



# The ALL-STAR Newsletter

March 2023

Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Issue 42

## Jefferson County BDD

250 John Scott Highway

Steubenville, Ohio  
43952  
[www.jcbdd.com](http://www.jcbdd.com)

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## In This Edition:

*\*Caregivers,  
Supporters  
Invited to Screening*

*\*All-Stars, Barons  
"Going All  
In(clusive)"*

*\*Getting to Know You*

## Caregivers, Supporters Invited to Screening

*"Unseen" Documentary, Discussion Set at Jeffco Center on March 23*

The hardship of caring for people with severe developmental disabilities has been highlighted in a new documentary which will be shown next week to promote awareness.

As part of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month for March, caregivers and community supporters are invited to view the 40-minute film, "Unseen: How We're Failing Parent Caregivers & Why It Matters" on March 23.

Private screenings are planned from 10-11:30 a.m. and 6-7:30 p.m. at the Jeffco Center, which is located at 256 John Scott Highway in Steubenville, and Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities officials will hold discussions with attendees while refreshments will be provided. It is sponsored by Jeffco Services, Inc., Parent Council and JCBDD.

"We are so excited to share the very powerful and captivating human stories film, 'Unseen.' The



Caregivers and community supporters are invited to view a private screening of the documentary, "Unseen," at the Jeffco Center on March 23. Two showings will be held at 10-11:30 a.m. and 6-7:30 p.m. followed by discussion. RSVP by March 20 to attend by phoning or texting (740) 219-9956 or emailing [awest@jcbdd.com](mailto:awest@jcbdd.com).

film fosters the compassion and disabilities," said Cookie West, tangible support for the caregivers JCBDD employment and communi in our communities who care for their children or loved ones with

(Continued as SCREENING)

## All-Stars, Barons "Going All In(clusive)"

### Unified Basketball Game Set for March 31 at MLK Jr. Rec Center

The Jefferson County All-Stars and Franciscan University Barons basketball players are teaming up for the "Going All In(clusive)" Unified Basketball Game to cap off Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

The free event will be held March 31 at 6 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center located at 905 Market St. in Steubenville. It will be a unique hardwood matchup as members of each team will be mixed to form new groups of college players and the differently abled. Steve Forte,

who serves as Special Olympics coordinator as well as activities coordinator for the Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities, said a similar event was held last year with the Steubenville Big Red girls' basketball team that yielded a positive response.

"Last year was the first time we attempted a unified game," said Forte. "We had it at the MLK Center and it was an overwhelming success. Unified sports are coming to the area and there is a campaign for every school to be a unified champion school. With that credential comes unified sports."

He added that people with and without disabilities have a chance to play a variety of activities from flag football to bocce and cornhole, and there was a movement

to involve more area schools. Forte said the upcoming game would introduce the public to the concept.

"This is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and we'll close our awareness campaign out with the unified game, but it can also be a possible precursor to unified sports," he said, adding that hopefully it will inspire local school districts to expand their current efforts with the unified inclusion framework in the future. "It supersedes the word inclusion for students with disabilities and brings a codified structure."

The previous game with Steubenville created an awareness about inclusion and the upcoming event is expected to do the same. Joe Wallace, Barons basketball

(Continued as GAME)

## Screening (Continued from Front)

ty navigator. "The movie is an opportunity for people-- whether it's parents, the family of a disabled person, the community, agencies or businesses that work with us-- to see an in-depth view of caregivers 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. These families are caring for children and adult loved ones who have severe and complex needs, and because of the lack of professional support in care services it's a great concern."

West hopes it will generate interest to help.

"We want people to view the film and have discussion, and maybe it will provoke people to become providers or share with people they know who have a heart to serve those who need supports and help build a village for the families that need help."

She said families of children with complex needs will still provide for them as they mature, which also creates difficulty in later years.

"This is an opportunity to promote discussion and for people to feel seen," West added.

