

## Superintendent's Message

by Marianne Mader



March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness month! Like last year, Holmes DD is presenting 2nd grade classrooms in East Holmes and West Holmes School Districts and local libraries with the book *I AM A MASTERPIECE* by Mia Armstrong. Mia's story is about herself, a girl who has Down Syndrome. The story explores what it is like to live with Down Syndrome and provides a reminder that everyone deserves kindness.

Holmes DD is starting to prepare for our next 3 year strategic plan. We need to hear

from individuals, families, community partners, and other stakeholders to make sure our plan meets the needs of our community. If you haven't already, please take a few moments to complete our survey. You can find the survey by following the QR code below, this [link](#), or calling our office for a paper survey. Students who attend Holmes DD school and adults attending GentleBrook, Sacred Ground, and Midwest Day programs and work at Lynn Hope Industries will bring a paper survey home. Surveys will also be available the evening of the Community All Stars vs Bucks Basketball game on March 28th at West Holmes High School. Your feedback about our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats will help us develop our plans for the future.

Holmes DD is proud to announce that we have received grant funding from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to assist individuals with developmental disabilities increase their involvement in the community. Two Universal changing tables will be installed in Holmes County. One at the County Fairgrounds and the other at the Chamber of Commerce's renovated Visitor's Center. Starting this summer, lightweight foldable manual and power wheelchairs will be available for loan. We hope this equipment will make it easier for families to get out and enjoy a day trip or extended vacation. Stay tuned for additional details.

Holmes County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities  
Strategic Planning Survey



## A LOOK INSIDE THE CLASSROOMS



...By Jessica Martell

2024 is off to an exciting start for the school program. The weather has been a little tricky with sending snowflakes flying one day but sunshine and 50 degree temperatures the following week. We all tried to take advantage of the wild weather no matter what it was. Work happened within the building on the snow filled days, and laughter was shared on the playground when the temperature allowed outside play and a chance to break through the inevitable winter blues.

Ms Jenna's class has continued working diligently at the table on various tasks. Some student favorites are reading books, completing file folders, using paint dobbers, cutting, gluing, and matching.

Ms Kelly's class has been learning about President's Day, the Pledge of Allegiance, and other interesting facts about America's history. The students have enjoyed many different art projects and new stories related to the theme.

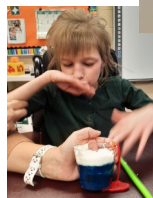
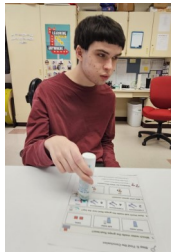
Ms Pam's class enjoyed a variety of science experiments. It was pretty clear that the favorite was definitely making the ice fishing cups! The students are also learning about big and small through a variety of hand held manipulatives and activities.

Mr Grant's class learned about density, would items sink or float when placed in water? The class has also been learning about Walt Disney. They have learned not only about his personal life but the dream that started with a mouse, that has turned into one of the most successful businesses in the world.

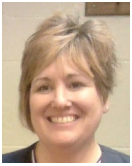
Ms Merri's class has been enjoying learning about the different days of the year. Did you know that each day has something special it celebrates? There was a 'bubble day', 'make your own dog biscuit day', and 'chocolate cake day'! The students also enjoy working on selecting items for the grab bags for Mission Thrift and filling bags of items for the food pantry.

Every classroom participates in the many community outings each week. As always, the work at the "pantry" is a student favorite. These tasks are things the staff work hard to duplicate within the school setting so students can be as independent as possible when they are in the community setting.

Here are few pictures highlighting the students enjoying each day!







## Early Childhood News ... *By Monique Jacobs*

### Winter Blues or a Touch of Spring Fever?

Are you or your children feeling the effects of the long winter or experiencing a touch of spring fever? Playgroups are an outstanding way to get out of the house and interact with others. According to the child development specialists at Zero to Three, children are eager to learn and understand the world around them. From birth, children typically learn through exploration and play. One influential learning tool is participation in playdates with other children.



Playgroups offer many possible benefits to children and their caregivers. Social gatherings such as these help young children learn to interact with peers by teaching them valuable social and communication skills. These helpful learning opportunities also provide exposure to new experiences, settings, and a variety of toys. Lastly, playdates offer a break from technology and encourage children to engage in imaginative play. Playgroups are also excellent opportunities for caregivers to socialize and experience conversation with other adults. This often leads to the sharing of tips, concerns, common experiences, and a sense of connection with other adults.

