

November  
2021



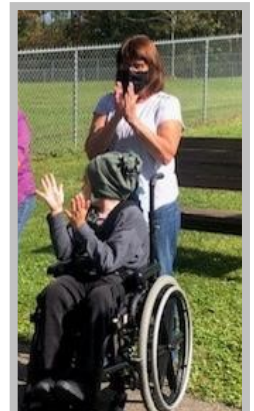
# NEWSLETTER

HOLMES COUNTY  
**Board of Developmental Disabilities**  
*supporting people in living meaningful lives*



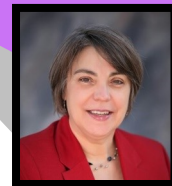
## Story Walk ...By Rhoda Mast

Taking a walk through a book was one of the fun activities each class enjoyed this fall. This unique approach to enjoying a book was located outdoors at the Holmes County Library and available to the public. Along the path where pages of the book are enlarged and designed for engagement, we found large motor equipment to keep us moving and interacting. The smiles on students' faces and their willingness to tap buttons, do motions and get on the equipment gave us a clear message that they had fun while learning. We appreciate this opportunity made possible by our local library. You may want to check this out as a family outing, too.



# Superintendent's Message

by Marianne Mader



In June, Holmes DD started work identified in our Strategic Plan and have made progress in our 4 broad objectives.

## LEARNING AND GROWING:

Cybersecurity checklist has been updated and is being addressed.

Staff have been surveyed regarding their computer/IT needs.

School/EI staff received communication device training.

All direct support staff received behavior support training.

## IMPROVING SERVICES:

SSAs are focusing on community employment by increasing and tracking referrals to Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities.

Exploring an expansion of Early Childhood services.

Transferring ownership and management of homes for adults receiving Board services.

## RELATIONSHIP BUILDING:

Advocacy program has expanded to include adults attending Midwest Community Services.

Bucks Basketball and Track and Field Day are exploring options that include community involvement.

Providing support to providers in Holmes county by publicizing their staffing needs, providing limited funding for emergency situations, providing training opportunities and support.

A wide variety of surveys being used to gain feedback.

## SUSTAINABILITY:

Identifying high school graduates who may require adult services in June.

Pursuing revenue streams such as applying for grants and contracting Holmes DD staff to related organizations.

Increasing the community's awareness of Holmes DD services by participating in the County Fair, Antique Festival, and sharing information on Facebook and the Bargain Hunter

Launching a Request for Proposal process to transition adult services to a private provider(s).

A lot of progress has been made over the past few months. We look forward to seeing how the hard work continues to benefit the individuals we serve.



## Bucks Basketball Update

*By Miriam Miller*

Bucks basketball is still on for this season-BUT-in a different way! This year we won't be playing Special Olympics teams due to Holmes DD's COVID protocol. However we've come up with a new plan! Starting in November (as soon as we get dates and times set up) we will practice/play scrimmages at either a local church or elementary school gym. Then hopefully in January we can schedule some "pick up games" with area businesses/organizations. This will be good practice for our annual games vs Wayne-dale and West Holmes! Plus we're hoping to do the All Star game in March. We won't get to see our Special Olympic friends .....but we will have fun! Stay tuned for more information!

**GO BUCKS!**



## Staffing News

*by Curtis Goehring*

In staffing news, Keith McClure, who has been a bus driver for us for 25 years, is retiring later this month (November). Keith is a passionate and consciousness employee with an attention for detail. He enjoyed his job and will be missed. We wish him well and much enjoyment in his retirement. Thank you Keith for all your years of service.



## Aira Horizon Smart Glasses

The Aira Horizon Smart Glasses can help people who are blind or have visual impairments with “seeing” their environment. Aira has built a service that puts a human assistant into a blind user's ear by beaming live-streaming footage from the glasses’ camera to the company's agents/human assistants (highly-trained people who can see their surroundings). They can then give audio instructions to the end users. The human assistants can present them with directions or describe scenes for them. It can help people overcome day-to-day obstacles, such as crossing a busy intersection, assist with shopping, reading a prescription label or other documents, household chores, traveling or enjoying social occasions (including one user running a marathon).

