

See The Ability

A Newsletter by the Trumbull County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Athletes Celebrate Abilities at Arrowhead Stadium

The Trumbull County Invitational Special Olympics Track Meet was held on Saturday, May 10th! Athletes from Trumbull and surrounding counties enjoyed the beautiful weather and comradery. Opening ceremonies kicked off with the singing of the national anthem by Nikko Capitte, remarks by TCBDD Superintendent Edward Stark, and presentation of colors by Junior ROTC Air Force members.

Special Olympics is a global sports movement that unleashes the human spirit every day around the world, and right here in Trumbull County, through the transformative power and joy of sport. For more information on how you can join or volunteer for Trumbull County Special Olympics program, contact: RobertGreene@tcbdd.org



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Proposed HHS Budget Cuts - Impact on DD Services

At the Trumbull County Board of Developmental Disabilities (TCBDD), we believe every person deserves the opportunity to live a full, meaningful life—regardless of ability. Our work is made possible through strong partnerships with local, state, and federal programs that help support people with developmental disabilities and their families.

However, proposed cuts to federal funding for developmental disabilities programs are threatening to undermine decades of progress, not just here in Trumbull County, but across Ohio and the nation.

WHAT'S AT RISK?

Congress created the protection and advocacy system and university centers of excellence in developmental disabilities over 50 years ago and current budget proposals would eliminate most of these entirely. Thousands of people with disabilities living in Ohio who are currently served by these programs would be directly affected. Cuts to these vital programs could result in the following:

- Thousands losing access to legal help when facing abuse or discrimination.
- Families losing essential inclusive education options.
- People with disabilities facing longer waitlists for care, fewer choices, and diminished independence.
- Researchers and disability professionals losing vital funding, slowing innovation.
- Family and self-advocacy groups disappear, silencing crucial voices.

Proposed cuts may mean longer waitlists, reduced services, and fewer opportunities for people with disabilities to live, learn, and work in their communities.

IMPACT ON OHIO FAMILIES

Ohio is home to more than 100,000 people with developmental disabilities, and many of them rely on these essential supports every day. Without adequate federal funding, the strain would fall on already stretched state and county resources. Families may be forced to make impossible choices—between work and caregiving, between health and housing, or between inclusion and isolation.

Programs that currently empower people to live independently could face serious setbacks, and many individuals could lose critical access to the care and support they need to thrive.

OUR COMMITMENT

The Trumbull County Board of DD remains committed to advocating for those we serve. We are actively working with state and national partners to raise awareness about the potential impacts of these funding cuts. We are also reaching out to policymakers to share stories of the real people whose lives will be affected.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

We encourage our community members to stay informed and raise their voices. You can:

- Contact your congressional representatives and share your support for disability services
- Follow organizations like the Ohio Association of County Boards of DD (OACB) and The Arc of Ohio for updates and advocacy opportunities
- Share your story—how disability services have impacted your life or your loved one's life

Together, we can ensure that all Ohioans with developmental disabilities continue to receive the respect, support, and services they deserve.

For more information, please visit our website at www tcbdd com or contact us directly. Your voice matters, and your support makes all the difference.

Edward Stark
Superintendent,
Trumbull County Board of DD

Summer Mobile Farmer's Market Program

Fairhaven School is hosting the Summer Mobile Farmer's Market Program for 7 weeks during the summer for our students. The Summer Mobile Farmer's Market is a grant program that provides students each week with a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, a gallon of milk, a package of hot dogs, a package of bologna, a bag of shredded cheddar cheese, a package of sliced American cheese, and made to order fresh Peanut Butter jars.

The produce selection is vast, offering new items each week and all of our students' favorites.

We have used this amazing opportunity to provide job skills to our school age students. Molly Spisak, Stacy Rigg, and Robin Pennybaker have helped teach our students how to receive and breakdown deliveries, and package items for distribution. Rick Mistovich developed a partnership with The Causeway at Mineral Ridge operated by TWI. TWI job coaches bring their adult clients each week to help us and provide an opportunity to develop job skills. Our Transportation department led by Jennifer Durno, Richard Morgan, and Tammy Bailey offered helping hands by developing a delivery route for our bus drivers to make sure all students can participate in our Summer Mobile Farmer's Market Meal program. The Fairhaven Family is blessed to have so many helping hands!

