



Superintendent's Message:

A sense of belonging builds a community

A sense of belonging; it's something we all need, but how do we make it happen? For me, it is the sense of welcome and acceptance I feel when I know people are glad to see me and they want me around. I scored great tickets for the Cleveland Guardians and Houston Astros game this Saturday. I am headed there with my lifelong friend, Dave Rastoka. I only see him a couple of times a year now, but when we get together, I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that he is glad to see me; he truly knows all my faults and likes me anyway. I can be myself. This friendship gives me a sense of belonging that matters to my life.

If you remember the 1980's comedy Cheers (some won't), but when Norm would walk into the bar, everyone in unison would shout his name, "Norm!" They made him feel welcome. He was accepted. It was a safe place for him. A sense of belonging is a human need in all of us. Our need to belong drives us to seek relationships with others even if we do not do it well. It motivates us to join clubs, sports teams, religious groups, and community organizations. This is why Special Olympics is so popular for the people we support. The sense of community that is created from competing and

rooting for your fellow athletes.

It is proven time and time again that our social connections are really good for us, and that loneliness is detrimental to our well-being. A sad fact reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is that at any given time, more than one in five Americans will report loneliness. Further, they announced that loneliness is at epidemic proportions, along with the related health issues that come with it – anxiety, depression, and suicide. Relationships can be messy. They can be complicated too. They are even more complex and challenging for the people we support.

So what can we do to create a sense of belonging for ourselves and the people we support?

- **Make an effort:** the worst thing we can do is to give up trying to connect with others. Instead, we must keep putting ourselves out there, seeking activities and groups of people with similar interests, and engaging with others. We can be an ally and assist a person with a disability in finding their way to a group and new friends.
- **Be patient:** It may take time to gain acceptance, attention, and support from others, but we need to keep showing up and give of ourselves, as tricky as this can be. For those we support, it can be even more difficult, for they sometimes struggle with the attitudinal barriers and limitations placed upon them by people who do not understand. The same goes for other groups who have experienced discrimination. This is why we must have diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.
- **Practice acceptance:** we all have our notions and prejudices about others and our differences, but if we could focus on our similarities, and remain open to new ways of thinking, it will open doors for us.

Brene Brown, the author of *Daring Greatly*, writes us a formula for belonging: ***“Those who have a strong sense of love and belonging have the courage to be imperfect.”***

Let us use this equation to build a community for all.

Sincerely,
William Green
Superintendent

Celebrating diversity and inclusion during June

Our Mission:

Supporting choices and creating opportunities for people with disabilities and their families.

Help us build community and commemorate significant cultural holidays & events happening in Stark County this month!



SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023

The [second annual Stark Pride Festival 2023](#) for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and ally communities will be held at Centennial Plaza in downtown Canton, Ohio on

Saturday, June 10, 2023, from 2:00-10:00 pm. The inaugural pride walk will start at 1:00 pm prior to the festival.

These are diverse and welcoming public events that celebrate our communities' culture, promote visibility, provide education, and welcome people without regard to age, race, ethnicity, nationality, income, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or ability. The festival will include music on two stages, speakers, activities for children and youth, community organization booths, businesses, artists, food and drink vendors, and full representations of the broad and diverse facets of the LGBTQ+ community.

Join the Walk

Stark DD invites you to meet us for the inaugural walk at 1:00 pm at Canton Centennial Plaza, 330 Court Ave NW, Canton. Wear your **HELP FOR GOOD** shirt if you have one.



WHAT IS JUNETEENTH?

Juneteenth is an annual observance to celebrate the date Union soldiers enforced the Emancipation Proclamation freeing all remaining slaves in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865. Texas was the last state in rebellion, following the end of the Civil War, to allow enslavement.

Although the rumors of freedom were widespread prior to this, actual emancipation was not announced in the last state practicing enslavement until General Gordon Granger came to Galveston, Texas and issued General Order #3 on the 19th day of June, almost two-and-a-half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

Learn more about [Canton Juneteenth Events](#)



2023 Citizens Who Care for DD Golf Outing

Registration is now open for the 2023 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.



What's Going On

Sharing Solutions
IDD Support Group
for Families, Caregivers & Professionals



June 14 / 6 PM / Sharing Solutions - IDD Support Group for Families, Caregivers & Professionals

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

Topic will be The Ohio DD Crisis and Telling Your Story. [Zoom Meeting Registration](#) or RSVP to [Jodi Broom](#).



June 15 / 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. [RSVP](#) by Friday, June 9.



June 19 / All Day / Juneteenth

All programs and services are closed for the day. We will return to regular business hours on Tuesday, June 20.



June 23-25 / All Day / Special Olympics Ohio State Summer Games

The Ohio State University, Columbus. Summer Games is the largest state-level annual event, hosting nearly 3,000 athletes, Unified partners, and coaches from across the state to compete in athletics (track and field), bocce, bowling, gymnastics, powerlifting, soccer, tennis, and volleyball.. [Click for more information](#)



June 27 / 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](#).



July 8 / 11 AM - 3PM / Nathaniel's Hope Make 'm Smile Ohio

Hartville Memorial Park, 335 Park Lane Dr. SW, Hartville

MAKE 'm SMILE is a Big Party that celebrates kids with all types of disabilities (our VIPs) of all ages! It is filled with family entertainment,

games, characters, animals, food, helpful resources from the community. This event is FREE, but registration is required.

[Register Now](#)

[Resources](#) | [Community](#) | [Services](#) | [News and Publications](#) | [About](#)



Stark County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Visit Us:

2950 Whipple Ave NW

Canton, Ohio 44708

Call Us: 330-477-5200



Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities | 2950 Whipple Ave. NW, Canton, OH 44708

[Unsubscribe parramorel@starkdd.org](mailto:parramorel@starkdd.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by whatshappening@starkdd.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!