

Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities



Superintendent's Report - November 2024

Community Awareness/PR Opportunities/Collaborations

In addition to making multiple posts weekly to highlight National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) across social media, Marketing also partnered with Katie D. (Employment Navigation) and Julie O. this year to create three videos featuring unique messaging about individuals who have developmental disabilities working in our community. The videos were released in October. Employers commented across all three videos about why inclusive hiring is of value to their business, a great work environment, and our community.

- Alyssa is a team member at Nothing Bundt Cakes. In addition to her current job duties, Alyssa talks about how she is expanding her skills to take on more responsibilities.
- Jack is a team member at Crostatas Pizzeria. His video highlights a diverse work force in which team members truly appreciate each other in unique ways.
- Austin is a team member at The Fine Arts Association. His story speaks to the importance of collaboration with Private Providers to ensure success.

You can watch these and other videos on our website at www.lakebdd.org/employment-navigation/ and content will also be shared on www.lakecountycollective.org.

The Willoughby Branch (WB) collaborated with community partners this month attending a Developmental Disabilities Job Fair at Mentor High School. WB (Deepwood Industries) had a table at the job fair displaying some jobs we do for local companies. Individuals who work at the WB got to highlight some of their talents and skills, and also chat with the community about how much they love the work that they do.

A group from the American Legion Auxiliary #214 (including Sue F.) came out to the WB for their Craft Club to create posters for Veteran's Day, and WB planned on displaying these posters when they have their flag retirement ceremony in November.

In October, 36 children were evaluated for Early Intervention Services, and 33 children qualified for Early Intervention Services.

Broadmoor LEEP students and staff want to thank all of the Agency staff and families who purchased apple fritters. Spudnuts had closed their doors but opened up for one day to make fritters for one last time for the sale. Almost \$500 was raised to support the LEEP Program.

Broadmoor School received donations this past month from two separate Knights of Columbus organizations (\$2,561.70 total donations) and the Mentor Police Athletic Association (\$1,000 donation). The generosity of our community is part of what makes Lake County so special!

The Community Book Club is back in session for the first time in a few years and had its first session at The WB on October 22. Meetings are once a month and led by a community volunteer, Sandy. Eight individuals signed up to attend this year. Sandy ran the club years ago and the individuals who attend the WB greeted her with welcoming smiles and many remembered her. We started the meeting by completing a getting to know you activity and sharing about ourselves, and then jumped right into

getting started on the book. The club is reading *Mystery in Rocky Mountain National Park*; book one of the National Park series. Each member read out loud and followed along. So many individuals have really missed this club and we are glad it is back! The next meeting is November 19 from 1 – 2 pm at the WB.

The Community Advocacy group met on October 29, at Patterson's Fruit Farm. There was a huge turnout for this meeting, over 15 self-advocates! It was a perfect fall day to visit the farm. They received a tour and learned all about the farm from Patterson's own Kristin Patterson. She lives onsite with her husband, Bill Patterson, and children. The self-advocates had so many great questions making this such an enriching visit to Patterson's. It was very interesting to learn about the ins and outs of the farm with such detail. Kristin provided samples of their famous apple cider, and then the group enjoyed apple cider donuts on the patio and took in all of the beautiful views of the farm. The self-advocates wanted to peek at the farm animals onsite, and toured the barns to see all of the rabbits, chickens, sheep, and many more. It was definitely a day they will not soon forget. Thank you to Patterson's for giving an inside look into the farm. The next advocacy meeting is scheduled for November 26 at the WB..

The LCBDD Aktion Club met on October 30 at the Vocational Guidance Center (VGC) for their first meeting of the new term and the annual Halloween party. Aktion Club members arrived decked out in their Halloween costumes and each brought a pack of candy or treats to share. They went over information about the new term of Aktion Club, which runs from October 2024 - September 2025, and spoke about the focus of helping senior citizens this term. The Aktion Club members then got to work on their first civic project, making cards for over 200 senior citizens receiving Meals-on-Wheels from the nutrition site located on the LCBDD/Deepwood campus. It was such a great team building activity, and seeing the Aktion Club members working hard on the cards showed the dedication each member has to helping their community. Next, they celebrated our favorite holiday with music, cider, cookies, and an Aktion Club candy exchange. The next Aktion Club meeting is scheduled for November 20 at the VGC.

Special Events

WB celebrated all things Spooktacular during the month of October including a trip to Patterson's Apple Farm to get apples for Gayle's delicious apple crisp which she prepared (with help from other staff) for all of Willoughby to enjoy. They had a "Beetlejuice Mania" week including a special craft, an Escape Room for the individuals to play, and a movie all with the Beetlejuice theme. A Halloween scavenger hunt also took place so that individuals could seek out their scary gifts. Staff once again showed their artistic talents and created Halloween displays in their areas....stop by and check them out, they'll be sure to amaze you. Halloween wouldn't be complete without our Halloween Dance at Willoughby - individuals came in costume and showed off their dance moves.

The Spooky Harvest Walk was a success at Broadmoor School! A huge thank you to the Lake County Board staff, Mentor Police Department, Deepwood Foundation & Broadmoor Family Network for participating in the event. The joy of the event could be felt from students and staff.

Broadmoor Basketball team opened their 2024-2025 season with a win over Kirtland! New for this season, the Bobcats will be collecting donations before going into the game to support local food pantries.

Broadmoor's Open House was on November 7, and provided an opportunity for families to visit the school, attend the book fair, learn about resources, and visit the gym. Thank you to the committee for planning a successful event and for all the community partners who volunteered their time to attend.

Recreation's 'Silly Fun Saturday' in October was BOO-teful, as families trick or treated through VGC. Thank you to the staff who volunteered to hand out treats. In November, the Silly Fun Saturday is sponsored by Deepwood Foundation and will be at We Rock the Spectrum. There will be no charge for families to attend the event, thanks to the generosity of the Foundation.

Agency Resources

Broadmoor School and Educational Service Center staff attended professional development on responses to emergency situations with individuals with complex developmental disabilities. Tim Dimoff, from SAC Consulting, provided a specific training that spoke to many different scenarios and how we would respond in a variety of situations.

Kathy D., Samantha C., and Liz M., completed the OACB Executive Development Program on November 15. This yearlong program commenced with the Capstone Presentations on solutions for current issues in the field and showcased the commitment to professional growth and leadership.