



# The ALL-STAR Newsletter

September 2020

Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Issue 24

## Jefferson County BDD

250 John Scott Highway  
Steubenville, Ohio  
43952  
www.jcbdd.com

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## Superintendent's Message: Pulling Together in Challenging Times

It's hard to believe our last newsletter was in May, and now I sit here in early September wondering what happened to summer.

The past few months have been filled with worry, anxiety, planning and, of course, hope. While I feel like I have been on a treadmill running at 8.5 miles per hour, I need to pause a moment to thank a few people and groups.

To the School of Bright Promise Principal Jane Bodo, Administrative Secretary Lori Brandon and the start-up group: Thank you for a summer filled with planning and reworking an entire school plan. We changed the entire education process in a couple of months, and while it is early, I sense a growing confidence that how we opened was the best option and that we can maintain everyone's health and safety. I'm hopeful we can expand after Christmas.

To our school staff that helped at Shaffer: Thank you for providing much-needed support.

To Natalie Baird, Shelley Criss and the entire Shaffer Plaza team: Keeping everyone safe and healthy has been a constant focus; let's keep it up. While we remain "locked down," maybe there is some light at the end of the tunnel.

To the entire SSA team: Keeping in close contact with our individuals and providers to ensure everyone has what they need has been essential. As day programs slowly open up, let's make sure we do our due diligence to ensure everyone's health, safety and welfare.

To the Early Intervention team: Like the school, changing how services are delivered has been and will continue to evolve. Maintaining the paperwork while limiting contact has been a challenge, but I am hopeful that we are getting close to hav-

ing things a bit more normal.

To community services: Your adaptability and continued service during this time are both recognized and appreciated.

To maintenance personnel Ed Kostecki and Everett Skinner: This summer was as busy as ever and our new building, Shaffer and the school have everything needed to operate.

To our private provider network: Residential, individual and adult day programming have seen unprecedented changes. As a county board, we remain committed to helping where and when we can. I'm pleased that we have slowly reopened adult day service and am hopeful that expansion can begin soon.

Finally, to the entire DD community: Let's keep up the pace and continue to improve the lives of the individuals we serve. Now, back on the treadmill at 8.5 miles per hour.

## Summer Youth Program Puts Local Students to Work

Local teens beautified the community and earned work experience through a summer youth job program.

Seven kids between the ages of 16 and 17 spent time in July sprucing up Friendship Park in Smithfield and continued working at Jefferson State Lake in Richmond. The Summer Youth Program, which is offered through the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) and administered through the Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities' Community Employment Services, exposes teens to career exploration and hands-on training over a period of four weeks. CES Specialists Renee Pastre and Angela Goodrich said it provides youth with the experience they need to transition into the workforce.

Pastre said the participants, which include William Chichick, Dylan Haines, Joselyn LeRoy, Vivian Dubravski, Connie Brookes, Ian Williams and Christopher Hunt, spent the first two weeks scraping, priming and painting along two



Some local teens took part in a summer job program through the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities by sprucing up Friendship Park and Jefferson State Lake. The program, which is administered through the Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities' Community Employment Services, gives teens experience before they transition into the workforce. Pictured working at the veteran's memorial are, from left, Joselyn LeRoy, William Chichick, Dylan Haines, Vivian Dubravski and Connie Brookes. Not pictured is Christopher Hunt.

entrance gates at the Smithfield site, landscaped around the Fort Friend-

ship Museum before moving on to mulched at the Sam Kerr Campground and cleared weeds and

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# WORK

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Richmond. The youth earn minimum wage and work three days or 12 hours per week, which was decreased from 20 hours due to the coronavirus outbreak, but the main objective is to gain job experience.

"It gives great insight into working in the community and this year they had an opportunity to work together," Pastre said. "They see the importance of this and when we start job development for the seniors, the experience they've obtained over the last couple years really shows."

