

WINTER NEWSLETTER



TRUMBULL COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Their Journey, Their Needs, Our Support.

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To Individuals, Guardians, Parents and Families,

To comply with state and federal mandates, the Trumbull County Board of Developmental Disabilities (TCBDD) recently passed a resolution to formally transition from providing direct services to adult individuals. The TCBDD and Fairhaven Industries, Inc. are working together to transition ALL adult services programs currently operated by TCBDD to Fairhaven Industries. A tentative date to complete the transition has been set for July 1, 2018.

Part of this transition plan includes requiring individuals enrolled in TCBDD Day Service Programs to participate in the Medicaid Waiver Program. As individuals utilize Medicaid benefits, TCBDD can better utilize local county levy tax dollars to offer a variety of services funded by Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver to support people to choose services that meets their needs. This will allow TCBDD to exercise fiscal responsibility by encouraging and assisting individuals to access all available resources before using county tax levy dollars for needed services and supports.

Over the next year, TCBDD will be working directly with family members and individuals to enroll them in the Medicaid Waiver program. This letter is to ensure you are aware that, once enrolled in the waiver program, all individuals have the right to Free Choice of Provider.

Simply stated, as a recipient of a Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver, you have the right to choose any qualified and willing provider of HCBS services at any time. Thus, your Service and Support Administrator (SSA) will assist you in transitioning to Fairhaven Industries as the new provider or help you explore other qualified and willing day service providers. Please note, we are not requiring anyone to leave the workshop, we simply want you to know you have that option of receiving your services from another provider once you are enrolled in the Medicaid Waiver program.

I will continue to update you on the progress of the transition. TCBDD is also holding Parent Meetings throughout the year and will provide updates during those meetings. In the meantime, please contact your SSA with any questions.

CARF Accreditation

TCBDD was recently accredited for a period of three years for its integrated community employment programs by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF International). This is the fifth consecutive Three-Year Accreditation that TCBDD has received. CARF is an independent, non-profit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value and optimal outcomes of services. Organizations that receive a Three-Year Accreditation are put through a rigorous peer review process and must demonstrate a commitment to offering measurable, accountable and high-quality programs and services to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit.



ENCORE SHOPPING EVENT

On a day the Encore Shop is typically closed, a very special shopping experience was provided for 10 women from the TCBDD program. Michelle Dolan, owner of the Encore Shop in Liberty, provided the shopping experience as part of her continued support of TCBDD. Michelle and members of her Fashion Board were on hand to help shoppers with anything they needed. Shoppers said they felt like they had "shopped till they dropped".



HOLIDAY MOVIE DAY

Holiday Movie Day featured the films "Trolls" and "Moana" for over 300 moviegoers. The Warren Junior Women's League distributed popcorn, arranged to have Santa visit and provided a Christmas treat for everyone. This is the 10th year the League has partnered with the Foundation to provide this special holiday movie event.



Foundation News

18th Annual Art Show was a great success for the 50 artists honored with medals and gifts donated by Delli-Quardi Lawn Maintenance and Landscaping. Over 250 people joined this year's celebration. Mary Shiamone is a wonderful supporter of the Foundation, she made a latch-hook rug of the Fairhaven Bulldog mascot to be raffled at the Art Show. Mary said she "wanted to help the foundation raise money to help people." A huge **THANK YOU** to Mary for her caring and generosity.

Tim Eckard's Story

Tim Eckard recently celebrated five years working at Old Navy in Niles. Tim started working as a Stock Associate on November 13, 2011. According to his manager, Linda Kennedy, Tim is the model employee. The entire Old Navy team appreciates his attention to detail, the fact he never calls off work and that once a week, Tim brings in a special treat for his co-workers.

Tim received assistance finding his job at Old Navy and currently receives follow-along services through TCBDD Direct Link. A Direct Link Employment Coordinator checks on Tim monthly to help ensure his success at Old Navy. When asked what he likes about his job, Tim said, "I like being there and just having a job. I like the people too, like my co-workers and bosses." Old Navy has had such a great experience working with Tim that they have hired two additional individuals who receive services from Direct Link. Tim also has a little bit of advice for people who are interested in or currently looking for a job. He said, "Don't be nervous. Just do your best. I love having a job now."

