

TRANSPORTATION CHANGES COMING IN NEW YEAR

The new year brings changes to the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD) in the way that we transport individuals who receive agency services.

For several years, the LCBDD has been working in cooperation with the Licking County Transit Board to provide safe and reliable transportation to a growing number of eligible individuals. Our board pays the Transit Board for the cost of these services.

Over time, the number of people transported by the Transit Board has increased steadily. Currently, they operate six of our nine fixed bus routes and provide transportation to individuals who are employed in the community, as well.

Several months ago, the Transit Board proposed that they provide all of the LCBDD's fixed bus routes and Community Employment Services transportation. Our Board considered their proposal and decided to accept it. Most

changes already have been phased in, but the contract officially begins January 1, 2011.

Over the last seven months, we have been working with the Transit Board and First Student, the Transit Board's provider, to prepare them to take on the additional workload.

We have put a great amount of emphasis on staff training and customer service expectations so that the transition is as smooth as possible.

Donna Flack, the LCBDD's Director of Transportation, will be working with the Transit Board staff to oversee a smooth transition until she retires at the end of March 2011.

The Transit Board also has hired our mechanics, Ken Johnson and David Acheson, and LCBDD secretary Robin Wilson.

We expect that you will continue to receive high-quality, safe and

reliable services. Families and providers will be receiving a brochure in the mail that explains procedures, as well as contact phone numbers and inclement weather policies.

Because our Board will continue to pay the costs associated with transportation, the LCBDD will monitor the services delivered and work closely with the Transit Board and First Student on an ongoing basis.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact LCBDD Superintendent Nancy Neely at (740) 349-6588. You may also send e-mail feedback to her at: Nancy.Neely@LCountyDD.org.



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PEOPLE FIRST NEWS

The Licking County Chapter of People First got its start just a few short months ago, but already the group is booking speaking engagements so members can tell their personal stories of living with developmental disabilities.

In early November, several People First members spoke to Granville High School students during their school-wide Alternative Day.

Their messages primarily focused on things that are important to them. Here are some of the speeches these self-advocates prepared and delivered to the students:

Hi, my name is Sarah Burkett and I graduated from Granville High School in 2004.

I am the President of the local chapter of People First.

People First is an organization of people with disabilities who work together on local issues by talking with people about their needs and rights.

I like people first because it's a place for old friends and new friends to come together.

When I was a student here at Granville, I was always looking for things that I could be involved in.

I always felt happy when there were concerts and plays at the high school because I love music and theater.

I had the chance to be in two plays while I was here: "Something in the Water," and "Everything I Know I Learned in Kindergarten."

I was a member of the drama club. I was happy in that club because I was

with a whole group of people, and I liked the chance to be with them.

One year, I was in the talent show and I did a monologue from "Romeo and Juliet." I played the part of Juliet (not Romeo).

I think people with disabilities should have the same chance as everyone to try out for activities at school.

Here are some things I care about:

- *I hope that my friends feel like they can trust me.*
- *I don't like it when people tell me*



Above -- Sarah Burkett addresses Granville High School students on Nov. 3.

what to do all the time.

• *I love my family, and I feel like I can go to them for answers and they try to let me make my own decisions.*

• *I love movies and I like it when I can go there by myself -- movies are my life.*

I think all people should treat each other with respect and support each other.

I'm going to continue to work with People First because it's a place where people with disabilities can speak up about what we all believe in, and then tell others in the community.

I have a dream that people with disabilities will always be treated fairly.

My name is Abby Butt.

I graduated from Granville High School in 2004.

I attended both regular and special-ed classes.

What I enjoyed most about my time at Granville was being the manager of both the softball and volleyball teams.

I currently receive County Board services.

This means I have a Service Coordinator who makes referrals for me and helps me obtain the things I want.

After high school, I told my Service Coordinator I wanted a job. She referred me to CES (Community Employment Services).

They helped me find a job. I currently work at Hopewell Federal Credit Union.

For the first few weeks of my job, CES provided me with a job coach who helped me learn my job.

To this day, they still help me maintain my job by calling my employer to make sure things are okay.

I also chose to find a second job on my own. I am proud to say I also work at Kendal at Granville, a job I love very much. I hope this gives you a glimpse into my life.

Hello, my name is Kathy Withem.

I graduated from (the former) Starlight School in Newark. As a person with a disability, life has been hard for me because of the way people have treated me.

I have been used.

People ask me for my money and cigarettes. I can't say no because it's hard for me. I have a good heart. These people never pay me back but they say they are my friends.

