



## MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT

BRIAN W. GREEN

Superintendent Brian Green introduces our new logo, shares about the annual Synergy Conference and highlights National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

## Fall 2024

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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  
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Troy, Ohio 45373  
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# Superintendent's Corner

You may have noticed our new logo on the front of this document. We are excited to share it with our community! Our goal was to keep the overall look of our logo the same, while shifting away from "Riverside" to "Miami County Board of Developmental Disabilities." The red block in our new logo is the shape of Miami County, which emphasizes our connection to the community. We realize for many that retiring the Riverside name is bittersweet, but as we strive for clarity in communicating who we are and what we do, we feel it is necessary to finally make the change. While our logo may have changed, I assure you the commitment to the people we serve remains unchanged.

In October, I had the pleasure of once again attending the Ohio Synergy Conference at Kalahari Resort in Sandusky. The Community Awareness & Opportunities Team also supported 19 people served in attending this year, which is the largest group we have ever taken. (See the cover photo for everyone who attended with us.) The conference had over 970 people registered. Everyone had a great time learning and making new friends.

In October, we were also happy to celebrate another terrific National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). This year's celebration was a three part video series that highlighted people served who are working in various capacities. You can read more about this story on page 3. We are grateful for the partnership of many businesses and organizations in Miami County who recognize the significant value people with disabilities bring to the workplace.

As we approach the end of 2024, we look forward to continuing our service to the community and are excited about what 2025 has in store for us!



Brian W. Green  
Superintendent

## New Logo and Name Update



As it was announced in an October 30 news release, the Miami County Board of Developmental Disabilities (MCBDD) has decided to retire its use of the “Riverside” name and has updated its logo.

“Miami County Board of Developmental Disabilities’ is and has been our legal name for many years,” explained Brian Green, MCBDD Superintendent. “Keeping both our legal and our historical names active in the community has been difficult and confusing for our customers and business partners. New clients and families often perceive ‘Riverside’ to be a service provider, when it has simply been a nickname for our agency based upon our history.”

“In addition, we have been unable to use the Riverside name on ballots when our time-limited levy comes up for renewal. Therefore, using the Riverside name daily while expecting the public to connect it to the name ‘Miami County Board of Developmental Disabilities’ that they see on the ballot is not really helpful to voters,” Green said. “Our decision is bittersweet because the Riverside name and history mean so much to many people, but our aim is to communicate clearly to our clients and the public about who we are and what we do.”

The agency is no stranger to name changes. “Riverside” was part of the agency’s name dating back to 1962 when Riverside School was built as part of “Miami County Council for Retarded Children,” which later became “Miami County Board of Mental Retardation” when Ohio Senate Bill 169 passed in 1967. Riverside School was part of the program at that time. In 1991, the term “Developmental Disabilities” was added to the names of all county boards, and in 2009, the “Mental Retardation” or “MR” part of the name was removed when state laws changed again.

Due to federal laws focused on inclusion in public schools, Riverside School graduated its last class in 2005 and Riverside Preschool transitioned its students to the Miami County Educational Service Center in 2015. However, even at its peak, school services only represented a small portion of services offered by the agency.

The Miami County Board of Developmental Disabilities serves more than 1,000 people of all ages in Miami County. MCBDD directly provides case management for all ages, Early Intervention Services for children ages 0-3 with developmental delays through in-home services to help families stimulate development in communication skills, motor development, early learning skills and social-emotional development. MCBDD also coordinates and provides funding for services people need to live full lives. These services include in-home care, adult day services, job training and transportation. These services are funded in part through local levy dollars and are delivered through a network of local provider agencies and independent caregivers. In addition, MCBDD also provides training for direct support staff to ensure the highest quality of care, as well as learning opportunities, recreational activities, Special Olympics programs and other valuable services.

It will take the organization several months to get all signage and references changed, including an updated website by the end of the year. For more information about MCBDD, visit [miamicountydd.org](http://miamicountydd.org) or call (937) 440-3000.

# Celebrating October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month

In case you missed the video series we shared during the month of October, below are 3 adults who shared their stories about being employed in the community. The videos are brief, yet give a great overview of the many different ways in which a person can pursue a path to employment. Visit our website at [miamicountydd.org](http://miamicountydd.org) or our Facebook page, [facebook.com/miamicountydd](https://facebook.com/miamicountydd).



Name: Rainey Kleiner  
Place of Employment: Clopay Corporation  
Number of years at your company: 7 years  
Advice for others with developmental disabilities considering getting a job: "You must have a job coach and must always have the self-advocacy in order to attain your job. When you are being trained, it is very important to focus on the details of what instructions that you are given so you show progress and know what you are doing."

Name: Angela Hess  
Place of Employment: Miami County Park District  
Number of years at your company: 2 years  
Advice for others with developmental disabilities considering getting a job: "Do something that interests you first and then volunteer at the place that you want your dream job to be. And then, if there's a job open there you can take action."



Name: Aiden Spaeth  
Place of Employment: Dayton Dragons  
Number of years at your company: 1 summer  
Advice for others with developmental disabilities considering getting a job: "Do not give up, shoot for what you want to do no matter what."



# Connections to Our Community

## Thank You Miami County Dental Clinic

Brian and 3 of our SSAs recognized the team from the Miami County Dental Clinic for their work with the folks we serve over the summer. SSAs Jennifer Morris, Trina Hetzel and Hollie Ressler helped coordinate the project and have shared how successful the program has been. This photo captures us presenting Dr. Keira Ankrom, Gail Newhouse and Stephanie Waller from Miami County Dental Clinic with a Certificate of Gratitude.



