

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

April, 2018

Community Awareness/PR Opportunities/Collaborations

New Avenues to Independence is adding a Community Engagement Satellite at Lakeland Community College, Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM designed for students with learning and developmental disabilities 14-22 years old. The group will focus on academic goals, vocational skills and social interaction. They will have drop off/pick up at Broadmoor, Swimming – physical education and Lunch at Lakeland's Breakers Dining Hall, as well as Community Outings.

Food and gift baskets were distributed to 21 families in need through the generosity of the Mentor United Methodist Church and the Volunteer efforts of Broadmoor School staff and LEEP students.

JCDC has made Denny's the spot to be as the entire building enjoyed 'dinner and a movie' trips throughout the months of February and March. Trying their hands in St. Valentine's and St. Patrick's Day crafts, JCDC enjoyed *International Pie Day* on March 14th, where pies were the thing to do. Never to be outdone, ARC enjoyed their own trips to Denny's, McDonalds, and Wendy's, as well as the movies, church and van rides.

One of our residents from ARC celebrated their 65th birthday by going to Steak and Shake and had a birthday party on the 16th.

ARC continued to rock and roll as Karaoke at Toth's Place remained one of the highlights of the months, along with church service at Willoughby Hills Friends church, and movie and bingo night with the Recreation Department.

On Wednesday, March 14th, The Lake County Employment Network (of which CES is a member) participated in a training event with students from Lake Erie College to prepare our individuals for employment by modeling proper employment "soft-skills" as well as conducting mock interviews.

On Friday March 16th, The Lake County Employment Network hosted its first Hiring Event held at Lake Erie College. Fifteen individuals that are served by the member organizations had the opportunity to interview with 7 local companies. The event was very successful, and well received by both the Network members as well as the employers that attended.

On Thursday, March 15th, Deepwood Industries and Laketran co-hosted a Coffee Contacts sponsored by the Eastern Lake County and Mentor Area Chambers of Commerce at the VGC Brown Room. Over 50 Chamber members attended the event, as we had the opportunity to discuss the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities, as well as the work opportunities that our individuals regularly engage in.

Willoughby Branch employees spent over 100 hours volunteering in the community during the month of March. Our exciting volunteering opportunities included the Mentor Public Library, Forbes House, Willoughby-Eastlake's Senior Center, the Salvation Army, St. Noel's and St. Anthony's food pantries and the ReStore agency. Willoughby Branch definitely celebrated "commUNITY" in the month of March!

Willoughby branch was the lucky recipient of the Mentor Ridge School's "Day of Service". Over 20 students reported to Willoughby to volunteer, play games and participate in craft activities with individuals served. An enjoyable time was had by all.

Willoughby Branch hosted their 11th annual Chili Cook-off. We had 13 participants who competed for the annual bragging rights to "Best Chili". Congratulations goes to our newest staff member, Ashley Cozzens who received first place for her "fire poker hot" chili.

Mentor Ridge Middle School students visited Broadening Abilities and spent time participating in many activities alongside the individuals. Baking cookies, making Easter cards, decorating Easter bags, playing basketball in the gym, and reading stories made the day fun and memorable for all.

Food collections have begun for the Lake County Food Drive. Individuals from VGC enjoyed crafting cards of all sorts to thank soldiers that are working to safeguard our freedom.

Dog Therapy is now underway at VGC two times a week and most individuals are excited to greet Sadie, the therapy dog, with pets, smiles and even a few kisses.

Throughout the month of March and April, the individuals at Imagine spent time swimming and working on life skills. The individuals went grocery shopping and made homemade snacks.

Imagine had a special guest, The Bubble Lady, who put on a show of bubbles. Other fun activities that Imagine participated in was jumping around at Sky Zone, walking the trails at Penitentiary Glen and a trip to the Cleveland Zoo. In addition, several orders came in for Dog Treats and the individuals were busy baking away to meet the order demands.

Departmental Program Enhancements/Updates

All required Ohio Department of Education Alternate Assessments were completed and distributed to each student's District of Residence.

ARC and JCDC have had an influx of new staff, leading to a wide array of activities in the community for the folks.

On March 5th, CES Job Coaches began utilizing iPads/Gatekeeper Anywhere Program for programmatic documentation at their work locations. Ultimately, this program will eliminate paper documentation as well as enable "real time" billing reimbursement.

