

## Superintendent's Message

*by Marianne Mader*

The first Developmental Disabilities Awareness month was March 1987 when Ronald Reagan issued a Presidential Proclamation that called upon Americans to provide the “encouragement and opportunities” necessary for people with developmental disabilities to reach their potential. Today, DD Awareness month focuses on raising awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life, as well as awareness of the barriers that people with disabilities still sometimes face in connecting to the communities in which they live. Holmes DD is committed to this important work as can be seen in our vision statement “a community where everyone belongs”.

In response to COVID, we decided to change how our Bucks basketball team competes this season. Instead of what we have historically done, travel 90+ minutes in one direction to play a basketball game against another team of Special Olympic athletes, we tried something new this year. The Bucks stay here in Holmes County and play teams from local businesses and churches. We weren’t really sure how this would work but I am pleased to report that the response to these games has been GREAT! Not only are the games great fun for the Bucks but the opposing team benefits from a unique experience. Interacting face to face with the Bucks players, community members learn from the Bucks. First of all, they learn the Bucks are really good at basketball. They throw up some shots that you don’t think will go in, but they do! And everyone lets loose with a joyful noise when they see that ball go through the net. Community members witness firsthand the genuine sportsmanship displayed by the Bucks when they hand the ball to a teammate so that player has an opportunity to make a basket. It all looks like fun and games but hearts and attitudes change because of these games as many of these community members have never interacted with a person with a disability. A big thank you to the Bucks players and their coaches (Duane Morrison, Rachel Day, and Miriam Miller) for being ambassadors of good will here in Holmes County.



# HCAHC Spring Festival News

After a 2 year break, the Spring Festival is returning! The Festival Committee is busy planning the 44th annual Spring Festival for Friday, May 13 and Saturday, May 14. Donations of quilts, hand-crafted items, and raffle prizes are welcome! All activities from previous years are on the schedule including a bake sale, volleyball tournament, live music, food, auctions, kids games, raffle, and more food! Encourage your friends and family to save the dates of May 13 and 14.

This HCAHC fundraiser supports individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.



**Friday Evening, May 13 & Saturday, May 14, 2022**

**to benefit...**

the children and adults who receive services from the Holmes County Board of DD

**Raffle Tickets: \$500<sup>00</sup> Prize Drawing at 12:30 p.m.**

**Craft/Furniture Auction: 9:00 a.m.**

**Quilt Auction: 2:00 p.m.**

Featuring over 100 Amish-made comforters, quilts & wallhangers



Sponsored by the Holmes County Association for Handicapped Citizens

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

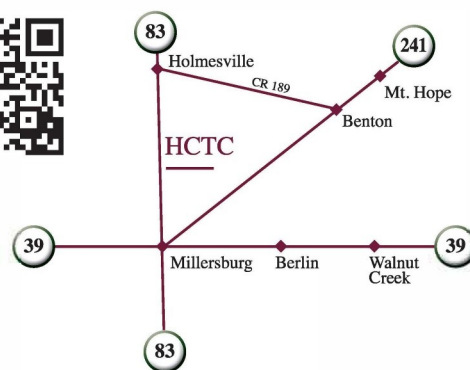
**Friday, May 13 2022**

*Viewing of quilts and crafts.*

Entertainment ..... 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.  
Open Volleyball ..... 6:30 p.m. to Midnight  
Soup & Sandwiches ..... 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
Bake Sale ..... 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

**Saturday, May 14, 2022**

Breakfast ..... 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
Bake Sale ..... 7:00 a.m. to Sold Out  
Craft & Furniture Auction ..... 9:00 a.m.  
Silent Auction ..... 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Children's Games ..... 10:00 a.m. to Noon  
..... 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Chicken Barbeque ..... 11:30 a.m. to Sell Out  
Special Auction ..... 1:00 p.m.  
Quilt Auction ..... 2:00 p.m.



**Holmes County Board of DD**  
**(Holmes County Training Center)**

8001 Township Road 574 • Holmesville, OH  
4.5 miles north of Millersburg (off SR 83)

**For more information call: 330.674.8045**



**www.holmesdd.org**





# We are thankful!

Holmes DD has received financial support from State, Federal, and local groups over the last several months.

