



MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT

BRIAN W. GREEN

Superintendent Brian Green reflects on recent events and highlights current activities and celebrations.

Summer/Fall 2025

National Disability Employment Awareness | 3

Special Olympics Spirit Night | 5

DSP Spotlights/Appreciation | 7

**Miami County Board of
Developmental Disabilities:**

Mandy Via, President
Shawn McKinney, Vice President
Michelle Fong, Secretary
Joseph Fulker
DJ Gayhart
Jerry Herbe
Deon Metz

Brian W. Green, Superintendent

Board of Appointing Authorities:

Miami County Commissioners
Ted S. Mercer
Gregory A. Simmons
Wade H. Westfall
Miami County Probate Judge
Honorable Scott Altenburger

Our Mission is to empower people with developmental disabilities to live, work and play as full members of our community.

ABLE Magazine is published quarterly by the Miami County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Article suggestions and address changes should be submitted to:

Miami County Board of Developmental Disabilities
ATTN: Melissa Nichols
1625 Troy Sidney Road
Troy, Ohio 45373
(937) 440-3000

Superintendent's Corner

As fall wraps up, here's a quick look at our highlights from summer through October. Miami County athletes shone at the State Games this summer in volleyball, powerlifting and bowling, followed by softball and golf in September. To wrap up the softball season, we hosted Spirit Night and Miami County athletes played our local First Responders. You can read about competition results and view some fun photos from the events on pages 4-5.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). This year, we highlighted a high school student who works in the Miami County community and participated in the new PREP program. Designed to help students explore employment opportunities, PREP stands for Plan, Research, Explore and Practice. You can read more about this story on page 3.

Additionally, in early October, we had a small but mighty group of folks attend the Synergy Conference at Kalahari in Sandusky. It was a well-attended conference with over 950 people registered. I was impressed by how our attendees worked with their SSAs, providers and family supports to attend an event they really enjoyed. It is rewarding to witness their independence and ability to grow and take charge of their own lives. Events like this show how far our community has come in supporting independence.

As the year comes to an end, we are grateful for another year of community support and serving those in Miami County. We look forward to what 2026 has in store for MCBDD and the people we serve.



Brian W. Green
Superintendent

National Disability Employment Awareness Month



October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. It started in 1945 when Congress passed a law, "to establish the first week in October of each year as National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week"(Library of Congress). This law enlists support for the employment of those with developmental disabilities. Since then, the celebration has shifted into an entire MONTH of awareness throughout the country, and we are proud to highlight employment for people with disabilities in our community.

To assist youth in our community in working toward employment, we started the PREP program, which is an acronym for Prepare, Research, Explore and Practice. Created by MCBDD Employment Navigator Elizabeth Jennings, it is a 4-part series for youth ages 14-17 to help them learn about the world of employment.

One of the individuals who participated in the PREP program this past summer is Jeremiah Martinez, a sophomore at Troy High School.

Jeremiah recently began working at Wendy's in Troy. "I learned a lot about working together as a group with people I did not know through team building," he says about his experience in the PREP program. He explains two activities that helped him learn about team work. "Two people stand on a big wood board connected by a string," Jeremiah shares. "You work together as a team and lift your legs at the same time to move the board. My team did really well and helped other people do it too." Another activity that PREP students participated in was a scavenger hunt. Objects were hidden in the woods and students had to take turns and find them. "I helped a kid who did not know where things were and gave him details on how to find the object," said Jeremiah.

Teamwork is a large part of employment, and Jeremiah uses teamwork in his job when he follows directions and works with people he does not know. "I work the front counter, make the fries and am available to help wherever they need," he said.

Elizabeth shared that Jeremiah was very helpful during PREP and assisted his peers in activities. When asked about this, Jeremiah said, "I wanted to help and let them know they can achieve their goals. Helping people makes me happy."

After high school, Jeremiah wants to attend college to become a paramedic because he loves helping people and wants to see them smile.

