

September 2011

"Assisting people to attain the quality of life they desire and can achieve."

Superintendent Mancuso Announces Retirement



At the August board meeting, Joseph Mancuso, Superintendent, announced his retirement effective January 1, 2012. Dr. Mancuso will have completed 20 years with the local board and nearly 40 years in the field of DD. Board President Denyse Bayliss, noted the many accomplishments during Dr. Mancuso's tenure, and highlighted the construction of two new facilities and managing a growth rate of 100% in persons served by the board. She added that it is remarkable that all of those accomplishments and 20 years of operations were achieved with only two levy increases in the 20 year span. She lauded Dr. Mancuso's leadership and financial management skills. The board has begun their recruitment process and has a leadership transition plan that will allow a mentoring period for the new superintendent. Dr. Mancuso thanked the board, and the community at large for their support. He also offered praise for his staff. "We are very fortunate to have such an excellent and dedicated team. Logan County is a better place because of them."

Joe's Reflections -

Over the past 20 years I have many fond memories. That first year was a tough one; 3 levy campaigns, budget worries, lay-offs, etc. That made election night in November 1992 all the sweeter! Driving home that night, after the results were final and celebrations ended, I knew that the significance of that night would impact the lives of the persons we serve for many years.

On the lighter side, a favorite moment was when I was working late one evening in my old office. I thought I was alone in the building and I sang out a line from an old Sinatra song, "It's quarter til three," a few seconds later I hear a voice in the other room answer, "there's no one in the place except you and me." It was Norma Loehr, my executive secretary and we both had a good laugh!

Another poignant moment was when I had a one to one talk with Harley on the day his fellow RTC associates held a reception in his honor. Harley, a long time RTC associate was diagnosed with cancer and given a short time to live. Thinking along the lines of the "make a wish" concept, I asked Harley if there was something he always wanted to do or see in his remaining days. He looked me in the eye and said, Joe, being here with my friends . . . I can't think of anything that I'd want more." That conversation, after all my years working in this field, reinforced the significance of the work we do and the impact we have on lives of the persons we serve.

The past 20 years have been a professional and personal treasure of special moments. I thank my dedicated and loyal staff, board members and this community for their support over the years. One more thing, as a parting gift, please continue to support the Logan County Board of Developmental Disabilities on their journey into the future.

Superintendent Mancuso offered praise for his staff, "We are very fortunate to have such an excellent and dedicated team. Logan County is a better place because of them."

Discovery Center—We're Off to a Great Start-

The Discovery Center preschool is off to a great start for the 2011-2012 school year. Over 200 children participate in the activities planned by the preschool staff. The preschoolers are making new friends and renewing old friendships. Each day, the children are greeted with new experiences in their classrooms. For example, during free choice the children might have a chance to investigate bugs in the science area, paint at the easel, build ramps for the trucks, play dress-up, sing songs or play games. Not to mention playing in the gym and the playground on a daily basis!

Believe it or not, it has been 10 years since the renovation of the Discovery Center. I guess it's true that time does fly when you're having fun. If you haven't had an opportunity to tour our facility, we invite you to stop in for a visit.

DUE PROCESS POLICY NOTICE

The Board gives its annual notice that its due process policy (known as administrative resolution of complains, Chapter 4.9 in the LCBDD Policy Manual), is available to individuals and any entity in the county that serves persons with disabilities or any contracting entity, current or future, who provides goods or services. A representative of the County Board is available to assist individuals in their due process rights.



24th Annual Chicken BBQ –Thursday, October 6th

Call 292-3002 for more information on the chicken bbq or to purchase tickets!

This year marks the 24th annual chicken bbq dinner. Some of us have been around for every single one of them! More than 24 years ago a variety of ideas were considered as fund raisers for future levy campaigns and we decided to try selling chicken dinners. Someone had tasted chicken cooked by the Port-A-Pit Company and thought we should bring them to Logan County for the event.

Port-A-Pit set up its operation at the front of the building (we only had one building at the time) and they started cooking the chicken around 5:00 am. Our sales were helped by the wonderful smell of cooking chicken that went off on the wind from the front of the building. Some people stopped just to see what was causing all that delicious smelling smoke!

That first year was a real learning experience! Our guests were invited to dine-in at tables in our cafeteria or drive-through. During the early years we operated the drive-through out of the building's front portico. Cars would pull in from State Route 47, stop in front of the portico and order the meals through their car windows. At that point volunteers would pack each meal into a Styrofoam container and the meals would be handed off to our customers while they waited in their cars.

Our service delivery was complicated by the fact that we served sherbet cups for dessert. We had to be careful that the dessert did not come in contact with the warm main course. If that wasn't tricky enough, we added orange drink to our menu one year (and one year only!) Every bee in Logan County showed up at the drive-through for their share of the beverage.

As dinner time approached, traffic on 47 got very sluggish. In order to not cause accidents we had an officer of the law that helped direct cars in and out of the event. For many years we knew we were running a successful event when we saw the flashing lights on the police car stopped on the side of the road.

The past 24 years have been eventful each October. We've gotten pretty efficient at running this event and improve on something each year. Even though we've traded sherbet for cookies and now operate out of a building that sits farther off of the road, there are some things that will never

change. We still raise money for a very important cause, still serve top notch chicken and are still strongly supported by the citizens of the greatest county in Ohio. See you on October 6th Logan County!



Instant Replay Celebrates One Year Anniversary

It's hard to believe that last year at this time, Instant Replay workers were busy preparing for the opening of the store. The two main goals for Instant Replay are still the same – to provide customer service and cash register training for people with disabilities and to provide affordable sports equipment to the residents of Logan County.

Over the past year, 15 individuals with disabilities have trained at the Instant Replay store and many connections have been made in the community. Instant Replay has been grateful for the support from local high school Key Clubs operating donation drives and for the large donation of skis, snowboards, and boots from Adam's Ski Shop. Instant Replay has also sponsored several soccer and ball teams.

Instant Replay is excited to announce the addition of an outside donation box in our parking lot in order to make donating even easier. Funds for this project were made possible through the Logan County Co-op Round Up Grant. The growth of our business has allowed us to expand the hours of operation. Instant Replay is open Monday and Tuesday from 10:00am to 2:00pm, Thursday and Friday from 11:00am to 7:00pm, and Saturday from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

Come join Instant Replay's one-year anniversary celebration on Friday, October 14 and Saturday, October 15. In order to show appreciation to our customers, we will be offering free popcorn and face painting and 15% off all items.



"Serving the Citizens of Logan County."

THE LOGAN COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Joseph F. Mancuso, Ph.D., Superintendent

Pamela Hickman, Editor

www.logancbdd.org

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

1851 St. Rt. 47 West
PO Box 710
Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311
Telephone: 937-592-0015
Fax: 937-592-5615

DISCOVERY CENTER

Telephone: 937-592-2009
Fax: 937-592-3098

RTC INDUSTRIES, INC.

Telephone: 937-592-0025
Fax: 937-592-3001

We are on the web:
www.logancbdd.org

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