I have been lied to.

People make promises to me that they don't keep. They say they are my friends but they are not. They make

fun of me and call me names. When I am treated this way, it hurts me and I cry.

I would like to ask all of you to please don't drink, respect others and don't take advantage of people with disabilities, or make fun of them. Please do not hurt them like I have been hurt.

Hello, my name is Ray Shaw and I am part of People First.

It is an organization that wants to change the world because we want people to think we are special too.

I think everyone has the right to:

- Follow their dreams, like going to college and getting married.
- Be treated fairly and with respect.
- Be able to speak our minds. We have feelings too.

I like to play basketball, go bowling, go to dances, and go to work to earn money. I work at LICCO and Denison.

I graduated from (the former) Starlight School in 1985.

Thank you for letting me talk to you.

Hi. I'm Jay Good and I am the Sergeant-At-Arms for People First.

First, I want to talk about what it is like to be in a wheelchair.

It is kind of hard for me to get around because I always have barriers.

I think it would be a good idea for a lot of people to spend some time in a wheelchair so you can see how hard it can be.

Some of the barriers that I have with my wheelchair is that it is a little bigger than some chairs and it can be hard to fit into places.

Some of the places where it is hard for me to get into are:

- The Courthouse -- they have an elevator, but my chair does not fit.

- When I go shopping sometimes people park (illegally) in handicapped spaces and I have to drive my chair a long way to get to the store, which can be dangerous.

- Also, sometimes stores have things on the floor, or their aisles are not big enough for me to get through.

- I have problems getting through doors because sometimes the button for the power doors are too far for me to reach, or there are no power doors at all.

These are just a few problems that I deal with every day.

We, as a group, want to make a difference and bring awareness to changes that need to be made in both Newark and Heath.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Members of the Licking County Chapter of People First would like to share their stories with local groups and service organizations. To make arrangements, please contact Diana Shannon in the LCBDD's Service Coordination component. You may reach her by calling (740) 349-1420.

As decided by the membership, the local People First organization meets the first Tuesday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon; and the third Thursday of each month from 4 to 6 p.m.

For now, all regular meetings are scheduled to be held at the LCBDD Service Coordination building, 565 Industrial Parkway, Heath.

In addition to speaking engagements, the group also seeks fundraising opportunities, sponsors for meeting locations, transportation assistance and community liaisons. To help, please contact Diana Shannon or Aleesa Womer in Service Coordination -- (740) 349-1420.

Those adults who receive LCBDD services and would like to join People First are encouraged to contact their Service Coordinator for more information.

Watch for more updates about the local People First chapter in future editions of Accent (including coverage of the group's holiday festivities) and on our website, www.LCountyDD.org.



Above -- Katie Sheets takes a break to look over her notes before delivering a speech to Granville High School students. Katie and five other People First members shared their stories during Alternative Day. Katie only needed a few notes -- rather than a complete handwritten speech. She did an outstanding job discussing how she and two other female LCBDD service recipients are roommates. They share costs and receive some daily supports. Katie also shared that, for many years, she worked at Red Lobster in Heath.



NEWS

Thank you, PNB!

LICCO sends a warm thank you to Park National Bank associates Janet Springer, Sandy Geller, Joan Franks, Debbie Guisinger and Lynn Fawcett.

During PNB Volunteer Week, Oct. 18-22, these good Samaritans completed some landscaping projects at LICCO.

"The volunteers from Park National Bank did a great job clearing weeds and brush that we didn't have the resources to address," explains Kyle Miller, LCBDD Director of Adult Services. "We really appreciate that they took time out of their busy schedules for a morning to make such wonderful improvements at LICCO. It was very thoughtful of PNB to share their employees for our projects."

LICCO Inc. works in conjunction with the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities and local employers to provide work experiences for adults with developmental disabilities, both in a workshop setting and through Community Employment Services (CES). LICCO is a private, non-profit organization. For more information and to shop for exclusive LICCO products, please visit their website -- www.LICCOINC.com. You may also call (740) 522-8345.

Team Members of the Month

October

KATIE JONES

Newark resident Katie Jones began working part-time for LICCO in August 2009. Since then, she has increased her hours to full-time and has accomplished a lot, according to her supervisors.

That's why she was chosen as LICCO Team Member of the Month for October.

"Katie stays on task until her work is completed," notes Workshop Specialist Lynn Lynn Ridenbaugh. "The quality of her work has improved. She gets excited about making money and is proud of her accomplishments."

