

# THE MESSENGER

THE LOGAN COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

SUMMER 2009

## ***Governor Signs Bill to Strike Words "Mental Retardation" From County Boards***

With the passage of Ohio Senate Bill 79, legislature voted to unanimously pass Senate Bill 79 to remove the term "mental retardation" from the name of the Ohio Department and all 88 County Boards in Ohio. Legislators agreed that the term has long been used in a negative way and has been a hurtful description of individuals with developmental disabilities. Ohio citizens with developmental disabilities are now assured that the term "mental retardation" will not be in the vocabulary of state and county agencies that provide services and supports to them.

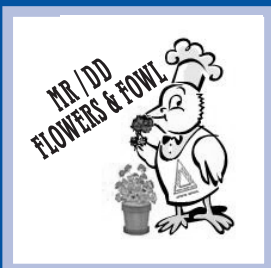
The legislation will officially take effect this summer. The state agency will now be the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. Each county's agency name will change to the County Board of Developmental Disabilities. The Logan County Board of Mental Retardation Developmental Disabilities will henceforth be named The Logan County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

## *Finding a Place to Call Home*

Howard is quite a success story! He has accomplished so much since he moved to Logan County in 2002!

Howard lives with the Ransbottom family. Trudy Ransbottom is his provider; assisting him with developing life skills. Currently he is learning to do his own laundry and to take his medications. Trudy is also teaching him to deal with emergency situations and to shop and select healthy foods. Howard needed a supportive environment and the Ransbottom's were able to provide this. In this setting Howard is developing skills to be as independent as possible and is contributing to the household. The services Howard receives are monitored by the Logan County Board of DD. They are paid for through Medicaid and state funds.

Since 2003, Howard has tried various community jobs, while also working at RTC Industries. At RTC, Howard continues to work on goals to fine-tune his vocational skills. He completed janitorial work at RTC, along with collecting paper for shredding. In February of 2009, an opportunity at the Route 33 Rest Area came about. Howard utilized job coaches through RTC Employment Services to train him on the job. He continues to receive job follow-along through LCBDD. Community employment has given Howard the opportunity to participate in Job Club, which is a social and informational club. Howard is also an active member in Special Olympics and the recreation program through RTC Industries. After seven years Howard has certainly made a home in Logan County.



**ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ**  
**October 1st**  
**Call 592-0015 for tickets!**

## The Importance of Parent to Parent Support

Elizabeth Stone said that making a decision to have a child is momentous. "It is to decide forever to have your heart go walking around on the outside of your body." When our son was diagnosed with autism in preschool, I felt as if my heart was not only vulnerable, but bleeding with the pain of an unexpected loss. I looked for ways to ease the pain and accept this different journey of parenthood. Talking with teachers, therapists, and other professionals helped me to begin acceptance, but when I was home alone with my son, I felt isolated and needed more help. I met another mother that was also dealing with the similar issues and our friendship became an ointment to my hurting heart. I began to informally seek others that would be interested in sharing their own life stories with me so that we could help one another.

Our son is will soon be 12 years old and while the initial shock may be gone, I still value my friendships with other families of children with special needs. There is no need for apologies for seemingly unusual behaviors or the need to make a quick exit from an event or situation. What started as an informal network of friends, has now blossomed into a local group called Families Touched by Autism. Parent to Parent support has been a key factor in my ability to cope with the demands of raising a child with autism.

In April, my husband and I were asked to participate in a local television interview for a special segment on autism. We along with two other parents shared how we dealt with diagnosis, finding help, and the effects on our families. While I had never met the other parents previously, we immediately felt connected by the similar issues we face. We all agreed that connecting with other families had been one of the most helpful things we have done for ourselves and our children. Other families know possible doctors or other professionals, where to find resources for financial concerns, and understand how small steps of progress feel so huge to each of us. Most importantly, they can teach us to laugh in the midst of our struggles.

The Logan County Board of Developmental Disabilities recognizes the value of parent support and has helped to provide child care and other resources to help families to connect. We are fortunate to have active parent support groups here in our own community. Along with local groups, there are many online and other informal networks of support that exist for parents. I have never regretted taking that initial step of reaching out to someone else in hopes that we could help each other. Families of children with disabilities have more similarities than differences. I would encourage others to find a way of support that works for you and your family.

