



Superintendent's Message: Celebrating Our Successes



***“We learned about gratitude and humility –
that so many people had a hand in our success.”***

– Michelle Obama

On May 2, people with disabilities and their families celebrated a big win. Collectively, we secured all-important funding for another five years, which will allow the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities to continue on our mission of “supporting choices and creating opportunities for people with disabilities and their families.” We are grateful and incredibly humbled at the overwhelming support for our measure, ensuring that the growing number of people supported by Stark DD can continue to get the help they need.

An army of supporters, including people with disabilities, their families, our provider community, and employees, worked tirelessly to get the message out about what the Stark DD does and why the issue was needed. To this army of advocates, thank you.

To the citizenry of Stark County, you have our humility and gratefulness. We thank you for your ongoing support of the developmental disability service delivery system and how it works to ensure that over 4,106 people with disabilities have the opportunity to live a good life – one that is first healthy and safe. Without you, this is not possible. Please know that within our appreciation is the implicit promise to be wise stewards of the generosity that has just been reaffirmed.

Michelle Obama captures how we feel right now when she said, “We learned about gratitude and humility – that so many people had a hand in our success.” So for every person who makes what we do possible, thank you.

2022-23 K-12 educators recognized locally

Jill Mehl (left), a 10 year veteran of the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities School Programs, was named to the Stark County Educational Service Center All-County Teaching Team. She is an Intervention Specialist at the Stark DD classroom at Avondale Elementary.

Mya Cole (right), Intervention Specialist at Stark DD Rebecca Stallman Southgate School, was named to the All-County Rookie Teaching Team.

Mehl was among the 27 K-12 teachers nominated to the All-County Teaching Team, which encompasses the 23 member school districts, the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities and parochial schools. All of the nominated teachers and rookies were honored at a dinner on April 25, 2023.

Carrie White, (left) and Regan Fahrney (right) received the 2022-2023 RS Southgate School Principal's Award.



What you need to know about the new Ohio ISP



Stark DD is always looking for ways in which we can improve our service delivery and enhance the services of those in our community. With the transition to the new Ohio ISP we have found an opportunity to grow as an agency.

Starting this past February we transitioned to a monitoring and experience based model. In this model we do not require annual meetings for the purpose of ISP development, but do require more frequent visitation and monitoring of services. In this way SSAs gain a better understanding of what a person wants and needs, rather than just a snippet once per year. It is always our goal to improve in what we do and support people as they continue their journey in life.

Watch this video to learn more about what to expect with the Ohio ISP.



2023 Citizens Who Care for DD Golf Outing

Registration is now open for the 2022 Citizens Who Care for People with Developmental Disabilities Golf Outing, slated for Monday, July 31.

This popular community event brings more than 120 area golfers to the prestigious Glenmoor Country Club Golf Course to enjoy a day of golf, good-hearted competition, prizes and most importantly, raising awareness about people with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Sponsorship opportunities are available at all levels of support.



Register to sponsor or play

What's Going On

Sharing Solutions
IDD Support Group
for Families, Caregivers & Professionals



May 16 / 6 PM / Sharing Solutions - IDD Support Group for Families, Caregivers & Professionals

Walthers Twin Tavern, 430 Applegrove St. NW, North Canton

Topic will be Social Security Benefits. [Zoom Meeting Registration](#) or RSVP to [Jodi Broom](#).



May 18 / 10:30 AM - 1 PM / Be the Good Self Advocates Monthly Meeting

Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities, 2950 Whipple Ave. NW, Canton; Lunch provided.



May 19 / 6 PM / RS Southgate School Graduation Ceremony

RS Southgate School gymnasium, 3057 Cleveland Ave. SW, Canton. Celebrate with the Class of 2022! Please RSVP to the school office.



May 22 / 10 AM / Preschool at Taft Elementary School Graduation

Taft Elementary School, 3829 Guilford Ave. NW, Canton. In conjunction with the Educational Service Center, preschool graduation ceremony will take place in the gymnasium.



May 23 / 6 PM / Stark DD Monthly Board Meeting

Stark DD Whipple-Dale Centre, 2950 Whipple Ave. NW, Canton
The monthly meeting of the governance board begins at 6 PM in the Whipple-Dale Centre Cohen Room. Watch the meeting live on our [Stark DD Facebook page](#).



May 30 / 11 AM / Eastgate Preschool Graduation

Eastgate Early Childhood and Family Center, 2121 Ashland St. NE, Louisville.

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Stark County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

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