The Holmes County Early Intervention and Learning Bridge programs are pleased to offer monthly playgroups at the Holmes County Board of DD. These playgroups are open to the public, and all children 16 months to 5 years of age are encouraged to attend. On Feb. 2nd, a record number of 43 children participated in the Valentine's Play Group. With a collaborative spirit, the Holmes County General Health District's Help Me Grow home visitors assisted with a holiday craft project for this joint playgroup.



**Area families are invited to join in the next scheduled playgroup taking place on March 22nd from 10-11 AM.**

**A sensory friendly egg hunt with the Easter bunny will be available.  
The scheduled rain date will be March 26th at 10:00.**



Please call 330-674-8045 with any questions. We hope to see you there.



## Staff Updates...

by Curtis Goehring

There has been a lot happening in terms of personnel changes within the Early Childhood Department in the early months of Calendar Year 2024. For starters, Joan Wilkinson became the newest member of the Board and the E.I. Team; she came on board on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 to fill the open position of Early Intervention Service Coordinator that was recently added to our table of organization. She comes to us with many years of experience in the education and nursing home fields and she loves to learn.

Early 2024 also brought with it the news of the departure of a key staff person on the leadership team as Renee Spencer, Early Childhood Manager, announced her retirement effective at the end of this month (February). Renee Spencer has been with us since December of 2003 and her tenure at the Board very much exhibited her commitment and dedication to the Early Childhood. Department and the families they served. In recent years, Renee worked tirelessly to restructure and reorganize the Early Childhood Department to make the transition to the next department head as seamless as possible.

And speaking of the new department head for Early Childhood, we are excited to share that Monique Jacobs has been promoted to **Early Childhood Manager** beginning this Month (officially on February 8<sup>th</sup>). Monique brings a lot of experience in this field, not only with us the past two years but over her extensive career with the Holmes County Health Department. She is passionate, very knowledgeable, and everyone that works with her loves her positive and uplifting attitude. We are fortunate to have such a member of staff in-house to fill this position.

### Meet the Staff...JOAN WILKINSON

*Where do you live...city/town:* **Nashville**

*Family info:-* **3 children and 2 granddaughters**

*How long at HCBDD:-* **10 weeks**

*What is your role at HCBDD:-* **EI Service coordinator**

*What do you think is the most important part of your job:-* **Helping Families**

*What is an accomplishment you are proud of:-* **My 3 children**

*What is something you are looking forward to:-* **retiring and going to see historical sites**

*What are some of your Hobbies/Activities:-* **Crochet, gardening, hiking/walking my Frenchies**

*What is your Favorite Book and/or Movie:-* **Lonesome Dove for both**

*What is something people would be surprised to know about you:-* **I have had about 15 (or more) broken bones**



## Residential Living in Holmes County..... *by Mimi Lawhead*



Everybody needs help to live a good life. The Holmes County Board of DD provides funding that helps individuals live in our community with their peers. Services are purchased from Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) certified providers, such as R.H.D.D. and D.O.Y. Holmes DD Service and Support Administrators (SSAs), assist individuals and families in exploring their options each year at their annual meeting. Options include living with family, living outside the family home in a community setting, and living in an Immediate Care Facility.

There are five homes in Holmes County owned by Summit Housing Board, where individuals are provided with support based on their assessed needs. Some require many hours of care, while others require very little support. We always try to help them live as independently as possible. The support they receive from their DODD providers is paid for by Holmes DD tax dollars which are matched with funding from their Medicaid waivers.

Individuals who remain living with family members often need intermittent support from a provider, this gives family members respite or on-going support so that they can continue to work and have someone to watch over them in their absence. This type of care is also determined by assessed needs and case-by-case situations. Again, the support received from their DODD providers is paid for by Holmes DD tax dollars matched with funding from their Medicaid Waiver.

Holmes County has two Individual Care Facility (ICF) providers, Midwest Health Services and R.E.M. Ohio. The Holmes County ICFs are in Millersburg and Loudonville. Each provider serves approximately twelve individuals in these homes and provide the residents with care 24 hours a day/7 days a week. Services in ICFs are paid for by Medicaid and do not require Holmes DD tax dollar support. ICFs are licensed by the Ohio Department of Health.

For more information about waiver-funded community residential settings and ICFs, go [here](#). If you need help at home, I encourage you to contact the Holmes County Board of DD and ask to speak to someone in the SSA Department. You and the county board can work together to find the help you and your family needs.



