares, “We created the CLE to showcase a wide range of technology and equipment in an environment that looks and feels like home. Many of the items featured here are affordable and can be purchased in stores or online and, as one visitor described, can be “life changing.”

Here in Stark County, we have 25 people using assistive technology and remote supports that range from remote supports to eye gaze technology to move a wheelchair. We also use Milo, a robot (right), to teach children with Autism, about emotion.

Another example on how technology can work is illustrated by Bob Bossart. Bob was tired of having a provider in his Canton home. He hated most of all having a provider in his living room as he slept at night. His team met to see if remote supports would work for him to give him the independence he so desired.

Bob agreed to have the vendor, Safe in Home, install a remote monitoring system to give it a try. The system includes an iPad for two way communication, motion sensors, and an additional sensor by a fire alarm. Now Bob uses his iPad to reach out to a representative at Safe in Home when he needs to problem solve daily living dilemmas.

“Many of the items featured in our Custom Living Environment are affordable and can be purchased in stores or online and, as one visitor described, can be “life changing.”

– Lori Mago
Cuyahoga County Board of DD

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– Lori Mago
Cuyahoga County Board of DD
He still has not graduated fully from having staff in his home, but his time with a provider has now been reduced to eight hours per day. With more success, this will be reduced to six hours per day. Bob could not be more pleased to be more independent in his own home and it is his hope to live with just remote supports.

Under Ohio’s Technology First initiative, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) is working with county boards to ensure technology is considered as a part of all service and support plans.

Actually, remote support must be considered as the first option when authorizing services before approving on-site Homemaker/Personal Care staff. Technology First, created through a 2018 executive order by Governor John Kasich, is not a technology-only policy, but aims to help people learn more about how to use technology to improve their quality of life and how they can experience more independence and personal freedom.

If you would like to know more about how technology can work for you or your loved one, please contact Amy Anderson, Director of Service and Support Administration at 330-479-3678, or by email at andersona@starkdd.org to begin the discussion.

Choose the Technology that Works for You

Supportive technology offers people with developmental disabilities personalized help with daily tasks at home or at work.

Assistive Technology can support a person who wants to be more independent with devices like stoves that turn off when they are not in use or alarms for reminders to take medication.

Remote Support uses two-way communication in real time, like Skype or FaceTime, so a person can talk with their direct service provider, even when the provider is not in their home. The service also includes supports like sensors that can call for help if a person has fallen or cameras that show who is at the door. All Medicaid waivers cover the cost and maintenance of equipment used for Remote Support service delivery.

Supportive technology can be used to stretch waiver dollars to free up funds for other services.

Above content comes from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). For more information on Assistive Technology, visit https://dodd.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dodd/waivers-and-services/services/assistive-technology
Beginning in January 2020, Stark DD will join forces with the Sharing Solutions Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Support Group to bring monthly informational meetings to families, caregivers and professionals in our community.

Sharing Solutions formed in January 2018 and is led by Jodi Broom and Beth Miles. Sharing Solutions began as an idea centered around the frustrations of navigating the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities community.

The group is comprised of parents/guardians of individuals from transition to adult age with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, professionals who serve the IDD community, caregivers and policy makers.

Miles and Broom, as well as those attending, provide information, support and assistance to all who attend. Everyone is encouraged to play an active role in sharing their resources, knowledge and experiences. The monthly meetings are to be productive, not negative.

Previous Sharing Solution topics have included:

- How to obtain services and continue to maintain the services throughout the individual’s life. Services include: Medicaid/Medicare Benefits, SSI, Guardianship, Waivers and more.
- Residential living
- Employment and Fair Wages
- Transportation Barriers
- Law Enforcement and how it impacts people with IDD
- Mental Illness
- Legislative Advocacy
- Self-Advocacy
- Higher Education

Many professional partners work in collaboration with Sharing Solutions, including Gary Tonks, CEO The Arc of Ohio, Stark County Board of DD, DD Waiver Providers, Behavioral and Mental Health organizations, State and Local Government Representatives, Employment Services, Invited Speakers, and Loose Ends or Legacy.

“Even if your child is not eligible for Stark DD services, our support group helps with all avenues of adult transition.”
People First - Stark County helps Advocates gain independence

Advocates within Stark County have joined together to create a county-wide People First Chapter.

