



MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT

BRIAN W. GREEN

Superintendent Brian Green shares plans for 2025 and highlights March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

Winter/Spring 2025

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

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Article suggestions and address
changes should be submitted to:

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Disabilities
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Superintendent's Corner

2025 promises to be a big year for our organization. In October, we're scheduled for our next accreditation through the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, and in November, our five-year time-limited levy will be up for renewal.

At MCBDD, we consistently strive to exceed expectations in our services while exercising careful stewardship of resources. We deeply value the trust Miami County taxpayers place in us to support those who rely on our programs, and we aim to spend wisely while fulfilling our mission. These core principles - high standards and fiscal responsibility - guide our work every day, not just during accreditation or levy seasons. Our team is committed to delivering on our mission, and we are grateful for the community's support.

March was Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and we planned special ways to connect with our community. From spotlighting our employees on social media to visiting local schools to read to young children and hosting a variety of Special Olympics activities, there has been no shortage of fun and meaningful celebrations. You can dive into the details of these efforts elsewhere in this issue.

I would also like to highlight that we are currently hiring for a range of positions across our organization. With team growth, turnover and retirements, we have openings for all skill levels. If you or someone you know is passionate about empowering people with developmental disabilities to live, work and play as full members of our community, please visit miamicountydd.org to explore opportunities and apply.

As we step into another year of growth, advocacy and service, we remain committed to our mission. We're excited to see what 2025 holds for MCBDD and the people and families we serve!



Brian W. Green
Superintendent

Special Olympics Athletes Compete at State Tournament

Miami County Special Olympics swimmers and Division 4 basketball team competed at the Special Olympics Ohio Indoor Winter State Games at The Ohio State University March 7-9, 2025.

The Division 4 basketball team brought home the gold, earning them the opportunity to move to Division 3 for the 2025-2026 season. Players on the Division 4 team include: Isaac Angle, Bryson Barga, Heidi Denlinger, Richard Eichhorn, Patrick Grigsby, Angela Hess, Damien Kettering, Kyle Mills, Brie Tope, Tristan Yingst and Blake Young.

Several swimmers won medals as well. Swim results include: Nicholas Weaver – 1st, Justine Hoffmann – 1st, Caleb Karnehm – 3rd and 5th, Johnnie Dennis – 4th, Jamie Campbell – 4th and 7th, Elliott Woodward-Roeth – 5th, Maggie Bondurant – 6th and 8th, Camille Barrera – 7th, Ethan Hews – 7th.

“Our athletes have worked very hard this season” said Patrick Kilbane, Community Connections Manager at Miami County Board of Developmental Disabilities and Local Coordinator for Miami County Special Olympics. “Their efforts were rewarded not only with medals and ribbons at State Games, but they achieved much more through gaining confidence, building skills and friendships throughout the season. We want to thank our volunteers and donors who made the season and the State Tournament trip possible.”

This winter sports season’s volunteers included: swim coaches Hannah Ryan and Mary Ivan; basketball coaches Dalton Logan, Alex Darner, Jacklyn Vietor, cheer coach Diane Cerbus; basketball season referees Randy Harvey and Randy Buroker; and basketball scorekeeper Donovan Richard.

Individuals and organizations that donated to Miami County Special Olympics in 2023 and 2024 include: Power 107.1 WTJN, Dave’s Services AC & Heating, Tippecanoe Chapter #307 Order of the Eastern Star, Miami County Foundation, The Troy Foundation, Penny Hoekstra, West Milton VFW Post 8211, Tipp City Knights of Columbus, Culver’s of Troy, Hal Heiner, Dan and Amber Hinkle, AMVETS Auxiliary Post 88, Franklin Lodge F&AM, Chevrolet of Troy, LifeStyle Furniture and Mattress and Diane Wright.

Miami County Special Olympics is operated by the Miami County Board of Developmental Disabilities as an affiliate of Special Olympics Ohio and the internationally recognized Special Olympics organization. Miami County Special Olympics offers a wide variety of year-round individual and team sports for anyone with an intellectual disability, ages 8 and older. Sports included are basketball, bowling, softball, volleyball, cheerleading, powerlifting, golf and swimming.

