

Imagine

JUNE 2016

Bringing about a **vibrant community** where people lead **fulfilling lives** and make **meaningful contributions**.

Fairfield DD Volunteers

Dean Rallof: Somerset Artist Co-Op
Julie Bruckelmeyer: Pickerington/
 Lancaster Kiwanis, Fairfield Society
 for Adults and Children with Disabili-
 ties, Millersport Community Theater,
 Foundation Dinners, Millersport Unit-
 ed Methodist Church, Millersport
 Alumni Board
Janie Heston: Tribute to Our Heroes,
 Celebration of Possibilities
Cathy Varney: Tribute to Our He-
 roes, Celebration of Possibilities
Mitsi Niceswanger: Canal Winches-
 ter JRD Tennis, Buddy Up for Tennis
Cindy Hillberry: Tammy Nusser Foun-
 dation, American Institute of Can-
 cer research, American Diabetes
 Organization
Jeff Schmelzer: Celebration of Possi-
 bilities, Run for the Rose
Mandy Wilkins: Franklin County Spe-
 cial Olympics
Mary-Catherine Tolley: Fairfield Un-
 ion Soccer
Karissa Carpenter: Girl Scouts, local
 schools
Kathy Clouse: Pickerington Public
 Library
Andrew Ray: Fairfield Union base-
 ball
Michelle Wright: Perry County 4H
Ron Swain: SOCIL, Amanda
 Clearcreek Endowment Fund, Cen-
 tral Ohio Rehabilitation Association
Temple Montanez: MOPS Board,
 Salvation Army Board, FMC Founda-
 tion Board, Keller Market Board,
 Ohio Public Images Board, Kiwanis,
 FMC Twig 1, Tarhe School
Dayna Rhea: Run for the Rose
Jamie Queen: Run for the Rose
Gaynor Pfeffer: Fairfield CERT, 4H
Leslie Dancho: Grace Fellowship
 Church

(Continued)



Bring About a Vibrant Community

It's hard to walk through any Fairfield DD building and not come across the mission statement which begins with "Bringing about a vibrant community." But the various ways that both employees and people receiving services make that happen is pretty impressive, albeit simple—They volunteer.

According to the US Bureau of Labor & Statistics, nearly 20 percent of all Americans volunteer their time, which accounts for 62.6 million people. And while most people will tell you that they volunteer in order to help others or aid causes important to them, there are some tremendous personal benefits to volunteering as well.

World Volunteer Web is an organization that keeps tabs on volunteering efforts world-wide and the organization touts many reasons, other than being philanthropic, that an employee should consider volunteering.

For example, volunteering can allow a person the opportunity to learn a new skill, network with community members, and achieve a feeling of accomplishment. In addition, it can even help in career advancement. According to a survey carried out by Time-Bank, 73 percent of employers would recruit a candidate with volunteering experience over one without. Further, 94 percent of employers believe that volunteering can add to an employee's skill set. Employees who volunteer together reap even more benefits—from bonding experiences to an appreciation for employment positions outside of their own.

At Fairfield DD many people who receive services have found that volunteering is an excellent way to both give back to and connect with the community in which they live. Some of the organizations benefitting from these particular volunteer hours include Knight of Columbus, Millersport Food Pantry, Pickerington Habitat for Humanity, First United Methodist Free Lunch, Fox Family Y, Forest Rose School and Lancaster Community Theatre.

"As community connection becomes a vital objective for Fairfield DD and the people we serve, volunteering is truly a win-win," said Fairfield DD Superintendent John Pekar. "It introduces people to opportunities and vice-versa."

As you make plans to fill your summer months, take a moment to think about where you might give a few hours back to the community. And in the words of Gandhi, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Superintendent's corner



Our mission statement, "Bringing about a vibrant community where people lead fulfilling lives and make meaningful contributions," speaks directly to the heart of volunteering—to lending a hand and a talent in order to improve the place where we live and work.

I have always been a big supporter of volunteering because of the many benefits it produces on both sides of the fence. On a personal level, I volunteer in causes I believe in—from Rotary and Destination Downtown Lancaster, to local theatre groups. The time I give is time I enjoy spending with people who have similar interests and goals for the community.

