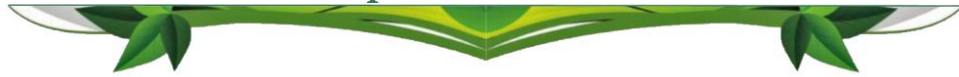


## Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities



### Superintendent's Report - April 2025

#### Community Awareness/PR Opportunities/Collaborations

The Early Childhood Department has met with Morley Library, Willoughby-Eastlake Library, Mentor Library, and a representative from Mentor Police Department this month. These community entities are collaborating and working on developing programming for Early Intervention and the Broadmoor Preschool Program.

Monica Garza from Mentor High School concluded her Senior Research Project in a Broadmoor LEEP classroom where she studied the effect of music on children with more significant disabilities. Her findings reflected the use of background music in Special Education classrooms as having a notable positive impact on focus during academic tasking and reducing negative behaviors.

Broadmoor School was recognized by the U.S. Department of Defense – Employer Support of Guard and Reserve Program as a Patriot Employer. The purpose of the program is to honor employers who support members of the Reserve Component.

Each year local school districts have the opportunity to nominate an outstanding student and educator for the Walter/Horn awards. This year Broadmoor School selected Honnora Kovach for the RA Horn award as an exemplary Special Education student. Selected by her peers, Kim Mingus is honored as Broadmoor's Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award.

Willoughby Branch has a new name, and the new name is....drum roll...WILLOUGHBY WORKS! Please look for the new name in any correspondence moving forward and thank you to all the Willoughby Works individuals, families, and staff for their ideas they submitted for the rebranding.

A huge thank you to the Quota Club of Lake County for donating the funds to make each of our ARC individuals their very own Easter basket!

LCBDD Community Employment Development is assisting a consultant from the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy to access inclusive employers in Lake County to participate in a survey as part of a statewide project to assess the quality and type of employment related services that organizations receive. Survey results will be compiled into an assessment report that will be used by multiple Ohio state agencies to better communicate with and engage employers in ways that employers find beneficial.

It's been a great month of media coverage! Nine articles ran across The News Herald, Lake County Tribune, Today's Family Magazine, and News Herald Max Preps during the past four weeks (both in print and digital distribution). Articles included coverage of the Broadmoor Bobcats & Coaches game, Special Olympics Big Footer 5K, Developmental Disabilities Job & Resource Fair, Autism Awareness Proclamation for April, and the Community Volunteer Fair. An average reach for *each* article was around 20K, so lots of awareness!

On April 3, the JCR Imagine Program was invited to attend the Lake County Commissioners' Meeting, where they recognized April as Autism Awareness Month in Lake County. Superintendent Roman spoke, and Rachael Urbanek and Josh Thompson also attended from the Imagine Program.

On April 10, the JCR Imagine Program had an Open House. The event was well attended and staff shared all of the wonderful things about the program with the many families that came to the event.

### Department Program Enhancements/Updates

Broadmoor has teamed up with the Willoughby Fire Station for a program called Aluminum Cans for Burned Children (ACBC). All pop cans collected in the building can be turned into dollars for local children to attend Camp Phoenix for pediatric burn survivors completely free of charge. Please feel free to drop off any cans collected in your departments to the school so that the LEEP students can crush them and add them to the contribution to this amazing cause!

The annual Bobcats/Coaches Game was a great success again this year! This year was the first year for unified teams with coaches and players on the same team. A special shout out to the many volunteers and community partners who made this event possible.

### Special Events

The Early Childhood Department/Recreation Department held their Silly Fun Saturday event at The Cleveland Aquarium with over 80 families in attendance.

The Early Childhood Department also had Jungle Terry come to Broadmoor to do a show for families in Early Intervention. The Deepwood Foundation sponsored this event with around 30 families attending.

For the month of March, Willoughby Works celebrated DD Awareness Month by providing a play for all to see. The play took place at the Auburn Career Center and was entitled: "Disability Means....?" The actors and actresses provided many different views on what disability means to them and did a fantastic job on stage. Thank you to all who attended to support DD Awareness Month!

Willoughby Works had John the Bagpiper back to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and on that same day they had students from Shore Middle School come out for Make a Difference Day. They helped individuals create homemade instruments, and there was a huge parade behind John the Bagpiper - it was a great time!

Willoughby Works offered a Spa Day where individuals had some time to relax, unwind, and de-stress from all the hard work that they do. A hair salon, manicures (including paraffin wax), and also a relaxation room (complete with soft music, massage chairs, warm towels, and cucumbers for the eyes) was offered. It was a well-deserved relaxing time and staff should be commended for making that happen and providing such a wonderful experience for the individuals.

VGC continues to keep busy with routine calendar activities. Individuals participate in music therapy with Fine Arts, and celebrated St Patrick's Day. Banjo Dave popped into play the good ole American folklore that everyone enjoyed. VGC is eager for Spring to finally arrive so that they can be out and about.

### **Agency Resources**

During the month of March, 35 children were evaluated and all qualified for Early Intervention Services.

### **Featured Success Stories**

Rabbit Run Community Arts Association is hosting their 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Juried Art Show and one of the individuals from Willoughby Works, Lani E., submitted three photographs. All entries have a chance of winning the Art Contest and receiving a monetary prize - GO LANI! Thank you to DI for purchasing the matting and framing for Lani's artwork.