



*Picture the Possibilities*

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## People First elects new officers

**NEWARK** -- The Licking County Chapter of People First recently held its annual election of officers.

Granville-resident Sarah Burkett will serve a second term as president of the self-advocacy organization. Also returning for second terms are: Kyle Howell of Newark, vice president; Shawna Winterbotham of Newark, secretary; Tonya Dillon of Newark, treasurer; and Jay Good of Newark, sergeant-at-arms. Newark-resident April Griffith was elected to serve as People First historian. This is the first time Griffith has been chosen to serve in a People First leadership role. Nikki Jackson, who lives in Pataskala, was appointed to co-historian duties with Griffith.

An induction ceremony was held during the People First banquet on Sept. 16, at the County Board's Eleanor S. Weiant Center. Each officer will serve a one-year term ending in September 2012.

The Licking County Chapter of People First is sponsored by the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities and was founded in September 2010. The group promotes self-advocacy and empowerment among local residents who have developmental disabilities. There are about 50 members on the local People First roster who meet twice monthly at the County Board's Eleanor S. Weiant Center. Satellite meetings and training sessions also are held at SPARK, a Newark day-service provider, and at LICCO Inc., the workshop located in Heath.

People First is an organization with more than 60 chapters throughout Ohio. Chapters also have formed throughout the United States. People First is run *for* and *by* individuals with developmental disabilities. Diana Shannon, a County Board Service Coordinator, serves as the local People First advisor. For more information, give her a call at (740) 349-1420.

The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities provides comprehensive services to more than 1,400 Licking County infants, children and adults with developmental disabilities. Administration Offices are located in the Eleanor S. Weiant Center (the former Starlight School), 116 N. 22nd St., Newark. The agency provides home-based Early Intervention services to babies and toddlers; Adult Services at LICCO Inc., Heath; contracted transportation services through the Licking County Transit Board; Service Coordination; residential supports; and family support services such as respite care and adaptive equipment. The County Board is nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for providing high-quality supports and services to individuals with disabilities and their families.

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