Outside of work, Tim likes to watch movies, play chess and video games and going to video game conventions. Tim also likes movies, shows and collectables.





Grant News

Artists involved in the Studio were very busy with community activities during November and December, including the Holiday Art Hop and the Christmas on the Square event. The new year brings many opportunities for the artists involved with the Ohio Arts grant proposal; specially, an exhibit at the Art Outreach Gallery (Eastwood Mall), illustrating selected poems for a book of poetry to be published by The Neighborhood Partnership organization, art classes, submitting entries for a juried show at the Hoyt Art Center in New Castle. The artists are also busy working on their biographies, resumes, and portfolios for submission to the Ohio Arts Council.

Community Employment Update

Direct Link has been very busy! Three new people have chosen TCBDD Direct Link as their community employment provider and we are so excited to serve them. Direct Link currently has six people in the Intake status, 12 people in Job Development and 47 people in Retention and Follow-along.

Direct Link held another job readiness boot camp in October with nine attendees. During the two-day boot camp, they focused on presenting themselves and interview skills. All nine participated in a job fair that was held at Kent State Trumbull Campus on October 13, 2016.

Direct Link also started a new volunteer program with Youthbuild. Volunteers have the opportunity to help rehabilitate a home in Warren, Ohio. Three volunteers are helping paint, stain decks, clean and perform office work. Direct Link has several volunteer sites established, including Trumbull Mobile Meals, Second Harvest Food Bank, Animal Welfare League, Niles Food Forest and Salvation Army. Volunteer sites help expose individuals to different jobs and help them learn valuable job skills.

If you are interested in seeing what TCBDD Direct Link can do for your business, check out the Direct Link website at www.directlinkpgm.org.

Shop for a Cause

The 3rd annual "Shop for a Cause" was a success with shoppers. Shoppers received 20% off Christmas items and a free pair of "ugly Christmas socks" with purchases of \$30 and a ticket for a special gift drawing. A percentage of the day's sales was donated to Fairhaven Foundation. For the past five years, Pam Simpson, owner of the gallery, had professionally framed the winning art of the Foundations calendar winners, free of charge.

Simpson Gallery & Gifts™

2308 Elm Road, Warren, OH

D Martin Rickens' Story

Martin Rickens was born in Altoona, Pennsylvania. He has lived in Niles, Ohio, since he was seven years old. He has two brothers, Robert and Paul, who he enjoys spending time with when they get together.

Martin is an active member of the community. He has worked for Fairhaven Industries for 13 years and is also a volunteer at the Second Harvest Food Bank. He is a dedicated worker with a fun sense of humor.

Martin is very friendly and likes to talk to everyone. In his spare time, Martin enjoys bowling, playing baseball and going to sports games. His favorite games to go to are the Scrappers, Akron Ducks, Cleveland Indians, Pittsburgh Steelers, and the Altoona Curves.

When he's not at a sporting event, Martin likes to eat at barbecues, go to the movies and take walks. He is even a member of the TTC Jolly Walkers! In the winter, Martin prefers to stay home and watch the NFL Network.

We are proud to serve individuals like Martin!



What's your story originated as a theme for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month 2016. It has become a way for individuals with developmental disabilities share their stories and encourages everyone that when people with disabilities are welcomed into the community, everyone wins and the community is stronger. We encourage everyone to get acquainted with someone who has a developmental disability, because everyone has unique and amazing story.

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Special Olympics

The Fairhaven Special Olympics team competed in 15 events at the State Special Olympics. The athletes medaled in nine events, bringing home five gold and four bronze. Participating athletes were Melissa Baker, Paul Colla, Alicia Cunningham, Kathy Kinney, Robert Rickens, Joe Verostko, Julie Verostko and Marcus Wilson. The team is coached by Angela Verostko. Congratulations to all of our athletes; we are very proud of you!



FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL



Visit from Mrs. Claus



Preschool Holiday Show

