



# The ALL-STAR Newsletter

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Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Issue 5

## Jefferson County BDD

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## Statewide Campaign is Seeking DSP's

Like many providers around Ohio, the Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities is facing a shortage of direct support professionals and is looking to fill jobs with a new campaign.

The JCBDD is among the groups partnering with the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) to attract new employees under the initiative.

JCBDD Superintendent Michael Zinno said an array of posts are available to help people with special needs.

"A direct support professional, or DSP, is essentially in a wide range of services from early childhood through adulthood. Whether it is childcare, nursing homes or services to individuals with special needs, our society needs individuals to provide direct care services," Zinno explained. "Locally, as well as statewide and throughout our county, our society is in desperate need of DSP's."

Zinno added that anyone seeking a rewarding job should consider apply-

ing for one of the many posts available in the area. JCBDD is currently seeking help at the Shaffer Plaza Apartments and jobs typically begin on a part-time basis with flexible hours, but there is an opportunity to earn a full-time role with benefits. He encouraged people to consider applying now.

"Once it's full-time, the total economic package is good. We offer a competitive hourly rate and a benefit package that is among the best you can find," he said. "We welcome caring and compassionate people to serve the needs of the most fragile in our society."

Jeff Davis, director of government relations for OPRA, said the job market is booming and officials are taking a multimedia approach to fill thousands of posts. A marketing campaign is underway while a website has also been developed to attract employees. Davis said while it can be a challenging job, there is a call out for people with caring hearts and a willingness to perform the tasks.

"The actual hands-on, direct care

can be anything from helping a person who is more medically involved with bathing, eating and medication to assisting a higher functioning client by making sure they get out into the community and find things to do," said Davis. "OPRA represents providers in the counties, including residential and day sites. The No. 1 challenge by far is recruitment and retention of direct support professionals, but it can be a wonderful job that's very rewarding."

Those interested must be at least 18 years old to apply, have a high school or general equivalency diploma and undergo a background track. Davis said paid training is offered by the providers.

"You can feel like you've made a difference because you do make a difference. Everywhere there are places that can't get workers. It's hard to find a staff to do jobs and we're sort of invisible," he noted. "If you want to make a difference, we can help you."

For more information, visit the DSP website at <http://www.dspohio.org>.

## Big Red Cares Day Expands at Harding Stadium

The Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities is again teaming up with Steubenville High School for Big Red Cares Day on May 9 at Harding Stadium.

The second annual event is set for 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and will be bigger and better than ever. Fun and festivities are set on the field for an estimated 500 people, including students from both SHS and the School of Bright Promise, special needs adults from the JCBDD's day program and other service providers and program and school staff members. The day will include field activities such as kickball and tug-of-war while food and T-shirts will also be provided in a show of unity.

It all kicks off when the School of Bright Promise students arrive at



Steubenville High School students will partner with children and adults from the Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities and other local providers for Big Red Cares Day on May 9. Food, fun and fellowship are all part of the second annual event at Harding Stadium. (File Photo)

9:45 a.m. and are matched up with Big Red pupils to complete a series of activity stations. They will eat pizza around 11 a.m., at which time adults with the Jeffco Training Center and Jeffco Workshop, as well as other local providers, will arrive for their fun. They will then pair up with Big Red students to complete the half-dozen activities and enjoy lunch around 12:30 p.m. Big Red will provide nearly 100 student volunteers, including members of the high school band who may also perform for the crowd. All of the participants will also receive "Be A Champion" T-shirts as souvenirs and be featured on the school scoreboard throughout the day.

(Continued as BIG RED)

## Big Red (Continued from Front)

Alex West, employment navigator and community facilitator for the JCBDD, said the inaugural event drew 100 people from the Jeffco Training Center plus Big Red students and staff from both sites. West had collaborated with SHS Coach Anthony Pierro and intervention specialist Romaine Turrentine for that event and is working with them again on the upcoming venue.

“We wanted to make it accessible and for all of the participants to have an opportunity to join in,” she added. “It gives them an opportunity to interact and integrate and form a natural, organic relationship.”

West said area schools have worked equally well with the JCBDD’s program and it enabled special needs students and adults to integrate into the community.

“It’s going to be an awesome time. They

reached out and wanted to do something as an opportunity to expand their knowledge and understanding so the individuals we serve have opportunities to interact. This shows that if we open our hearts and arms, great things can happen when people start working together.”

Pierro credited the students, volunteers and school leaders for the last event, adding that Steubenville City Schools Superintendent Melinda Young and JCBDD Superintendent Michael Zinno have wholeheartedly supported it. Big Red Cares Day was formed as part of a schoolwide event to support the community.

The event was born after the Area 9 Special Olympics was canceled last spring due to inclement weather and Pierro reached out to Zinno to offer an event for them.