Cafeteria supervisor, Lindsey Ison, said "it feels great to share this program with our students while they are home for the summer. It provides items to create nutritious meals and promote healthy eating habits!"



Fairhaven School Welcomes New Assistant Principal



Shannon Shelton, an experienced teacher and administrator has joined the Trumbull County Board of Developmental Disabilities Fairhaven School as the Assistant Principal. Shannon has a bachelor of science degree from Youngstown State University in Special Education and a Master of Science Degree in Educational Leadership from Ashland University. Shelton is an accomplished intervention specialist who has spent her entire career in special education.

Shelton replaces Michelle Ocilka-Yeckle who was promoted to Principal due to the departure of Sandra Kernen.

"Shannon is a conscientious and dynamic educator. Her enthusiasm for our students and their families and support she will provide to our staff will be invaluable," said Edward Stark, Superintendent at the Trumbull County Board of DD. "She is a welcome addition to our team!"

Shannon shared "I'm truly excited to be part of the Fairhaven team and to begin this new chapter in my career. I look forward to connecting with students, families, and staff as we work together to create a welcoming and supportive school environment where everyone has the opportunity to grow and succeed. Thank you for welcoming me."



Small Envelope Makes Big Difference

Flashing lights approaching behind your vehicle give all of us a little jolt of anxiety – no matter the situation. Imagine that anxiety amplified knowing that your ability to communicate with officers may be hindered by your disability. Thousands of drivers throughout Ohio know this feeling – and a simple blue envelope can help.

The Southern Ohio Council of Governments (SOCOG) is pleased to announce the launch of the Blue Envelope Program across the state of Ohio. The program uses communication tools to assist individuals with developmental disabilities during interactions with law enforcement and emergency personnel.

The key part of the program is the Blue Envelope itself. The envelope has space on the outside for information about the disability and/or medical conditions of the driver or passenger of the automobile. A copy of a ID/Driver's license, vehicle registration, and vehicle insurance card can be kept inside the envelope which would be handed to a law enforcement officer during a traffic stop. Having this information in one place makes it easier to communicate with officers and reduces anxiety during a traffic stop.

The second piece of the program is the Blue Envelope Car Decal. The three-inch decal features the program logo and can be placed on a vehicle's windows to discreetly communicate to law enforcement and first responders that the occupants participate in the Blue Envelope Program. They will be aware that a person in that vehicle may have a disability that could affect their actions or speech. In the event of a traffic accident, the Blue Envelope Car Decal and Blue Envelope allow first responders to access critical information immediately in case you are injured.

The Blue Envelope Wallet Card is included in the packet for people who want a method of communication they can carry in their pocket or purse. It is a smaller version of the envelope that can be used anywhere.

Blue Envelope Packets are now available at TCBDD and can be picked up at our front desk. Packets are free to anyone with a developmental disability.

Southern Ohio Advocacy Group is a committee of the Southern Ohio Council of Governments that promotes advocacy efforts and encourages people with disabilities to speak up for themselves.

Golf FORE a Cause

The 27th Annual Fairhaven Golf Classic was held on June 16th at beautiful Avalon Golf & Country Club at Squaw Creek. Community members and Trumbull County Special Olympic athletes enjoyed the pristine course, friendly competition, and the opportunity to support individuals served by TCBDD. Funds raised this year went to support the Trumbull County Special Olympics program.

Special thanks to Lisa McGahey and members of the Fairhaven Golf Committee for organizing another wonderful outing. For more information, contact Lisa McGahey: 330-652-9800

Golf Committee Members: Dawn Kramer, Brenda Garland, Ashley Handel, Andrea Anderson, Ryan Divens, Quincy Jones, Tara Sowers, Nicole Divens, Toni Thompson, Nikki Brink, Heather Meszaros, Sara Elmore, Debbie Vaught, John Vogt, Derrick Hart, Rick Mistovich, Lisa Casassa, Terri Schneider, Lisa McGahey, Ed Stark



Thank You to Our Sponsors!

