



Stark County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

## All in the Family

[Read our quarterly newsletters  
online.](#)

### Message from the Superintendent



As I write my message, the 1980s song by Loverboy flashed through my mind, "Everybody's Working for the Weekend." As with anything in life, we all need a break from our daily routine. That's why most of us celebrate the coming of yet another much needed weekend. With the demands of family and work and little time left to ourselves, it is no wonder we forget how important it is to rest and recharge. But it's vital to our health and well-being to allot time for recharging our batteries.

Even more far-reaching are the effects on someone whose role is being a caregiver and parent with a child with intense and complex needs. Sometimes, the effects are so significant that it can be classified as a serious syndrome called "caregiver fatigue" or "caregiver burnout." Respite is a brief period of rest and recovery. What we are hearing from families is an ever increasing need for a temporary break from caregiving.

Our families have requested support from us for a chance to spend time with other friends and family, or to just relax. We have heard from them that they need time to

take care of errands such as shopping, exercising, getting a haircut, or going to the doctor. We have one family that was unable to go to church. Now, with respite, they are able to go. This is after many traumatic attempts to take their 8 year old son with Autism to church and he being overwhelmed each time.

We have expanded respite opportunities to families and have focused our attention on children who not only have intense and complex needs, but who are served in multiple systems, including mental health, children services, and/or family court. We actually were awarded an Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities grant for \$250,000 to get the initiative off the ground and partnered with Siffrin, Inc. to lend a helping hand. Paula Kovach, Assistant Director of SSA, oversees the initiative for us.

Initially, we found that parents were apprehensive and overcome by a sense of guilt that they needed a break from their son or daughter. We heard that a few parents felt like a failure for needing time away. Yet, once they tried it and began to trust the direct support professionals from Siffrin Inc., it gave them a new lease on life.

Thus far, five youth received 658 hours of in-home respite. Two youth received 84 days of out of home respite. Siffrin maintains two beds at all times for this purpose.

Our mission is supporting people with disabilities and their families. Offering this new respite service is another way we are attempting to help. If you know someone who may benefit from this service, please have them call and ask for Paula Kovach at 330-477-5200.

Best regards,

*William Green*

Thank teachers who are "Out of this World"

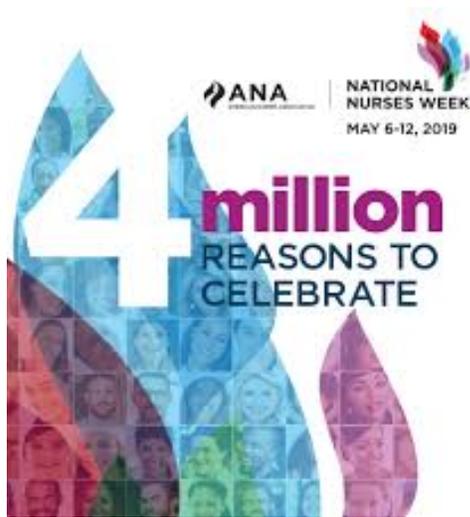


Join us as we celebrate the hard work and important contributions of teachers during National Teacher Appreciation Week, and on National Teacher Day, May 9th.

This is a time we thank the teachers in our preschool and school age programs for their commitment to students, as well as encourage talented and committed men and women to consider the rewarding and intellectually demanding profession of teaching.

Learn more about our [educational services](#).

## Celebrating National Nurses Week



In 1993, the American Nurses Association declared May 6-12 as the national week to celebrate and elevate the nursing profession.

National Nurses Week is a time for everyone - individuals, employers, other health care professionals, community leaders, and nurses - to recognize the vast contributions and positive impact of America's 4 million registered nurses. Each year, the celebration ends on May 12, Florence Nightingale's birthday.

At Stark DD our [Health Services department](#) is committed to maintaining and promoting the health of individuals attending Stark DD

programs so that each may achieve their maximum potential and experience an improved quality of life. The Health Services Department is prepared to meet the health and medical needs of individuals with developmental disabilities across the life span. Thank you to the twelve professionals below who make up the Stark DD Health Services department.

