

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **February, 2018**

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

Individuals from VGC enjoyed a birthday fiesta at El Rodeo, where they celebrated with good food and friends. Others enjoyed visits to the Mentor Public Library, area stores, and trips with the Recreation Department in between the more challenging weather.

Two new Perry High Students from the Perry Student Learning Volunteer Program began their community service projects in the Broadmoor Preschool classrooms.

The Prom for all students with disabilities has been scheduled for Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at Lakeland's Breaker's Café.

#### **Departmental Program Enhancements/Updates**

Painting continues to brighten up our environment at VGC, as well as the addition of some new furniture to update the habilitation areas.

School Age and LEEP students have begun participating in their annually required Ohio Department of Education Alternate Assessments for Grade 3 – 8 and Grade 10 (OGT).

On February 15<sup>th</sup>, the LEEP students participated in their annual LEEP Science Fair, in which Elfie Roman, Superintendent, John Hamercheck and Dan Troy, Lake County Commissioners, judged and distributed awards to each student.

On February 8<sup>th</sup>, Jungle Terry and his exotic animals performed for the Preschool students and their parents.

Do not forget to save the date for the annual Broadmoor Bobcats vs. the Lake County Coaches game, on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Mentor High School.

Broadening Abilities received a state of the art water fountain that also fills water bottles with delicious filtered water. Thanks to our Maintenance Department for installing it. We love it!

The months of January and February were great fun at the Residences as the New Year's party décor was cleaned up and replaced with Valentine's Day hearts draped over the buildings at ARC and JCDC. The Valentine's Day party was just one of the parties as ARC and JCDC celebrated ten different birthdays in January and February. Needless to say there were plenty of candles blown out and cake to be had throughout the months.

There were plenty of outings throughout the month for the ICF, but nothing compared to *A Night to Shine*, the world-wide event put on by The Tebow Foundation. Two residents of ARC participated and had a wonderful time.

## **Special Events**

While the weather tried to dampen our New Year with multiple snow days and cold snowy weather, VGC kicked off the New Year with our monthly birthday celebration, where each individual can be celebrated according to their birthday month. We continued to stay warm with indoor activities such as movie days, craft days, various clubs and exercise, and some hot chocolate too. We also rooted for our favorite teams in our tailgate party leading to Super Bowl Sunday.

The Federal Quota Registry was submitted for all Broadmoor students with visual impairment which provides funding for visual impairment classroom materials.

The Broadmoor Bobcats played the following games: Wickliffe, Madison, Chardon and Perry High Schools.

Broadening Abilities has had very high-energy times with friends at Broadmoor basketball games, participating in the “Olympic Winter games”, riding bikes in the gym, and swimming with the Recreation Department. A walking competition between the Broadening Abilities rooms is presently in the works with the winning group receiving healthy Subway sandwiches for lunch.

National Compliment Day and National Irish Coffee Day were celebrated at the end of January. Nice words and delicious java (or hot cocoa) were served to all individuals. The “souper bowl” was also a fun opportunity to taste great soups, breads, and appetizers in anticipation for the Super Bowl.

Heart Art in sculptures and in frames was beautifully showcased at Broadening Abilities as a prelude to the Valentine’s Day celebration. Strawberry Smoothies and Polish donuts were enjoyed for Fat Tuesday and Valentine’s Day. Individuals enjoyed receiving carnation flowers from friends and family. Our Annual Carnation Flower Sale brought in \$350.00 for our fundraising account.

Broadening Abilities Hab 1 and Hab 3 enjoyed being winners of two contests and were awarded Cali’s pizza on Valentine’s Day. Hab 3 won a previous decorating contest for their owl scarecrow, while Hab 1 picked the most winning football teams this past season.

On a sad note, Broadening Abilities lost our sweet K.D. who brightened our day and our hearts with his curiosity and energy. Kevin was masterful at breaking down boxes and riding a tricycle. His favorite things to do at Broadening Abilities will be forever etched in our hearts.

On January 4<sup>th</sup>, while the rest of programs and services were closed because of the weather, the ski teams were hitting the slopes at Brandywine preparing for Winter Games.

In January, the Special Olympics Basketball Team hosted Midpark and Ashtabula. They also attended a game at John Carroll, warming up with the team prior to the game and playing a quick game during their half time. Special Olympics Basketball also played pick-up games at Lakeland Community College during the month of January.

Willoughby Book Worms learned about baseball officiating from Mr. Crosby on January 11<sup>th</sup>, as they begin reading “The Only Game”, by Mike Lupica.

The Recreation Department took individuals from Broadening Abilities to Wildwood Marina, Rockefeller Greenhouse and the Zoo to enjoy a winter day in January. January Recreation Brochure outings included BA Sweeties, Chocolate Factory, Science Museum, and Rock and Roll Hall of fame.

In January, volunteers continued to visit program areas for Pet Therapy, reading, book club, yarn club, Larry the Sax Man, and assisting at Broadmoor School.

Marketing efforts include articles in the News Herald for Employee Recognition, Night to Shine, and in the Lake County Gazette for Breakfast with Santa. The Agency and Deepwood Foundation were mentioned several times on Cougar 93.7 and a PSA recruiting staff and volunteers ran on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Marketing Department is getting ready for DD Awareness month. We are collecting Deepwood Idol logo designs from employees. So far, we have 7.

Art Contest for individuals is now open and auditions for Deepwood Idol are scheduled for March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Deepwood Idol is April 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at the Great Lakes Mall.

Website redesign of the RFP page was completed and redesign of the employment application has been proposed.

### **Waiver News**

A coalition of people with disabilities, family members, and organizations representing guardians, county boards, providers, and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities has been working to fix Ohio's waiting list for Home and Community-Based Services waivers. The **Fix The List** coalition includes:

- Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc.
- The Arc of Ohio
- Autism Society of Ohio
- Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities
- Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council
- Ohio Olmstead Task Force
- Ohio Provider Resource Association
- Ohio Self Determination Association
- Ohio Superintendents of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities
- People First of Ohio
- The YMCA

The goal is to simplify the system to better reflect unmet needs and more efficiently direct supports to people and families who need them most. Lake, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Knox/Coshocton, and Clark Counties have all participated as part of this effort.

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities is proposing actions related to rules governing waiting lists for services. The Department is proposing to rescind existing rule 5123:2-1-08 (*Waiting Lists*) which sets forth requirements for waiting lists established by a county board of developmental

disabilities pursuant to Section 5126.042 of the Revised Code for Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services waivers and for non-Medicaid services. Provisions for waiting lists will instead be addressed in two rules:

- New rule 5123-9-04 (*Home and Community-Based Services Waivers - Waiting List*) will address the waiting list for Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services waivers.
- Provisions regarding waiting lists for non-Medicaid services will be incorporated to rule 5123:2-1-02 (*Administration and Operation of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities*).

You can follow the progress by going to [www.fixthelist.info](http://www.fixthelist.info)

### **Staff Development/Training**

The Early Intervention staff were trained on the use of the DAYC-2 (Developmental Assessment of Young Children) tool. This assessment tool will be used to assess children 0-3 in five developmental domains, enabling them to identify and assess the developmental abilities of children in order to determine needs and adjust teaching strategies.