

See The Ability

A Newsletter by the Trumbull County Board of Developmental Disabilities

A Legacy of Support, A Future of Possibility



For decades, the Trumbull County Board of Developmental Disabilities has been a steadfast partner to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Our story is rooted in a strong tradition of compassion, advocacy, and community collaboration. Since our founding, we have worked side by side with the people we serve to ensure they have access to the resources, opportunities, and support they need to thrive.

This March, as we recognize Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, we take special pride in highlighting the abilities, talents, and contributions of individuals with developmental disabilities. It's a time to celebrate inclusion, raise awareness, and continue important conversations about creating a community where everyone is welcomed and valued.

Today, we remain as committed as ever to our mission.

We continue to provide vital services that empower individuals of all ages to live fulfilling, meaningful lives. Whether through early intervention, educational programs, employment services, or community integration, we are here to walk alongside families at every stage of their journey.

As we move forward, we remain focused on strengthening our services, listening to the needs of those we serve, and building inclusive communities where everyone is valued. The trust and partnership we share with individuals and families are the foundation of everything we do—and it is a responsibility we are proud to carry into the future. We're here for you, and we're grateful to be part of your journey.

Thank you for being part of the TCBDD family. Together, we will continue creating a future where every person has the opportunity to achieve their fullest potential.

Edward Stark

Superintendent,
Trumbull County Board of DD

Employee Anniversaries - 1st Quarter

1 Year

Alexis McCartney
Maxine Fife
Datha Semrau
Faith Loomis

15 Years

Joseph Shewell

25+ years

Sophia Riley
Cheri Pascarella
Richard Mistovich
Amber Hrdlicka

30+ Years

Denver Lovejoy, Jr.

45+ Years

Holly Fulford

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New Appointment of Member to Trumbull County Board of Developmental Disabilities Makes History

Melissa Baker made history on January 27, 2025, when she was sworn in as a member of the Trumbull County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board of Directors (TCBDD). Melissa is served by TCBDD and has navigated life with cerebral palsy. Her appointment to the position of Board Member marks the first time an individual with lived experience is now part of TCBDD's Board of Directors.

Throughout Melissa's career, she has cultivated a passion for engaging with people and building connections. She is outgoing, personable, and always eager to introduce herself and spark conversations. Her love for art, coupled with her dedication to showcasing her work in various art shows, has further enhanced her ability to connect with diverse groups and foster a sense of community.

Melissa wants the community to know she has faced and overcome numerous obstacles related to having cerebral palsy. These experiences have instilled in her a profound desire to help others facing obstacles. She strives to put a smile on at least one person's face each day, and she believes that her background equips her to make a positive impact to TCBDD Board of Directors.



Trumbull County Commissioners,
Rick Hernandez and Tony Bernard
with new board member,
Melissa Baker

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- LisaMcGeary@tcbdd.org
- 330-652-9800 ext. 219
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Vision to Learn Visits Fairhaven School

Vision To Learn (VTL) recently partnered with Fairhaven Schools to make it easy for students to access eye care on campus. The program includes vision screenings for all students.

Following the full-school vision screenings, VTL's staff worked with our nursing team to schedule full eye exams for students that needed additional testing in their mobile vision clinic. The mobile vision van has additional medical equipment to help their licensed optometrist provide full optometric exams.



Following the screenings and eye exams, VTL returned to the school to custom fit the glasses for each student that needed them, and instructed them on caring for and cleaning their lenses.



Fairhaven Foundation Provides Art Enrichment Classes

Spring Has Sprung in our art classes at the JCC of Youngstown. We had the best time creating cherry blossoms during our March class! Special shout out to our art instructors, Barbara, Stacy, and Arie! They create unique projects for us each month and are incredible with helping each individual achieve their personal best.

NEW time for art classes beginning in May. Sign up for our next classes on May 16th and June 20th from 4:30 -5:30 pm. Space is limited to 16 individuals per class. Classes are free. No experience needed.