Funds received from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund paid for summer therapies for students during the summer months in 2021 and will again in 2022. Holmes DD also used GEER funds to purchase iPads, therapy equipment, instructional software, assistive technology devices, and computers for our classrooms.

Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act are being used to purchase instructional supplies for school students and computers for Early Intervention staff.

American Heart Association/NFL grant: Only 32 schools in the nation received this grant submitted by teacher Grant Fox. Funds will be used to buy physical education equipment.

Family Fundraiser: A family member of a school student held a Tupperware fundraiser for the school and raised funds to purchase new switches for our students.

We feel truly blessed to receive these funds that have benefited our students, their families and our staff!



## Important Dates

<b>March 15</b>	Bucks vs All Star Game, Provider Fair
<b>March 28—April 1</b>	Spring Break. No services.
<b>April 15</b>	Good Friday. Facility closed.
<b>May 13</b>	Festival Work-Day. No services.
<b>May 14</b>	HCAHC 44th Annual Spring Festival.
<b>May 25</b>	Last day of school for students.
<b>May 30</b>	Memorial Day Holiday. Facility closed.

**Don't forget  
to "LIKE"  
us on  
Facebook.**





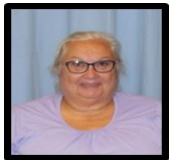
## Dave's Safety Corner

*by Dave Crilow*

**Safety first**

Accidents can happen anywhere, at work, on the road, and even at home. No matter where the accident actually occurred, it can affect you on the job. In order to keep you safe and healthy each day make sure you know about the most common hazards as well as how to prevent them. (all around the house)

1. Stairs—keep stairs clean and clutter free, and install handrails in stairways.
2. Furniture—arrange furniture items for easy navigation around them.
3. Fires—always supervise flames, like candles and fireplaces, and extinguish thoroughly when finished.
4. Emergency Contact—keep important phone numbers listed nearby in case of emergencies. A suggestion from a first responder: identify your emergency contact in your cell phone as ICE (In Case of Emergency).
5. Storage—store the most commonly used items in your home in the most easily accessible places.



## Bucks Basketball

*by Miriam Miller*

The Holmes County Bucks are having a fun-filled “season”, even if we’re not participating in Special Olympics basketball! Thanks to Dave Mast’s article in the Bargain Hunter, we’ve played 4 games.....and we’re undefeated!!!! We’ve played games with Grant & Friends, United Dayspring church, Patrick Shiver’s team, and ProMotion Therapy. Everyone has had a great time.

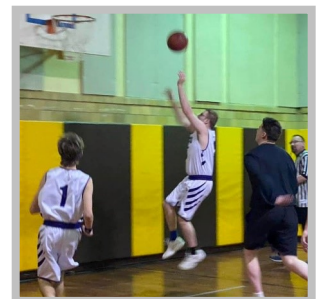
The March schedule is: March 1<sup>st</sup> vs New Hope church, March 8<sup>th</sup> vs Holmes Lumber, March 10<sup>th</sup> vs Killbuck Savings Bank, March 15<sup>th</sup> vs Community All Stars, and March 23<sup>rd</sup> vs HCTC staff.

All the games except the March 15th All Star Game are played at Holmesville Elementary at 6:30. The All Star game will be at West Holmes High School at 7:00. Come on out and cheer on the team! GOOOOOOO Bucks!

Ty Myers of ProMotion Therapy has been asked to be the interim coach for the All Stars team. If anyone wants to play for the All Stars, please contact Ty at 330-600-0844 or text Rachel Summers at 330-763-4258



**GO BUCKS**  
GO BUCKS





## Did you know ... *By Renee Spencer, Early Intervention Coordinator*

Did you know that the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) says no screen time for children under the age of 18 months unless it is video-chatting? For children 18 – 24 months, screen time should be along with someone who is engaged with them to help them understand what they are seeing.

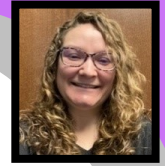
Why such recommendations? For two big reasons: First, it seems children who engage in a large amounts of screen time have changes in their brain; there is a “thinning” in areas that do thinking, reasoning, imagination, learning, and language called the cortex. It also impacts children’s ability to attend to “non-screen” activities. A second big reason, children under two learn less from a screen than when learning from another person.

