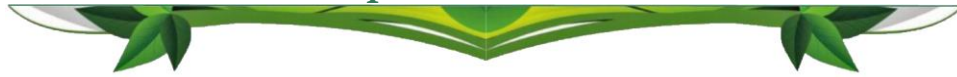


# Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities



## Superintendent's Report - January 2024

### Community Awareness/PR Opportunities/Collaborations

The Willoughby Branch (WB) acquired a new job called Bakers Bands. You may have seen these lanyards while tailgating at the Browns games or sitting in the bleachers/watching on TV. They are a lanyard with “the Elf” on the card, Browns helmets, etc. Bakers Bands provides these lanyards of all NFL teams to WB and we assemble the lanyards. This customer gave WB a very special treat for Christmas and provided our Holiday lunch! They provided spaghetti with sausage and meatballs, garlic bread, salad, and pizza. Rob from Bakers Bands also brought in gifts for all the individuals (DVDs, candles, music, and the like). The individuals were over the moon with Rob’s generosity!

The EI Department held a Q & A session with Project Hope. The staff asked a variety of questions on ways to help children with delays in communication and sensory behaviors. The EI providers also discussed ways to successfully coach parents who are in crisis.

The preschool staff attended the Early Childhood Fall Regional where they received training on the following topics: Preschool attendance, self-care, SUTQ updates/state licensing, and an overview of changes occurring with the Department of Children and Youth.

On November 9, Broadmoor held their annual Open House/Resource Fair. Many families came to see their child’s classroom, shop at the Scholastic Book Fair, and interact with 11 of our community partners at the Resource Fair. A few of them included Crossroads Health, Lake Metroparks, and the Willoughby Fine Arts Association. The Broadmoor Family Network (BFN) contributed the refreshments that evening.

Both Lake Catholic High School & Junior Leadership Lake County joined us for experiences at Broadmoor School. Lake Catholic spent their Turkey Day of Service with our Adapted Physical Education Program, while Junior Leadership Lake County learned about the County Board Services and participated in a simulated session with our Recreation Department.

Broadmoor’s School Age Supervisor attended the November Willoughby-Eastlake *Safe Spaces* Task Force meeting. Topic focuses were youth empowerment projects, mentorship programs, and violence prevention.

Lake Erie College School of Equine Studies donated horseshoes to be used for western-themed craft projects that will be sold at the Ox Shoppe in Thompson.

Together with the Transportation Department, Broadmoor School’s Positive School Climate Committee gathered donations to be distributed to Lake County’s food pantries by Little Annie’s Hope Train.

Broadmoor’s LEEP students created a beautiful Gingerbread House with the help of several school volunteers that was donated to the Forbes House for the holidays.

Broadmoor School and the Deepwood Foundation were surprised to learn that they were the beneficiary for Luke Farrell's 'My Cause, My Cleats.' Both entities were featured on Luke's cleats as his Jacksonville Jaguars played the Monday Night Football game. In addition, Luke made a donation through the Foundation to Broadmoor School.

Broadmoor School received additional holiday kindness by receiving monetary donations from the Knights of Columbus and Jackson Comfort (through the Deepwood Foundation).

On November 17, 2023, the Community Relations Manager met with Kyle from Avery Dennison to collect unused rolls of adhesive materials for use in Deepwood Program areas. Kyle stated that this was a very meaningful partnership because they would dispose of the unused adhesive material, if Deepwood did not use it. We are so thankful for our community partners!

Auburn Career Center Culinary Arts Program traveled to The Willoughby Branch on November 15, 2023, to prepare and serve a meal for individuals at the Program. The Culinary Arts students prepared a delicious meal complete with turkey, stuffing, pumpkin pie, and more.

Deepwood was represented by Recreation Specialists Kara and Ellana, and the Community Relations Manager at Santa's Workshop at the Lake County Fairgrounds on November 29, 2023. Community organizations were gathered by the 4-H Family Consumer Science Educator, Lisa Manning, to attend this event. Each organization brought a craft for children to make at this wonderful occasion. What a great way to kick off the holiday season!

Aktion Club held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 29, 2023. Aktion Club members brought donations for the Sub Zero Mission, an organization that helps Veterans and works to end homelessness in America. Aktion Club members collected so many items from Sub Zero Mission's Stay Alive Five consisting of winter hats, coats, gloves, boots, and sleeping bags. Then on December 14, Aktion Club members and advisors visited the Sub Zero Mission headquarters to donate warming items collected in October, November, and December. Our Club collected over 127 warming items, over 160 pairs of new socks, 10 pairs of boots, tents, and sleeping bags to assist in Sub Zero's mission to fight homelessness and help people in need. We toured their facility and learned more about the organization.