The glasses integrate a 120-degree wide-angle camera so the human assistants can gain a fuller picture of a user’s surroundings and won’t have to instruct them to point their head in a different direction quite as much.

A video demonstrates how the assistive glasses can help a person: [YouTube](#): “Assistive Glasses Describe New Places to Jordy”



## Board Member Needed

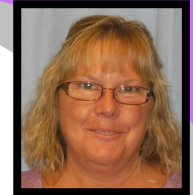


The Holmes County Board of Developmental is directed by 7 Holmes County residents. Board members volunteer to serve a 4-year term, set policy, and provide financial oversight. Board members must be able to attend 10 meetings and 4 training sessions each year. Holmes DD is in need of a Board member to start in January. If you are interested, please contact Superintendent, Marianne Mader.



# Community Volunteering

by Cindy Boals



Hope, Blake, and I started volunteering at the Love Center Food Pantry in April 2021. It was for a “trial” to see if it worked for us to help. When we started, it was simply to help unload the food truck from the Akron Food Bank on Monday mornings. It quickly progressed to volunteering in the afternoons on Mondays and Wednesday with the area clients coming through to pick up groceries.

Both Hope and Blake were accepted as a part of the volunteer team right away. Both have learned skills that can be used when they obtain a job in the community. So far, they have done tasks such as packaging food, sorting, set up, and cleaning fresh produce.

Hope and Blake have made many new friends and reconnected with old friends during our time at the Love Center.

A quick note from Edgar Raber, The Love Center Pantry Director:

The Love Center Food Pantry is blessed with a great group of volunteers. We work hard but we have a lot of fun in the process. This spring we welcomed Blake and Hope as volunteers; and they have brought a new joy and excitement to the food pantry. They help us with stocking warehouse shelves in the mornings, but their afternoon job is to help give the clients their food. Blake enjoys going with Roger to pick up produce while Hope enjoys talking to the clients and sharing her stories. Cindy does a great job of helping them stay focused and encouraging them as they do their work. It is a blessing to partner with Lynn Hope Industries in giving back to our community.





## Always learning

*By Jessica Martell*



During the August in-service days, the school staff were fortunate enough to spend two hours with Elyse Pycraft, a speech and language pathologist with Prentke Romich Company. Elyse provided a refresher on the importance of communication and shared some new and exciting ideas to try with our students. Elyse gave so many wonderful ideas during her time with us in August, but of course, we wanted more! Elyse was able to join the staff during the October 29th in-service for more classroom specific ideas and trainings. She even brought some items for our staff to trial with the students. Elyse will be returning on December 1st with additional items and ideas. We are so thankful to have Erin, our full-time speech language pathologist, facilitate the collaboration so we can all learn together. Erin has been eager to try some of the new ideas Elyse shared with us. We are already using a word of the week and will soon implement a strategy of the month to engage students even more. Through these hours of collaboration with Elyse staff have been able to work more effectively with the students to help them each find their voice.



## One Call Now Test Coming

When there is a 2 hour delay or a closure, families will receive a notification from our system, ONE CALL NOW. We will notify you around 6:00 AM for a delay/closure. If we initially call a delay and weather conditions worsen and a closure is necessary, we will notify you around 8:00 AM.

Everyone in our ONE CALL NOW System will receive a test notification on Tuesday, November 16. ONE CALL NOW will appear on your caller ID as 877-698-3261 (phone) or 223-00 (text).

If your loved one attends our school, adult Hab, or LHI and you do not get a ONE CALL NOW call or text on November 16, please let us know by calling our office.

You can also get information about delays and closings by calling our main number after 6:30 AM (330-674- 8045); listening to WKLM or WQKT radio; checking our Facebook page or watching WKYC Channel 3.

## A Recap of Our Fall...



Paul was kind enough to offer wagon rides for our individuals to enjoy the weather and fall foliage.



We always enjoy the Antique Festival Parade. This year was no different! We had several individuals and staff ride on our wagon to throw the candy to the crowd. It was a fun day for everyone involved.