What Is It?
People First of Stark County is a chapter of People First of Ohio. Members guide other people to become self-advocates. People First advocates to make sure that everyone has the right and access to do what they want in the community.

When/Where do they meet?
People First meets the second Monday of each month from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Most meetings are held at the Stark DD Whipple-Dale Center at 2950 Whipple Ave NW in Canton.

Why should someone be a part of this group?
• It is a great way to meet new people
• Learn more about rights and responsibilities
• Learn how to advocate for yourself and others
• Help with local issues
• Have fun!

Become a part of People First by contacting Paula Gardner, Coordinator at gardnerp@starkdd.org 330-479-3750.

OhiOANS with Developmental Disabilities - Advocating, Uniting, Educating & Empowering

Project STIR™ Training: Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility
Nov. 18-20, 2019 in Canton

Project STIR™ will give you the tools to help advocate for yourself, connect with others, and gain leadership skills. Trainers will present information, give demonstrations, and involve people in small group activities and role plays. You will learn about:
• How to stand up for yourself
• How to speak up about things important to you
• How to become a leader
• How to solve problems
• Your rights and responsibilities
• How to start a local network group

To register, contact Paula Gardner, Stark County Board of DD, gardnerp@starkdd.org or phone: (330) 479-3750.

Registration Deadline: November 8, 2019

Sponsored by:
Stark and Mahoning County Boards of Developmental Disabilities

Supported by:
Ohio Self Determination Association
Partially funded by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act.
Celebrating care

For more graduation photos, visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/StarkDD

Stark DD hosts DSP Luncheon to Thank professionals for the work they do

On Saturday, September 14, Stark DD hosted more than 125 people for the Inaugural DSP (Direct Support Professional) Recognition Luncheon.

“This event was our way of thanking DSPs for the work they perform every day in our community,” said Ed Lewis, Supervisor of Stark DD’s Provider Compliance and Support department.

Present were members of Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), The Arc of Ohio, People First of Ohio - Stark County Chapter, and Keynote Speaker Jeff Davis, Director of DODD.

Awards for exceptional achievement were given to the following DSPs:

- **DSP of the Year:** Renee Salter, Independent Provider (left)
- **Achievement in Energy:** Stella Stout, X-Excel, LTD (right, top)
- **Achievement in Leadership:** Crystal Pickens, Community Health Network/Midwest Health Services (right, middle)
- **Achievement in Resourcefulness:** Whitney Miller, X-Excel, LTD (right, bottom)

These exceptional award recipients were selected from the pool of 12 DSP All Stars who were honored throughout the past year. Find those honorees on our Facebook page.

Congratulations to all of the DSPs recognized this year!
Celebrating care professionals
Stark DD hosts DSP Luncheon to Thank professionals for the work they do in our community

DSP of the Year: Renee Salter, Independent Provider

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Congratulations to all of the DSPs recognized this year!
Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities

THE presents

Great Pumpkin Race

22nd Annual

Saturday, October 26, 2019 • 2950 Whipple Ave. NW, Canton

100 Yard Lil’ Pumpkin Dash 8:15 a.m.
(Ages 7 & Under)
No T-Shirt Option Available $8 Discount
$10 until registration closes

1 Mile Fun Run/Walk 8:30 a.m.
No T-Shirt Option Available $8 Discount
$10 through October 26th, 2019, 9:00 am EDT

4 Mile Run/Walk 8:00 a.m.
4 Mile (Special Olympian)
No T-Shirt Option Available $8 Discount
$10 through October 26th, 2019, 9:30 am EDT

Register for the race by mailing this form to
2019 Great Pumpkin Race • Stark County Board of DD • 2950 Whipple Ave. NW • Canton, OH 44708,
Make checks payable to Stark DD.

Register by October 10th at NOON to guarantee shirt availability and size.