Pictured from left: Krystal, Holly, and Toni have lived together in this house in Millersburg for 10+ years



Pictured from left: Leroy, Marvin and Mike have lived together in this house in Millersburg for 7+ years.



## Updates from Day Program Providers



Here at Gentlebrook, each day brings new educational experience's, fostering a dynamic environment. Bird watching has become a delightful pastime, connecting with nature's diverse inhabitants. Our commitment to sustainable living is evident in the flourishing herb garden we nurture, providing both culinary and aromatic delights. Embracing a healthy lifestyle and regular exercise routines contribute to our overall wellbeing. Currently our collective curiosity centers on the fascinating world of frogs, as we delve into the intricacies of their habitat and behaviors.



This month the group at Sacred Ground has been busy in the kitchen. We made brownies and cookies for Night to Shine and various other desserts together. We really enjoy shopping at local grocery stores for our ingredients and coming back to bake together. We also have enjoyed working on starter plants for our garden and are noticing signs of spring popping up. We are really excited for a Family Fun Night at the Holmes Center for the Arts this month!



## MIDWEST HAPPENINGS



Hello everyone!! At Midwest we have been working hard at continuing to learn what our individuals would like to learn, accomplish, and do in their lives. Based upon what our individuals have told us and what we have observed we have set up stations according to their interests, likes, and their needs. Our individuals seem to be enjoying!



### IMPORTANT DATES

March 28	Bucks vs All Stars Basketball Game & Provider Fair, WHHS, 7:00 pm
March 29	Holmes DD CLOSED
April 1-5	Holmes DD School Spring Break, Office open
May 10-11	HCAHC Spring Festival and Auction
May 23	Last Day for Students
May 27	Memorial Day Holiday , Facility Closed
June 19	Juneteenth Holiday, Facility Closed
July 4	Independence Day Holiday, Facility Closed
Aug 15	First day of School





# 2023/2024 Holmes County Bucks Basketball



..by Cindy Boals



Bucks Send Off to Regionals



Met new friends on the way ...

We have had a fun filled season again this year. We have seen great improvements in ball handling skills, shooting skills, learning to sing the National Anthem and most importantly playing more as a team. Our regular season of Special Olympics Games ended with three wins and six losses. We won our first game at The Regional Tournament held at Spire Institute in Geneva, Ohio, then lost to Strongsville who ended up being our region's Division 5 champions.

Our Holmes County Bucks welcomed three new players to the team this year, as well as 2 new coaches. Our new players are Ida, Jared and Ashley, we are all happy to have them join us. Our new Coaches are Zander Shultz and Deb Miller they have been a great help to us all.

While we welcomed new players and new coaches, we also sadly had to say goodbye to one of our long-time family members. Todd Day passed away on January 22 . He was a great mentor, coach, supporter and especially husband and dad.



**Bucks**  
**vs**  
**Park National Bank**

**HAPPY**  
**even if we lost**  
**our second game**  
**at Regional Tournaments!**



**Bucks**  
**vs**  
**Sacred Grounds**



We all know that our HC Bucks season is not over until we have our Annual Holmes County Bucks vs The Community All Star Game. This will be held on Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup> at West Holmes High School at 7 pm. There will be a basket raffle, 50/50 drawing as well as lots of fun filled laughter.



## Night to Shine returned to Holmes County!

February 9, 2024 was a magical night for almost 80 Honored Guests walked the red carpet at Grace Church (Berlin) for Night to Shine. Holmes County Board of DD was able to once again partner with Grace Church and The Tim Tebow Foundation to bring this amazing prom event to Holmes County for the second year in a row.

The Tim Tebow Foundation's Night to Shine is a global prom event that honors individuals with a disability aged 14 and older all over the world! Holmes DD and Grace Church were blessed to receive support from the community to make this years event a successful one. Local churches donated food, area businesses provided financial donations or goodie bag items, and many talented individuals donated their time and expertise. This year's event would not have been possible without the 175 volunteers who made the evening magical from the moment the Honored Guests entered the parking lot. The evening was filled with dancing, laughter, camera flashes, karaoke, red carpet walking, games, shoe shining, hair styling, balloon making, limo rides, delicious food, and memories that will last a lifetime. We are already looking forward to next years event!





## 2024 QUILT DROP OFF LOCATIONS

The 46th Annual Spring Festival is coming May 10 & 11.  
If you made a quilt to donate, please take it to one of the houses listed.