Then from age 2 – 5, the AAP recommends limiting screen time to 1 hour of high-quality programming. Although children can learn from programming it is narrow, or what is called “silo” learning. It’s like only doing bicep curls when lifting weights – the arms get strong but everywhere else stays weak – the same thing happens in the brain when children have a lot of screen time.

It doesn’t stop with learning, language, and creativity; OTs and PTs are seeing children who are heavy screen users have less development in motor and proprioceptive areas. This doesn’t mean that children aren’t captivated or entertained by screens as we all know! It is so easy to give a young child a smartphone or tablet to entertain them while riding in a car, shopping, waiting in line or when we are trying to get something done but resist the urge!!! Instead take the extra effort to engage children and include them in what you are doing! They will learn in a much “richer” way.



## School News *By Jessica Martell*



January was “National Soup Month”. To celebrate, the school collected canned soup to donate to the Millersburg Church of God food pantry. Throughout the month the students completed various academic activities using the cans they brought in. In total, the students donated 145 cans to the food pantry!

January also brought a national challenge to donate to an animal shelter in honor of Betty White. We were able to make a monetary donation along with dog food, treats, leashes, and toys to the Holmes County Dog Warden.

There will be some happy dog lovers when they receive your donated items in support of the work of our local dog pound efforts to secure good homes for them.



Plastic lid update: We have been so blessed with your generosity of saving plastic lids for us! We have been able to purchase 2 8' benches for the main entrance and 2 speed bumps for the parking lot. We have enjoyed all of the jobs that this project has brought to our students; however, we will not be purchasing any additional items at this time. We are excited to continue this job with the intention to donate the lids to other organizations so they are able to purchase items for their buildings.

Thank you for your support with these projects. We look forward to completing more projects like this in the future.

## School Activities for DD Month

The school students will participate in a variety of activities throughout the month of March to celebrate DD awareness. The month kicks off with a travel based job fair. Each classroom selected a destination and shared information about visiting and/or working there. Some of the places presented were Hawaii, Arizona, and the Ark Encounter. The classrooms also created an online experience for their destination/job. The school is also busy creating an online talent show. Hosting the talent show online allows for new talent to be discovered and the fun to continue all month. Several teachers from West Holmes and Southeast Local are joining in the fun with the online experience with both jobs and talents of their own! What a great way to include other schools during our month!

If you would like to join our online adventures, please contact Jessica at 330-674-8045 or [jmartell@holmesdd.org](mailto:jmartell@holmesdd.org) for more information.

# Holmes County Partnership Transition Network

By Mimi Patterson



HCPTN has released a new website and Facebook page for families and youth of Holmes County. The website was established to share information and resources to assist families with a child between the ages of 14-24 on an IEP. The Transition Network's goal is to ensure youth have access to necessary services to help them become contributing members of their community.

Visit the website at: <https://sites.google.com/view/hcptn>. The Holmes County Transition Partnership Network has also planned a series of focus groups that are being held remotely using ZOOM. Topics have included Summer Youth Work Experience, Supportive Decision Making and coming later in March, the Ohio Treasurer's office, will be discussing STABLE Accounts. For more information, visit the website, Facebook page, or contact Mimi Patterson

**Holmes County Board of D.D. will host their first Provider Fair:** We are all looking forward to our Annual Holmes County Bucks VS Community All Stars basketball game on March 15<sup>th</sup> at the West Holmes High School. This year we will be having our first provider fair in conjunction with the game. Providers from our service area will attend this event and be available to meet you and answer any questions you may have. This event will be held just outside the gymnasium and begin at 6:00 PM and end at 8:00 PM. Gentlebrook, Midwest Health, DOY, Mom's Meals, Sacred Ground, Safe in Home, Mid East Ohio Regional Council and Ohio Network for Innovation. Providers need us just as much as we need them, we hope to see you all there!



## Where are they now? ...Deb Barnes...

by Curtis Goehring



Deb Barnes worked in several roles during her tenure with us from 2002 to 2020, first in the Adult Program and then as an SSA Assistant. She is enjoying her retirement, though she remains very active. Deb helps take care of her father, spends time with friends and family, and walks her dog (a yellow Labrador) twice daily – no matter how cold! She has four grandchildren, two in Arizona and two in Montana, and visits when she can, though she wishes that they lived closer so that she would be able to see them more often.

