Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities 2017 Annual Report to the Community





Deepwood's Willoughby Branch

The Willoughby Branch of LCBDD/Deepwood continues to be an outstanding community vocational placement option for adults with developmental disabilities. It's a fun, vibrant and positive environment that focuses on an individual's strengths while assisting to further develop both work skills and interests.

In 2017, individuals at the Willoughby Branch completed various job tasks, such as assembly and packaging, for 33 Lake County businesses. We emphasize integrated employment and our Job Club diligently works on improving job skills and identifying areas of employment interests for those in our program. We continue to work with LCBDD's Community Employment Services (CES) to provide real work experience by exposing individuals to CES work sites.

Willoughby and CES have continued to expand exciting new community employment initiatives. Recently, CES added additional contracts that require the talents of our more highly skilled workers. In 2017, we set a record by placing more than 15 individuals in community employment services!

The benefit of our services could not be realized without the support of our community partners.

Individuals in our program currently volunteer on a regular basis at Mentor Senior Center, Vineyard Community Food Pantry, Forbes House, Hannah's Home, Lakeland Community College, Salvation Army, Mentor Public Library, Project Hope, and Concord Community Center—just to name a few.

Our program also helps individuals explore outside interests by offering book clubs, fitness groups, and computer literacy sessions, as well as the recently formed scifi, puzzle and Chinese clubs. We have seen great success with the Advocacy and newsletter committees while also adding additional choices of the music therapy, massage therapy, mall walking, and exercise programs. If an individual chooses to participate, the choices are endless. By exploring these areas of interest, individuals with development disabilities learn skills that can transfer into a work environment.

Strong relationships with our community partners and local businesses help us to advance opportunities available for those in our programs. Each opportunity is a celebration of what can be accomplished when a community works together!

For more information about Deepwood's Willoughby Branch, please call 440-269-2180.





PHILOSOPHY

In support of its mission, it is the philosophy of the Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities/Deepwood to foster inclusion and community membership by offering opportunities for comprehensive holistic planning in support of the strengths, interests, and preferences of citizens of all ages with developmental disabilities in Lake County. Toward this end, the Board strives to provide or assist in locating the services/supports desired or needed by the individual.

Adult Service Habilitation Programs

The LCBDD/Deepwood Vocational Guidance Center (VGC) and Broadening Abilities (BA) are adult habilitation programs that offer Adult Day Support as an alternative for individuals unable to work. These programs offer social, leisure, and recreational activities to enhance quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities. The activities provide the opportunity for individuals to volunteer (which enriches and supports the community), learn habilitative services (to increase personal care and adaptive living skills), or to simply get out and about (which enhances their social and community engagement skills).

Barbara has been active in the VGC program since 1988 and routinely writes letters to soldiers, as well as completes many puzzles and crafts while at the VGC. At

times. Barbara likes to venture out to lunch with a few friends for some good conversation. Wherever LCBDD takes her, or how she decides to spend her money on her outings, she kindly shares her personality and smile with others.

In today's fast-paced society, stress and anxiety are a daily occurrence. Imagine if you were challenged with muscular pain from sitting in a wheelchair too long or from a chronic condition. Stress and pain would then become a daily struggle and could be debilitating--as it is for some of the individuals in our Broadening Abilities Program.

Our staff members look for ways to help individuals feel better, rejuvenate, and enjoy life. At times, local businesses step forward to provide free services or come onsite for the convenience of the indi-





viduals we serve.

Dawanna arrives at Broadening Abilities each day ready to take on the world. She expresses her individual sense of style with her blue eyeshadow, sparkly earrings, and pink glittered tennis shoes. On a



recent outing to the mall, Dawanna was spotted knee deep in highheeled shoes at The Shoe Dept having the time of her life! A simple outing makes a big difference to an individual with a developmental

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



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Community Employment Services



The LCBDD/Deepwood Community Employment Services (CES) engages with our community by providing opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities whose vocational skills meet the needs of multiple community employers. We are very fortunate to have such a supportive community and a wealth of connections with local businesses who see the multi-faceted value in hiring individuals with developmental disabilities.