In the past few years, Fairfield DD has made incredible progress in making valuable connections in the community. From the Community Connections Manager software we have developed to the very active network of Community Connections volunteers—we are finding ways to connect people with disabilities to people without disabilities who have the same passions and interests. Establishing friendships while improving society is a fascinating combination.

When our employees and people whom we serve give back to Fairfield County, or the county where they live, they are fulfilling every aspect of our mission statement. Nothing makes me more proud.

Further, Fairfield DD is grateful for the many people who volunteer in order to help us bring some of our most arduous programs to fruition. Without them, the Run for Rose, Fairfield Industry Dances, Special Olympics, Green Machine, Fiber Arts Group, and even the Celebration of Possibilities simply would not be possible.

So I want to say thank you to everyone who volunteers. I hope you are reaping all of the benefits of the hours and talents you donate and that you realize how important the work you are doing is to Fairfield DD and Fairfield County. Thanks for making a difference!

John Pekar, Superintendent

Fairfield DD Volunteers

(Continued)

Kristi Patrick: Lancaster Festival, Good Shepherd Church, Night to Shine, American Cancer Society, Celebration of Possibilities

Chanda Busse: Special Olympics, Relay for Life, Lancaster Festival, Fi Dances

Kira Swisher: YMCA Childcare

Molly Miller: Fairfield Medical Center

Lea Gayheart: Meals on Wheels

Penny Kern: Meals on Wheels

Evan Bruckelmeyer: Millersport Food Pantry, Millersport High School football

Aaron Dent: Habitat for Humanity

Ann Kendall: First United Methodist Church

Adam Nowocin: Knights of Columbus, Forest Rose School

COSI OFFERS CALMING ROOM

Available Whenever COSI is Open

COSI's Calming Room, located on the first floor near the Guest Services desk, can be used by overstimulated children and individuals who need a brief moment away from the COSI environment. The Calming Room is free for use by families with children on the autism spectrum or with other cognitive conditions. Please inquire at COSI's Guest Services Desk for details.

The Early Intervention staff is inviting families with little ones to join them at Sycamore Creek Park Amphitheatre in Pickerington June 26 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm to watch the band *British Invasion* perform classic hits. Snack and drinks will be provided but bring a lawn chair or blanket for your family. Call 740.652.7220 for details.

DSACO Golf Outing Planned

Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio's Golf Classic will take place on Monday, July 18, 2016 at The Country Club at Muirfield Village. Golfers will be able to play on a beautiful course while helping to raise funds and awareness for the Down syndrome community. Over 120 golfers participated last year and the event raised over \$30,000 for DSACO. Registration is \$150/per golfer or \$600/foursome. Registration fees include green fees, cart and dinner. Visit DSACO.net for info.



Speechless to Be Aired on ABC This Fall



A major television network is set to air a comedy about a family with a child who has special needs.

ABC has picked up the 30-minute series *Speechless*, the network has confirmed to Disability Scoop.

The show stars actress Minnie Driver as Maya DiMeo, a mother "who will do anything" for her husband and kids including her eldest son JJ, who has special needs.

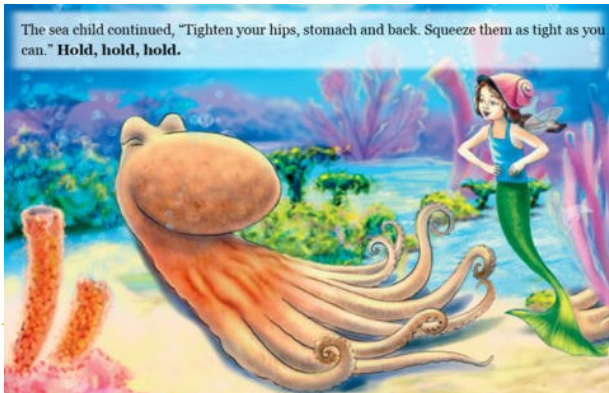
"As Maya fights injustices both real and imagined, the family works to make a new home for themselves, and searches for just the right person to give JJ his 'voice,'" ac-

According to the network's description of the show.

JJ is played by Micah Fowler, an actor who has cerebral palsy in real life. He previously appeared in the 2013 film *Labor Day*.