### THANK YOU!

ALLEN & SUSAN BURKHOLDER (Jolene & Geneva)  
6119 TR 363  
MILLERSBURG, Ohio 44654  
330 893-3302

ANDREW & MIIRIAM YODER (Justin)  
6440 SR 515  
MILLERSBURG, OHIO 44654  
330-893-1331

DAVID & DOROTHY YODER (Carol & Marcus)  
2285 CR 58  
MILLERSBURG, OHIO 44654  
330-674-1694

NELSON & VERA HERSHBERGER (Ray & Aaron)  
5925 CR 59  
MILLERSBURG, OHIO 44654  
330-275-3740

OWEN & CHRISTENA YODER (Aaron)  
2797 CR 160  
MILLERSBURG, OH 44654  
330-600-1702

LEROY & BARB YODER (Lorene)  
3649 TR 159  
SUGARCREEK, OH 44681  
330-893-3479

MARK & MARTHA RABER (Lena)  
3536 TR 184  
BAL TIC, OH 43804  
330-897-1019



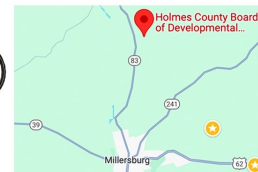
## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2024

VIEWING OF QUILTS AND CRAFTS  
BAKE SALE.....3 P.M. TO 10 P.M.  
SOUP & SANDWICHES.....5 P.M. TO 10 P.M.  
ENTERTAINMENT.....6 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.  
OPEN VOLLEYBALL.....6 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT

### SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024

BREAKFAST.....7 A.M. TO 10 A.M.  
BAKE SALE.....7 A.M. TO SOLD OUT  
CRAFT & FURNITURE AUCTION.....9 A.M.  
SILENT AUCTION.....9 A.M. TO 1 P.M.  
CHILDREN'S GAMES.....9 - 11 & 1 - 3  
CHICKEN BBQ.....11:30 A.M. TO SELL OUT  
QUILT AUCTION.....12 P.M.  
SPECIAL AUCTION/RAFFLE.....12:30 P.M.



### Located at:

### Holmes County Training Center/ Holmes County Board of DD

8001 Township Road 574, Holmesville, OH: 4.5 miles north of Millersburg  
Information: 330-674-8045

Visit us on Facebook at: HCAHC Annual Spring Festival



**46th**  
**SPRING**  
**BENEFIT**  
**AUCTION**  
**& Festival**  
**at the**  
**HOLMES COUNTY**  
**TRAINING CENTER**  
To benefit Holmes County children & adults with developmental disabilities  
**MAY 10-11, 2024**  
**SPECTACULAR RAFFLE PRIZES!!!**  
(Details on Reverse)



Sponsored by the  
Holmes County Association for Handicapped Citizens





## Fires & Burns

***Did you know?.....*** Cooking fires are the top cause of home fires and home injuries. Here are few suggestions to help you prevent a fire or burn in your home.

- Keep candles and other sources of flames out of reach of children and away from anything flammable. Opt for flameless candles instead if possible.
- Stay with your food when you cook. Cooking mishaps are the number one cause of fires, and a fire is most likely to occur when the stove is unattended.
- Use back burners of the stove so children can't accidentally knock over pots or grab something hot.
- Keep chimneys and drier exhaust well vented and free of flammable buildup by cleaning them regularly.
- Install and maintain smoke detectors throughout your home.
- Three in five fire deaths result from home fires with no smoke or working smoke alarms.
- Keep space heaters at least a few feet away from anything flammable like blankets, clothing, and curtains.
- Keep fire extinguishers in common areas like kitchens, near fireplaces, and other sources of heat.
- Keep curling irons and clothing irons out of reach of children and away from ledges electric wiring and flammable materials.

## Mothers' Club Quilting

8:00 – 3:00

Wednesday, March 20

Thursday, March 21



Wall hanging, comforter, and quilt will be sold at the HCAHC Spring Festival.  
Proceeds benefit the families of Special Needs Individuals in Holmes County.  
Please call if you did not get a flyer!

**HOLMES COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

**8001 TOWNSHIP ROAD 574**

**HOLMESVILLE, OHIO 44633**

## **HOLMES COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES CONTACTS**

**Marianne Mader, Superintendent**

**Jessica Martell, Education Director**

**Curtis Goehring, Business Manager**

**Mimi Lawhead, Service & Support Administration Supervisor**

**Monique Jacobs, Early Childhood Manager**

**[www.holmesdd.org](http://www.holmesdd.org)**

**Phone: 330-674-8045**

**Fax 330-674-5182**

**The mission of the Holmes County Board of Developmental Disabilities**

**is to support individuals in living meaningful lives.**