Learn more about the [2019 National Nurses Week](#).



## Educators honored for their dedication

Two Rebecca Stallman Southgate School Intervention Specialists were recently recognized for their hard work and dedication to their students at the April 29 Stark County Educational Service Center Education Celebration.

Katelin Keister was selected to the All-

County Rookie Teaching Team, and Lindsey Adkins was honored as part of the All-County Teaching Team.

Adkins was also recognized by the State Support Team 9 on April 27 at the Annual Conference for Families and Educators of Diverse Learners.



*Lindsey Adkins (left) and Katelin Keister.*

## Sensory Cinema returns to Palace Theatre



The [Canton Palace Theatre](#), Schumacher Homes, Canton Professional Educators Association, Golden Key Center for Exceptional Children and Q92 Radio in conjunction with the Love, Andrew Autism Foundation presents the eight-week movie series Sensory Cinema.

For this series, the Theatre environment will be tailored to the attendees on the Autism Spectrum and their families. This includes: lower levels of sound and dim lights, dietary sensitive offerings in the concession stand including gluten and dairy free options, trained staff and family restrooms.

See the [schedule of movies](#).

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# STREET FAIR

*Community Resources  
in Your Neighborhood*

**Saturday, September 28, 2019**  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
**Whipple-Dale Centre**  
2950 Whipple Ave. NW, Canton

Stop by and discover the resources that are available right in your own neighborhood! We will have community organizations, agencies, and providers on hand to answer your questions about services and supports for children and adults with various needs.

Vendors • Guest Speakers • Street Fair Food for families

PRESENTED BY  City of Canton Fair Housing Department

 Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities  
For information, contact  
Misty McGirr at 330-479-3632

 AUTISM SPEAKS  
Northwest Ohio Community

## Looking Ahead



**May 10 / 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. / Perry High School**  
Stark County Exceptional Olympics. Stark County Educational Service Center welcomes area students to compete in athletic events. Parents and friends are welcome to watch.



**May 11 / 10 a.m. / Barr Elementary School**  
Opening Day for Canton Challenger Baseball. The league fields 11 teams, with more than 150 boys and girls.



**May 13 / 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. / Whipple-Dale Centre**  
Family Information Series "Remote Supports" and "The New MUI Rule Revision." For more information or to RSVP, contact [Misty McGirr](#).

**May 17 / 8:30 a.m. / Glenmoor Country Club**  
9th Annual Citizens Who Care for People with



Developmental Disabilities Golf Outing.  
Sponsorship and player registration at [2019 Citizens Who Care for DD Golf Outing](#)



**May 21 / 12 p.m. / Whipple-Dale Centre**  
Stark DD Monthly Finance committee meeting; Open to the public.

Adult Social Night



**May 22 / 7 - 9 p.m. / St. George Serbian Center**  
4667 Applegrove St. NW, North Canton  
Adult Social Night. Must be 18 years of age and over, and follow the [Adult Social Night Guidelines](#) to attend. See a complete [Adult Social Night Calendar](#).



**May 24 / 3 p.m. / Whipple-Dale Centre**  
Stark DD Monthly Personnel committee meeting; Open to the public.



**May 24 / 7 p.m. / Rebecca Stallman Southgate School**  
2019 High School Commencement Ceremony



**May 25 / 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. / Hoover High School Stadium**  
Special Olympics North Canton Jaycees/StarkDD Invitational Track Meet. Track and Field, Bocce competition for area teams.



**May 28 / 6 p.m. / Whipple-Dale Centre**  
Stark DD Monthly Board Meeting; Open to the public.



**May 29 / 10 a.m. / Taft Elementary School**  
2019 Preschool Graduation Ceremony



**May 30 / 11 a.m. / Eastgate Early Childhood and Family Center**  
2019 Preschool Graduation Ceremony



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