JCBDD board member Mindy Aleksiejczyk said Superintendent Michael Zinno contacted her and West with an idea to share the film with the community. It holds significant meaning since she created the Special Needs Parents Support Group in the Ohio Valley Facebook page which shares events, resources and advice with families in need.

She added that the page currently includes 126 members across West Virginia and Ohio including individuals and organizations.

Aleksiejczyk said the documentary and discussion will help people who need it most.

"I felt it was important for people to see this, even more so the non-caregivers," she said. "We need more quality-of-life services for the children and adults we take care of."

Those interested in attending must RSVP by March 20 by phone or text to (740) 219-9956 or email [awest@jcbdd.com](mailto:awest@jcbdd.com).

## Games (Continued from Front)

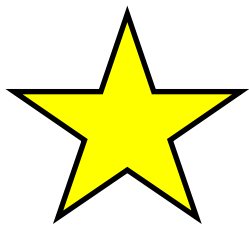
coach, said it is a great opportunity for his team to interact with the All-Stars as well as a win-win for both sides.

"We have nearly all of our players participating. It's new and it's exciting," Wallace said.

He added that his players also attended an All-Stars game in January at the recreation center to cheer on the team and he hopes the unified game becomes a regular collaboration.

"I think we'd love to do it annually," he said. "I think the more we do it, the more it benefits not only us but our community."

## Getting to Know You...



**Roger  
Hinerman**



Roger Hinerman has been at the wheel as a bus driver for the Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities more than 50 years.

Hinerman, of Knoxville, began working at Weirton Steel Corp. after graduating high school but also started serving as a part-time bus driver in 1970. He retired from the company in 2001 and then joined JCBDD on a full-time basis.

In his spare time, he enjoys outdoor activities such as fishing, hiking and hunting, plus he loves to build things. He was also known in the past as a relative Mr. Fix-it and helped his neighbors.

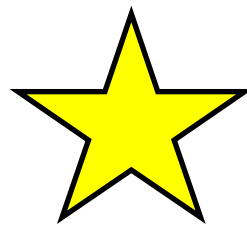
"I do not do as much now; however, in my early years I was a fixture around Knoxville and I'd repair things for people in my community," he said.

But Hinerman's greatest accomplishment is his family.

"My wonderful and beautiful wife, Sondra, and I have been married for a very long time and we have been blessed with six wonderful children: Darrel, Bryan, Charlene, Jennifer, Jeremiah and Isaiah. We have grandchildren and great-grandchildren that bring great joy to our lives."

While he has enjoyed working with JCBDD, he plans to step down within the next few years.

"I am looking forward to my retirement date on April 16, 2025," he said. "I will be able to do more things I like and spend more time with my family."



**Christopher  
Hunt**



Christopher Hunt loves helping people, and it shows.

From volunteering at church to performing his current jobs with Shaffer Plaza and the Steubenville Rotary Club, Hunt keeps active in his community. He has worked as a greeter with the Rotary for the past year and most recently began his new role with the Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities, where he interacts with residents at Shaffer and assists them with activities.

"I love helping people," he said. "It has always been my dream to work somewhere that I could do good things. My job at Shaffer Plaza is great. I really enjoy spending time and doing activities with the residents there."

Hunt, who originally hails from Toronto, now makes his home in Steubenville with parents Jackie and Tom, brother Tommy and his girlfriend, Angela Talbott. He also has his furry friends, a black Labrador named Bo and a Golden Retriever called Wyatt.

He graduated from the Jefferson County Joint Vocational School in 2021, where he participated in the Transition To Work program and worked at the school store.

Hunt also attends Wintersville Methodist Church and gives back to his community by volunteering for events there from dances to food drives.

"I am an old soul and love 50's music. I have even performed it as an Elvis impersonator," he said.

But he relishes his new job at Shaffer the most.

"I plan on working with JCBDD forever," he said.