

THE MESSENGER

THE LOGAN COUNTY BOARD OF MENTAL RETARDATION/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

"Enabling persons with developmental disabilities to realize and enjoy the quality of life they desire and can achieve."

SPRING 2009

FROM THE DESK OF SUPERINTENDENT JOSEPH MANCUSO ...

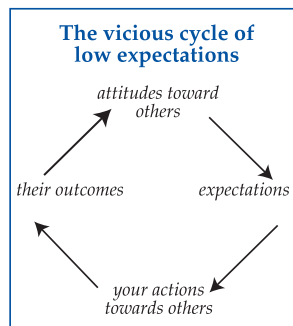
Just Like You, Me and Everyone Else

As a young undergraduate at the University of Pittsburgh, I was fascinated by a story in my experimental psychology textbook. It described an experiment conducted by a psychology professor, the subjects were his own students.

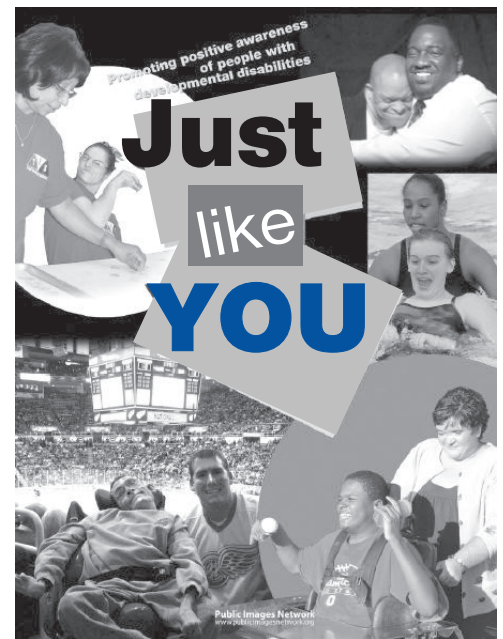
The students were split into two groups. Both groups were to train laboratory rats to run through a maze. Group A was told that their rats were of a genetic strain known for their superior learning abilities. Group B was informed that their rats were of an inferior genetic pool. After several weeks of training the rats were tested for their speed through the maze. The results were as expected; Group A outperformed Group B by a wide margin. The professor was sure to be pleased with his class. Instead, all students received an "F" for the project. The professor was upset because the students allowed expectations of their assigned rats to influence the outcome of the study. The professor deliberately misled the students, the superior strain of rats were really the Group B rats.

I was amazed at the power of a person's expectations. It vividly demonstrated how one's attitude or expectations can affect their actions, which, in turn, affect outcomes. These outcomes then reinforce the original attitude or expectation; a great example of a self-fulfilling prophecy. In the above

example, students in Group A believed their rats to be superior; so their expectations were higher. Their training efforts enabled their rats to overcome their lesser abilities and to actually out-perform the rats with greater natural abilities. The true difference between the groups was the expectations which influenced training efforts and eventual outcomes.



This study has far reaching implications into the dynamics of social and educational interactions for everyone, but especially for persons with developmental disabilities. The attitudes, beliefs and expectations we have towards others exert a profound influence on how we act towards others; as neighbors, teachers, bosses, etc. Our actions, in turn, directly affect others' quality of life. That is why it is so important



to hold the belief in our hearts and minds that people with developmental disabilities are indeed people "Just Like You."

When we set out to look for differences, we tend to exclude, but when we focus instead on similarities we are more apt to be inclusive. That is why this year's theme is so important. "Just Like You" is a way to positively focus our collective perception toward persons with developmental disabilities in order to realize that we have much in common.



Geranium Sale

PRICE REDUCTION - SEE BACK PAGE

Anna's Journey ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Anna Jo Palmer is a young lady who has lived a life of ups and downs. She has been in foster and group homes since the age of twelve. She found her way to Logan County on Christmas Day 2006 when she began living with the Eli and Liz Carter family in Bellefontaine as a foster home placement through Adriel. Anna and Liz work well together and have been successful with meeting a lot of Anna's goals. When Anna reached adulthood she wanted to continue to live and receive services from Liz. Anna was able to do this through a program from the state of Ohio called the Individual Options waiver. This type of Medicaid pays for personal care services and skill development training, assisting individuals to live in the residence of their choice. Anna is receiving adult foster care financing which enables Liz and Anna to work daily to increase Anna's independence.



