

Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities

NEWSLETTER

Summer
2009



The Board is Changing its Name

Name change must be in effect by 2012

After decades of being known as the Greene County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, the Board is changing its name to the Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities, which should be incorporated into all language, writings and marketing by 2012.

The state-mandated name change will be the Greene County Board's first since 1980, when it officially adopted the "Greene County Board of MRDD" moniker. Although "mental retardation" will be dropped from the name, the Board will continue to provide supports and services for individuals with mental retardation.

The Ohio House of Representatives voted unanimously in June to strike "mental retardation" from the Ohio Department of MRDD and all of all 88 county boards MRDD. Governor Ted Strickland then signed it into law on July 7. Nine county boards currently operate under the "DD" name, but Delaware County was the first to drop the phrase from its name, in 1991.

Introduced by Jimmy Stewart (R-Athens), the "Name Change Bill," as Senate Bill 79 was commonly known, came about almost two years ago when people with developmental disabilities in Athens County visited their county board of MRDD and requested the name change. A year later, the board asked Stewart to introduce legislation that would drop "mental retardation" statewide, as many saw the term as carrying a negative connotation.

The name change is part of the continuing evolution for people with developmental disabilities, said Linda Oda, director of communication for the Association of County Boards of MRDD, which is also expected to change its name in the near future.

Oda said that much of the credit for the passage of the legislation should be given to not just the self-advocates in Athens, but to the advocates for the developmentally disabled throughout Ohio.

Congratulations to the following employees on their anniversary hire dates:

Robyn Marconet: 7/10/1986
Jill LaRock: 7/14/1986
James Brown: 7/10/1989
Bernie Smith: 7/10/1989
Althea Coates: 7/10/1995
Marcy Wells: 7/20/1996
Laura Wallenburg: 7/24/2000
Deborah Johnson: 7/26/2001
Darla Wisecup: 7/21/2008
Debra Thompson: 8/25/1980
Elizabeth Brennamen: 8/2/1999
Pat Rogers: 8/2/2004
Robin Stewart: 8/6/1994
Margaret Conrad: 8/12/1991
Deborah Doyle: 8/12/1991
Charlotte O'Meara: 8/12/1991
Molly Waggoner: 8/12/2002
Carrie Hall: 8/21/2000
Mark Downs: 8/24/1981
Scott Hodges: 8/24/1981
Julia Long: 8/24/1991
Liza Martin: 8/28/2008
Eileen Hitzeman: 9/2/1997
Delana Zapata: 9/3/2007
Judy Pierce: 9/7/1982
Rebecca Stuchell: 9/7/2004
Danny Allen: 9/13/1999
Dean Horine: 9/15/1986

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Built to Last

Greene, Inc.'s new building is set to open in early October

Construction on The Atrium, Greene, Inc.'s new building, is progressing rapidly, and is expected to open to the public in early October this year.

The Atrium will be a state-of-the-art habilitation facility that will boast more than 20,000 square feet when completed. It will house a new and improved workshop, classrooms and conference rooms, a learning kitchen, and a roomy cafeteria while providing services and supports for people with disabilities.

The new building will also be air conditioned, an important feature the current building does not have. The current building will continue to hold Greene, Inc.'s administrative offices and its laundry and document destruction services.

"Our intent is to implement services here that will be worthy of the trust placed in us by the community," said Deborah Capuano, Greene, Inc.'s executive director.

The Atrium has been two years in the making, and Board members, employees and clients are equally excited about the progression and imminent completion of the building.

"We are very excited about our new building and workshop," Greene, Inc. client Sharon Vortriede said at The Atrium's groundbreaking in April. Construction began on April 22.

You can track The Atrium's progression under the "What's New" heading of the Board's Web site, www.greenemrdd.org. Photos are updated weekly, and will be updated more often as construction draws to a close.



The Atrium, as it stood on June 26. It's set to open in early October.



The Atrium on July 3.



A west-view rendering of the completed Atrium.

On Par

This year's golf outing a success

Despite rain and chilly winds, this year's annual Golf Outing was a success, thanks to the generosity of the community's business leaders and golf affectionados.

The first time it's ever rained during play, this year's outing drew 122 golfers (about 30 teams) and raised thousands of dollars, all of which will go toward Homecroft, Inc. Over the 16 years the event has been held, more than \$250,000 has been raised for Homecroft, the Board's nonprofit housing corporation that was founded in 1991 to help individuals with disabilities live as independently as possible. To date, Homecroft owns 28 homes, two of which were bought this year.

