

Graduation gifts

NHS grad's friends, family mark milestone with generous support to LCBDD endowment

Graduation is a special time for students, family and friends. It is a time to mark one of life's major milestones – a momentous occasion that means opening doors to new opportunities in life.

For Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Beattie of Newark, they hope to open doors for others in the community who have developmental disabilities, like their son John.

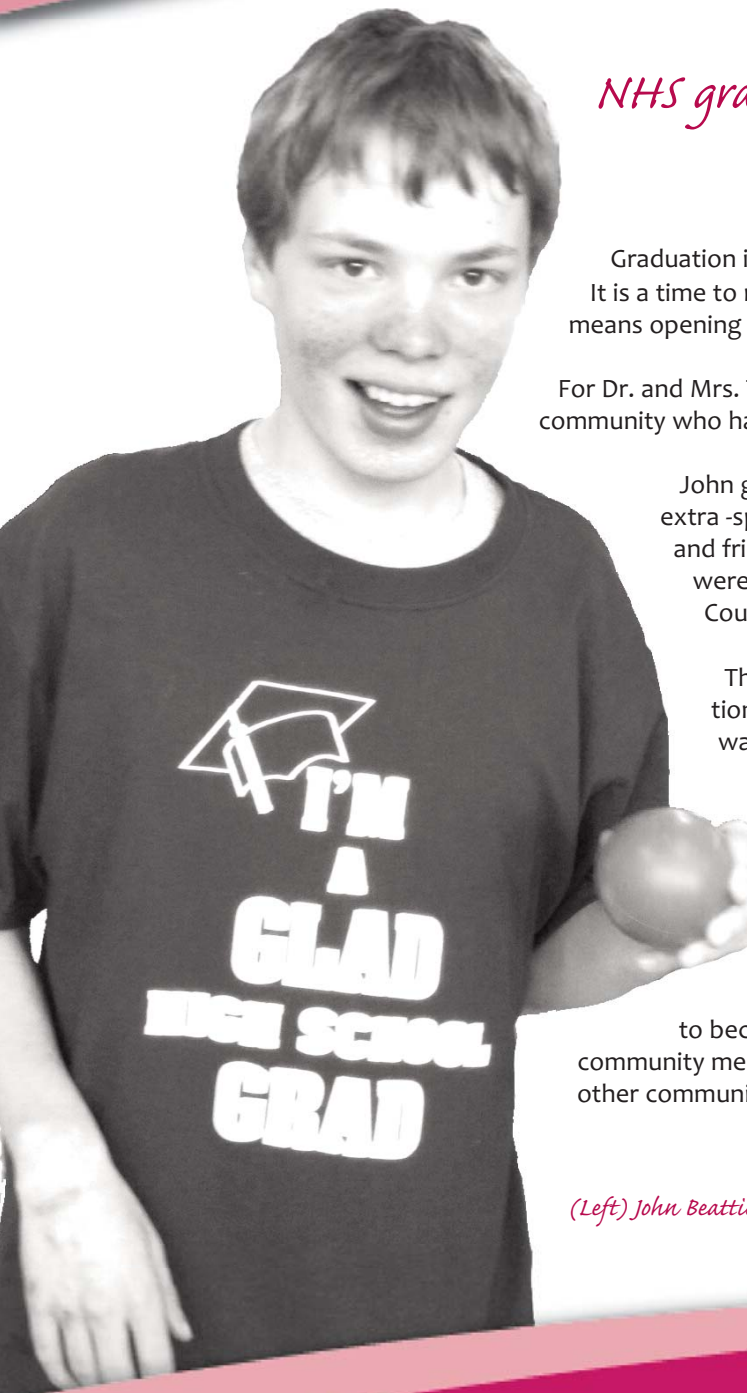
John graduated this past spring from Newark High School, and to mark this extra-special time in their lives, the Beatties requested that family members and friends forgo traditional graduation gifts for John. Family and friends were asked, instead, to make contributions in John's honor to the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities' Endowment Fund.

The endowment, which is managed through the Licking County Foundation, collected nearly \$4,000, in all, in John's name. John's mother, Beth, was a 12-year member of the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities, and served on the original committee to establish the endowment.

