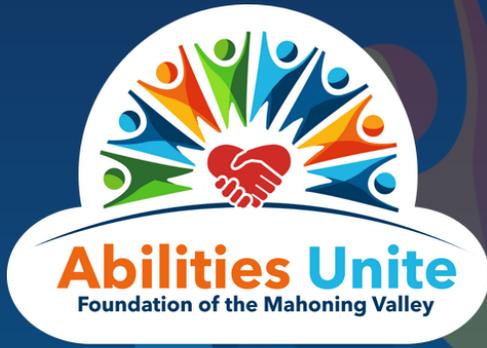


February 2026



# NEWSLETTER

## Where Abilities Shine

It's been a busy month and we have lots of great news and updates to *shine* a light on!

### Artist Reception at JCC

During the month of February, A Celebration of Abilities was on display inside the Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation Art Gallery. This exhibit featured canvases from artists who participated in the December and January all-abilities art class, as well as galleries from artists selected from each of our three counties. A very well-attended artists reception was held on the 12<sup>th</sup>, where members of the community mingled with the artists, learned about their creative processes and inspirations, and enjoyed wonderful refreshments compliments of the JCC.

The art featured in the gallery is available for purchase, with proceeds going directly to the artists, and several pieces were sold that night! We are grateful for our growing partnership with the JCC, and Barb Wilson, and for their vision to expand this amazing artistic outlet to our DD community.



# Sensory-Friendly Hockey Game Makes History



The puck dropped and fun was had by all at the first-ever sensory-friendly Youngstown Phantoms hockey game on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. Over 600 people from our tri-county Boards of DD attended and were treated to a high-scoring hockey game, snacks, a special meet-and-greet with players and coaches, and visits from Sparky the mascot.



Several people took to the ice to participate in pre-game ceremonies, in-game contests, and cleaning the ice on the Zamboni!



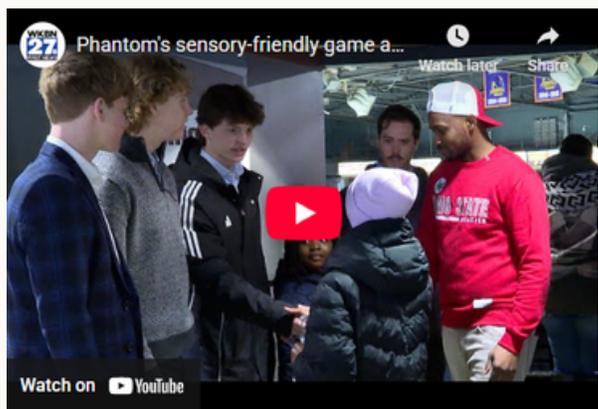
Giving our DD community opportunities like this is what Abilities Unite is all about! Seeing so many smiles, cheering fans, and community spirit proved that making minor adjustments, like consistent lighting, quieter music and announcements, and reduced volume on sound effects, can have a major impact!

We'd like to thank Kelsey Moreton, Sr. VP, and the Youngstown Phantoms for showing inclusion matters and everyone deserves the chance to experience Phantoms hockey!

## Notes of Gratitude

Thank you WFMJ and WKBN for the many opportunities to promote the sensory-friendly Phantoms hockey game! We are so grateful for the media coverage this received and for the many opportunities to show how important community inclusion is!

If you missed these stories live on-air, don't worry! Scan the QR code to see them here!



Join us as we celebrate DD Awareness Month at our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Abilities Rock Carnival & Dance Party on March 21st at Waypoint 4180, in Canfield, OH!

Contact Kristen to volunteer:  
[kristentaylor@abilitiesunite.org](mailto:kristentaylor@abilitiesunite.org)

## The Abilities Unite “Big Top” is coming soon.

Join us for our annual Abilities Rock Carnival & Dance Party at Waypoint 4180 on Saturday, March 21st for a day of dancing, engaging activities, carnival games, prizes, and special fair-themed treats!

We are proud to offer a Quiet Carnival this year for those who want all the fun without the fear of loud noises or big crowds. Space for this session is limited so register today!

A morning and an afternoon general session will also be offered. Tickets are only \$5 each and can be purchased using our mail-in flyer or online registration portal.

Scan the QR code  
to register and pay online.



Scan the QR code  
to view event video.



## Art Enrichment Classes



Monthly art enrichment classes at the Jewish Community Center of Youngstown continue to grow! Featuring an array of projects, suitable for all abilities, these classes can seat 16 participants each session, and feature two art instructors to provide a more engaging experience. Specialized adaptive art supplies ensure everyone feels comfortable and confident to create one-of-a-kind pieces.



Art enrichment classes are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month, and features two convenient sessions: 10:00-11:00 a.m. and 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Sessions book quickly so we encourage you to reserve your spot as soon as possible:

[DawnKramer@tcbdd.org](mailto:DawnKramer@tcbdd.org) / 330-652-9800



**3/21 - Abilities Rock Carnival & Dance Party at Waypoint 4180**

**4/2 - Egg Hunt  
at 7 17 Credit Union Field at Eastwood**

**7/11 - Wrestling Under the Stars  
at 7 17 Credit Union Field at Eastwood**

**8/8 - Ability Walk & Roll and MV Scrappers Game at 7 17 Credit Union Field at Eastwood**

**12/5 - Winter Wonderland  
at Waypoint 4180**