Plans were made to gather at Harding Stadium, and despite some rainfall that day it was considered to be an overwhelming success.

Pierro added that although adults are coordinating the festivities, the students are in charge.

“I want people to get involved. This is about Steubenville Big Red High School kids and the School of Bright Promise and adults with disabilities spending time together. [Our students] are going to learn how to take care of people. We’re building the bridge and making the connection so everybody’s equal.”

Sponsors include Anthony Mining Co., Brooklyn Bagel Co., Ossio & Mason, Monica Rogers (Monica’s Kiddos), Total Sports Connection and Bruno’s Pizza.

### Calendar of Events

May 1: Employment Navigator/Community Facilitator at Steubenville High School 8:30; Toronto Library & Prime Time @ 10, SHS Swim 2 (JCTC); Movies at AMC Theater; Trampoline Park (Shaffer B)

May 2: EN/CF @ Pastors Network Meeting 7:45; Friendship Room or SHS/Mingo Track 9 (JCTC); Spring Fling at School of Bright Promise 10-1; Bowling at Steel Valley Lanes (Shaffer A)

May 3: EN/CF @ CARF Interview 9, Urban Mission Awareness 3 & National Day of Prayer Sycamore Center 6:30; Rocky Road Gym 9:30, Prime Time 10 & SHS Walk 1 (JCTC)

May 4: EN/CF @ Steubenville High School 8:30, Family & Children First Council 10:30 & Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities Training 11; Gables Nursing Home 10, Lunch at Richmond UMC 12 & Mall Walkers 12:45 10 (JCTC); Game/Craft Night (Shaffer)

May 5: Special Olympics @ Harding Stadium

May 6: Make Your Own Sundae (Shaffer)

May 7: EN/CF @ EGCC 11:45; Bus Driver/Staff Appreciation Week on May 7-10 (SBP); Mall Walk 10 & SHS Walk 1 (JCTC); Country Club Dance Class 5:15 (Shaffer)

May 8: Prime Time 10 & SHS Swim 12:30

(JCTC); Watson (SBP); God’s Choice Church Party (Shaffer)

May 9: No PreK at SBP; EN/CF @ Coffee & Connections at Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce 7:45; Friendship Room or SHS/Mingo Track 9 (JCTC); Big Red Cares Day @ Harding Stadium; Bowling at SV Lanes (Shaffer B)

May 10: Rocky Road Gym 9:30, Prime Time 10 & SHS Walk 1 (JCTC); EN/CF @ OACB Conference

May 11: Gables Nursing Home 10, Lunch at RUMC 12 & Mall Walkers 12:45 (JCTC); Game/Craft Night (Shaffer)

May 12: Mother’s Day Craft (Shaffer)

**May 13: Mother’s Day**

May 14: Mall Walkers 10 & SHS Walk 1 (JCTC); Country Club Dance Class 5:15

May 15: EN/CF @ Muskingum County BDD 9; Prime Time 10 & SHS Swim 12:30 (JCTC); Movies at AMC & Trampoline Park (Shaffer B)

May 16: SHS/Mingo Track or Friendship Room 9 (JCTC); Bowling at SV Lanes (Shaffer C)

May 17: Rocky Road Gym 9:30, Prime Time 10 & SHS Walk 1 (JCTC)

May 18: Gables Nursing Home 10, Lunch at Richmond UMC 12 & Mall Walkers

12:45 (JCTC); M&M Party and Pirate Game (Shaffer)

May 21: EN/CF @ Buckeye Local 7:45; Mall Walk 10 & SHS Walk 1 (JCTC); Country Club Dance Class 5:15 (Shaffer)

May 22: Prime Time 10 & SHS Swim 12:30 (JCTC); God’s Choice Church Party (Shaffer)

May 23: SHS/Mingo Track or Friendship Room 9 (JCTC); Bowling at Steel Valley Lanes (Shaffer A)

May 24: EN/CF @ Multi-Agency County Transition Team 7:45; Rocky Road Gym 9:30, Urban Mission & Prime Time 10 & SHS Walk 1 (JCTC); Graduation/Spring Program at 12:45 (SBP)

May 25: Gables Nursing Home 10, Lunch at RUMC 12 & Mall Walk 12:45 (JCTC)

May 26: Resident’s Choice (Shaffer)

May 27: Resident Council Meeting (Shaffer)

May 28: OFF (SBP & JCTC); **Memorial Day** Cookout (Shaffer)

May 29: EN/CF @ Edison 8; Prime Time 10 & SHS Swim 12:30 (JCTC); Movie & Popcorn Night at Home (Shaffer)

May 30: SHS/Mingo Track or Friendship Room 9 (JCTC); Bowling at SV Lanes (Home B)