“Because of the nature of John's disabilities, our family has been involved with the Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance and the Autism Society, but what is most important to us is helping the local community where we live,” Beth Beattie said. “The needs of those with DD in our community grow as funding sources continue to become more scarce. Our endowment is so special because generous community members make contributions to grow the fund that will ultimately assist other community members with disabilities.”

(Please see ‘Cover story,’ continued on page 7)

(Left) John Beattie is a proud graduate of Newark High School. Photo submitted by Beth Beattie.



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Local athletes make their mark at statewide special Olympics event

LICKING COUNTY EAGLES (pictured below)



Submitted by Ashley Johnson, coordinator

During the last weekend of June, a group of local athletes and coaches competed in the Special Olympics of Ohio Games at The Ohio State University. They participated in swimming and bowling events. The results were as follows:

- **Tracy Athey** -- 4th place, bowling.
- **Donald Bolton** -- 2nd place, bowling.
- **Tonya Dillon** -- 1st place, bowling.
- **Michael Goodin** -- 3rd place, bowling.
- **Kyle Howell** -- 3rd place, bowling.
- **Brenda Jefferies** -- 1st place, bowling.
- **James Jefferies** -- 3rd place, bowling.
- **Caroline Justice** -- 1st place, bowling.
- **Michael Justice** -- 1st place, 100M freestyle; and 2nd place, 50M freestyle (swimming).
- **Tom Olsen** -- 4th place, bowling.
- **Mike Radabaugh** -- 3rd place, bowling.
- **Jeremy Spangler** -- 2nd place, bowling.
- **Daniel Stallworth** -- 2nd place, bowling.
- **Mike Stewart** -- 1st place, bowling.
- **Gary Wheeler** -- 3rd place, 50M freestyle; and 3rd place, 50M backstroke (swimming).
- **Matthew Wheeler** -- 3rd place, 50M freestyle (swimming).

Everyone did their very best. As their coach and coordinator, I am very proud of them. We hope to do this well in the future. We are in the process of setting up fundraisers, and we expect to start team bowling this fall. Keep watching for announcements from the Licking County Eagles group on the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities' Facebook page, and at www.LCountyDD.org. If you have questions or want to help, please contact me at licking_co_so@yahoo.com. Thanks for all the support from the County Board and the volunteers.

WEST LICKING WARRIORS

Results courtesy of Special Olympics of Ohio

Congratulations to those West Licking Warriors who competed and fared quite well at the state level:

- **Austin Allen** -- 6th place, softball throw; and 3rd place, 50M dash.
- **Lawrence Anderson** -- 4th place, dead lift; 4th place, bench press; and 4th place, combination (powerlifting).
- **David Barns** -- 5th place, 100M run; and 2nd place, softball throw.
- **Chris Boyer** -- 5th place, softball throw; and 1st place, 100M dash.
- **Nate Delawder** -- 2nd place, 4X100M relay; 2nd place, 100M dash; and 3rd place, softball throw.
- **Sean Engle** -- 4th place, softball throw.
- **Irene Flowers** -- 5th place, softball throw; and 2nd place, 100M walk.
- **Dejan Grozdic** -- 1st place, softball throw; 2nd place, 4X100M relay; and 4th place, 100M dash.
- **Adam Hare** -- 2nd place, softball throw; and 2nd place, 100M dash.
- **Bryce Hartley** -- 3rd place, 100M dash; and 4th place, softball throw.
- **Heather Hinsdale** -- 4th place, softball throw; 3rd place, 4X100M relay; and 2nd place, 100M dash.
- **Brad Hobbs** -- 4th place, dead lift; 4th place, bench press; and 4th place, combination (powerlifting).
- **Jay Hodge** -- 3rd place, dead lift; 3rd place, bench press; and 3rd place, combination (powerlifting).
- **Noah Hulse** -- 3rd place, 200M dash; and 4th place, softball throw.
- **Benjamin Legg** -- 5th place, softball throw; and 2nd place, 100M dash.
- **Shawn Lemmerhirt** -- 2nd place, 4X100M relay; and 1st place, standing long jump.
- **Will O'Brien** -- 4th place, 100M walk.
- **Malayna Pelegreen** -- 3rd place, 4X100M relay; 2nd place, softball throw; and 2nd place, 100M dash.
- **Eric Poling** -- 2nd place, 100M wheelchair race; and 1st place, 400M wheelchair race.
- **Daniel Skube** -- 3rd place, softball throw.
- **Fred "Charlie" Stumbo** -- 2nd place, softball throw, 2nd place, 4X100M relay; and 1st place, 100M dash.
- **Greg Stumbo** -- 2nd place, softball throw; and 3rd place, 100M dash.
- **Maryann Thompson** -- 3rd place, 4X100M relay; 6th place, 100M dash; and 3rd place, softball throw.
- **Elizabeth Waltz** -- 2nd place, softball throw; 3rd place, 100M dash; and 3rd place, 4X100M relay.
- **Judd Whelan** -- 1st place, dead lift; 3rd place, bench press; and 1st place, combination (powerlifting).