This past year proved to be an amazing one for CES. In 2017, CES entered into new employment relationships with 25 businesses located in Lake County, for a grand total of 48 community employment employers. Over the years, businesses have been learning more about the abilities and skills of individuals with developmental

disabilities, and finding that these individuals are capable, motivated, and trained to work in community-based settings. Once an employer sees the work product and productivity of an individual they hired from our program, we often see them returning to us for additional placements.

"It's an unbelievable feeling to give people who take pride in what they're doing gainful employment. CES is providing a service which is better then what we were able to do internally." Ed Brown – Owner, Ladies & Gentlemen Salon and Spa

In addition to the value received by employers, individuals in our program achieve greater community connection by being an important part of a local business. This fosters a sense of pride and increased self-esteem for the individuals, and likewise for the employers since they made it possible.

Relationships are the key to opening this door of opportunity. Employers are consistently reaching out to us to help meet the needs of their businesses. In Lake County, we are definitely seeing the win-win relationship between the business community and the individuals we serve. It's rewarding to hear the success stories and to see interest in the CES program increase. This translates to more opportunity for individuals with 'developmental disabilities to work in their community. As our community unites, we all benefit.

If your business is interested in getting involved, please don't hesitate to reach out to CES directly at 440-918-1050.

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We appreciate all of the individuals, groups, civic organizations, schools and businesses who voluntarily contribute their time and talents to enrich the lives of people served by the board.

Lake County Board of DD/Deepwood

Volunteer Services 8121 Deepwood Blvd. Mentor, Ohio 44060 440-918-5050



LCBDD Volunteers contributed 11,708.75 hours of service .

Individuals receiving services from Lake County Board of DD/Deepwood Volunteered 4,199.25 hours in the community last year.

The LCBDD/Deepwood Lake Employment Experience Program (LEEP) students benefit greatly from our many community partnerships. When local businesses open their doors to both competitive employment and volunteer opportunities, this enables our students to gain valuable work experience in a natural environment

with their peers and members of

the community. Slowly, but surely, outdated myths about hiring individuals with developmental disabilities are being dispelled. The benefit our LEEP students receive from employment experience is evident, but the value doesn't stop there. Our community partners gain a greater appreciation for diversity as a result of their interactions with the many positive and reliable coworkers they have

Lake Employment Experience Program

added to their workforce from our program. Some have even noted increased patronage from our caring and supportive community. This collaboration between our program and local employers benefits the community as a whole.

We applaud those who step forward to partner with us and are fortunate to have a number of long-standing vocational connections--businesses who have seen the value our students bring to the workforce. In recognition of their commitment, we highlight these community partners on our school building sign displayed on Broadmoor Road and share stories of recognition on our Facebook page. These gestures of appreciation help us celebrate the unity between our program and area businesses who choose to employ

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If you or someone you know has a friend or family member with intellectual disabilities, we invite you to visit or contact us at Living Opportunities. We provide residential living options as well as 24 hour medical care when it is needed. Our homes are located in Madison, Ohio. You may request information about our homes and/or visit our website. To inquire ask for Theresa or Barb.

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Learn more about Laketran's services through our Travel Training Program. Call Ben at 440-350-1067 to schedule a individual travel training or attend an upcoming community Travel Training session:

Tuesday, April 10 **Fairport Library** 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Monday, April 9 **Morley Library** 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 8 **Mentor Library** 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.



Annual Report 2017

Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities



A Letter to the Community

Each year throughout Ohio, March is recognized as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. This year's theme of "Celebrate CommUNITY" is truly befitting our Lake County community!

In the 1950s, through the tireless advocacy of families, neighbors, community and political leaders, Lake County was one of the first counties in Ohio to develop local programs and services for individuals with developmental disabilities, so that loved ones were not excluded from public life, nor relegated to access services in distant locations segregated from their families and communities. Through the ensuing decades, LCBDD/Deepwood has remained an innovative leader in Ohio...responsive to the needs and voices of the thousands of individuals we have served... empowering them to engage in their communities and live full, meaningful lives. These successes could not be achieved without the unwavering dedication of our LCBDD/Deepwood staff and the incredible spirit of a community that truly embodies UNITY...recognizing and supporting the diverse abilities and contributions of all its citizens

With our deepest appreciation, this Annual Report celebrates the accomplishments of the individuals we serve...made possible through innumerable community, business, and civic collaborations and partnerships. We hope that every citizen of Lake County takes pride in their support of these accomplishments. Together WE enrich our Lake County Comm**UNITY!**

Elfie Roman

Superintendent



The mission of the LCBDD/Deepwood is to **EMPOWER** people with developmental disabilities to **ENGAGE** in activities that **ENRICH** their lives and contribute to their community.