Anna's goal is to increase her knowledge and abilities to live in an apartment without 24 hour care. She feels that she will be able to meet this goal in the future. She is also working on a weight loss goal to lose 24 pounds. She goes to the Hilliker YMCA and works out at least 3 times a week. Her favorite things to do there are play basketball, swim and walk on the track. She also participates in a multitude of programs through the recreation department at the County Board of MR/DD. She is a part of the Monday evening walking club, Special Olympics bowling, basketball and softball. She is also trying to start a volleyball club on her own. For fun she participates in the porcelain doll club and the movie club also through recreation at MR/DD. She is a member of the leadership organization at RTC Industries called the Employee Council and is a founding member of the Aktion club sponsored by the Bellefontaine Kiwanis.

Anna chooses to work at RTC Industries, a sheltered employment option where Anna works with the recycling team and is paid minimum wage. Anna receives assistance from her support team with staying focused on her work, improving her self esteem and dealing with stress while at work. Anna has identified these things as areas she requires assistance with so, she can be successful in a community job. She would like to assist the elderly at a nursing facility, become a state tested nursing assistant and help others as she has been helped.

Anna is taking control of her life one day at a time and is learning to be more responsible for her actions. Anna feels that she received the best present on Christmas day of 2006. She gained a family that stays with her when life is tough and she has found a place to work and have fun during the week where she has made many friends. Anna's example of self determination and progress is the proposed MRDD mission statement in action - "Assisting people to have the quality of life they desire and can achieve."

SIBSHOP Outreach for siblings with brothers or sisters who have a sib with special needs

Sponsored by the Logan County Board of MRDD, the Logan County SIBS have been in existence for four years. They meet at the Discovery Center from 10-1 p.m. on one Saturday of each month. Membership is open to siblings (ages 6-13) who have a brother or sister who is eligible for services from the Logan County Board of MRDD.

SIBSHOP is a lively mixture of games and discussion in an educational and social environment. During these activities, participants share laughs, discuss the good times, tough spots, trade helpful strategies, and grow in their understanding of disabilities and the services that people with disabilities receive. They also share lunch together, which always includes root beer floats...the group's trademark. The participants experience camaraderie, their feelings are validated and they realize they are not alone with their concerns.

Carol Hemphill, Supported Education Coordinator at the Discovery Center, serves as facilitator of the program. She is assisted by a high school senior, whose brother has Down syndrome.

For further information, contact Carol Hemphill at the Discovery Center (Phone 292-3056).

For more information about Shipshops, refer to these recent articles in the Boston Globe:

www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http://tinyurl.com%2F5yh621 OR www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http://tinyurl.com%2Faho3k8



Director John Martin from the Ohio Department of MR/DD, speaking at the Elected Officials Breakfast on March 6th



Senator Karen Gillmor, Superintendent Mancuso and Director Martin conversing after breakfast.

Do You Hear What I hear?

What a wonder modern technology is...

The Discovery Center has four students who are hearing impaired with cochlear implants. A cochlear implant is a small electronic device that helps children hear. It is very different from a hearing aid. Hearing aids amplify sounds so they may be detected by damaged ears. A cochlear implant is surgically implanted. It by-passes damaged portions of the ear and directly stimulates the auditory nerve in the inner ear. There are two parts to a cochlear implant.

One part of the device is surgically implanted into the bone surrounding the ear. It consists of a receiver-stimulator, which accepts, decodes, and transmits an electrical signal to the brain.

The second part of the cochlear is an external device. This consists of a microphone/receiver, a speech processor, and an antenna. This portion of the implant receives the sound, converts the sounds into an electrical signal, and transmits it to the internal portion of the cochlear implant.

Cochlear implants allow children who are deaf to receive and process sounds and speech. To a certain degree, they are devices that allow children to "hear." However, it is important to understand that these devices do not re-establish normal hearing -- they are tools that allow sound and speech input to be processed and transmitted to the brain.

Signals generated by the implant are sent by way of the auditory nerve to the brain, which recognizes the signals as sound. Hearing through a cochlear implant is different from normal hearing and takes time to learn.

Individual results in using cochlear implants vary widely, and are influenced by the condition of the hearing nerve prior to surgery, the developmental level of the child, the length of time the child was deaf prior to surgery, and the consistency of use.

Some children learn to communicate fully, whereas others can only recognize sound. Achieving maximum results can take several years, and requires early intervention, motivation and practice.



Starry playing and interacting in the classroom with her hearing peers.