If you are interested in the parent group specific to autism, please contact Angelia Parsons at 937-592-5438 or [japarsons@embarqmail.com](mailto:japarsons@embarqmail.com). For a group specific to the needs of individuals with Down Syndrome, contact Jennifer Thornburgh at 937-592-1160 or [jthornburgh@embarqmail.com](mailto:jthornburgh@embarqmail.com). A local group is also forming to address the needs of families that have an individual with a disability regardless of age or type of disability. You may contact Carol Hemphill at LCBDD at 292-3056 or [chemphill@mrdd.co.logan.oh.us](mailto:chemphill@mrdd.co.logan.oh.us) for information or questions regarding this group or any other listed here. Family Members from around the state also meet monthly at a Family Advisory Council. For more information about the FAC, contact Peggy Martin, ODMRDD Family Advocate, at 614-466-8706, and at [peggy.martin@dmr.state.oh.us](mailto:peggy.martin@dmr.state.oh.us) or: <http://odmrdd.state.oh.us/families/familyadvocate.htm>.

## AKTION CLUB RECEIVES CHARTER

The Bellefontaine Kiwanis and the Logan County Board of MR/DD have collaborated to create Aktion Club. The club was chartered in June, 2009. The club's twelve members elected board members when it was chartered. It meets twice a month during lunch at RTC Industries.

Aktion Club is a community service opportunity for adults who live with disabilities. Each member develops initiative and leadership skills through the group's activities. These skills will help them serve their community, integrate into society, and demonstrate to others the dignity and value of people with disabilities. Aktion Club members strive to return to their communities the benefits, help, and caring they have received, as well as develop important skills in the process.

Aktion Club members are in the process of adopting a highway through the Ohio Department of Transportation. A Canned Food drive began on July 15, 2009. Proceeds from the food drive will be donated to Our Daily Bread in Bellefontaine for distribution in food baskets. The members voted to start a recognition program within RTC Industries. This recognition program is designed to increase understanding of the club's mission and grow membership. The members decided to decorate their co-workers lockers on their birthdays. They want to make everyone feel special and noticed.



*Fans of the book **Side-Yard Super Hero** present author, Rick D. Niece with a personal picture of original Side-Yard Super Hero, Bernie Jones.*

## **The Benefits of Children's Stories.**

### **-Little Ones Reading Resources**

We have all heard that parents who read aloud to their child provide a strong, positive influence and build a foundation for a lifetime of benefits. But what really are these reading aloud benefits? Do you know?

In this day and age of hectic lives and busy schedule, reading together is a simple and enjoyable way for parents to take time out and focus on the family. Young children need lots of special, dedicated time with their loved ones. Reading children's stories aloud to children is just plain FUN because books are FUN. It is a time to laugh and giggle, make funny faces, use all kinds of voices, play and act out events, use sound effects, and just have a good time. For example, there are always opportunities to tickle little ones during the chorus of **The Three Little Pigs**....."not by the hair of my chinny chin chin!"

Reading children's stories is a wonderful bonding experience that fosters meaningful one on one communication with your child.

It shows your child in no uncertain terms that they are important to you.

It molds your child into becoming a reader, and raising a reader significantly increase your child's potential for academic success as well as life long success in general.

It is a vital and integral part of teaching children how to read as children learn to read by being read to.

It helps children master language development.

It builds listening skills, increases a child's attention span, and develops the ability to concentrate length.

It develops a child's ability to express themselves more confidently, easily, and clearly in spoken and written terms.

It develops and fosters a child's natural curiosity.

It develops creativity and a child's ability to use their own imagination. It expands your child's horizons, quells fears, exposes them to new situations, and teaches them appropriate behavior. Reading children's stories to our children provides the best opportunities for teaching moments.

Reading picture books develops a young child's appreciation for the arts through exposure to many different styles of art and illustrations.

There is so much that reading children's stories aloud to our kids can do for them. Let's start reading together today!

"A house without books is like a room without windows", Heinrich Mann stated.

