

January 2026



# NEWSLETTER

## Where Abilities Shine

### Who We Are

Fairhaven Foundation, established in 1997 as a 501c3 nonprofit, was created by a bequest from Pauline Anders who wanted to help children and adults with developmental disabilities who attended the Fairhaven School and workshops. During that time, it was a foundation meant to serve individuals receiving services through the Trumbull County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

With an increased need in the Mahoning Valley, the Fairhaven Foundation began doing business as the Abilities Unite Foundation of the Mahoning Valley in 2025, and now proudly serves the over 4,500 individuals receiving services under the Trumbull, Mahoning, and Columbiana County Boards of Developmental Disabilities.

In the last 25 years, our mission has grown to enhance their quality of life by creating meaningful opportunities, providing resources, and promoting community inclusion.



### What We Do

Abilities Unite is unique in that we serve individuals with all types of developmental disabilities, regardless of age. We have provided free community experiences to thousands of individuals with developmental disabilities in the Mahoning Valley. In fact, over 12,000 just in the last three years.

Each event is a testament to the importance and desire of communities coming together for a unified mission of celebrating abilities, supporting inclusion, and promoting respect for people with developmental disabilities.

Our work also includes a focus on individual needs. Many expenses that are not covered by waivers or insurance are beyond the means for those on fixed and sole incomes, creating financial hardships. We award grants to help individuals in emergency situations, provide support for therapeutic and educational camp opportunities, purchase adaptive clothing and equipment, and provide for unexpected expenses.

## Our Achievements in 2025

### Engagement

Over 5000 guests joined us for our various community engagement opportunities in 2025.

Centered around our three signature experiences - Abilities Rock Carnival & Dance Party, Ability Walk & Roll, and Winter Wonderland, we also provided tickets to sporting events, concerts, touring shows, and more!

### Grants

34 individuals received Life Enrichment grants in 2025, ensuring services continued, therapies were available, opportunities were possible, and necessities were paid for.

Over the last three years, we have provided over \$50,000 in resources and supports to individuals in need.

### Enrichment

150 individuals participated in our inclusive art enrichment classes at the Jewish Community Center in 2025.

The JCC also underwent a renovation of their art room to make it more accessible for all, enhancing the amazing experience of our guests.

## Volunteer Opportunity

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

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



## Quote of the Month

“In this world, individuals with disabilities are often expected to fit into molds that were never made for them or to become someone they were not created to be. The love, thought, and intention that went into the Winter Wonderland event brought tears to my eyes.

My daughter is 25 and exceptionally abled. She was having an extremely rough day and almost cancelled coming. I encouraged her to try, and the moment we walked through the front door she was all smiles. She connected with people she had attended her day program with in the past, and it made her light up in a way I had not seen in a long time.

I thank God for your organization and for every person who plays a part in making these events possible. You are truly appreciated. You gave my daughter the chance to step away from her overwhelming thoughts and simply be surrounded by people who are loving and accepting.”

-Tyoko

## Art Exhibition at JCC



Join us for an art exhibition showcasing artwork from local artists served through Trumbull, Mahoning, and Columbiana County Boards of DD.

The community is invited to meet the artists and view over 35 works of art during the open house on February 12th from 5 - 7 pm. Paintings will be available for purchase with proceeds going directly to the artists.

Light refreshments will be served compliments of the JCC.

**JCC of Youngstown**  
505 Gypsy Lane, Youngstown, OH

## Art Enrichment: Cocoa & Canvas

Our December art enrichment class at the Jewish Community Center of Youngstown focused on a winter-inspired painting. The snow was gently falling as artists arrived, making this the perfect project for the afternoon.

Art enrichment classes are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month at 10:00 am and 4:30 pm.

Contact Dawn Kramer to register:  
330-652-9800 / DawnKramer@tcbdd.org



## Sensory-Friendly Game with the Youngstown Phantoms



We're pleased to partner with the Youngstown Phantoms to offer a special sensory-friendly game experience on Sunday, February 15th. Fans can expect reduced volume on all announcements and music, the lights will remain on for the entire game, and an interactive pregame meet-and-greet with players in full uniform will be held.

Register by January 27th!

TCBDD: 330-652-9800 (Dawn Kramer)  
MCBDD: 330-797-2825 (Tricia Perry)  
CCBDD: 330-424-7788 (Josh Martin)



2/12 - Art Show at the JCC

4/2 - Egg Hunt at Eastwood Field

2/15 - Sensory Friendly Night  
with the Youngstown Phantoms

8/8 - Ability Walk & Roll and  
MV Scrappers Game at Eastwood Field

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

12/5 - Winter Wonderland  
at Waypoint 4180