In the ever-changing landscape of federal and state regulations and mandates, LCBDD/Deepwood's overriding mission remains constant: to offer Lake County citizens with the highest-quality, most-inclusive, collaborative, and personcentered services and supports available within our resources.



Broadmoor School is LCBDD/Deepwood's educational program, which encompasses:

- Early Intervention Program (Birth to age 3 years): For children who have been diagnosed with a disability and/or a developmental delay. Services provided with teaming and coaching in everyday routines.
- Integrated Preschool Program (Ages 3-5 years): For preschoolaged children with developmental disabilities as well as preschoolers who are typically developing.
- School Age Program (Ages 6-22 years): Instruction to meet the unique needs of a child and/or young adult with a developmental disability. Individual Education Plans developed for optimal learning and development.
- Lake Employment Experience Program—LEEP (Ages 16-22 years): A program that provides school-to-work transition and experiences in integrated community settings.

Adult Habilitation Services are offered through the Vocational Guidance Center (VGC) and Broadening Abilities (BA), which are adult day support centers that foster skill development, community membership, independence, personal choice and social connections for adults with developmental disabilities who are unable to work. Deepwood Industries is an independent, nonprofit corporation that secures paid work opportunities and contracts for people with developmental disabilities through these programs:

- Willoughby Branch: A work-activity center offering vocational training to develop work skills and a path to community employment for adults with developmental disabilities.
 Community Employment Services (CES): For individuals with developmental disabilities over the age of 16 who are seeking paid employment in community businesses.
- Josef and Christine Roman (JCR) Imagine Program: A community-based individualized program focusing on vocational, habilitation and community opportunities for adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Residential Facility-Based Services are offered through the Adult Residential Center (ARC) and the Jacklitz Continuing Development Center (JCDC), which are both licensed as Intermediate Care Facilities for individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) and provide 24 hour/7 day services.

Family Support Services are available to help a family/guardian care for their eligible family member at home and enhance the quality of life for all members of the family.

Community Residential Supports are offered in a family's home or group home-type setting throughout Lake County.

Recreation Services offer family respite and community inclusion through an array of activities and events, including Special Olympics, designed for adults and children (over the age of 6) with developmental disabilities.

Bobby's Story

I was born September 27, 1979, in Geneva, Ohio. While my mom was pregnant with me she contracted German measles. During the delivery my umbilical cord was wrapped around my neck causing a lack of oxygen to my brain which caused me to have cerebral palsy. The doctor told my mom I would not walk or talk and would need to be placed in an Institution. I proved everyone wrong.



I went to a regular high school in Andover. I dealt with learning problems. One thing that kept me going was a man named Dave Bothem, a janitor for Pymatuning Valley high school. He took me to the head basketball coach and I became the team manager. The junior varsity coach helped me get through high school. I still talk to him to this day.

After high school I didn't know what to do. After many bad choices and bouncing around I moved back to Ohio. I remembered when I was in high school that basketball helped me. I was on the computer looking for a way to keep busy and I came across Special Olympics. I emailed the state and they gave me a phone number to call the Ashtabula County Special Olympics. That basketball season I was on their team. It also opened up a door for me to get a job. Up to this point in life being a guy with a disability made it hard to find a job. It still is hard to find a job in the mainstream community.

Special Olympics has given me an opportunity to compete, as well as a job and a family. Without Special Olympics I am not sure where I would be. Five years ago I moved back to Lake County to help my mom. During 2015-2017, I had to step back from Special Olympics to have surgery. I was in the nursing home recovering when I received an email from Chris Bundy, the Special Olympics Coordinator at Deepwood, about a new leadership program that Special Olympics Ohio had started. Chris asked me if I would like to be a representative of Lake County. I said yes! They had a class on how athletes could have more of a role to share our ideas and make decisions at the state, area, and local levels. I went back to Chris and said we needed an input council to allow athletes a way to give input on the organization.