Each program promotes athletes' emotional, physical and social health and instills a strong work-ethic and sense of teamwork. Through successful experiences, athletes build confidence and a positive self-image which carries over into the classroom, jobs and community. For more information about Miami County Special Olympics or how to volunteer, visit miamicountydd.org or call us at (937) 440-3000.



Spirit Night Recap

On Tuesday, March 11, we held our annual Spirit Night event to celebrate the end of our winter sports season. At Spirit Night, several Miami County First Responders played against Miami County Special Olympics Division 4 and Division 5 players in a friendly game of basketball. At halftime, Miami County Special Olympics honored all winter sports athletes including the swim team, cheerleaders, both basketball teams, as well as the season's coaches and other volunteers. The event made local news with a videographer from WDTN coming out to document the night to share with viewers.

This end-of-season celebration was a great way to celebrate Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month while ending our Miami County Special Olympics basketball season. It also gave us a chance to celebrate our swim team at halftime as well.

This end-of-season celebration was a great way to celebrate Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month while ending our Miami County Special Olympics winter sports season. We are grateful so many first responders volunteered their time to play our basketball teams and make the end of the season fun and memorable.

First responders who participated in the game include Tony Smith and Phil Osting from Tipp City Police Department; Jake Coverstone and Cameron Haller from Tipp City Fire Department; Chris Yingst, Mike Casey, Jared Hite and Jackson Heath from Piqua Police Department; and Jeremy Bubeck, Tabitha Thompson, Brian Lyons, Wes Kilby, Trae Honeycutt and Chase Underwood from Miami County Sheriff's Office.

Volunteers who were honored at the event were swim coaches Hannah Ryan and Mary Ivan; cheer coach Diane Cerbus; basketball coaches Dalton Logan, Alex Darner and Jacklyn Vietor; basketball referees Randy Harvey and Randy Buroker and basketball scorekeeper Donovan Richard.

At halftime, we also recognized Charlene Wolfe and the West Milton VFW for their ongoing support and promoted their 35th annual benefit event for Miami County Special Olympics, Culver's in Troy for donating custard for the post-game party, Tall James Photography for donating player photos, team photos and action shots from the game, and Ella Batton for singing the National Anthem.



Developmental Disability Awareness Month

In 1987, President Reagan recognized March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month to increase “public awareness of the needs and the potential of Americans with developmental disabilities” and to provide the “encouragement and opportunities they need to lead productive lives and to achieve their full potential” (National Disability Institute). Over 6 million Americans are said to have developmental disabilities and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in the U.S. shares that one in six children (17%) deal with developmental disabilities.

We always enjoy highlighting the great achievements of the people we serve during the month of March, and hope you have enjoyed the many announcements and activities shared throughout the month. Below are a few things we have shared in addition to the Special Olympics celebrations already mentioned.

We visited several local elementary schools to read a book called “When Charley Met Emma,” about a young boy who meets a little girl who uses a wheelchair. Through meeting and talking with Emma, Charley learns that despite their physical differences, they have much in common and they become friends. The students participated in a discussion after the reading, and a copy of the book was added to the school libraries. Pictured here is MCBDD Communications Coordinator Jenna Gerig and Darren Miller, an adult served by MCBDD, who read the book to the children.



We held fundraisers benefiting Miami County Special Olympics at Skyline Chili and Buffalo Wild Wings. Both events will benefit athletes in our program. Pictured here left to right is Skyline General Manager Curtis Kleather with athletes Tristan Yingst, Kyle Mills and Richard Eichhorn. Thank you to those who came out to support Miami County Special Olympics athletes!