Outside of school and work, Jeremiah likes to bowl, read his Bible, talk to people and listen to music.

Jeremiah wants people to know that he is a good person to come to for advice. He shares, "I give good advice to my friends when they are nervous or stressed. My friend was nervous for a test, so I gave him a pop it and it helped him calm down."

Looking back at his summer Jeremiah encourages other students to join PREP next year and said, "PREP is a really good program to learn about job opportunities. It teaches you about working together as a team and getting along with people."

Special Olympics Updates

In June, volleyball, powerlifting and bowling athletes competed at the Special Olympics Ohio Summer State Games held at The Ohio State University.

The volleyball team played well earning 3rd place in the Modified Division. Congratulations to team members Mindy Baker, Jaiden Grove, Laura Healey, Laura Knoop, Andrea Koether and Lorenzo Savage!

The powerlifters also had a great competition, placing in multiple events. Below are the individual results.

- EmmaLee Jones - 4th place bench, 4th place deadlift, 4th overall
- Justine Hoffmann - 5th place bench, 5th place deadlift, 5th overall
- Nick Weaver - 3rd place bench, 3rd place deadlift, 3rd overall
- Joseph Epley - 5th place bench, 5th place deadlift, 5th overall
- Samuel Lawson - 4th place bench, 4th place deadlift, 4th overall
- Ethan Hews - 4th place bench, 4th place deadlift, 4th overall
- Elliott Woodward-Roeth - 5th place bench, 5th place deadlift, 5th overall
- Wyatt Freels - 3rd place bench, 3rd place deadlift, 3rd overall
- Austin Gosline - 1st place bench, 3rd place deadlift, 2nd overall
- Caleb Karnehm - 4th place bench, 2nd place deadlift, 2nd overall
- Brady Schneider - 3rd place bench, 5th place deadlift, 4th overall
- Tristan Yingst - 2nd place bench, 3rd place deadlift, 3rd overall
- Tyler Harvey- 4th place bench, 6th place deadlift, 6th overall

Last, the bowling athletes finished the weekend strong. Results are listed below.

- Johnnie Dennis - 3rd place, score 329
- Brennen Hinger - 4th place, score 171
- Jenna Newman - 5th place, score 199
- Daniel Nickell - 2nd place, score 239
- Robert Nickell- 3rd place, score 217

We are so proud of all these athletes for their dedication, hard work and sportsmanship. Congratulations on a great weekend of competition!



Miami County Special Olympics golfers and volunteer partners competed at the Special Olympics Ohio State Golf Tournament at the end of September. We are so proud of these golfers and partners!

- Blake Young (2nd place)
- Butch Spitler (2nd place)
- Chris Jackson (1st place)
- Jamie Campbell (5th place)
- Michael Sorauf (6th place)
- Tommy Luna (6th place)



Special Olympics Spirit Night

On Thursday, October 2, we hosted Spirit Night to finish out the softball season. Miami County athletes played a friendly game of softball against Miami County First Responders. A great time was had by all and we celebrated with pizza and ice cream at the end of the game. We also handed out participation certificates to athletes.

A big thank you to these First Responders who played in the game: Allison Hempy from Miami County Communication Center; Kyle Duchak, Tanner Iverson and Preston Hinger from Troy Police Department; Michael Casey from Piqua Police Department; and Jake Coverstone from Tipp City Fire Department.

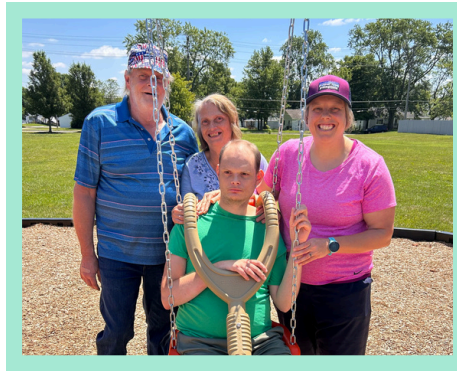
Additionally, we want to thank Troy Police Chief Shawn McKinney (who is also MCBDD Board Vice President) for attending! We are also grateful to our coaches and volunteers for helping to make the season a success and we are excited for next season!