Congratulations to all the athletes and thanks to the many volunteers! Check out a photo of some members of the West Licking Warriors team on page 8.

Summertime learning and fun!

County Board of DD abuzz with seasonal sessions for youth and young adults

The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities was a busy place to be this summer, with two offerings to help young people prepare for the future:

“BRIDGES TO TRANSITION” --

Community Employment Services (CES), part of the County Board’s Adult Services department, conducted two sessions of classroom and hands-on activities through the “Bridges to Transition” program.

The goal of “Bridges to Transition” is to provide a successful transition from school to work, while offering supports needed for life after high school graduation. Students, parents and family members learned more about the opportunities available to young adults with developmental disabilities.

CES Transition Specialists Linda Hogue and Denise Rose spearheaded the “Bridges” effort, which was made possible by a grant from the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission. Each group met four days a week, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., in the Eleanor S. Weiant Center gymnasium.

“Graduating from high school is a big step, and change can be scary for just about anyone,” Hogue explained. “The ‘Bridges to Transition’ program allowed about 17 students or recent graduates a chance to see what their options are after high school. We helped them to understand that, while it can be a time of uncertainty and challenges, it also is an exciting time.”

The sessions were dubbed “Reach for the Stars” for a good reason, added Rose. “Bridges” students learned about goal setting, and received life-skills and work-skills training. They were able to see what is “out there in the real world” so they can make informed choices about the direction their lives will take, based on their interests and abilities. They also received on-the-job training from local employers including THK Manufacturing of America and Big Lots.

“These experiences were very positive for the students,” Rose said. “Many of them saw that they don’t



(Above) Recent Newark High School grad Stacey Wilkin tries out a job pricing merchandise at the Heath Big Lots as part of the “Bridges to Transition” program hosted by Community Employment Services.

have to be afraid of the changes and challenges they face. They can get jobs and become contributing members of the community. There is a bright and exciting future ahead, and they are in control of it because they have gained new skills to make their own choices.”

PALS --

The Partners Achieving Learning and Support group -- better known as PALS -- was comprised of transition-age youth who have a diagnosis of Down syndrome.

Lori Crosmer, a Youth Service Coordinator for the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities, organized a PALS group this summer with five participants.

The group met once a week for seven weeks at the E.S. Weiant Center.

“We discussed topics such as independent skills, grief and loss, relationships, how to live a balanced life, goal setting, manners, communication skills, and what it means to have a disability,” Crosmer explained. “We talked about things that are important to them.”

In addition to providing educational resources, PALS also offered opportunities for participants to socialize with their peers.

Crosmer hopes to schedule field trips as part of future PALS activities. If you or someone in your family would like to learn more about participating in a future PALS session, please call (740) 349-1420, or send an e-mail to Lori.Crosmer@LCountyDD.org.



(Above, from left to right:) Youth Service Coordinator Lori Crosmer, Sam Cohen, Jeremiah Malone, Janet Bowden and Jordan Hedrick pal around during a summer session of PALS, sponsored by the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

News from



Good neighbors, once again

State Farm has brought their “Good Neighbor” volunteer program to LICCO for many years.