The leadership program has allowed me to do things that normally no one would allow. It has allowed me to become an assistant basketball coach. My dream is to one day become a head coach in basketball for Special Olympics or elsewhere. The leadership program has given me a chance to give back what has been given to me. As a person who just so happens to have a disability, that is all I ever wanted--a chance to prove myself to those who may think people with disabilities can't do anything. I say give us a chance, we may surprise you. To me Special Olympics is my life.

~ Bobby Reidl



In 2017, LCBDD/Deepwood proudly had 124 athletes participate in Lake County's Special Olympics. Lake County offers 16 sporting events year round. To learn more about Special Olympics, visit the recreation page on www.lakebdd.org



6 Lake County Board of DD
Advertising Supplement to The News-Herald
Advertising Supplement to The News-Herald
Lake County Board of DD
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Early Intervention

The LCBDD/Deepwood Early Intervention Program at Broadmoor School supports families of children who have been identified as having a developmental delay or a medical condition likely to lead to a delay. Research shows that a child's earliest experiences play a critical role in brain development and help build foundations for learning, behavior, and physical well-being. In addition, early social-emotional development and physical health are essential to cognitive and language growth.

The Early Intervention Program helps nurture and support all children and families in order to build essential developmental skills. By using effective coaching practices, our dedicated staff help build parents' confidence and compe-

tence in order to achieve positive outcomes that will enhance their child's learning and development now and in the future.

It takes a village to provide the best formula for success to help those in our care. Our staff is thankful to receive support from our community partners, including: Crossroads, Cleveland Hearing and Sight Center, Early Head Start, Head Start and local school districts. Together, we provide a wide-range of opportunities for parents and children to develop positive early childhood experiences. Unifying as a community provides the best foundation possible for each child to reach later success in the school, the work place, and in our community.

Beyond our services, our community steps forward in other



ways to help the well-being of our families. Even the simplest of gestures make a world of difference to the individuals and families we serve. During the holiday season, the Willoughby Heinen's generously donated food and gifts to a special Early Intervention family. While this family has come to know what to count on from our agency and our community



partners, Heinen's charitable gesture came as a surprise and raised their spirits during a difficult time. Community involvement comes in many shapes and sizes, and the relationships formed during situations such as this, create an even stronger union.

For more information about our Early Intervention Program, please call 440-602-1000.



JCR Imagine Program

"Pieces of Imagination" dog treats is a business venture started by the individuals at our ICR Imagine Program at LCBDD/ Deepwood. The ICR Imagine Program focuses on supporting adults with Autism in building meaningful lives. The individuals participate in all steps of preparing the dog treats, which include rolling out the dough, cutting out the treats from a mold, cooking the biscuits, bagging, and sealing the dog treats. They also proudly deliver the treats to those who have made purchases. All of the individuals in the Imagine Program take great pride in their dog treat business!

Recently, the Imagine program donated a dog goodie basket to the Share a Vision fundraiser for the CARES Autism program. The basket contained ten bags of

"Pieces of Imagination" dog treats as well as various other dog items, such as a blanket, food bowl, and dog toys. The Imagine Program participants were proud to give back to the community by donating this basket of goodies to a very worthy cause.

The Imagine Program is interested in spreading the word out into the community about its "Pieces of Imagination" dog treats. This has proved to be a great project that individuals with Autism can master—which also fosters a strong sense of accomplishment and self-worth. It's educational because of all the different aspects that go into making and selling the dog treats. It has also exposed individuals to learning new skills and the ability to demonstrate these skills.

The Imagine Program is always



selling their dog treats. The dog treats are made of whole wheat flower, eggs, pumpkin, peanut butter, ground cinnamon, and salt so they are very healthy for pets. Each bag is filled with six dog treats and they are priced at \$3 per bag. Contact us at 440-918-1717 for more information.



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LAKE EMPLOYMENT FROM PAGE 5

skilled individuals in order to help sell a product or provide a service.