Registration

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Kaleidoscope
Blue Technologies
UCI - United Contractors Inc.

Lunch

Accessible Homes
Baker, Bednar Snyder & Associates, Inc.

Hole-in-One

Covelli Enterprises

Fairhaven Buses Pass Annual Inspections



We had our first of two annual inspections on June 4th. Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Inspectors Lauren and Chris were on hand to inspect 10 of 20 buses. All buses were passed and stickered for 2025-2026.

School buses are required to be inspected by the OSHP twice a year. One of these inspections is called a 'Spot Inspection'. This is a non-scheduled drop in inspection by the OSHP to make sure the buses are safe to operate. The "Annual inspection" is a scheduled day of inspections by OSHP where the buses receive an Ohio sticker allowing it to operate for the next school year. This year, buses receive a green Ohio sticker showing the month it was inspected and passed. Bus drivers are required to do a "Pre-trip Inspection" every day they drive their bus. This pre-trip, along with a routine preventive maintenance schedule, helps our mechanics with any repairs needed. School buses are the safest form of transportation for students going to and from school. These inspections are just another way we make sure we keep our kids safe.

Graduation

Fairhaven School held their graduation ceremony for the Class of 2025 on June 3rd. Students, family, friends, and school team members gathered in the gymnasium to celebrate this momentous occasion. Graduates beamed with excitement as they were presented with their diplomas by Superintendent Edward Stark. Congratulations, Class of 2025!



TUESDAY, AUGUST 12

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

ROOSEVELT PARK INDOOR FACILITY
CAMPBELL, OH



HOSTED BY GATEWAYS INDUSTRIES

RSVP TO CINDY HERMAN AT

330.480.9870, EXT. 200

4th annual



Join us for the 4th Annual Ability Walk & Roll on Saturday, August 9th. This heart-warming experience truly exemplifies our communities are better when people with developmental disabilities are included and supported. Our achievement of tri-county collaboration is a testament to the importance and desire of communities uniting as one with a mission of celebrating abilities, supporting inclusion, and promoting respect for people with developmental disabilities.

The Ability Walk & Roll is open to everyone. NEW this year, enjoy a MV Scappers game and ballpark buffet dinner during the event! The evening will include a special walk & roll around Eastwood Field in celebration of those we support and love before the game. Other activities include: community resource expo, face painting, princess and super hero meet & greet, and balloon twisters.

Fairhaven Foundation is working hard to bring new opportunities and experiences to the individuals and families we serve. Our mission is to enhance the quality of life of individuals with developmental disabilities. We achieve this through creating meaningful opportunities, providing resources, and promoting community awareness to enrich the lives of those we serve. We invite you to join us for this special event!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Champlin

Chair, Ability Walk & Roll
Executive Director, Fairhaven Foundation
(Fairhaven Foundation is a 501(c) (3) non-profit.)

Derek Steyer

Honorary Co-Chair, Ability Walk & Roll
President, Fairhaven Foundation



August 9th

Eastwood Field

111 Eastwood Mall Blvd
Niles, OH 44446



**scan to
register online**

Sponsored by:





FAIRHAVEN FOUNDATION

Focused on Ability. Driven by Impact.

Upcoming Events:

Journey of Hope Dance Party

August 2, 2025 - Fairhaven School in Niles, OH

Ability Walk & Roll

August 9, 2025 - Eastwood Field in Niles, OH

Winter Wonderland

December 6, 2025 - Waypoint 4180 in Canfield, OH

For more information:

DawnKramer@tcbdd.org

330-652-9800

Smiles Sparkle Thanks to Dental Clinic

The Mercy Health Mobile Dental Clinic visited Fairhaven School in May. The service provides comprehensive care and education to underserved children and adults in Ashtabula, Carroll, Trumbull, and Mahoning Counties. Staffed by a team of dentists and hygienists, the Mobile Smile Station provides teeth cleaning, fillings, X-rays, referrals, education, and more.

It was a very positive experience for our students. We are very thankful to the team at Mercy Health Mobile Dental Clinic for their support.



45 North Road, Niles, OH 44446

Return Service Requested