This summer, a crew from the insurance company’s Ohio regional office in Newark donated their time and talents to trim some shrubbery and tackle weeds outside the LICCO building, located at 600 Industrial Parkway, Heath.

“These volunteers braved unbearable heat and humidity to spruce up the LICCO landscaping,” explains Kyle Miller, the County Board’s Director of Adult Services at LICCO. “Each year, the company sends a group of volunteers to help us in some way. They are always very enthusiastic about helping in any way they can. We are very fortunate to have State Farm in the community and as a friend to LICCO.”



In June, local State Farm employees spruced up the LICCO landscaping as part of the company’s nationwide “Good Neighbor” effort. Pictured, from left to right, are: Denise Bland, Susan Krieger, Maggie Carson, Marilyn Lewis, Diane Earwood, Kathy MacCombs and John Gutmann. Bland is a current LICCO Board member, and Gutmann is a former Board member and past-president.



July Team Member of the Month

Cindy Hoskinson

Cindy Hoskinson recently set some goals for herself, and she has done a great job achieving them.

As a result, she was selected by her supervisors as LICCO Team Member of the Month in July.

“Cindy is a pleasure to work with, and is very focused on making jewelry in the Spirit Line department,” says Workshop Specialist Vicki Wilkey. “Cindy’s attendance is good and she works very hard on all work assignments.”

Cindy is a Newark resident who has been employed by LICCO for 29 years, adds Adult Services Facilitator Nicki Forrer.

“She really enjoys making OSU jewelry,” Forrer says. “Over the past year, Cindy has shown she is very motivated. She is well-deserving of this award.”

Congratulations, Cindy, and keep up the great work!

Visit the redesigned www.LICCOINC.com to learn more about Spirit Line jewelry products and to place web orders. While you’re online, you can also search for LICCO on Facebook.



August Team Member of the Month

Marjorie Chaney

Marjorie “Marge” Chaney was selected by her supervisors as the August LICCO Team Member of the Month because she offers a lot of help in the production department.

“Marge also likes to play jokes on the staff to keep us laughing all day,” notes Workshop Specialist Denise Linger. “She really brings a smile to everyone’s faces.”

To honor Marge for her hard work and dedication, Workshop Specialist (and self-described poet) Roy Stutz wrote this:

*She’s the star of the month, be it sunny or rainy.
And it’s so much deserved, for our Marjorie Chaney.
Her effort is great, and her humor quite zany.
And we can’t help but smile when we think of Marge Chaney.
I’ve worked with her for years, and I’m sure you can’t blame me,
For the love and respect that I have for Marge Chaney.*

Marge is a Granville resident who has worked at LICCO for many years – since August 1984. Congratulations, Marge, and thanks for all your hard work!

“STEPping out” of the classroom

By Louise Decker, LCBDD Director of Human Resources

Each summer, local educators participate in the Licking County STEP program which teams them with businesses and employers in the area.

STEP -- which stands for Summer Teacher Externship Program -- is sponsored by the Business Community Advisory Council of the Licking County Educational Services Center.

Through such opportunities to explore business environments, teachers and school staff are able to incorporate workplace competencies in classroom settings, therefore better preparing students for meaningful career pursuits.

A Licking Valley Local School district staff member -- middle school guidance counselor Becky Lawrence -- experienced Adult Services activities through the County Board's Community Employment Services (CES).

Part of her week-long externship was spent with the CES “Bridges to Transition” group, working with teens and young adults with developmental disabilities.

Under the direction of CES Transition Specialists Linda Hogue and Denise Rose, Becky helped young adults as they explored job opportunities and learned life skills (more information about the “Bridges” group is on page 3).

Becky applied her educational training with the participants and bonded with them. In the process, she saw that many of the techniques she used can be taken back to Licking Valley Middle School to be shared with students and teachers alike.

Becky also visited LICCO, where more than 200 adults with developmental disabilities are employed. LICCO employs adults with disabilities in a manufacturing setting. They are compensated according to their individual productivity, and receive personalized support from the Adult Services staff.

Kyle Miller, LCBDD Director of Adult Services (and also a Licking Valley graduate), explained the services the County Board provides and its partnership with LICCO.