We announced the addition of a universal changing table to the restroom in our front lobby. A universal changing table is an adult-sized changing table designed to accommodate the personal care needs of individuals regardless of height, weight or level of mobility. It is a place where caretakers can conveniently and safely assist with bathroom needs for those who may be unable to care for themselves, including individuals with disabilities, children, babies, aging adults and people who use a catheter. We are proud to offer this resource to our community. Whether a child, an adult with a developmental disability, a senior citizen or disabled veteran, we want everyone to know they have access to this resource and can enjoy being out in Miami County. MCBDD’s universal changing table was purchased with funds from the American Rescue Plan Act to expand accessibility to community-based resources. Members of the public may access the restroom and changing table during MCBDD’s normal business hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Connections to Our Community

Miami County Athlete Represents Special Olympics Ohio

On January 14, we had the opportunity to attend the Sheetz Grand Opening in Troy! Angela Hess, a Miami County Special Olympics athlete, had the chance to speak and accept a check from Sheetz on behalf of Special Olympics Ohio. Thank you Sheetz for supporting Special Olympics Ohio!

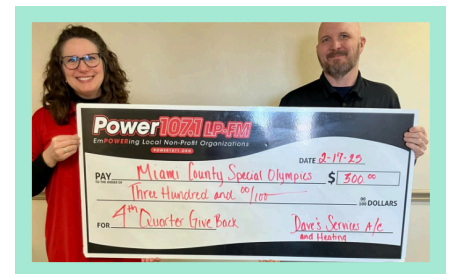


First Aktion Club Meeting of 2025

The first Aktion Club meeting of 2025 was a success! We met in our new community based location at Lost Creek in their Heritage Hall. A staff member from Lincoln Community Center presented and shared about volunteering and how to get involved in the community.

Donation to Special Olympics

We extend a big THANK YOU to Dave's Services A/C and Heating, and Power 107.1 WTJN for their generosity in donating to Miami County Special Olympics! Both made quarterly donations to us in February! Thank you again for your support!



West Milton VFW Post 8211 Special Olympics Benefit

The West Milton VFW hosted its 35th annual fundraiser for Miami County Special Olympics on Saturday, March 29 from 6-11pm. The event featured food, games, door prizes and a DJ!

Stay tuned for details on the results of the fundraiser in the next issue of ABLE Magazine!

Events to Connect

There are several upcoming events that offer family members of the people we serve an opportunity to gather and connect. Join us for these events and connect with others who are on a similar life path!



**Department of
Developmental
Disabilities**



Community Talks



Join the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities at DD Community Talks!

Where: In-person events are scheduled in Lucas, Miami, Butler, Ross, Knox, and Cuyahoga Counties

When: March through May 2025, 1-4 PM

Why:

- Facilitate networking opportunities between people living with disabilities, their families, DODD, and participating local county boards of DD.
- Provide a platform for people to share their experiences and successes in navigating disability services in small groups for deep dialogue and feedback.
- Educate participants about available resources, support networks, and opportunities for involvement within their communities.

Scan to register for an event near you:



Moms' Night Out

2025 Schedule

—March 25—
May 27
July 29
September 30

All dates are 6-8pm

at Glacier View Coffee
20 N. High St. Suite 102,
Covington, OH

Questions? Call Melissa at 937-440-3002 or
email melissa.nichols@miamicountydd.org





DADS' NIGHT OUT

2025 Schedule

—February 27—
April 24
June 26
August 28
October 23

All dates are 6-8pm
at Long Shots
2315 S Co Rd 25A, Troy

Questions? Contact Patrick
at 937-310-3260 or
patrick.kilbane@miamicountydd.org





Direct Support Professional Spotlight

These 2 professionals were nominated by our SSAs (case managers) for their exemplary service. While they are not employees of MCBDD, they are key partners in delivering services coordinated and partially funded by MCBDD. Read on to see what our SSAs had to say about them!



Name: **Ashley Asher**
Independent Provider

"Ashley is an invaluable member of LB's team. Her dedication to him and his family has fostered a high level of trust and they know they can always count on her to help, when needed, or work to creatively solve problems and encourage LB to reach his highest potential. Her willingness to work extra to help train a new staff is immensely appreciated!"

Name: **Kathleen Bynum**
Independent Provider

"Kathleen has been with Megan several years. She is one of the longest providers that Megan has had. She is always listening to Megan's desires and helping her to accomplish her goals. She is patient. She takes time to teach Megan many things. She communicates with me for collaboration. She is caring, loving and supportive."



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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!