



## Superintendent's Message

# Optimism and hope for the new year



The New Year brings a sense of hope and optimism. As Melody Beattie quips, "The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written."

For us, we want to be living out our mission of **"supporting choices and creating opportunities for people with disabilities and their families."** We have 2022 as a springboard, where we supported more people (4,106) than ever before. We know that 2023 will bring vast opportunities to "continuously improve" the supports we provide. We are now using the Ohio Individual Service Plan (OISP), which is reflecting positive results and creating exciting outcomes with the people we support and their families.

Through a Board Resolution approved on December 13, 2022, we asked the County Commissioners to approve Stark DD's request to place renewal levies on the ballot for the primary election on May 2, 2023. On Wednesday, January 11, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners

approved this request. If you are interested in knowing more regarding and/or supporting the levy campaign, please go to [www.supportstarkdd.org](http://www.supportstarkdd.org) beginning on January 25, 2023. Please understand, Stark DD is prohibited from using public funding, or resources, for the campaign. Rather all funding for the levy campaign comes from the Political Action Committee: Citizens Who Care for People with Developmental Disabilities. The Committee has raised money for this levy campaign through its annual Citizens Who Care Golf outing, as well as contributions made by voluntary donors.

We are providing \$2.5 million annually, which will go directly to Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) in the Stark County community to assist with their wages; a [6.5% Medicaid Supplement](#) that providers can opt-in to receive. We will continue to advocate for higher wages for DSPs with our state representatives, and urge them to incorporate the increase into Ohio's Biennial Budget that must be approved by June 30, 2023.

The work we do with people with disabilities and their families, as well as with our partners, whether school districts or our provider community, is so meaningful. I hope that you are proud of the work you do, and know that each day you are making a difference.

I hope this New Year brings you ...

Courage to try again  
Passion for doing what you love  
Ambition to aim higher  
Resilience in overcoming obstacles  
Humility to learn from others  
Kindness for yourself and others.

I am grateful you are a part of the Stark DD community. Happy New Year!

Sincerely,  
**Bill Green,**  
Superintendent



## Save the Date: Annual Mall Walk for Awareness Returns in March

When: Friday, March 10  
Time: 10:30 am – 11:30 am  
Where: Belden Village Mall  
4230 Belden Village Street NW, Canton

Meet us at center court as we join the Stark community for a little bit of exercise, conversation, information and a whole lot of awareness.

We will have information tables with Stark DD staff, and interactive stations including:  
check your Body Mass Index (BMI), Hands Only CPR demo, work out with the YMCA, Early Intervention assessments, Voting Registration Information, and how you can start your career as a Direct Support Professional (DSP).

Download [2023 Walk for Awareness Flyer](#)



## Special Olympics Ohio and Ohio's YMCA team up for fitness

Have you had a chance to check out our statewide partnership with the [#ohioymcas](#)? Athletes who are in good standing and have a current physical on file may begin the sign up process by completing the [YMCA/Special Olympics Membership Request Form](#)

For assistance or questions, Stark DD Special Olympic athletes may contact Stark DD Special Olympics Coordinator [Paula Gardner](#).

Read the [press release](#) to learn more about this partnership.

**FREE** membership will last through all three sports seasons  
(Winter, Summer, and Fall).

Special Olympics  
Ohio and Family  
Services and  
Ohio's YMCAs  
are partnering  
to provide  
memberships at no  
costs to athletes  
and approved  
private providers.

*Special  
Olympics*  
Ohio



#exerciseinclusion



## Stark 2-1-1 Service Transitions to Stark Help Central

Have you heard? The 2-1-1 information line transitioned to [StarkHelpCentral.com](https://StarkHelpCentral.com), on January 1, 2023. Community partners have come together to share our resources and make it easy for people needing help from multiple partners to find it in a "one-stop" website. Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities is proud to support this local resource.

Need a quick recourse guide? Download this list of [Most Requested Resources](#)



Stark County 2-1-1 transitions to STARKHELPCENTRAL.COM

**January 1, 2023**



United Way of Greater Stark County is pleased to join the partnership that supports StarkHelpCentral.com, a searchable community resource website supported by Stark County Mental Health & Addiction Recovery (StarkMHAR), Stark County Job & Family Services, Stark Educational Service Center, Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Stark County Family Court and Stark County Family Council.

With this partnership, **Stark County 2-1-1 will close its 2-1-1 information line and online database effective January 1, 2023.** This move will establish StarkHelpCentral.com as the primary source of information about community resources in Stark County.



StarkHelpCENTRAL.com

## What's Going On



### **January 24 / 6 PM / Stark DD Organizational Board Meeting and Monthly Board Meeting**

*Stark DD Whipple-Dale Centre, 2950 Whipple Ave. NW, Canton*

The Annual Organizational Meeting followed by the monthly meeting of the governance board. Attend in-person or watch the meeting live on our [Stark DD Facebook page](#).



### **January 28-29 / ALL DAY / Special Olympics North East Regional Basketball Tournament**

*College of Wooster, Wooster, OH*

Stark DD Red and Blue teams will be competing. Limited seating, so spectators should bring chairs.



### **February 7 / 4:30 PM / Special Olympics Basketball**

*Massillon Washington High School, 1 Paul E. Brown Dr. SE, Massillon, OH 44646*

Come cheer on the Stark DD Red team vs. the Tuscarawas County Rockets.

### **February 15 / 6 PM / Sharing Solutions - IDD Support Group for Families, Caregivers & Professionals**

*Walther's Twin Tavern, 430 Applegrove St NW, North Canton*



This month's meeting is about "Assistive and Supportive Technology".  
For further information, please contact [Jodi Broom](#).



**February 16 / 11 AM - 1 PM / Be the Good Self Advocates  
Monthly Meeting**

*Stark DD Whipple-Dale Centre, 2950 Whipple Ave. NW, Canton.*

"Voting Rights; Consent and Respecting Boundaries" are the topics.

Lunch provided. RSVP by February 10 to [Paula Gardner](#).



**March 10 / 10 - 11 AM / 2023 Walk for Awareness**

*Belden Village Mall, 4230 Belden Village Street. NW, Canton*

This FREE event is open to the public.

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Stark County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

Visit Us:  
2950 Whipple Ave NW  
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