YES! Sign me up:
First Name ______________________ Last Name ______________________
Address ______________________________________________________ City____________________  State _________
Zip ____________________ Birth Date________/________/_______   Age _______       Sex:  □ M  or  □ F
E-mail __________________________________________________________ Date _______________________

Unisex Shirt Size:  □ No Shirt □ Youth Small □ Youth Medium □ Youth Large
□ Small □ Medium □ Large □ X-Large □ 2X-Large □ 3X-Large

Amount enclosed:
□ 100 yd Lil’ Pumpkin Dash (Ages 7 & Under)
No T-Shirt Option Available $8 Discount
$10 until registration closes

□ 1 Mile (Special Olympian)
No T-Shirt Option Available $8 Discount
$10 through October 26th, 2019, 9:00 am EDT

□ 1 Mile Run/Walk
No T-Shirt Option Available $8 Discount
$15 through August 15th, 2019
$20 through September 15th, 2019
$25 through October 25th, 2019
$30 until registration closes

□ 4 Mile Run/Walk
Individual or Team (top 4 finishers-no maximum), everyone gets individual time! No T-Shirt Option Available $8 Discount
$20 through August 15th, 2019
$25 through September 15th, 2019
$30 through October 25th, 2019
$35 until registration closes

□ Long Sleeve T-Shirt Only
$15 through October 10th, 2019, 9:30 am EDT

□ No Shirt
$8 Discount
$10 through October 26th, 2019

□ X-Large
$35 until registration closes

NO T-SHIRT OPTION AVAILABLE $8 DISCOUNT
$10 through October 26th, 2019, 9:30 am EDT

Waiver of Liability: I know that participating in the Great Pumpkin Run 4 Mile and/or 1 Mile is a potentially hazardous activity. I agree not to enter and participate unless I am medically able and properly trained. I agree to heed by any decision of an Event official relative to my ability to safely complete the Event. I am voluntarily entering and assume all risks associated with participating in the Event, including, but not limited to, falls, contact with other participants, spectators or others, vehicular or other traffic, the effect of the weather, including heat and/or humidity, wind, cold temperature, wet or icy surfaces, falling tree branches or other overhead objects, traffic and other conditions of the course, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Having read this Waiver and knowing these facts, and in consideration of your acceptance of this Application, I, for myself and anyone entitled to act on my behalf, waive and release the Released Parties (defined below), from present and future claims and liabilities of any kind, known or unknown, arising out of my travel to or from or my participation in the Event or related activities, including personal injury or death, or property or economic damage, whether caused in whole or in part by the Released Parties or any other person on travel at the Event and even though such claims or liability may arise out of negligence or fault on the part of any of the Released Parties.

Publicity Release: I grant permission to each of the Released Parties to use or authorize others to use any photographs, motion picture recordings, or any other records of my participation in the Event or related activities, including my name, for my lifetime purpose without remuneration.

Released Parties: The Waiver and Release is given to Stark County Board of DD, Plan/Tomahawk, the Ohio Challenge Series, RS Racing Systems, all sponsors and officials of the event, and the officers, directors, employees, contractors, volunteers, agents, representatives, and successors of the foregoing.

Guardian’s Permission and Release for Minor: If I am signing this Waiver and Release on behalf of a minor, I understand and agree that my child’s participation in this Event is at my choice and, I agree that the Waiver and Release above applies equally to my child and me and my claims I, or on the my own, I also waive any derivative claims that relate to or arise out of my child’s participation in the Event. I also agree that the Publicity Release above applies to my child and me.

Rules of the Event: I agree that attendance and/or participation in the Event is subject at all times to any and all rules and regulations of the Event. All entries are non-refundable.

Signature (if under 18, parent signature required): _____________________________ Date ______________

Save a stamp! Register online at https://ohiochallengeseries.enmotive.com/events/register/2019-great-pumpkin-race
When weather conditions or other emergency conditions (mechanical, electrical, health) necessitate the Board programs be delayed, dismissed early, or closed, we will make one of the announcements listed below.

**Two hour delay.** Transportation routes for school age programs will operate two hours later than regular pick-up times. Return home times will remain the same. Early Intervention services scheduled after 10:00 am will continue. All preschool classes (Eastgate and Taft) will be canceled. School age (RSSS and Avondale) programs will begin two hours later than regularly scheduled.

**Code One** means that preschool (Eastgate and Taft) and School Age programs (RSSS and Avondale) are closed for students; Early Intervention services are canceled; Administrative and Early Intervention staff report as normal.

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**Find out fast!**

Visit our website [www.starkdd.org](http://www.starkdd.org) for Stark DD Alerts.

**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 phone, e-mail and text message. Families may update their information by contacting their SSA, or school administrator.

Call our main number at 330-477-5200 to hear the automated message.