ABC initially committed to a pilot for *Speechless* in January. Now, the network says it will air the series beginning this fall on Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. ET right before *Modern Family*. (Disability Scoop)

A Relaxing Read



A digital book, *The Angry Octopus* by Red Piston, is now available on iTunes and is a relaxation story. Children relate to the angry octopus in this story as the sea child shows him how to take a deep breath, calm down, and manage his anger.

An effective stress and anger management technique known as progressive muscular relaxation focuses awareness on various muscle groups to create a complete resting of the mind and body. This engaging story quiets the mind and relaxes the body so a child can let go of anger and fall asleep peacefully. \$7.99 on iTunes with a preview available on YouTube.

Join us on Saturdays at 9:30am for Sensory-Friendly Showings of



6/11



6/18



6/25



7/2



7/9



7/16



7/23



7/30



8/6



8/13



During our sensory-friendly showings, auditorium lights will be on, and the sound will be lower.

Cinemark River Valley Mall and XD

CINEMARK
Sensory-Friendly Showings Available

1611 River Valley Circle S, Lancaster, OH 43130

cinemark.com



Summertime often means a trip to an amusement park so while you're making your plans, keep these accessible parks in mind!

Sesame Place in Langhorne, PA produces an Accessibility Guide with information about rides, exhibits, and shows, and offers assistance to hearing impaired guests. In addition, guests with disabilities may wait in a Virtual Queue, so that they can enjoy other activities while "waiting" in line, and then return to the attraction at the end of the determined wait time.

Holiday World in Santa Claus, IN wins awards for being the friendliest and cleanest theme park in the world. All of their restaurants, theaters, and shops are wheelchair accessible, and their Rides Guide highlights accessible rides. They also partner with Easter Seals to host an annual discounted "Play Day" to raise money for children with disabilities

Cedar Point in Ohio and the eleven parks operated by the Cedar Fair Entertainment Company have Ride Boarding Passes for guests with restricted mobility and Autism Spectrum Disorder. The passes give guests a boarding time, so that they can skip the line at their designated time. In addition, Alternate Access Entrances are available on many rides.

State Parks in Ohio have an entire web page dedicated to outlining which of the parks, lodges, cottages and pathways are accessible. They even describe fishing piers and boat ramps. So if wild rides aren't your thing, consider a getaway in a state park. For a complete listing, visit <http://parks.ohiodnr.gov/accessiblefacilities>.



Walk, run or roll your way through the night at the **Run for the Rose Glow Run** June 18th on the bike path behind Forest Rose. The whole family is invited to enjoy glow sticks, live music and fireworks with all proceeds committed to bettering the lives of people with disabilities in Fairfield County. A portion of this year's funds will assist in establishing the Best Buddies program at area high schools. Fees are \$25

Run for the Rose Returns June 18th

9:30 pm at Forest Rose School. Register at www.racepenguin.com





P R O M

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to make a magical night at the Fairfield Industries Prom in May. Attendants packed the lighted gym at Forest Rose School and enjoyed complimentary corsages, food and photos taken by Evan Bruckelmeyer.

Local High Schools Establishing Best Buddies Programs

BEST BUDDIES



Fairfield DD's Julie Bruckelmeyer recently approached and challenged Pickerington North and Central High Schools to start a Best Buddies Program in their schools, and without hesitation, they jumped in with both feet. School advisors, students and parents from Pickerington North met May 18th to hear Emily Reed, BB Program Manager, describe how the program works and how to register as a participant. The response from parents and students was very positive with 50 in attendance. This fall, Pickerington North will pair Buddies with Peer Buddies for friendship outside of the school day. Central High School hopes to follow in the future as they determine how the program could work in their building since the dynamics are little different.

Peer Buddies are challenged to have at least four contacts a month with their Buddie, including two face-to-face activities and two by phone, email or other method. Funding to start the program at Pickerington North has been pledged by the Run for the Rose committee. Run for the Rose also has committed to help two other schools in Fairfield County get programs started. The start-up funds will cover the annual dues and send two students and/or advisors to a Leadership Conference at Indiana University this July and one student the following year.

Best Buddies is an International program dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. To learn more about Best Buddies International, go to www.bestbuddies.org

Fairfield DD Co-Hosts May's Project STIR Training



Project STIR ((Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility) training was held May 9 to May 12 at the Cherry Valley Lodge in Granville. Fairfield County had 14 people attending the STIR training. In addition, ten staff/volunteers served as support allies for the participants and helped them participate in the activities and sessions. An ally helped participants also as they returned to their home county to decide how to further their efforts with self-advocacy. Each person's journey will be very personal.