Goodrich noted that CES works with school counselors to obtain referrals and students attend the likes of Edison, Indian Creek, Steubenville Big Red, Toronto and the Jefferson County Joint Vocational School. Younger participants are introduced to career exploration, where they get an inside glimpse of job sites before being put to work the next year.

"We go through the local area to large businesses with entry-level positions to give the kids a behind-the-scenes look at jobs," she continued. "The businesses in the county have been wonderful. I can't say enough

about the county and the supervisors and managers have been wonderful to work with."

In the past, teens have worked at area businesses such as Kroger food stores, but the pandemic altered plans and they have been able to work safely outdoors. Pastre and Goodrich conducted a virtual career exploration

*"I really like it because it makes me more sociable with others and does some good in the community."*

**--Student Vivian Dubravski**

program this year and the youth have practiced social distancing and other secure methods on the job, plus the JCBDD has offered bus transport to and from the locations. Organizers also thanked the JCBDD for their support in making the program happen.

Feedback from the people has been equally generous, and Pastre shared one touching

story where a veteran visiting the park praised the work at the museum. He contacted the Jefferson County Veteran's Association, the group responsible for the site, and the commander wanted the teens' addresses to send thank you notes.

Meanwhile, the participants agreed it has been a rewarding opportunity.

"I really like it because it makes me more sociable with others and does some good in the community," said Dubravski. "I was in the career exploration program and it's definitely a great step. It makes me ready to work at other places because of the work experience."

"It's good. I like it," added Chichick. Haines said he liked clearing the weeds and making the area nice while others enjoyed getting paid.

But Pastre noted it has also created friendships between the teens as they continue working together.

"The bonding is fantastic," Pastre concluded. "It's been a very difficult year but we're making it work and everyone's having a great time."

# September 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Bingo (Shaffer A); Outdoor Exercise (B); Walk on Grounds (C)	2 Wii Bowling (A); Music on Patio (C)	3 Craft Night (A& B); Basketball @ Home B (C)	4 Walk in SBP Gym (A); Color American Flag (B); Board Game Night (C)	5 Van Ride (A); Residents' Choice (C)
6 Baking (A); Game Night (B); Lazy Sunday (C)	7 <b>Labor Day- NO SCHOOL (SBP);</b> Residents' Choice (A)	8 Bingo (A); Residents' Choice (B); Fall Craft (C)	9 Wii Bowling (A); Jeffco Center (B); Ride & Snack (C)	10 Craft Night (A); Jeffco Center (C)	11 Walk in Gym (A); 9-11 Remembrance Day (B); Picnic Lunch /Patio (C)	12 Van Ride (A); Chocolate Shake Day (B)
13 Baking (A&C); <b>Grandparents' Day (B)</b>	14 Residents' Choice (A); Staff Choice (B); Ice Cream Social (C)	15 Bingo (A); Jeffco Center (B); Fall Decorating (C)	16 Wii Bowling (A); Snacks & Movie (B); Residents' Choice (C)	17 BDD Board Mtg; Craft Night (A); Ride/Ice Cream (B); Ride to State Lake (C)	18 Walk in Gym (A); Wii Just Dance (C)	19 Van Ride (A); Music in Activity Room (B)
20 Baking (A); Nat'l Pepperoni Pizza Day/ Party (B); Cornhole Games (C)	21 Residents' Choice (A&C); Resident's Council (B)	22 Bingo (A); Picnic (B); Walk on Grounds (C)	23 Wii Bowling (A); Basketball (B); Jeffco Center (C)	24 Craft Night (A); Jeffco Center (B)	25 Walk in Gym (A); Snacks & Movie (B); Crafts (C)	26 Van Ride/ Residents' Council (A); Evening/Patio (C)
27 Baking (A); Joke Night (B); Residents' Council (C)	28 Residents' Choice (A); Board Game Night (C)	29 Bingo (A); Jeffco Center (B); Movie Night (C)	30 Wii Bowling (A); Leaf Peeping (B); Picnic (C)			