Adult Services Facilitator Daryl Waterman adds: "Katie's attitude is positive and she is friendly towards all. She likes to keep busy and likes to improve her work skills."

Congratulations, Katie, and keep up the great work!



November

DIANA GOOD

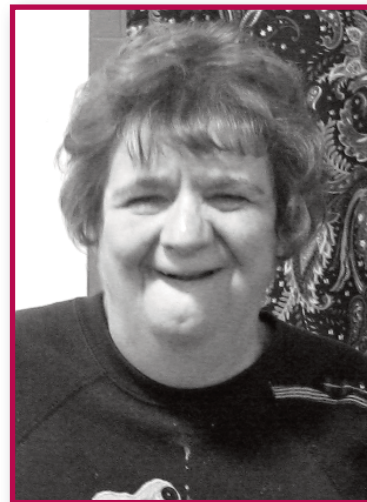
Diana Good was selected as the November LICCO Team Member of the Month because "she is polite and friendly to everyone she meets, has a great work ethic, and is always ready to help out," states her supervisor, Workshop Specialist Pam Diemoz.

"Diana's smiling face and sunny disposition are a welcome addition to my day" she adds. "We're all very proud of Diana."

Adult Services Facilitator Nicki Forrer notes: "Diana has overcome a lot of challenges this year and she's still accomplished whatever tasks needed to be done. Diana likes to stay busy and enjoys working."

Diana lives in Heath and has worked at LICCO since June 2006. She works five days a week.

Congratulations and keep up the great work, Diana!



Editor's note: The December LICCO Team Member of the Month will be featured in the January-February 2011 edition of Accent.

Thank you from the LCBDD

THANKS, CVS: A special thank you is in order for CVS Pharmacy. The company generously donated \$3,000 to My Place To Be's 2011 drama program. The gift will benefit children with autism in our community, and it is greatly appreciated. (Please see page 7 of this newsletter for more information about the MP2B Drama Club.)

LEVY FUND SAYS THANKS: Citizens for Developmental Disabilities wishes to thank the Newark Lodge No. 499 Loyal Order of Moose for their generous donation of \$500. The money was raised through charitable bingo events. We are ever-so grateful that the club continues to support Citizens for DD on an annual basis. Thanks so much.

IN MEMORY OF A FRIEND: Our deepest sympathies and warmest thanks to the family and friends of Mary Ann Tabler. Mary Ann was a dedicated LICCO employee for many years, and was one of the first to work in the Spirit Line jewelry department. Sadly, she passed away just before Thanksgiving. Her family chose to dedicate memorial contributions to the LCBDD and LICCO. Thank you so very much. Mary Ann will be deeply missed by our staff.

THANKS TO THE ANNARINOS: We extend thanks and sympathies to the family of Mike Annarino, who passed away recently. The Annarinos have been long-time supporters of the LCBDD, and they chose to dedicate memorial contributions to this agency in Mike's honor. We thank them for their generosity during this difficult time.

STARLIGHT OPEN RESURRECTED

The Ramsey family, long-time supporters of the LCBDD, hosted a fundraiser for our agency in late summer.

For many years, the Ramseys were well-known for hosting the annual Starlight Open golf outing. The event had special meaning to them as it was held in honor of Brandon Ramsey, a former Starlight School student who passed away in 1983 at the age of 16.

The Ramsey's decided to bring back the Starlight Open this past summer. Brandon's sister, Heather Ramsey Brannon, and his dad, Lonny Ramsey, donated more than \$700 in proceeds from the resurrected event to the LCBDD.

Past golf outing proceeds had been used to purchase playground and other equipment at the E.S. Weiant Center (the former Starlight School). This year's proceeds will be used for the LCBDD's Family Support Services fund to help pay for respite care and adaptive equipment for people with developmental disabilities. We are most grateful to Heather, Lonny, Broadview Golf Course in Pataskala, The Village Tavern in Kirkersville, the 60-plus golfers, and Leann Sears for being a part of this very worthy endeavor.



Above -- Lonny Ramsey (left) and Heather Ramsey Brannon (right) with Superintendent Nancy Neely. Left -- Brandon Ramsey, pictured in the 1980-'81 Starlight School yearbook.



'KAIDEN'S PROJECT' GROWS

The LCBDD thanks Kelli and Scot Burdette of Pataskala for their generous \$400 contribution to "Kaiden's Project."