On the web at [www.starkdd.org](http://www.starkdd.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StarkDD](http://www.facebook.com/StarkDD)

Radio: WHBC AM (1480) 94.1 FM

Television: W Eis Channel 5 Cleveland

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**Collaboration brings ballet workshop to students**

Canton Ballet faculty, with support from Arts in Stark, have brought a movement-based workshop to students at Rebecca Stallman Southgate School. The collaboration will culminate in a public performance “The Haunted Forest” on October 29 at 9:45 am.

The workshop includes music appreciation, curriculum integration and performance values awareness as well as arts, crafts, set design and construction and costume-making by students assisted by school staff.

“I see this as a great opportunity for students and staff to connect with a Community partner and add the ARTS to our current educational programs. Music and movement are great motivators for all students and the benefits are better attention span, active engagement with staff support, and students develop movement skills,” said Myrna Blosser, principal of Stark DD School Programs.
Calendar

Find more events www.starkdd.org/calendar

**Education**

**Family Information Series**
October 21, 5:30 p.m. in the Cohen Room at Whipple-Dale Centre, 2950 Whipple Ave. NW. Topics: **Fair Housing and Area Agency on Aging**. Contact Misty McGirr at 330-479-3632.

**Sharing Solutions**
**IDD Support Group for Families, Caregivers and Professionals**
October 21, 6 p.m. at Walthers Twin Tavern, 440 Applegrove St. NW, North Canton. Topic: **Community and Drivers Rehabilitation Program**. Julie Dominik OTR, CDRS, CDI/PD Mercy Medical Center. Please RSVP to Jodi Broom at 330-546-2001.

**Guardianship Training Session**
November 16, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Goodwill Campus, 408 Ninth St. SW, Canton. 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 volunteerguardians@gmail.com

**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/calendar

**Cafe Disco**
October 19, 5 - 8 p.m. at First Christian Church, 6900 Market Avenue North, Canton. Must be 18 years of age and older to attend. Register online at https://firstchristian.com/cafedisco/

**Adult Social Night**
October 31, 7 p.m.- 9 p.m. at the St. George Cultural Center, 364 First St. SE, Massillon.

**Boots and Bling - Pegasus Farm Annual Gala**
November 9, 6-10 p.m. at Brookside Country Club. To purchase tickets visit https://www.pegasusfarm.org/events/gala

**Adult Social Night**
November 14, 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.

**Adult Social Night**
December 19, 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.
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 4,500.

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

**“Haunted Forest” Ballet Performance**
Stark DD School Age Programs in Collaboration with the Canton Ballet/Arts in Stark; October 28, 9:45 a.m. at Rebecca Stallman Southgate School.

**Monthly Board Meeting**
Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities; December 17, 6 p.m. at 2950 Whipple Ave. NW, Canton.

**Holiday Programs - Preschools**
Stark DD Preschool Programs; December 19, 11 a.m. at Eastgate Early Childhood and Family Center. Stark DD Preschool at Taft - TBD.

**Holiday Program**
Stark DD School Age Programs; December 19, 9:45 a.m. at Rebecca Stallman Southgate School.

**22nd Annual Great Pumpkin Race**

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**DODD Health and Safety Alerts**
People with developmental disabilities are at a higher risk for suicide because of different risk factors, including co-occurring mental health diagnoses. Knowing the warning signs for suicide and how to get help can save lives.

Read the latest on Suicide Awareness and Prevention 65-9-19 as well as other Health and Safety Alerts at [http://dodd.ohio.gov/HealthandSafety](http://dodd.ohio.gov/HealthandSafety).

Watch Dr. Brittany Myers, pediatric psychologist from MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland, discusses suicide risk factors for people with disabilities.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ew2-Xg8XQFE&feature=youtu.be

**All in the Family**
Published by the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities Whipple-Dale Centre 2950 Whipple Ave. N.W. Canton, OH 44708 Phone: 330-477-5200 E-mail: info@starkdd.org Fax: 330-477-2545

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**The Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities**
• Accredited by NAEYC, DODD
• Equal Opportunity in Employment, Access and Services. M/F/H.
• Ohio Self Determination Association member (OSDA)
Mission:
Supporting people with disabilities and their families.

National Employment Awareness Month
Ben, Janitor, Aultman Hospital, Canton

All in the Family