

# HORIZONS

Winter 23-24



## Save the Dates

### Board Meeting

FEBRUARY 15, 2024

### Programs Closed

FEBRUARY 19, 2024

### Chargers for Change

FEBRUARY 21, 2024

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## Letter from the Superintendent



I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and I wish everyone a Happy New Year! With the new year many people feel like it is a great time for a fresh start or a new beginning. Often people will choose New Year resolutions typically around health and wellness. Unfortunately, it is sometimes hard to continue these resolutions, and people gradually move back to old habits. Please remember there are ups and downs in everyone's life and not to give up on your goals during the down times. Keep the goals and accomplishments at the forefront and continue to make efforts to continue to move where you want to be. Also, I want to take a moment to remind everyone to be safe during winter weather. When traveling take some extra time, make sure to bundle up and walk carefully on surfaces that may be slippery. Make the best out of every opportunity!.

Court D. Sturts

HOW MANY **BLUE SNOWFLAKES** CAN YOU FIND IN OUR NEWSLETTER?





# FAIRWAY REWIND







### IMPORTANT PRESCHOOL DATES

- Jan.3- Fairway students return
- Jan 15-No School — MLK Day
- Jan 18-End of grading period
- Feb 19-No School — Presidents Day
- March 21 End of Grading Period
- March 28-April 1 — Spring Break
- April 8- No School — Solar Eclipse
- April 25-No School — Teacher In-Service
- May 23-Preschool Program/Last Day of School





# Fairway Preschool Winter Program



## EARLY INTERVENTION



If you can't tell by his face, this little guy loves his new swing. Mason D. received his swing from the Elks Club grant and will also be receiving an adaptive Tomato Chair. Mason's family and his Early Intervention Specialist are all very grateful for the generosity and assistance offered locally by the Elks Club grant.





# LET IT SNOW!



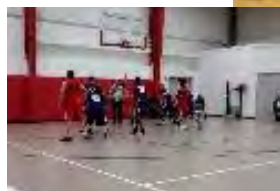
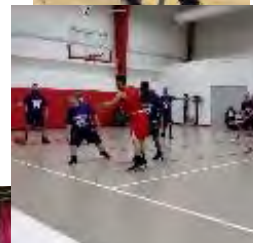
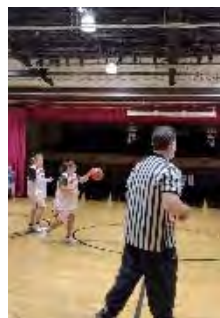
Homemade  
GIFTS MADE EASY







# Special Olympics



On December 2nd, 2023, Special Olympics held a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for the Crawford County Chargers. The meal consisted of spaghetti, meatballs, salad, and breadsticks. They also had baked goods that were available for purchase. For this fundraiser they were able to raise over \$4,000. Thank you to everyone who supported the Chargers.

*Thank you*







# **American Legion Auxiliary # 181**

## **2024 Annual Make & Bake Auction**

**100% of funds raised will go to:**

### **Crawford County Chargers, Special Olympics**

### **Saturday, January 27, 2024**

American Legion Post 181: 123 E Rensselaer St, Bucyrus  
Beginning promptly at 6:00 p.m.



Please come join us for a heart-warming evening raising money for an awesome cause with the opportunity to bid on some amazing items (baked goods, handmade items, gift baskets, gift cards, and more)!

The Crawford County Chargers athletes (all sports) need uniforms, equipment, funding for tournament fees, and more! If you would like to donate item(s) for the auction, please contact Tami (419) 689-9350, [tami@oldcrawford.com](mailto:tami@oldcrawford.com), or Sonja (419) 834-4135, [sonja@oldcrawford.com](mailto:sonja@oldcrawford.com) to coordinate pick up/drop off.

