

HORIZONS

Crawford County Board of Developmental Disabilities

April 2019

Disability Awareness Month - MARCHing Together - Outcomes

March was Disability Awareness Month and the Crawford County Board of Developmental Disabilities had some fantastic outcomes from the programs offered during the month, as we raised awareness throughout our community on developmental disabilities.

The first contest was the Coloring Contest.

All 2nd graders in Crawford County public schools had the opportunity to color a picture drawn by Ricky Price who is an individual served by CCBDD. Coloring sheets were judged by staff members at Ohio Mutual Insurance Company. Six finalists were picked and invited to be recognized at the unified basketball exhibition game which was held on March 29th at Bucyrus High School Gym. They included Declan Bennett, Gwen Crall, Mary Hazelwood, Holly Kissling, Nathan Pennington, and Alivia Rouse. The winner was announced at the game - congratulations goes to Declan Bennett from Wynford Elementary School. All the finalist received a goody bag of prizes, and Declan's had extra goodies. Declan's coloring page will now be the front of the CCBDD thank you notes for the this year.



Congratulations to:

Declan Bennett—1st Place Winner

From Wynford Elementary School

CCBDD also promised the classroom who submitted the most entries that they would also receive a special prize. Congratulations actually goes to Mrs. Kocher's class (that just happens to be Declan's classroom) at Wynford Elementary. On Monday, April 15th Declan and his classmates enjoyed a special treat of ice cream sundaes. The students got to pick their own toppings, and they had several to choose from.

Thank you to the other classrooms and schools who participated in the coloring contest. We encourage even more participants next year, and maybe it will be your turn for fun and prizes.

At the same time of the coloring contest we also had a Poster Contest:



Congratulations to:

Samantha Farrar—1st Place Winner

From Bucyrus Middle School

All middle school students in Crawford County public schools had the opportunity to create a poster that would raise awareness, encourage inclusion of people with disabilities in the community, and positively reflect awareness and inclusion. Again, like the coloring contest, the posters were judged by Ohio Mutual and the top 6 finalists were recognized at the unified basketball game. Finalists included Jada Dalton, Samantha Farrar, Ella Hoover, Kailey Horsley, Maddison McDaniel, and Elyssa Roberts. Again, each finalist received a goody bag, a certificate and the overall winner's goody bag contained extra prizes. Congratulations goes to Samantha Farrar who was the 1st place winner. CCBDD had Samantha's poster reprinted and it was distributed to several businesses throughout Crawford County—look for it when you are out and about.

CCBDD also promised the classroom who submitted the most entries that they would also receive a special prize. Congratulations actually goes to Mr. Scott Mental and the art class at Bucyrus Middle School for the most poster entries.

Continued on Page 2

Mr. Mental was given a gift card to use however he saw fit for their classroom.

Thank you to the other schools who participated in the poster contest. We encourage even more participants next year, and maybe it will be your turn for that extra prize.

2019 Try On A Disability Participants

On March 19th, CCBDD held a Try On A Disability Day. Various members of the community joined us for a half day event. They started the day by meeting as a group where each of the participants were assigned a simulated disability. They divided into groups and took their simulated disability with them to Fairway Preschool; or RNI, Inc., Chrysalis, or Waycraft Industries, Inc. (day service providers). Ohio Specialty Services (OSS) provided transportation to the different day service providers.



Everyone reconvened for lunch where they shared with the others in the group about the experiences they encountered while having their simulated disability. Mr. J.R. Jenny, President of OSS participated with a simulated disability of Muscular Dystrophy. JR shared, “Being in transportation for 30 years on the admin side, it was very different being confined to a wheelchair as a passenger from that perspective.”

Left: Court Sturts, CCBDD Superintendent
Center: J.R. Jenny, OSS President
Right: Colby Bright, OSS Manager

Mr. David Wolfe, Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator from Good Hope Lutheran Church participated with a simulated disability of Cerebral Palsy. David’s dominant hand was restricted by his arm being in a sling. He spent his morning by going on an outing with RNI staff member, Jill Burling and individual served, Johnny M. They went to the Pelican House where they enjoyed refreshments. David commented, “Patience is very important and that helping everyone to their best abilities requires a lot of work. Everyone has their own unique gifts.”



Left: Johnny M.
Right: David Wolfe



Stephanie Faulkner, Program Director at the Bucyrus YMCA participated with a simulated disability of Retinal Disease. She wore safety glasses with the side shields taped, which simulated defects with side vision, and spent time helping to assemble boxes at Waycraft Industries, Inc. Stephanie said, “ I learned that anyone with a disability should be included in the community. Just because they have a disability doesn’t mean they don’t matter.”