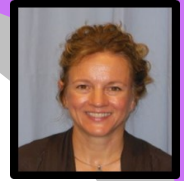
In late September we had a visit from our friends at Holmes Center for the Arts. About 25 adults had an opportunity to participate in an Art project, sing-a-long, and explore movement by doing Tai Chi. Holmes Center for the Arts regularly visits Holmes DD as part of their outreach program.



Thank  
You



## Working Collaboratively ...By Renee Spencer



Meet Marcus: blonde hair, blue eyes, loves big hugs and playing ball but as much as he loves to play, transitioning to new things are hard. Transitioning to new things or places is often difficult for children who have autism spectrum disorder. When Marcus was about to turn 3 the family knew that Early Intervention (EI) would be ending and preschool would be starting; this would be a challenging time for Marcus. As a result, the family wanted to work on going to preschool during EI visits so the experience would be less difficult.

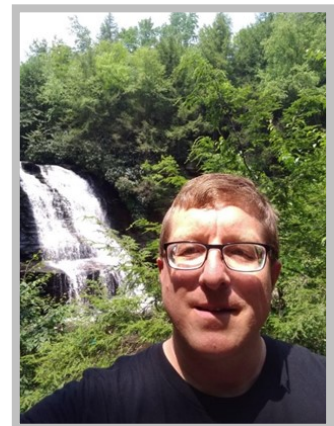
The EI team, which included an OT, speech therapist, and a developmental specialist, did several things to help make this experience positive and successful. They created a video of the preschool schedule so Marcus could see the classrooms and routine. The EI team had the family use timers and picture schedules that are used in preschool at their home so he could be familiar with those strategies. They also created songs to prepare for transitions which could be used at preschool and home. In addition, the OT had Marcus play in the sensory room so the team could identify his sensory preferences which then would be used at preschool. The OT found that Marcus responded well to wearing a weighted vest, jumping, and having access to a tent where he could go to feel calm. As you can see from the picture, Marcus is now enjoying preschool and adjusting well.



## Where are they now?

*by Curtis Goehring*

John Krabill was an Intervention Specialist (teacher) with us from 1998 through 2008. He was very popular with the students (in fact, his portrait is on the wall outside his old classroom – across from the gymnasium entrance). In the time since his employment with us, he has worked in both the Southeast Local School District and currently with the West Holmes School District as an Intervention Specialist. When asked what he missed most about his time at Holmes DD, John said that the attitude here was more like a family than a workplace. He went on to list some of the great memories he had, including coaching Special Olympics, making apple butter, “guarding” the craft items overnight when our pavilion was open (not enclosed as it is now), and the Spring Auction every year. When not working, John loves being in the outdoors. He and his wife, who is also a teacher, enjoy camping, hiking, etc. during their summer breaks.





## Meet the staff... *Sheri Martin*



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

Currently live in Wooster near my mother.

### **How long have you worked at HCBDD and what is your role?**

I have worked at HCBDD for 29 years. I started as a Case Manager. I am the Assistant Administrator. I currently work a lot with the adult program and transportation.

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

Being available to staff, individuals, and families regarding any concerns or questions they may have.

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

Obtaining my Masters in Education while working here.

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

Being able to travel again without being so worried about Covid.

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

Snorkeling, reading, doing sudoku puzzles.

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

My favorite book is Atlas Shrugged and favorite movie would be the Godfather series.

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

I won the State FFA Timber Cruising contest when I was in High School.

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## Important Dates

- November 11** Veteran's Day. Facility closed.
- November 24** School Thanksgiving Break. Adult services open.
- November 25, 26** Thanksgiving Holiday. Facility closed.
- December 22-31** Winter break. No services.
- December 23, 24** Facility closed.
- December 30, 31** Facility closed.

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to "LIKE"  
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Facebook.**



**HOLMES COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

**8001 TOWNSHIP ROAD 574**

**HOLMESVILLE, OHIO 44633**

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

**Marianne Mader, Superintendent**

**Sheri L. Martin, Asst. Administrator/Adult Services Director**

**Rhoda Mast, Principal**

**Curtis Goehring, Business Manager**

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

**Renee Spencer, Early Intervention Coordinator**

**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.**