Deb loved working at the Board and misses the fun she had while working with the individuals we served, especially being involved in self-advocacy roles and helping persons find their "voice" in matters of importance to them. Some of the fondest memories she has are the many laughs and good times she shared while here, and the companionship she felt with the other staff and individuals (including breaking out in song on the production floor at times).

Going forward, Deb is hoping to volunteer at a local nursing home where she will be helping residents in reading letter, writing letters, and playing games.



# Ohio State University - Assistive Technology (AT) of Ohio

AT Ohio's mission is to help Ohioans with disabilities learn about or acquire assistive technology. Assistive Technology refers to devices, equipment or services that assist individuals with disabilities to function independently in the areas of work, home or school. We offer several programs and services to achieve that goal.

The **Device Lending Library** is one of AT Ohio's programs.

AT Ohio has a large library of assistive technology devices for you to try out, free of charge.

All high-tech AAC devices (Accent 800, 1000, 1400, Tobii Dynvox I-13, I-16, etc.) must be borrowed through Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) or Occupational Therapists (OTs) only. Families wishing to borrow a high-tech AAC device through Assistive Technology of Ohio MUST have an SLP or OT they are currently working with request the device.

Assistive technology devices can be life-changing - but they can also be very expensive. In tough budget times, you don't want to go out and buy an expensive device and then find out that isn't the right device for you. Fortunately, with the Assistive Technology of Ohio Device Lending Library, you don't have to.

Simply peruse our library for a device you think may be of benefit to you, then request it through our on-line application. Once we receive the signed agreement form, we will contact you with approval notice and shipping information. (We communicate through email. If you are borrowing a device, please check your email for updates and information on your request.)

You may try the device for 30 days from the day you receive it. No device will be released without a signed agreement form.

AT Ohio will send you a shipping label along with the device for you to return it to us after the 30-day trial period. If you prefer, you may also drop the device off at our west campus location.

Please note: due to the end of the school year, the cut off date to request devices used by SLPs, teachers, etc. in the school is April 30.

For more information, please call Gaye Spetka at 800-784-3425, 614-292-2390 or email [spetka.1@osu.edu](mailto:spetka.1@osu.edu) or [atohio.org](http://atohio.org).

## iPad with communication apps policy

iPads with speech apps can only be borrowed by professionals such as Speech Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, and teachers. If you are a parent wishing to borrow an iPad with speech apps, you MUST have an SLP, teacher or an Occupational Therapist request the device. The device will be shipped to the professional requesting it. We are no longer shipping iPads to families.

<https://atohio.org/device-lending-library>



## Meet the staff... *Grant Fox*



### **Where do you live?**

Shreve

### **Tell us about your family.**

Wife- Jaimi, Kids- Ryder-11, Tennessee- 6, Arrow-4, Dog- Wilder

### **How long have you worked at HCBDD?**

11 years

### **What is your role at HCBDD?**

Middle/High School Teacher

### **What do you think is the most important part of your job?**

Caring for the students every day. I believe seeing each kid smile is essential for them to have a good day. Finding what they enjoy doing and adjusting everyday task to fit their individual needs.

### **What is an accomplishment you are proud of?**

Watching the students grow into young adults. This is remarkable to see where they were when they were young to where they are now as young man or young lady.

### **What is something you are looking forward to?**

The Spring Festival and all the great food that is offered. Mark your calendars, two days of yummy food May 13-14.

### **What are some of your Hobbies/Activities?**

I enjoy playing golf, watching my kids in sporting events, and family vacations. There is nothing better then spending quality time with your family. They all grow up fast.

### **What is your Favorite Book and/or Movie?**

Toy Story, I was able to enjoy it as a kid, and now I am re-enjoying it as an adult with my children when they watch them.

### **What is something people would be surprised to know about you?**

I am colorblind, don't mind me when I do not match.



**HOLMES COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

**8001 TOWNSHIP ROAD 574**

**HOLMESVILLE, OHIO 44633**

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**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.**