Some of our participants enjoyed this experience so much they encouraged us to make this a full day event.

Stephanie Faulkner

Question: What do you get when you combine 12 high school basketball players and 12 Special Olympics basketball players?

Answer: A Super Awesome Event



Aimee Ward



Olivia Grove, from Wynford High School

The last event for the month of March was the 2nd Annual Crawford County High Schools—Crawford County Chargers Unified Basketball Exhibition that was held at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 29th at Bucyrus High School. One of the highlights of the pre-game was Aimee Ward singing the National Anthem.

A total of 12 students, a boy and a girl from each of the Crawford County high schools, joined 12 Special Olympics players to form two teams. High school students included Courtney Pifher and Mason Stahl from Buckeye Central; Alivia Lewis and Kenton Lutz from Bucyrus; Danielle Horsley and Zye Shipman from Colonel Crawford; Alandra Tesso and Kaden Ronk from Crestline; Kasidee Sinclair and Jack McElligott from Galion; and Olivia Grove and Ryan Stevely from Wynford. Each of these high school students were assigned a simulated disability. Olivia Grove’s simulated disability was Huntington’s Disease. She wore oven mitts on both hands, which simulated muscle problems, such as rigidity or muscle contracture. When asked, after the game, what she learned from this event she stated, “How hard it is to adapt and how much more respect I have for people with disabilities.”

Mason Stahl, from Buckeye Central was assigned a simulated disability of Tourette Syndrome. Whenever he heard the cowbell rung, he had to shrug his shoulders (3 times) before he could communicate with other player and he also was to touch his toes. Mason answered the same question as Olivia about what he learned. He stated, “ What it’s like to those with disabilities to play and still have a good time.”



Zye Shipman, from Col. Crawford High School



John Edmondson, playing for the Chargers



Alivia Lewis, from Bucyrus High School And Ashley Taylor, playing for the Chargers



Alandra Tesso, from Crestline High School



Alan Burkhart, playing for the Chargers

Other highlights of the game included the Bucyrus High School pep band, and a new addition this year was cheerleaders/pep squad.

Left to Right: Desiree Taylor, Gabby Kozinski, and Rikki Levings



Kristen Gandy

Watch next year for the date of our 3rd Annual Unified Basketball Game, because you won't want to miss it.

Please know that we understand that trying on a simulated disability for a couple of hours will in no way be anything like living with a disability everyday. However, in an effort to increase understanding and awareness we feel that the aforementioned activities are a good place to begin the process.

Family Support Services Procures Shoes for a Child

The Crawford County Board of DD has a program through the Community Services Department that provides additional supports to individuals and families that we serve when other means of support just are not available. The funds for this program are limited and there are eligibility guidelines that must be followed, and even after all that CCBDD stills hits brick walls sometimes when they try to assist an individual or a family in need.

Recently, one of our Early Intervention Specialist for CCBDD identified a need for a child to have supportive shoes. E.I. made the recommendation to Family Support Services for the shoes as the family was unable to purchase them due to the expense. It was determined that the family qualified for this service and the ball started rolling to purchase shoes for the child.

The county board reached out to Stride Rite to try to obtain a relationship with them to become a vendor. As a non-profit government agency CCBDD purchases items through the purchase order system. During our attempt to set Stride Rite up to be a vendor it was determined that they could not accept purchase orders. But, when the Stride Rite representative found out that these shoes were to go to a special needs child whose family could not afford them, and that we are a non-profit government agency trying to assist the family, she went the extra mile to present this request to her manager.

The manager at Stride Rite jumped through several hoops and then responded that even though CCBDD could not purchase the needed shoes, Stride Rite would donate a pair of shoes for this child.

Thank you to Stride Rite for collaborating with CCBDD to meet the needs of this child.

Super Cute Stride Rite Shoes



April Showers bring May Flowers

Calendar Of Events

MAY

16	7:00 p.m.	CCBDD Board Meeting
22	10:30 a.m.	Fairway Preschool Program & Last School Day
27		Memorial Day — All Programs Closed

School is out for summer—Enjoy!

JUNE

20	7:00 p.m.	CCBDD Board Meeting
----	-----------	---------------------

JULY

4		Independence Day —All Programs Closed
---	--	--

No CCBDD Board Meeting in July

If there are emergencies that occur after normal business hours, please call 419-563-9292 and a Service Support Administrator will assist you.



1630 E. Southern Avenue, Suite 101
Bucyrus, OH



Department of
Developmental Disabilities