RSVP required: DawnKramer@tcbdd.org or 330-652-9800



Abilities Rock Carnival & Dance Party

The Abilities Rock Carnival & Dance Party was held in celebration of DD Awareness Month on Saturday, March 8th at Waypoint in Canfield. The event ensured fun for all with a large variety of carnival games, balloon twisters, face painters, DJ dance party, light carnival refreshments, a quiet sensory room, and more. Over 950 guests from Columbiana, Mahoning, and Trumbull County Boards of DD were in attendance. Guests loved the new venue space, with spacious hallways, a large ballroom, a convenient space for a quiet sensory room and more.



Watch the
Dance!



A Celebration of Abilities Art Exhibition

Fairhaven Foundation, in partnership with the Thomases Family Endowment Art Gallery, hosted a Celebration of Abilities art exhibition to showcase talents of local artists served through Fairhaven Foundation and Trumbull, Mahoning, and Columbiana County Boards of DD. Artwork was available for viewing and purchase from February 1 - 28th. Proceeds directly benefit the artists. The exhibition made its 2nd annual appearance as part of the JCC's focus on their Disability and Inclusion Awareness Month.



Scan to purchase art!

As part of this show, an open house artist reception was held on February 9th from 2 - 4pm at the JCC Art Gallery. Members of the community attended to meet the artists and hear about their inspiration for the 27 pieces on display. Also featured in the exhibition were 12 pieces from the art enrichment classes held at the JCC in January. Representative David Thomas was in attendance.



Fairhaven Foundation Partners with YSU

Fairhaven Foundation held their first event with YSU on January 26th to offer a community experience to the YSU Women's Basketball Game at Beeghly Center. YSU opened their doors for early access to the event to ensure parking and entry with ease. Guests were greeted by volunteers from the football and volleyball teams and escorted to the party deck for a pre-game light lunch. YSU volunteers then escorted guests onto the court for the fan tunnel experience. The YSU women's basketball team joined everyone after the game for an autograph session and photo-op on the party deck. The team thanked everyone for coming out to support them and offered their help for our next event. 300 guests attended the game from the tri-county area Boards of DD.



Fairhaven School Celebrates DD Awareness Month

Fairhaven School hosted their annual DD Awareness Distinguished Readers event on Thursday, March 20th. This year we had Renee Tinelli, Paul Colla, William Nicol, James Hyman, Nicole Economides, and James Nicholas read to the preschool students. They each read a book about spring and then provided a copy of the book for each student to keep. It was a fun learning experience for all. Thank you to Fairhaven Industries for participating in this wonderful annual event.



Transportation Team to Host Car Seat Check

We will be hosting another Car Seat Check for all families using any type of child passenger safety seating in their personal vehicles. The Car Seat Check is open to anyone in the Mahoning Valley. The event will be held on Tuesday May 20, 2025 from 4p – 6 pm in the Fairhaven school parking lot.

Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPST) will be on hand to inspect and teach families how to use infant car seats, rear facing, forward facing, covetable, all in one, booster and special needs seating.

Organizations that will be on hand are: TCBDD – Transportation, Niles Fire Department, Job and Family Services, Trumbull County Health Department, Akron Children's Hospital





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

Drive the School Bus Event - May 3rd

The TCBDD Transportation Department is hosting a Drive the School Bus event on Saturday May 3, 2025 from 10a-1p. Anyone interested in exploring a career as a bus driver is invited to come to our campus and test drive a school bus in our lot. Transportation Director, Jen Durno, will be onsite explaining the process of becoming a driver. Participants will have an opportunity to complete an online application and schedule an interview for the following week.



Joy on Wheels

Cheryl has wanted a bike for a long time and recently her dream came true! This hardworking, funny individual loves the independence, exercise, and fresh air her new hobby brings. Scan the QR code to see Cheryl's story.



45 North Road, Niles, OH 44446

Return Service Requested