## Early Intervention Represents MCBDD at Trunk or Treat



A big congratulations and THANK YOU to the Early Intervention team for representing us at the Miami County Job & Family Services Trunk or Treat event! The team did an amazing job decorating one of our agency vehicles, and came away with a People's Choice award for their representation of the Grinch Who Stole Christmas. Thanks to our team members Kalesha Peacock, Tasha Gullett, Christy Back, Sierra Simon, Becky Perry, Mary Jo Baker, Sara Baker, Tricia Richardson, Kim Locker, Taylor Von Duhn and Bethany Covault for doing such an excellent job!

# Reflections from the Synergy Conference

In addition to 3 days of learning, making friends and enjoying numerous activities, games, dances and meals, attendees of the 2024 Synergy Conference were also excited to cheer on our own. MCBDD's SSA Manager Rebekah Holly, SSA Kristin Watkins, HR Director Stacy Pettit and two people served presented with Superintendent Brian Green during a breakout session on the last day of the conference. The session was titled "Beyond Charting the LifeCourse Tools." Our session aimed to discuss the LifeCourse Tools for both personal and professional use, aligning with our employees' needs and our strategic plan.

The conference ended with attendees feeling it was a worthwhile experience. Many had been before and most want to attend again! The opportunities for making friends, learning and informed decision-making, which are always beneficial, in addition to many opportunities for fun and entertainment. Looking forward, it's clear there's value in these kinds of opportunities for those we serve.



# Direct Support Professional Spotlight



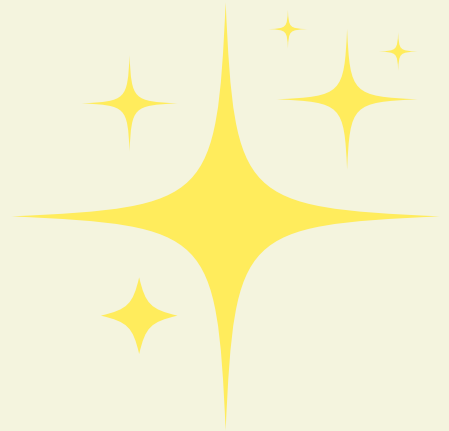
Name: **Janice Brittingham**  
**Independent Provider**

Reason for Nomination: Janice has been caring for client JB for many, many years. She considers him part of her family. She works to keep a consistent routine with him, providing for his needs. She is even looking for a different house to better accommodate JB. She has been patient and thorough in her care for JB.

Name: **Linda Dunlap**

Company: **BLESS Adult Day Service**

Reason for Nomination: Blake recently started attending BLESS and he liked it so much he asked to attend more days. The staff are willing to accommodate Blake such as allowing him to wear headphones while another individual was pestering him. The group was watching a movie that brought back bad memories for Blake and staff allowed him to go into a different room and set up another activity for him to participate in.



## Expressing our Gratitude to DSPs



Direct Support Professionals Appreciation Week is the week in which we celebrate the dedicated, innovative direct support workforce that is the heart and soul of support for people with disabilities! DSPs deliver services we help to plan, coordinate, and fund. Their jobs are essential!



On September 11, we hosted our Direct Support Professional Appreciation Week Dinner and had a great turn out! Special thank you to the Miami County Cattlemen's Association, Cumberland Kettle Corn and Susie's Big Dipper for their help in making the event a success, as well as to our wonderful employees who organized and worked the event. Last, but not least, thank you again to every DSP in Miami County who provides essential caregiving services to people with developmental disabilities. We are proud to partner with you in our mission!

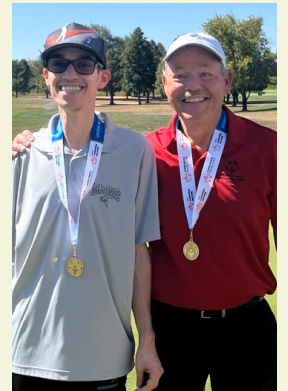
## Special Olympics Golfers Compete at State

In September, four Miami County Special Olympics golfers competed at the State Tournament in Cincinnati. Blake Young placed 5th in the solo golfer category, and in unified teams, Chris Jackson and Bob Beck placed 1st, Tom Luna and Donald Luna placed 5th, and Butch Spitler and partner Harry Bashore placed 6th. An interesting note about volunteer partner Harry Bashore is that he recently suffered a stroke. We contacted Special Olympics Ohio to see if we could send Butch with another partner due to Harry's health situation. They were willing to allow for another partner that had scored in a similar range as Butch and Harry, but unfortunately, we didn't have another partner who scored in that range. Because we were expecting to cancel Butch's trip to State, Harry was well enough to consult with his doctor to request permission to travel to State to compete. With his doctor's blessing, Harry (first picture, arranged transportation with his granddaughter and was there and able to compete with Butch. We are incredibly fortunate to have such kind and dedicated volunteers like Harry, as well as all of the others, who give hundreds of hours of time each season to support our athletes. Congratulations to all, and a big thank you to our volunteer partners!



*Volunteer Partner Harry Bashore and Athlete Butch Spitler competed and earned a 6th place finish at Special Olympics Ohio State Games.*

*Athlete Chris Jackson and Volunteer Partner Bob Beck competed and earned 1st place at the Special Olympics Ohio State Games.*



## Halloween Dance

In October, we hosted a successful Halloween Dance. The night featured snacks, a fantastic DJ, a scary photo booth and a fun costume contest. There were about 80 attendees and we received great feedback about the event and DJ. It was a wonderful night with everyone putting on their boogie shoes and tearing up the dance floor!

**Funniest Costume**



**Cutest Costume**



**Scariest Costume**



**Most Creative Costume**



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# Inside this Issue

## Fall 2024

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!