Becky worked with Workshop Specialist Chris Lee throughout her LICCO visit. She saw how Chris provided support to at least four adults with varying needs, all at one time.

Not only did she work the adults, but also tended to their personal needs while encouraging increased productivity.

Becky urges everyone to visit LICCO and witness the success of such a valuable resource in our county.

She was very humbled by the experience LICCO and CES provided, and sincerely thanks the teens, adults and employees who so warmly included her in their daily activities.

“Thank you for the experience,” Becky wrote after the conclusion of the STEP program. “I loved working with the teens and adults at LICCO. Chris Lee can come work for Valley any day! She amazed me! Linda and Denise could not have made me feel more welcome. They are great with the kids. Thanks again.”

It is our hope that the Licking Valley students will reap benefits from the knowledge, skills and insights Becky gained during the STEP experience. We were honored to have her with us, even for a short week. We hope other educators and school staff will consider joining us next summer for this rewarding adventure.



Becky Lawrence (center), Licking Valley Middle School counselor, poses with Linda Hogue and Denise Rose outside LICCO. Submitted photo.



Left: STEP participant Becky Lawrence works on a classroom-style activity with “Bridges to Transition” teens and young adults this summer. Submitted photo.

Local artisans unveil new *Studio SPARK*

The black-and-white photos on this page just don't do it justice. Not even close. You just have to see it to believe it.

It's colorful (and that's an understatement), it's creative, it's craft-filled, and it's all because of the enthusiasm of adults with developmental disabilities who live in Licking County.

What is it? It's the new Studio SPARK -- an art gallery and storefront, located next to the SPARK LLC day service program, 29 W. Church St. in downtown Newark.

Studio SPARK debuted with much fanfare on July 22 -- a grand opening celebration was part of SPARK's annual Summer Festival.

The idea to open a gallery and shop came from the people who attend SPARK daily. SPARK participants are encouraged to let their creative juices flow on a regular basis -- they can paint masterpieces on a variety of media, and are urged to make other colorful artistic creations.

These beautiful works of art always have been displayed at SPARK, or taken home for family enjoyment. But they rarely were shown in public forums -- until now.

Now everyone can view these bright, brilliant works of art.

You can see and buy a variety of works including paintings on canvas, unique garden stepping stones, handmade pressed-flower notecards, brightly-painted gourd-shaped bird houses, and so much more.



Blue and green glass stones adorn this gorgeous garden stepping stone. Others like this are available for purchase at Studio SPARK.




(Above) This brilliantly-colored painting on canvas, entitled "Hen and Chicken," is a collaborative effort of SPARK artists Lisa Fry, Tonya Dillon and Curtis Kincaid. Studio SPARK is located at 29 W. Church St., Newark. Hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays.

New ideas and colors are incorporated into the gallery on a regular basis. No two works of art are the same, and no two visits to Studio SPARK will be the same.

Just drop by weekdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you see something you like, purchase it to enjoy for yourself, or take it home as a unique gift for someone you care about. The recipient will appreciate where it came from and will know it was created from the heart.

The proceeds from all Studio SPARK sales go to the artists and to offset materials costs.

Studio SPARK is both therapeutic and confidence-building for the artists who display and sell their work. We think you'll find it is a unique and great addition to the expanding downtown Newark shopping repertoire. Be sure to check it out.

Look for us on 
and at www.LCountyDD.org

Coming in the next edition of Accent:
Complete coverage of the Golf Outing to Benefit the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities, hosted by the Zeune and Cole families of Pataskala.

The Licking County Chapter of People First hosts very successful garage sale

Thanks to everyone who contributed and worked so hard to make the first-ever Licking County Chapter of People First Garage Sale a huge success.

The sale was held July 29 and 30 at the former LCBDD Transportation building on West Church Street in Newark.

Donations came from County Board staff, families and individuals we serve, as well as friends and supporters in the community.

Because of these generous donations of gently-used items, the group was able to raise more than \$650, according to Diana Shannon, the LCBDD's Advocacy Coordinator and People First Advisor.

They plan to use the money to offset the cost of attending the PAR/OSDA Conference in October. About 20 People First members plan to attend. (Additional conference details can be found in the information box on the lower portion of this page.)

