

# Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities



## Superintendent's Report - January 2020

### Community Awareness/PR Opportunities/Collaborations

The Broadmoor Bobcats Basketball Team played high school teams from Madison, Perry, and Lake Catholic in December

The Mentor United Methodist Church, with the assistance of the LEEP students, distributed 36 gift baskets to Broadmoor families.

Individuals at Imagine sold dog treats at some of the Broadmoor Basketball games. The treats made wonderful holiday gifts. Two Imagine individuals continued to participate in the Girls Just Want to Have Fun, Groovy Garfoose music therapy group once a week. They really enjoy attending this activity at VGC. Imagine has also been busy with volunteer work such as double bagging lunch bags for End 68 Hours of Hunger and they attended the McKinley Center with Willoughby Branch individuals.

On November 16, eight volunteers from St. Gabe's assisted the ICF residents in making Christmas cards.

The United Methodist Church hosted Thanksgiving Dinner on November 28 for residents of ARC and JCDC.

The Burnt River Brown's Backers Club Raffle, in conjunction with the Mentor Firefighters Union raised over \$3,600 from their raffle at Hooley House on December 1st. Proceeds from this charity event went toward holiday gifts for the 44 residents at ARC and JCDC.

On December 4, the Elks Club hosted the annual Snowball Dinner/Dance which was enjoyed by residents from ARC and JCDC.

Fifteen members of the Iron Disciples Motorcycle Club, from Prince of Peace Church in Mentor, visited JCDC and ARC on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. and Mrs. Claus and all their helpers assured that everyone was greeted with smiles, wrapped presents, and homemade baked goods.

Individuals from VGC enjoyed a Christmas luncheon catered by the Croatian Lodge and held at St. Bede's Father Tulley Center in Mentor. Father Tim Plavac was kind enough to share his talent on the guitar, singing Christmas songs with all of us. Laura Ruque, from St. Bede's had a hand in making the Father Tulley Center's dazzling decorations. Santa, a.k.a. Tim Franke, also made a dashing appearance with gifts for all.

Willoughby Branch will begin volunteering at the Eastlake Senior Center in 2020. This is a great opportunity to develop new friendships.

## Department Program Enhancements/Updates

School Age and LEEP staff participated in a School to Work Training with the Transition SSA and Navigator SSA.

Alandra Thompson, Residential Manager/QIDP, accepted the position of Residential Coordinator. Jammelle Hodge, Residential Shift Manager, accepted the position of Residential Manager/QIDP. Joretha Elmore, Residence Worker, accepted the position of Part-Time Residential Shift Manager.

Broadening Abilities clubs in December focused on Christmas. The History Club talked about the history of Christmas, The Garden Club arranged Christmas flowers, and the Music Club played a variety of Christmas music. In addition, The Cooking Club created Christmas cookie jars which were given to families and friends as gifts. These yummy treats were a nice way to help people prepare for their holiday baking. Lastly, the Animal Advocates learned about the Scandinavian tradition of sprinkling birdseed on the doorstep on Christmas Day to ensure a happy and healthy year. Birdseed was given to individuals to ensure the best of luck in 2020.

## Special Events

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, Broadmoor participated in their Annual Holiday Festival at Lake Catholic High School. On December 12<sup>th</sup>, The Early Intervention Program and the Preschool Program hosted Milk and Cookies with Santa for all their students. And on December 17<sup>th</sup>, the Riverside Show Choir performed for Broadmoor students.

The individuals in the Imagine Program enjoyed their holiday party on December 20<sup>th</sup> while enjoying pizza, wings, and desserts for lunch. Afternoon activities also included watching a holiday movie.

The ICF Holiday Party was held on December 5<sup>th</sup> with 150 in attendance. Families contributed a full dessert table. Santa paid a visit and every individual left with a wrapped gift.

November at VGC began with a special appearance from Larry the Sax Man, who graciously celebrated Saxophone Day with us. We also began our encore of Girls Just Wanna Have Fun Music Therapy classes made possible by the Deepwood Foundation.

Guest readers celebrated the Christmas Holiday at VGC with books and a little elf magic. We also constructed some gingerbread houses and a train, as well as our many craft days, VGC bowling, Ugly Sweater Day, and closed out our NFL Weekly Game Pick challenge. It was an eventful end to the year at VGC.

Willoughby Branch held their annual Christmas party at LaVera Party Center. It was generously sponsored by Deepwood Industries and Deepwood Foundation with LaVera also donating a large part of the costs. Thank you to all. Once again a great time was had by all.

Twenty-five individuals from Willoughby Branch attended The Nutcracker and lunch downtown at the Hannah Theatre.

Seventeen Broadmoor Bobcat Alumni from Willoughby Branch participated in the Alumni game at Broadmoor School. We also participated in a pizza party and dance afterwards to continue to encourage all of the friendships we have made over the years.

The holiday season added even more fun for the month of December at Broadening Abilities. While Christmas trees with bright lights lit up the rooms, holiday crafts with Santas and snowmen decorated our hallways. Fun times with music activities such as the Riverside Choir, Larry the Saxophone player, and Melvin the pianist, made our ears dance with pleasure. Holiday movies such as The Grinch, Home Alone, and A Christmas Story, brought back good memories from earlier days.

Delicious food at Broadening Abilities' Christmas celebration, compliments of Chick-fil-A, was a special treat for everyone. Chick-fil-A was very generous donating most of the food. The Christmas spirit was alive and well not only by their generosity but also through the giving of our families, friends, and staff with toy donations to Asa's Angels. A big box of toys was donated to Asa's Angels to ensure a happy holiday to children in Lake County.

### **Agency Resources**

Broadmoor received an anonymous donation of \$5,000 to benefit students with classroom materials and equipment.

### **Employment First**

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, the LEEP Job Trainer and one LEEP Instructor attended the sponsored Fifth Annual Northeast Ohio Transition Symposium at Kent State University, sponsored by a collaboration of the State Support Team Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and the Center for Innovation in Transition and Employment – Kent State University.

### **Featured Success Stories**

Phillip Q. received the Employee of the Quarter Award from Deepwood Industries. Phillip was nominated by his peers for his strong work ethic and his continued kindness to others. Congratulations Phillip!

### **Staff Development/Training**

Dr. Sloane Burgess, from Kent State University, came to talk to the LEEP staff about promoting vocational success for individuals with disabilities. She shared current research-based best practices regarding the teaching of vocational behavior and creating visually-structured tasks to best prepare students for jobsite responsibilities.