In appreciation of our Deepwood Industries long-time employees, Willoughby Branch held their first ever Longtime Employee Recognition ceremony. Over 60 individuals were honored in our ceremony hosted by Elfie Roman, Superintendent, and Gary Metelko, Director, Deepwood Industries Board. Faithful individuals were recognized for being employees of Deepwood Industries for over 20, 30, 40 and our longest serving honoree of 54 years with our agency! Congratulations to everyone who received these prestigious honors and incredible achievements!

Agency Resources

On March 26 the Broadmoor Bobcats vs. the Lake County Coaches game held as a fundraiser at Mentor High School and raised the following funds: Deepwood Foundation 50/50 Raffle: \$268, Admissions and Current Donations: \$1,195 (\$400 will be donated to the American Cancer Society for Breast Cancer), Bake Sale/Jewelry: \$450, Broadmoor Bobcats Autism T-Shirts: \$230.

The Mentor Ohio State Eagles Charity Fund donated \$5,000 to Broadmoor School for specific classroom material and equipment.

After attending the Deepwood Foundation Grant Committee Meeting, the Transportation Department Management Team realized that there was an unmet need for funds in the Recreation Department. We decided to create a Pop & Snack Shop run by the office staff on volunteer time to benefit the individuals who want to participate in Recreation Department activities and events. We offer affordable snack options for anyone, including pop, water, yogurt, bananas, crackers, chips and nuts. We have been able to donate \$200 so far this year, and are also collecting and recycling aluminum cans to raise additional money for the Recreation Department.

Special Events

Besides the birthdays sprinkled throughout the months of February and March in the ICF (the program had 10+ in the two months), the true highlight was the attendance of individuals at the internationally renowned “A Night to Shine” in February. This world-wide coordinated event was a hit for the individuals who attended and they got the prom experience and had a chance to meet new friends, see some old friends and of course dance the night away.

Broadmoor School sponsored the following special events: Muffins with Mom celebrating Mother’s Day, Donuts with Dads, Chardon Polka Band, Mentor Pop up Library, and Creative Arts Fair.

A spring fling dance, “Freakin’ with Franke”, was a way to celebrate the first day of spring at Broadening Abilities. Even though it didn’t feel like spring outside, it didn’t make a difference. Everyone was socializing and dancing in the gym.

The Broadening Abilities’ Chili Cook-off was a delicious event that took place in the Broadmoor Home Economics room. Three judges – Eric Brey, Eric Hammer, and Bob Fratino, judged ten crockpots of staff’s chili. Karen Snider came out on top and won a Panera gift card. Additionally, individuals bought chili lunches amounting to \$100, which was donated to the St. Baldrick’s Foundation to help find a cure for cancer.

A pre-Easter Bake Sale was coordinated for the end of the month at Broadening Abilities. Chocolate popcorn, chocolate covered Oreos, Rice Krispy treats, fried dough, and many other delights were sold to friends and staff. \$400 was added to our fundraising account to help fund our activities.

Employment First Initiative Update

Willoughby Branch began a new initiative with CES (Community Employment Services) where up to four individuals are being provided the opportunity to work alongside CES individuals and help their crew clean the Lake County Captain's stadium. All individuals are being paid minimum wage and are excited to be included in their community.

Featured Success Stories

Elizabeth Turcovsky was nominated for the Franklin B. Walters Outstanding Educator Award and a Broadmoor LEEP student, Zach, was recommended for the prestigious Dr. Raymond Horn Student Award. The Walter Horn Awards will be presented at a ceremony on April 25 4:00 PM at the Auburn Career Center sponsored by the State Support Team Region #4.

On Friday March 16th, individuals served by CES had the opportunity to speak at Adult Services In-Service Day on their experiences working in the community. They did a fantastic job both speaking in public as well as informing staff of the challenges and successes they encounter while working in the community.

Congratulations to Ed P. for receiving the Employee of the Quarter award from the Deepwood Industries Board.

Staff Development/Training

On April 19, the Preschool Teachers will be attending a Regional Hearing and Vision Training, which will be presented by the Ohio Department of Health.

On April 20, the Preschool staff will be attending the Early Childhood Spring Regional held at the Environmental Learning Center.

Transportation Managers have been attending IEP/ISP meetings and calling for team meetings when needed to allow us to better understand what our bus riders might like. We have been experimenting with using personal music players and CD's for individuals with conduct challenges on the bus. We have seen improved ridership with some of our individuals using music as a tool and would like to thank our IT Department for programming the music devices for us.