"Kaiden's Project" was founded earlier this year by Connie Zeune when she hosted a community bake sale at her Pataskala beauty shop. The bake sale grossed a whopping \$1,200, and all proceeds were used to purchase educational books for new parents of babies with disabilities.

"Kaiden's Project" is named in honor of Connie's grandson who has Down syndrome and participates in the LCBDD Early Intervention/Help Me Grow program.

The Burdettes are friends of the Zeune family and wanted to help, Kelli explained. We thank you so much for your kindness.



Above -- Connie Zeune (left) with "Kaiden's Project" donor Kelli Burdette.

WARRIORS SAY THANKS

By Mike Sussman

The Friday night lights of our local high school bring back many pleasant memories. If you close your eyes for a few seconds and remember back to those magical home football games, you will see that special student standing next to the fence that separates the field from the fans. He or she always wears the school's colors and roots vociferously for the home team. This student never leaves the game early regardless of the score or the unsettled weather of late October in Ohio.

If you were seeing that student from the other side of the fence, you would see the eyes of great desire. The student is imagining that he or she is a member of a real team, playing in a real venue with fans cheering and referees whistles piercing the air.

Fast forward to today, and you will see that scenario unfolding in America. Because of the foresight of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Special Olympics was born at Soldier Field in Chicago 42 years ago.

West Licking Special Olympics was formed in summer 2003 at a meeting of special athletes' parents in Pataskala. There originally were eight athletes.

Today, more than 50 Special Olympians call West Licking their home group. We field athletic teams in basketball (three teams), track and field, power lifting, bowling, golf and cheerleading. Sports and social activities are staged 11 months of the year. Our combined basketball teams will play 30 games this season. Our track and field team will take part in five regional meets plus the state finals in June at The Ohio State University.

We decided when we began that no Special Olympian ever would be asked for any monetary contribution. We also decided there would be no remuneration for any group officials or coaches. Arrangements have been made for physicals for those who cannot afford them through the generosity of Newark Valley Urgent Care. Group and individual pictures also are paid for by the group. No Special Olympian ever is cut from our program. Every athlete gets a uniform, expert instruction and playing time.

As our group has grown, so have the financial needs. Many businesses and individuals in the area help support our group each year. The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities supplies a sizable grant each year. Lakewood, Southwest Licking and Licking Heights schools have given our teams a place to practice and have games this season. Then, there is a special day on every year's calendar. It is Cash Drop Day. For about three hours on a fall Saturday morning, our parents and the varsity men's basketball players and coaches at Denison University man five locations in Pataskala and Hebron. Each year, we are amazed at the generosity of our neighbors in our western Licking County locale. One lady contributed a milk bottle full of change this year. She told our folks that she had been saving all year.

On behalf of our athletes, thank you, Licking County, for contributing \$3,632 on Sept. 25.

Mike Sussman is one of many coordinators/volunteers who are affiliated with the West Licking Warriors Special Olympics. Mike can be reached via e-mail at msilksussman@aol.com.

Special Olympics group under new leadership

ATHLETES QUALIFY FOR STATE SWIM MEET

The Licking County Special Olympics Eagles are now operating under new coordinator Ashley Johnson.

The group hosted a fundraiser at the Heath Wal-Mart on Oct. 29. Then, on Oct. 30, they competed in a swimming competition in Upper Arlington.

There were three athletes who competed in this event -- Michael Justice, Matthew Wheeler and Gary Wheeler.

Michael competed in the 50-meter freestyle and the 50-meter backstroke, earning first place in both events. Matthew competed in the 50-meter and 25-meter freestyle events. He earned third and first place, respectively. Gary competed in the 50-meter freestyle and 25-meter backstroke, coming in first and second place, respectively.

All three athletes qualified for the state swim meet at The Ohio State University on Dec. 18. We'll share the results with our readers in an upcoming edition of Accent.

If you would like more information about the Licking County Special Olympics Eagles, please contact Ashley Johnson at (740) 624-0880, or send an e-mail to: licking_co_so@yahoo.com.

The organization seeks donors, volunteers and participants.

News briefs

WELCOME ABOARD: The Licking County Board of Commissioners has appointed Gary Baker to the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities, effective in November.

Baker assumes the unexpired term of Tim Weisert, who recently relocated out of the state. Weisert was first appointed to the board in January 2008.

Baker will fill the Board seat until its Dec. 31, 2011 expiration date, and will be eligible for reappointment.

Baker instructs video production and consults clients on applications of video on the web.