This article is dedicated to Nancy Kuta, fondly known to the Discovery Center Children as Mrs. Nancy. Mrs. Nancy recently retired from the Logan County Library after 31 years of promoting children's literature through her magical story times, Tales for Tots, family fun nights, and summer reading programs. Mrs. Nancy always found time to visit the Discovery Center children and share her reading magic! Mrs. Nancy believed the greatest gift you can give your child is love, and then the next best thing to **that** is a book! She urged parents to begin reading to their child as soon as they found out they were pregnant and to become patrons of the library so that their child would see that libraries are fun places to visit.

### **Thank you Mrs. Nancy!**



# From the Desk of the Superintendent

I am pleased to share the 2008 Logan County Board of Developmental Disabilities annual report with our community.

As we continue to strive for program excellence, we also consider efficiency a top priority. In other words, the persons we directly serve deserve the very best programs and services available and Logan County taxpayers deserve the most efficient use of their tax dollars. While our programs rank with the best in Ohio and are nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), our expenditures per person served are among the lowest in the state. This means that we rank among the most efficient county boards in the state of Ohio. (based on the 2007 cost reports listed on the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities website.) During the past 18 years, we have only had 2 levy increases; one in 1992 and the other in 2005. This is quite remarkable considering the impact of 18 years of inflation and a more than 100% increase in persons served. In addition we have constructed two state of the art facilities; the Discovery Center and the RTC Industries buildings. This is a track record in which all Logan County citizens can take pride.

As the economy challenges all of us in the months and years ahead, rest assured that the Logan County Board of Developmental Disabilities will continue to provide top quality programs and services in the most efficient manner possible.

*Joseph F. Mancuso, Ph.D.*  
**Superintendent**



## AUGUST

- 19 First Day of School
- 20 LCBDD Mtg. @5:30 pm
- 21 Staff Development Day - Program Closed

## SEPTEMBER

- 7 Labor Day - All Programs Closed
- 17 LCBDD meeting @5:30 pm
- 22 Parent Ed Event - D.C.
- 24 Parent Ed Event - D.C.

## OCTOBER

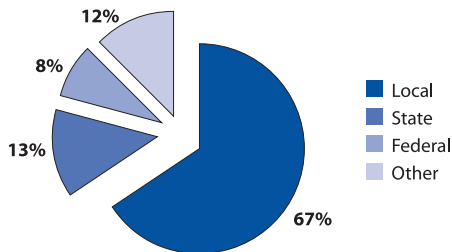
- 1 LCBDD Auxiliary Committee-Chicken BBQ -11:00am -7:00pm
- 12 Columbus Day - All Programs Closed
- 13 Parent Conference - D.C.
- 15 Parent Conference - D.C.
- 15 LCBDD meeting @5:30 pm
- 23 Staff Development Day - Program Closed



## ANNUAL REPORT

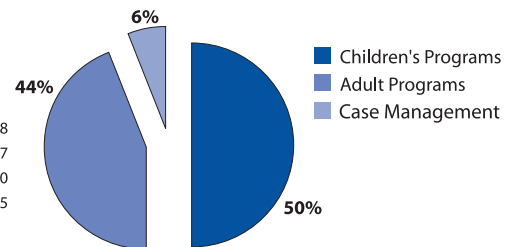
### Revenue

Local	\$4,351,989
State	\$844,416
Federal	\$519,640
Other	\$779,461
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,495,506</b>



### Expenditures

Children's Programs	\$3,271,668
Adult Programs	\$2,879,067
Case Management	\$392,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,543,335</b>



## NOTICE!

The Board gives its annual notice that its due process policy (known as administrative resolution of complaints, Chapter 4.9) is available to individuals and any entity in the count 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.

# THE LOGAN COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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

[www.co.logan.oh.us/mrdd](http://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

### BOARD MEMBERS

Michael Sandlin, President  
 Denyse Bayliss, Vice President  
 Bernard Tuttle, Secretary  
 Angelia Parsons  
 Jennifer Thornburgh  
 Connie Hudson  
 Mike Hassel

### PROGRAM ENROLLMENT

Early Intervention	54
Preschool	249
Adult Services	119
Community Employed	53
Case Management	
Adults	155
Children	50
Residential Services group Home/apt.	76