This year's first-place winners were Linda Bailey, Scott Baldwin, Greg Harper, and Amy Whitehall, followed by second-place winners Tom Carlson, Mark McDonnell and Brian Savage.

The Golf Committee will hold its wrap-up meeting in August, when it will begin the initial planning for next year's golf outing, to be held June 9 at the Twin Base Golf Club.



From left to right: Tom Carlson, Mark McDonnell, Brian Savage, Linda Bailey, Scott Baldwin, Greg Harper, and Amy Whitehall.

United in Action

Greene, Inc. clients clean Greene CATS buses for United Way Day

Since March, clients at Greene, Inc. have been participating in the "Giraffe Project," an international program designed to promote community service and character education. Participants have learned about "giraffes" around the world -- people who stick their necks out to help and serve their communities.

As part of the curriculum for this project, adults at Greene, Inc. have designed and implemented several different community service projects. The first was designed by Caroline Tilton, Chris Waite, Sharon Vortriede, and Rosezella Davidson, who planned a trip to Trinity Hursing Home, in Beavercreek, where they assisted

residents with playing BINGO. The second project was designed by Erin Betz, Doug Okan and Jerome Jackson. They, along with a group of their peers, created cards and bracelets to send to troops in Iraq.

The most recent project was part of the United Way of Action. Chris Farris, Bev Sassen, James Caldwell, Marissa Berry, Bob Merrit, AJ Talley, Steve Pitstick, and Alesya Hendrix volunteered their time to help wash and clean the Greene CATS buses. There are several additional service projects in the works that Greene, Inc. will be implementing over the summer.



C.L.I.C. to It!

Be sure to attend this year's last two resource fairs

Families, clients, providers, and Community Services and Early Childhood staff are reminded to attend this year's last two Community Linking Information Connections (C.L.I.C.) Resource Fairs.

Hosted by the Community Services division, C.L.I.C. Family Nights are typically held six times a year, with the grand finale being the Resource Fair in the fall. All events are held at the Board office at 245 Valley Rd., in Xenia.

The events invite Board clients and their families to learn more about providers serving Greene County. Local agencies included those in the fields of mental health counseling; educational information; special needs; residential services; health care; transportation; and employment supports, among others.

Topics of the C.L.I.C. Family nights include recreation and community programs, behavior techniques, autism, advocacy, and local agencies.

The 2009 schedule for the C.L.I.C. Family Nights include:

9/10: Autism, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

11/12: Resource Fair, 6:30 to 8 p.m.



Participants listen to speaker Wynema Mebane, an advocate for people with disabilities, during the July 9 C.L.I.C. Family Night.

For more information on the C.L.I.C. Family Nights, please contact Elaine Lanter, Tom Schaeffer or Jackie Rhodes at (937) 562-6500.

Happy Birthday!

Be sure to wish the following individuals a Happy Birthday:

Mary Ann Campbell: July 15
Marty Vance: July 15
Cindy McQuinn: July 16
Sherry Hubler: July 26
Eileen Hitzeman: July 29
Julie Bowling: Aug. 2
Ray Ball: Aug. 3
Fran Proctor: Aug. 3
Charlene Montague: Aug. 5
Cindy Whitaker: Aug. 5
Jeff Diamond: Aug. 9
Kathy Powell: Aug. 11
Laura Wallenburg: Aug. 14
William McKinney: Aug. 17
Brenda Mueller: Aug. 18
Margaret Conrad: Aug. 20
Denise Summerville: Aug. 23
Bobbie Faust: Sept. 5
Carol Dondero: Sept. 6
Janel Lee: Sept. 13
Susan Byrd: Sept. 14

IMPORTANT DATES

Aug. 24: Board Meeting, noon, Board Office

Sept. 7: Labor Day, Board Offices closed

Sept. 22: Autumn begins

Sept. 28: Board Meeting, noon, Board Office

Early October: The Atrium opens

Want to know when your certification expires? Visit this

link to view your certificate and its expiration date:

https://odmrdd.state.oh.us/apps/internet/ecv/ecv_default.asp

Don't forget to turn in any continuing education documentation to Liza Martin in personnel!