Supplemental Funds provided by Catholic Ladies of Columbia and Lutheran Thrivent





# CCBDD- UCT Dinner









# CCBDD WINTER SHOWCASE



## Adam Surber

Adam has always been a fan of the outdoors and anything Duck Dynasty and camouflage. So when he expressed interest in wanting to learn to shoot a bow and arrow a few years ago, his team helped him purchase his own equipment. He continues to love to get out and shoot! Adam is a great shot, often hitting the target right on the bullseye! Adam also has a membership for Crawford County Conservation League where he enjoys going to practice his skills. He also likes participating in activities through the local parks district in the summer, and when the weather is not ideal outside, he can be found at the Sportsman's Stop where he can shoot on the virtual 3D screens indoors.



## ORCAM Technology—Torre Gibson

Technology is something that all of us use in some sort of way during our day. It can be something as simple as using a smart phone, a computer, or having Alexa turn on our lights or play a song. One of the amazing things about technology is that there are endless opportunities for it in our lives, and the impact that it can make to help maintain or increase someone's independence.

Torre Gibson, who has been with the Crawford County Board of DD for 2 years, has taken the leap into the world of technology to assist him with increasing his independence. Torre is legally blind, and through the help of Magnifiers and More, along with the ARC of Ohio, Torre was able to receive an ORCAM to assist him with his vision.

The ORCAM was discussed and purchased so that it could assist Torre by reading materials to him while it is attached to his glasses. But Torre and the team were excited to find out that this gizmo can do even MORE for Torre. This technology can recognize colors, animals, and people's faces. When you are close to an object such as chairs, tables, and doors, it will alert him so that he doesn't run into them, which could cause injury. It can even alert him to how much money he is holding in his hand when he looks at it. When shopping, it can scan the bar codes of food and tell him what he is holding so that he knows what he is putting in his cart is what he wants/needs. He can also use this clever technique to know that he is using the correct ingredients when making something.

ORCAM can also be set up for voice commands that can tell him things such as time and date. It can be paired with Torre's mobile phone through an app, and also has the ability to connect with Bluetooth and WIFI and software updates. All of this is in this little device, which is amazing as the impact that it holds to change someone's life is HUGE.





# CCBDD WINTER SHOWCASE



## Shaun Arthur Mr. ICan

Shaun is a 14-year-old young man that is new to services with Crawford County Board of DD. Shaun has a great personality and is very polite. Shaun likes to talk and share about one of his favorite things to do which is to ride his bike. What is interesting about Shaun's bike riding is that he attended the ICan Bike Camp in Columbus, Ohio that is run by the Down's Syndrome Foundation of central Ohio. Shaun was not able to ride a bike before attending the camp. Shaun rides his bike to the different places he wants to go to in Galion. He will tell you that if he gets upset riding his bike helps him calm down.

Shaun also participates in other activities which include PB and J adaptive baseball league in Galion, and in Special Olympics. He currently enjoys playing basketball, which rumor has it he is rather good at. So, if you are in Galion and see Shaun riding by wave and say hi. He might even stop and start up a conversation with you. We hope Shaun, that you keep on enjoying life and being an example for others as to what can be achieved with an "I Can" attitude.

## Aaron Ryland



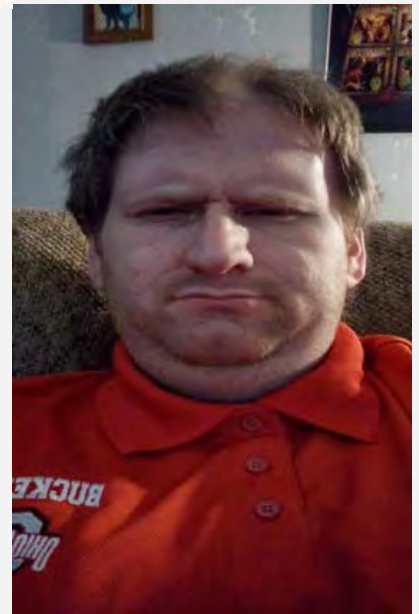
And.....the MVP award for the most improved goes to.....Aaron Ryland, who is living his BEST life yet! Aaron is very proud of himself, along with his team and the County Board, for all of the positive changes that he has made over this last year.