From all of the members of People First -- a big thanks goes to everyone!

September is a big month for People First

The Licking County Chapter of People First is set to hold its annual Election of Officers on Tuesday, Sept. 6. The election-day meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to noon at the E.S. Weiant Center.

During the meeting, individuals who would like to run for office will give campaign speeches. Then, group members will vote on the new officers.

It is important to note that this is the last time the group will hold a meeting during the 10 a.m. to noon time slot. They are considering holding meetings after hours to accommodate the work schedules of LICCO employees, and those who are employed in the community.

An awards banquet and swearing-in ceremony will be at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 15.

New members are always welcome. People First is a group of adults who receive County Board services and are interested in self advocacy. It is run for and by people with

developmental disabilities. More information may be obtained by calling your Service Coordinator or People First advisor Diana Shannon -- (740) 349-1420.



(Above) Donations of gently-used items filled the former LCBDD Transportation building for the People First Garage Sale. (Below, from left to right) People First members Abby Butt, Kyle Howell and Tonya Dillon.



PAR/OSDA CONFERENCE INFO

Professionals, Advocates, Resources (PAR) and the Ohio Self-Determination Association (OSDA) have scheduled their first-ever joint conference -- October 5-7, in Dublin, Ohio.

The agenda includes self-advocacy seminars and guest speakers. Organizers hope to make this an annual event.

For more information, contact Kathy Rader -- krader@crsi-oh.com; or (937) 776-0502; or visit www.par-ohio.org.

Cover story

(continued from page 1)

The LCBDD Endowment Fund was set up six years ago after the death of Martha Welsh. Martha was a local resident and grandmother of Tammy and Lori Dumbauld, two ladies who have been served by the County Board since they were small children.

The Board decided to use a \$25,000 gift from Martha's estate to set up the LCBDD Endowment Fund.

The goal is to grow it to \$150,000, and use the annual interest to pay for respite care, adaptive equipment, home modifications and recreational experiences -- beyond what the Board's Family Support Services (FSS) program can fund each year.

Contributions from John Beattie's family and friends goes a long way to reaching that goal, and for that we are very appreciative.

Anyone can support the LCBDD Endowment with their tax-deductible donations. We appreciate gifts of any size.

Donations can be made to honor someone, and to recognize life achievements or milestones -- much like the contributions that were generously made in John Beattie's name.

Also, the endowment encourages donations in memory of loved ones.

Last year, the County Board began working with area funeral homes to provide LCBDD Endowment envelopes and brochures so that families may consider memorial contributions as an option.

To learn more about the endowment, please visit www.LCountyDD.org.

To request request endowment

brochures and envelopes, please contact Heather Odendahl -- (740) 349-6588; or send an e-mail message to her at Heather.Odendahl@LCountyDD.org.

Parting shots...



The Hebron Kroger was the site of a pep rally and fundraiser during the afternoon of June 24 for the West Licking Warriors Special Olympics team. It was culminated by the annual Special Olympics torch run leading up to the annual statewide games in Columbus. The photo at left is one we snapped just as the torch arrived in the Kroger parking lot, on its way to Ohio Stadium where the games were held June 24-26 (results on page 2).

We would like to thank the Hebron Kroger management and staff for putting together another nice event to help offset some costs associated with traveling and competing. A big thanks also goes to local law enforcement who braved the summer heat to run the Olympic torch through Licking County.

Congratulations to all of the athletes for a job well done. Our hope is that readers of Accent will remember to support the local SO teams whenever and however possible.

The West Licking Warriors Special Olympics team will hold a cashdrop from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept. 11. They will cover Oxford Drive at Broad Street, Broad Street at Main Street,

and Taylor Road and Broad Street in Pataskala. They also will have a crew at the National Trails Raceway off U.S. 40, and Main Street in Hebron (at the old Ohio 79) at the Park National Bank. Along with the Denison University basketball team, volunteers will collect cash and coin donations for the Warriors. If you happen to be out and about in these areas on Sept. 11, please give generously!

The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities is helping children and adults pursue their dreams and building a caring community that sees the possibilities in people with disabilities.

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