The Discovery Center is pleased to have this opportunity. We have dedicated a room of motivated staff to help our children excel. Teacher, Kristy McKirahan, signing assistants Tammy Baker and Jenny White, along with speech and language therapists Cheryl Le Master and Theresa Dunn, work with parents to plan and provide enriched language activities and maximum opportunities to utilize listening skills. Listening is different from hearing. Hearing is what can go in. Listening is something we actively do with what we hear. Even though we have all grown up to listen, and now do it automatically, we may listen with different degrees of effort during the day. Listening can be hard to do, and like anything we do, it has to be learned.

Research shows that Parents and professionals working together to maximize opportunities for the child to listen, learn the meaning of language, and use speech as well as sign language maximum the child's potential for success.



Starry has had her cochlear for approximately 1 year and is demonstrating her ability to listen and respond to different sounds.



**APRIL IS
AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

DON'T GIVE UP ON ME

It's so hard for me to say "I love you"
The words just don't come out the way they should
And I know you don't believe me, when I'm being
so bad
That I'm trying so hard to be good

And at those times when you reach for me
And I push you away
Deep inside I just want you to stay, 'cause...

You're the light in my dark, the current in my stream
My sun when it's raining and drowning all my dreams
Without you, I can't make it ... so don't give up on me
There's a whole lot of love inside the person you
can't see.

I wish I could say how much I need you
I want to show how much I love your smiling face
But something deep inside keeps holding me back
And I'm lost in my own little space

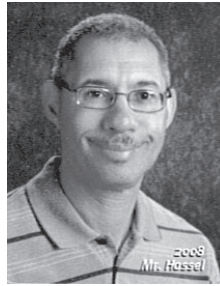
Forgive me if I'm screaming...I'm desperate to
show you
Who I really am, I just wanna know you....'cause

You're the light in my dark, the current in my stream
My sun when it's raining and drowning all my dreams
Without you, I can't make it ... so don't give up
on me
There's a whole lot of love inside the person you
can't see.

Lyrics, music © Viga Boland, Victoria Boland, VIVI MUSIC 2002



Mike Hassel is a lifelong resident of Logan County. He graduated from Bellefontaine High School. He earned his undergraduate degree from Urbana College and his master's degree from the University of Dayton. Thirty



four of his thirty five years in education were spent with the Bellefontaine City Schools. During those years, he worked as a classroom teacher, counselor and administrator. He retired from the BCS in 2007.

Mr. Hassel's wife Cassie is also a lifelong resident of Logan County. They have two grown sons. Sean lives in Memphis, TN and Aric lives in Cincinnati. The Hassel's have been blessed with two wonderful grandchildren.

Community service is very important to Mr. Hassel and he is excited to have the opportunity to be associated with the Logan County MRDD Board.



APRIL

- 30-3 Discovery Center Spring Break
- 10 Good Friday - All programs closed
- 18 LCBMRDD Meeting

MAY

- 21 LCBMRDD meeting @5:30 pm
- 25 Memorial Day - All programs closed
- 28 Discovery Center Spring program "Rain Forest" @ Bellefontaine HS Auditorium - 7:00pm

JUNE

- 4 Last day of school for students
- 5 D.C. staff work day
- 18 LCBMRDD meeting @5:30 pm
- 29- July 3 Summer Break-All programs closed

MRDD Auxiliary Committee is currently selling the famous Geraniums! We will be taking orders from **March 23rd – April 17th.**

Your basket of flowers will be ready for pick-up on **Friday, May 8th** at the **Discovery Center Preschool** from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Please mark the pickup date on your calendar! You may order your flowers by calling the office at 592-2009, completing this form and faxing it to the Discovery Center office at 592-3098, or e-mail chall@mrdd.co.logan.oh.us

This year we are encouraging pre-payment and checks should be made out to LCBMRDD Auxiliary Committee.



Each basket will contain 6 single geraniums of the color of your choice in a 4" pot (same color only), and are sold for \$15.00 each! Please notice there is a price reduction this year!



You may mail your payment to:
MR/DD Geranium Sale,
c/o Connie Hall
PO Box 710, Bellefontaine, OH 43311.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ (required)

Number of Baskets and Color Choice

_____ Pink _____ Red _____ Salmon _____ Fuchsia _____ White

THE LOGAN COUNTY BOARD OF MENTAL RETARDATION / DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Joseph F. Mancuso, Ph.D., Superintendent • Pamela Hickman, Editor

www.co.logan.oh.us/mrdd



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
1851 St. Rt. 47 West
P.O. 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
Telephone: 937-592-0025
Fax: 937-592-3001

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