

## Lake County Board of DD/Deepwood

### Superintendent's Report – January 2026



#### **Community Awareness/PR Opportunities/Collaborations**

Several 7th grade students at St. Mary of the Assumption School created beautiful Christmas ornaments for our LEEP students. The ornaments were handed out before break so they could be taken home and enjoyed throughout the holiday season.

LEEP students delivered Broadmoor's food donations to the United Way of Lake County. Staff members, students, and their families spent the first couple of weeks in December collecting nonperishable items from the organization's wish list, helping to spread the holiday spirit throughout the community.

Together, Broadmoor's Adapted Physical Education staff and the LCBDD Recreation Department hosted a wonderful holiday craft party, where Ms. Kim's School Age class created colorful Christmas tree projects alongside their friends at the Agency's Recreation Site.

For the fourth year in a row, NFL player and Perry native Luke Farrell, honored Broadmoor School and Deepwood by selecting us as the beneficiary of his My Cause, My Cleats Campaign. During the game, Luke proudly wore custom-designed cleats featuring Broadmoor and Deepwood, helping raise awareness for our students and programs. Luke shared that he was "proud to represent the students and the community," and we are equally proud to have him as a champion for our mission.

November was all about empowerment! Our Community Advocacy group came together to share independent living tips that make life easier and more fulfilling. They explored practical strategies for personal hygiene, time management, organization, budgeting, meal planning, and household management aimed at boosting confidence and independence. The meeting wrapped up with an inspiring tour of the Larry Allen Technology Suite, where members discovered tools and resources that can make everyday tasks simpler. December was a time to celebrate! The group closed out the year with a festive holiday party, complete with a hot chocolate bar and cookies. Together, they reflected on the amazing progress that was made in 2025 and brainstormed exciting topics for 2026, including building and maintaining friendships, setting healthy boundaries, stress management, self-kindness, and mental health awareness. The energy was great, and we're thrilled for what's ahead in 2026 with the Community Advocacy Council!





Aktion Club ended 2025 on a high note! In November, members proudly delivered their donations to Sub Zero Mission, including new socks, winter hats, gloves, coats, sleeping bags, and even tents—a heartfelt effort that brought warmth to those in need. Sub Zero Mission was deeply grateful for our generosity.

November also sparked excitement as members expressed interest in running for club officer positions. At the December meeting, they combined giving back with celebration. Members signed over 225 holiday cards for seniors receiving Meals on Wheels, joined the NexTrex Recycling Challenge to keep 1,000 lbs. of plastic out of landfills (and earn a community bench to be displayed at the Kiwanis Community Gardens), and held Club elections. Congratulations to our new officers:

President: Kelly    Vice President: Lani    Secretary: Jacob    Treasurer: Alyssa

To top it off, Aktion Club members Paul and Gabi teamed up with LCBDD's Community Relations team to spread holiday cheer at Santa's Workshop on December 8, 2025, hosted by 4-H Junior leaders at the Lake County Fairgrounds. Kids had a blast making special gifts for their parents.

VGC has had an eventful winter so far, starting off with a day full of bowling, cornhole, and lunch with a group of seniors from Lake Catholic. All have enjoyed music fun with Banjo Dave, story time with Theresa, Christmas crafts and decorating. Also, Snacks with Santa at A-Building was a huge success with the craft, all the treats, and a gift from Santa himself! Everyone is looking forward to warmer weather, but until then we will continue indoor walks and visiting our friends throughout the building.

DI customer Baker Bands, Rob Launer, provided a very special holiday lunch once again this year and Willoughby Works (WW) was treated to a fresh taco bar. They provided a choice of chicken or beef tacos and all the fixings. It was a delicious lunch and Rob even brought Santa to deliver presents to everyone!

Baker Bands also had a fundraising event on Sunday, December 7. It was called the Holiday Hustle 5K and registered runners/walkers participated in this heavily sponsored event. The event was a HUGE success and Baker Bands was so appreciative of LCBDD for hosting this event on the main campus. Thank you to all who participated/volunteered... despite the cold weather. It was fun!





### **Special Events**

A Silly Fun Saturday event was held. The Recreation Department hosted another Silly Fun Saturday, as well as a special Breakfast with Santa for our Early Intervention and Preschool families. It was a wonderful opportunity for children and their families to enjoy festive fun together.

Broadmoor students enjoyed their North Pole Experience party before Winter break. The students all had the chance to visit with Santa, decorate cookies, and play holiday-themed games together. The event was sponsored by the Broadmoor Family Network and supported by wonderful volunteers from Mentor High School and Broadmoor parents. Also, personalized stockings were generously provided by St. Gabriel's Church.

Ms. Abby's LEEP class explored the Spirit of Christmas store in Mentor and had a wonderfully festive time trying on silly hats and taking pictures with many familiar cartoon characters.

For the month of December, WW wanted to bring some education and culture to their building. We had each group choose a country and they created displays to show how that country celebrates Christmas....it was called "Christmas Around the World." Some of the countries highlighted were Tokyo, Germany, Austria, Ukraine, and Belarus. Other festive activities for the season were: decorating the building with the Recreation Department, friends, decorating Christmas cookies, wearing holiday socks to work, Christmas Trivia and the individuals got to watch the Polar Express movie because that was the theme for the holiday lunch.

In November, residents celebrated a Thanksgiving dinner with their families that was hosted by our Food Service Department. Residents continue to attend Willoughby Friends Church. Residents and staff spent time decorating ARC with the Christmas spirit. The Deepwood Foundation, via the Browns Backers Club, donated \$5,000 for the residents' Christmas presents, and ARC was very thankful for this contribution. The Birthday club was celebrating the monthly birthdays.

On November 25, Lake Catholic students continued their beloved Turkey Day tradition, volunteering at Broadmoor School, Vocational Guidance Center, and Deepwood Industries Willoughby Works Program. This annual event is always a highlight—filled with games, laughter, and meaningful connections that make the holiday season extra special.





The Winter-themed Footloose Friday Dance on December 5 was a night to remember! Around 150 individuals, families, staff, and volunteers gathered at Painesville Township Park for an evening of pizza, dancing, and fun photo ops in front of a cozy ski lodge backdrop. Huge thanks to Lake Metroparks, Deepwood Foundation, and DJ Billy “J” Full Spectrum Entertainment for making the event unforgettable. Mark your calendars—the next Footloose Friday is on March 6, 2026!

The JCR Imagine Program had their Holiday party on December 18 compliments of Ashley, Tana, and the Deepwood Foundation. The individuals enjoyed lunch from TJ’s and also created a holiday craft.

CES hand delivered holiday gifts to all DI customers at their places of business (as well as WW).

#### **Agency Resources**

During the month of December, 30 children were evaluated and 24 qualified for Early Intervention Services. Primary Service Provider assignments are: 14 children were assigned to a Developmental Specialist and 10 Children were assigned to a Speech Therapist.