Aaron was able to expand in his independence when he recently began working with a new provider – B.L.E.S.S, Bassinger Life Enhancement Support Services (LLC), who has been a positive influence with Aaron. Now he is stepping outside of his comfort zone and regaining some of his independence, along with working on steps to get healthy again.

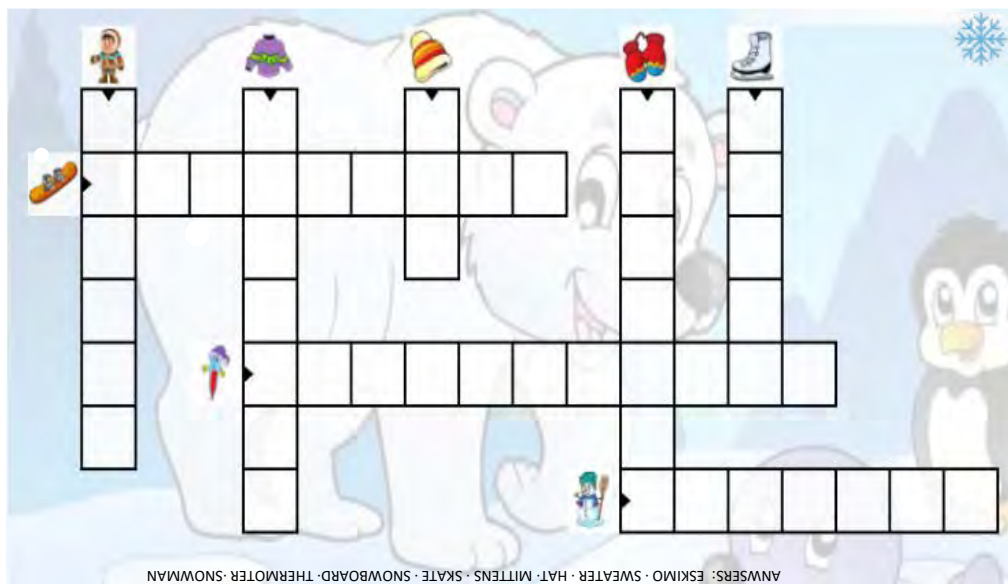
There are many things that you may not know about Aaron. He enjoys listening to all music, but especially Metallica, Pink Floyd, and the Eagles. Aaron has a wealth of knowledge pertaining to music, musicians, etc., so if you need a trivia partner – he is the one to call. He also enjoys football. He is an avid OSU football fan. He proudly owns over twenty-five OSU alumni football collector cards. He also enjoys watching pro-football and collects several of those cards as well.

Aaron is very social and enjoys passing the time by hanging out with family and friends, having cookouts, and sitting by the fire. Other hobbies include shopping and trading football cards.

**WAY TO GO Aaron !!! Keep up the hard work. We enjoy seeing your smile and we are PROUD of you!**







ANSWERS: ESKIMO · SWEATER · HAT · MITTENS · SKATE · SNOWBOARD · THERMOTER · SNOWMAN

## To Individuals & Families

Beginning in March of 2024, The Horizon's Newsletter will be distributed only to families who request a copy. We are now offering the newsletter via email, on the Facebook Page, the CCBDD Website, and a physical copy to be delivered. If you are interested in receiving the Crawford County Newsletter, please complete the Newsletter Sign Up.

Thank you,

*Erika Alspach*

Signup Horizons Newsletter -  
Crawford County Board of DD



There are 37 Blue Snowflakes

## Calendar Of Events

### February

15	5:30 PM	Board Meeting
19		Presidents Day - All Programs Closed.
21	10 - 11 AM	Chargers for Change - Trillium

### March

20	10 - 11 AM	Chargers for Change - Trillium
21	5:30 PM	Board Meeting
28		Fairway Closed
29		All Programs Closed

### April

1		Programs Closed
8		Fairway Closed
17	10 - 11 AM	Chargers for Change - Trillium
18	5:30 PM	Board Meeting
25		Fairway Closed
26		Fairway Closed

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

**Crawford County**  
Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

1630 E. Southern Avenue, Suite 101  
Bucyrus, OH 44820

**Ohio**

Department of  
Developmental Disabilities