Connections to Our Community

Local Parks Install Accessible Swings

An accessible swing has been added at both Pitsenbarger Sports Complex in Piqua and West Milton Municipal Park. We're grateful to the Piqua Community Foundation and an anonymous donor for helping make our community parks more inclusive!



Aktion Club Visits Troy Kiwanis Club

Aktion Club of Miami County visited Kiwanis Club of Troy's meeting. Kiwanis provided Aktion Club with pizza before listening to an update on the club's 2025 activities. Everyone had a great time and the 2 clubs are looking forward to ways to partner on community service projects.

Donation to MCBDD

We are fortunate to once again be the recipient of a generous donation from the Knights of Columbus, Tipp City Council. K of C Past Grand Knight Bruce Batty and current Grand Knight Cameron Haller visited our board meeting recently to deliver a check for \$560. We are extremely grateful for their continued generosity.



Donation to Special Olympics

William and Charlene Wolfe from the West Milton VFW Post 8211 recently visited our Special Olympics bowling practice to present a generous \$7,500 check. These funds will be used to help cover the costs associated with Special Olympics such as equipment, uniforms and tournament registration fees. The donation came from their 35th annual fundraiser held in March. We are incredibly grateful for the VFW's ongoing support and generosity, thank you!

Direct Support Professional (DSP) Spotlight

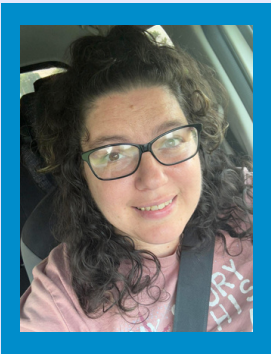
These professionals were nominated by MCBDD employees for their exemplary service. While those featured here are not employees of MCBDD, they are key partners in delivering services coordinated and partially funded by MCBDD. Read on to see what our staff have to say about them!

Name: **Melissa Hampshire**

Agency: **CRSI**

"Melissa has been such a great team member for the Fieldbrook home. Her relationship with Eric has been amazing. He is even getting out in the community more! She also has some amazing ideas when it comes to his sensory needs. Both the SSAs and I are very thankful for her hard work and commitment to this house and the guys!"

~ Nominated by Behavior Support Coordinator Alicia Hutchinson



Name: **Misty Jones**

Company: **Independent Provider**

"I am nominating Misty Jones for all her for all her efforts, hard work, amazing support, and her follow through with Maggie! I greatly appreciate her and her willingness to invest in Maggie and being a great team player! She is a exceptional provider that exemplifies wonderful character and integrity. Thank you Misty for all that you do!"

~ Nominated by Behavior Support Coordinator Lindsay Smallenbarger

DSP Appreciation Dinner

In September, we hosted our annual DSP Appreciation Dinner. We had nearly 200 DSPs, their family members and many people served attended. Everyone enjoyed hamburgers from Miami County Cattlemen's Association, kettle corn from Cumberland Kettle Corn and ice cream from Susie's Big Dipper. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success! We also want to say another big thank you to every DSP in Miami County who provides essential caregiving service to people with developmental disabilities. We are proud to partner with you in our mission!



Prst Std
US Postage
PAID
Troy, Ohio
Permit #468



Miami County
Board of
Developmental
Disabilities

ABLE Magazine

Advocate with | Believe in | Listen to | Empower us!

MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT

BRIAN W. GREEN

Superintendent Brian Green reflects on recent events and highlights current activities and celebrations.

Summer/Fall 2025

National Disability Employment Awareness | 3

Special Olympics Spirit Night | 5

DSP Spotlights/Appreciation | 7

Inside this Issue

Summer/Fall 2025

Check out the exciting things we've been up to, see who has supported us along the way and get a peek at what's ahead!