On December 11, 2023, Aktion Club members and advisors met at Mission BBQ for their Holiday celebration meeting. Mission BBQ was the chosen restaurant since the focus of LCBDD/Deepwood Aktion Club this year is Veterans, and Mission BBQ was established to recognize all of our loved ones in service. We are looking forward to seeing what our amazing Aktion Club does next for our wonderful community!

On December 12, 2023, the last Advocacy Meeting of 2023 was held at The Willoughby Branch. We celebrated the holidays and enjoyed festive cupcakes and participated in ornament making. We also discussed our goals and aspirations for the New Year. We look forward in continuing to communicate our dreams, interests, needs, and to explore opportunities to be our best in 2024!

### Special Events

WB had a really neat craft activity in December – they made gingerbread houses. They compiled a whole bunch of edible candies, marshmallows, etc., and the individuals were able to create their own graham cracker house. They really turned out neat! Look for pictures on our Agency's monthly video.

The Recreation Department and Broadmoor School hosted a Holiday Ornament Event and Breakfast with Santa with over 120 individuals participating in the events collectively.

Preschool classrooms held Thanksgiving feasts as families sent in different Thanksgiving dishes for students to share with their class. Students had the opportunity to discuss their family's Thanksgiving traditions.

The North Pole came to the Broadmoor Gym as Santa visited the school. All classes were able to visit with Santa, enjoying sweet treats, crafts, and holiday movies.

Over 175 individuals, family, staff, and volunteers enjoyed the Winter Wonderland Ball, a Footloose Friday dance, held at Painesville Township Park on December 1. We kicked off the night with pizza before hitting the dance floor, and were delighted by a visit from a very special guest, Santa! Many thanks to Lake Metroparks, Revolution Pizza, and Billy "J" Full Spectrum Entertainment for being wonderful partners and supporters of LCBDD!

Volunteers from all over the Agency volunteered at the Recreation and Transition Services Department event for a winter wonderland event featuring fun indoor activities and snacks on December 7, 2023. This event was open to individuals aged 14 - 22. The students enjoyed games, karaoke, crafts, yummy snacks, and a visit from Santa.

Agency staff flocked to volunteer for the Deepwood Administration Office visit from individuals at the Residence Program for their holiday festivities. Each volunteer was paired with an individual, walked with them to the A Building, joined them to visit each beautifully decorated station to collect their holiday treats, took photos with Santa, and then walked them back to their residence. It was a fun and festive time had by all!

SSA gathered in agency program areas on December 19 to spread the cheer and sing Christmas Carols to the individuals served at our programs. This has become an annual event enjoyed by our wonderful individuals, but also by the Service and Support Department as well.

December was a very busy month for VGC. They had several visits from Santa Claus and his elves. Our Food Service Department, cooked up a delicious gourmet breakfast for our Christmas party. We also did our annual visit to the A building, walking through the winter wonderland, having snacks, and then seeing Santa Clause.

VGC ended fall sessions with the Fine Arts Association's music therapy, and will begin again in January. Many of the individuals enjoyed going downtown to see the Christmas plays. VGC had a special visit from the SSA Department, who visited each group and sang Christmas Carols.

### **Featured Success Stories**

The Broadmoor Preschool Program had a successful Ohio Department of Education licensing review on January 8, during their unannounced visit. The program was found to be fully compliant with all rules and regulations. Kudos to the planning and organization of the program area!

EI Featured Family: Tommy and Ashley shared how Early Intervention (EI) Services through the Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities / Deepwood helped their son Thomas. Read below to learn more of their story:

“Speech Therapist Shirley Pallaise has been an incredible asset to our son's (and family's) growth and development. When we felt Thomas may need additional tools to succeed in his speech development, we reached out to Broadmoor School for Early Intervention Services. What we didn't know is that we would be introduced to an amazing person who would not only succeed in addressing the challenges we were having with our son's speech development, but also become someone we truly felt was a part

of our family. We hit a crossroad of being excited for the positive results, and the sadness of moving on from Shirley being in our monthly routine. I couldn't agree with our son more when he would tell Shirley, "Five more minutes."

"Thank you Shirley for everything you did for our family and we hope to talk soon to hear about the other families you've had the opportunity to help!"

<https://lakebdd.org/2023/12/strong-bonds-with-speech-therapist-make-a-lasting-impact-for-thomas/>