Community partners include: Lake West Hospital, Breckenridge Village, Cala's Pizza, Manhattan Deli, Lake Erie College, Karate for Kids, St. Noel Banquet Center, Kirtland Community of Christ Church, Mentor Civic Ice Arena, JFK Senior Center, McKinley Community Outreach Center, Symphony of Mentor, Betty's Boutique, Center for Digestive Health, Grand River Cellars, St. John Vianney, and Lake Farmpark.

The biggest reward is that these invaluable work experiences often turn into life-long careers for our students, who as a result become confident and contributing members of our community. Students like Zachary Watren are proof of this enlightened awareness. After completing a training course and interviewing for a custodial job at Madison Public Schools, he was offered a position! His employer shared that Zachary performs his job tasks enthusiastically and meticulously.

The support of our community and local businesses is critical to the success of our students. If you are interested in becoming a community partner, please call 440-602-1000 and we will share with you the many benefits of working with some pretty amazing and capable young adults.

ADULT SERVICE FROM PAGE 3

disability.

The staff at Mentor Nail Care have donated their time to work with individuals who may never have had a salon experience. Filing, trimming, and painting their nails taught good grooming skills. After a day of socializing with new faces, a walk through the community allowed everyone to take in all the sights and sounds of a stimulating environment.

Our community has a lot to offer individuals with developmental disabilities. If you want to learn more about taking part in lifting the hearts and health of those in our adult habilitation programs, call (VGC) 440-918-5100 or (Broadening Abilities) 440-918-1000. Don't be surprised if your spirit is lifted too.

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Employment Opportunities

Our success as an agency could not be realized without the contributions from LCBDD/Deepwood employees, volunteers, community members, business partners, local organizations and schools. And, let's not forget, the individuals we serve—those with developmental disabilities who we have the privilege to have in our care and who inspire us each day.

At times, we've been fortunate to have some of our community partners join our agencv as new employees. That got us thinking... what makes someone want to join or stay employed at LCBDD/ Deepwood?

When we talk to Deepwood longtenured staff members about why they stay in the human services field, their frequent response is that they started in a substitute or temporary position and ended up finding the job so fulfilling that they chose to stay and build a career. In fact, 45% of approximately

500 employees working at LCBDD in 2017 have more than ten vears of tenure. That's not a stat that many companies can brag about, but here it's pretty common.

Michelle Cimperman began her career at Deepwood more than 30 years ago as a substitute direct care worker in our residential program. She later moved into a management position in our residential program and then into several director level positions. Today, Michelle is still going strong as the Agency Programs and Services Unit Director where she works with many program areas across Deepwood.

"I chose to work here because I wanted to be in an environment where I could have a positive impact on people," said Michelle. "I didn't realize that working with individuals with disabilities would change my life forever. Through these individuals, I have learned important life lessons while teaching

them basic adult daily living skills. Working with people with disabilities has impacted me in ways I could never have imagined."

Michelle, as with many of her coworkers, loves working at Deepwood because the agency truly fosters a strong work-life balance and has many career development opportunities. The work environment is one that is supportive and team-focused. Those who enter this field, are genuine people who truly care about the others. Each day, we lift up the hearts and spirits of the developmentally disabled, but it doesn't stop there. By bringing our services into the

community, we are also the conduit to lift the hearts of county residents (young or old) as they interact with individuals from Deepwood.

At Deepwood you have a job with a purpose. When our emplovees are done with work, they go home knowing that they made someone's day

better. They make a difference with every smile and helping hand. It's a job about changing lives and it will end up changing yours.

Ioin a dedicated team.

We're consistently searching to fill roles in the Direct Service Personnel. We typically hire substitute positions, which can evolve into fulltime employment. Examples of positions we routinely hire include: Direct Service Professioinals, Nurses, Maintenance, Custodians, Bus Drivers, Community Support Specialists, Job Coaches, and Instructors.

To learn more about our agency or to apply for a position, visit www.lakebdd.org.

NEOEA salutes the **Lake Employees for** the Developmentally Disabled (LEADD) for their service to clients and the community.

NEOEA is a proud affiliate of the Ohio and National Education Associations, representing over 30,000 educators across northeastern Ohio.



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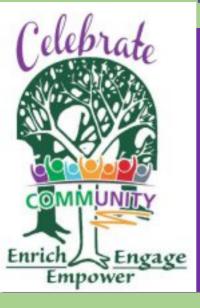












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