Fairfield DD co-sponsored the experience with Licking County Board of DD. The four-day experience offered training, networking, skits and desk

work for the advocates to learn many skills about problem-solving, history of the ADA, discrimination and how to advocate responsibly. It was a great experience for all who attended. A welcome testimony was delivered by Tim Heft and John Pekar also gave a welcome address. All Adult Day Services programs were personally invited to support at least one individual at the STIR training in May so that they could learn more about self-advocacy and how to support people on their personal journeys.





Lancaster Eagle Gazette reporter Jeff Barron was a barista for a day at Square 7 Coffee House where Kelly Miller instructed him on the fine art of espresso brewing and creating coffee-based drinks. Jeff wrote about his experience for an article.



At your service! Josh Stage is enjoying his new position in the Fairfield County Courthouse! He was even featured in the spring State of the City event.



Special Olympics Equestrian Team is still looking for volunteers! Call Andrea Headley at 652-7225 if you can help!



Art & Clay Children's Art Camps
Buy ONE GET ONE Half-Off!

June 7-10, Elements of Art
 July 19-22, Community Art
 August 2-5, Multi Media

150 WEST MAIN STREET





SATURDAY CINEMA

FROM THE CREATORS OF *UP*

Disney • PIXAR

INSIDE OUT



FREE OUTDOOR MOVIE
 Saturday, June 11 | 9 pm
 Bandstand-Downtown Lancaster
 Bring blankets, chairs & snacks
 Snack concessions available
Area reserved in the front for blankets only.


Sponsored by:






More information at DestinationDowntownLancaster.com or call 740-277-6607.

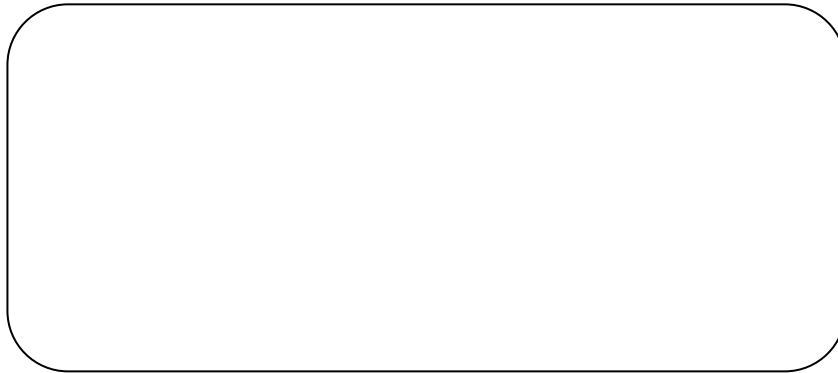
League News

The Mark Everly Classic returned for the 12th season on Wednesday, May 11, with a record 90 bowlers. The league bowls every Wednesday at Tiki Lanes starting at 6:15 pm. This season is being dedicated to Bobby Fisher, a longtime league bowler and friend to many, who recently passed away.

The Brian Brumbaugh Golf Classic is in full swing on Tuesday nights at Pleasant Valley Golf Course. This year's roster totals 10 regular golfers, including the first female to join the league! Call 740.808.8100 for details.



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Contact Us

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Department of Quality.....	740-652-7235
Forest Rose School	740-652-7225
Early Intervention/Birth to 3	740-652-7225
Opportunity Center	740-652-7230
Art & Clay on Main/Square 7 Coffeehouse.....	740-653-1755
JobFusion.....	614-835-2700 or 740-652-7235
Transportation	740-652-7228
Pickerington Regional Office..	614-835-2700 or 740-652-7235
Volunteer Opportunities	740-652-7220

Our Mission

To bring about a *vibrant community* where *people* lead *fulfilling lives* and make *meaningful contributions*.

Superintendent

John R. Pekar

Board Members:

Mark Weedy, President

Kelly Brick

Theresa Nixon, VP

Robert Competti

Linda Barber, Sec.

Sharon Scruggs

Sharon Murphy



The **GREEN MACHINE** plans to start selling its produce the week of June 20th!
Call 652-7230 for details!