For more than 25 years, he has produced video for businesses and organizations in central Ohio, including The Ohio School Boards Association, Moundbuilders County Club and John Hinderer Honda.

He is president-elect of the Newark Rotary Club, a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Granville and a member of the Legend Elementary PTO. Baker lives in Newark with wife Julie and daughter Meredith.

The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities meets at 5 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month at the E.S. Weiant Center, 116 N. 22nd St., Newark.

WIGGINTON NAMED TO POST: LCBDD Board President David Wigginton recently was selected to serve as secretary of the Board of Trustees for the Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB). He has served on the OACB Board for one year, and the LCBDD Board of Direc-

tors for five years. We are very lucky to have him representing Licking County on the OACB.

WEATHERVANE TEAMS WITH

MP2B: My Place to Be and The Weathervane Playhouse are joining forces to offer acting classes, starting Jan. 8, 2011. Classes are to be held Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. for ages 6 to 11; and at 10:45 a.m. for ages 12 and up. The cost to participate is \$10 per week, and financial assistance is available.

Goals include teaching children and young adults social-emotional skills and body awareness through drama and movement.

Children will be separated into small groups based on age and development level.

To participate in this exciting activity, please contact My Place to Be's Christa Milner at (740) 398-9642; or cmilner@myplace2b.org.

"SNAPSHOTS" UNVEILED: The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities has released the first in a brand-new series of publications which tells the interesting stories of individuals who receive LCBDD services.

The first publication, "Johnstown Snapshots" is a full-color, mini newsletter that recently was distributed in the Johnstown area through The Bag advertising circular. We also are in the process of distributing it ourselves in strategic locations throughout the Johnstown area.

Adorable little Lucia "Lucy"

Heller, who lives in Johnstown with her family, is featured in the premier publication.

We plan to highlight the lives of other individuals and families who live in specific smaller communities in our county. In the coming months, you can expect to see editions of "Snapshots" pop up in Pataskala, Hebron and Utica, for example.

If you don't live in the Johnstown area but would like to get your hands on a copy of the first "Snapshots," you can go online any time to see it: www.LCountyDD.org/publications.htm; or you can request a paper copy by calling (740) 349-6588.

WHAT'S ONLINE? Don't forget to check out the latest edition of "Possibilities," our community-wide newsletter that is distributed to about 65,000 households in Licking County.

If you missed it, you can find it from our homepage, www.LCountyDD.org. Just click on the Publications tab and scroll down to the "Possibilities" heading.

Nikki Jackson is featured in this issue. Nikki is a local resident who is celebrating her independence while working at the Western Branch of the YMCA.

Also on our homepage is the quarterly Individual & Family Survey. We hope you will take a look at it and complete the short questionnaire. It provides us with very valuable information.

We also have a number of important items on our Newsroom page, including the latest monthly activities schedule for Consumer Support Services' James Street/Pine Street Centers; news releases; event flyers from other agencies and providers; and so much more.

Please log on today!

www.LCountyDD.org



Gary Baker



Above -- Lucy Heller of Johnstown is the star of the premier edition of the LCBDD's new "Snapshots" publication.

Holiday greetings!



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2011 LCBDD Operations Calendar

- January 17 -- Martin Luther King Jr. Day (The LCBDD and LICCO are closed).
- February 11 -- Staff Inservice Day (LICCO and Service Coordination closed; Administration office open).
- February 21 -- President's Day (All LCBDD offices and LICCO closed).
- April 15 -- Staff Inservice Day (LICCO and Service Coordination closed; Administration office open).
- May 30 -- Memorial Day (All LCBDD offices and LICCO closed).
- July 4 -- Independence Day (The LCBDD and LICCO are closed).
- August 26 -- Staff Inservice (All LCBDD offices and LICCO closed).
- September 5 -- Labor Day (LICCO and all LCBDD offices closed).
- October 10 -- Columbus Day (The LCBDD and LICCO are closed).
- October 21 -- Staff Inservice Day (LICCO and Service Coordination closed; Administration office open).
- November 11 -- Veteran's Day (LICCO and all LCBDD offices closed).
- November 24 & 25 -- Thanksgiving holiday (The LCBDD and LICCO are closed).
- December 23 & 26 -- Christmas holiday (All LCBDD offices and LICCO closed).
- December 30 -- New Year's Administrative Leave Day (LICCO and LCBDD closed).

The Board of Directors and staff of the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities wishes you and your family a safe, happy and healthy holiday season, and a joyous new year!

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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