



# The ALL-STAR Newsletter

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Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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Jefferson County BDD

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## Community Partners Contribute to Success

The Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities has been helping teens and adults transition into the working world for years, but officials said community partnerships with area business make a big difference in accomplishing that goal.

From summer youth programs to employment opportunities, JCBDD's Community Employment Services program has assisted its participants by connecting the dots to help them become more independent members of society. Community employment specialists Renee Pastre Hanlin and Angela Goodrich said about 26 individuals are currently employed in the area, including eateries and retail establishments, and the support from area businesses have made it all possible.

"The summer youth partners play an important role in what we do," said Pastre Hanlin. "They've permitted us to conduct our summer youth work experience programs each year, accommodating up to 12 participants at each site."

This year, about 20 youth will spend time performing maintenance and janitorial tasks for the Village of Mingo Junction, Friendship Park and Bacon Ridge Farms. Previous projects have ranged from cleaning facilities, landscaping to painting and other forms of beautification. Pastre Hanlin said the parks accommodated the program when COVID occurred, allowing teens to work in the open air and at a safe distance to meet health guidelines amid the pandemic.

"We are very appreciative and thankful, especially to Friendship Park and Jefferson State Lake," she added.

Meanwhile, businesses such as area Kroger stores, Eat-N-Park and Parkhurst Food Service at Franciscan University, just to name a few, have provided long-



time gainful employment to many teens and adults. Gessler has worked at the establishment since last summer while Brookes joined in December. They are examples of the success that CES has had in helping the people they serve become active contributors to society, but the support from businesses and community partners have made it possible.

time gainful employment to many teens and adults.

"We have worked with food service vendors at Franciscan for over 30 years, even as vendors have changed from Marriott

***"Each of the vendors has always been willing to open their doors and support the people we work with."***

**-Angela Goodrich  
JCBDD Community  
Employment Specialist**

Foods, Sodexo, and Parkhurst," she continued. "They have been our biggest supporter."

"They have been a lifelong program partner," added Goodrich. "Each of the vendors has always

been willing to open their doors and support the people we work with."

CES also provides pre-employment transition services and driver's permit tutoring. These services are an asset when working to accomplish their personal goals. Having the support of area businesses is vital when supporting the people that we serve.

"These partners allow us to come into their business with an individual and assess their strengths and weaknesses. Most start at an entry-level position and many have independently advanced over the years. Our motto is 'Obtain a job, maintain that job and advance to another.' Our goal is to see them succeed and become fully engaged in the community."

For more information about CES, contact the program at (740) 266-3840.

# JCBDD Introduces Mobile Changing Unit

The Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities has invested in a mobile changing unit to provide more inclusion opportunities for the special needs population.

JCBDD acquired the 24-foot trailer from Montondo Trailer LLC of Buffalo, N.Y., this winter and will make it available free of charge for community events, beginning with First Friday on Fourth in Steubenville next month. Superintendent Michael Zinno said the unit has accessible restroom and changing amenities for adults, including a toilet and sink, hand-held shower and a lift table, plus it has heat and air conditioning for comfort in various weather conditions. He added that it fills a void that may keep that demographic from participating in local festivities.

“There are inadequate restroom facilities, and this gives the people we support a place when they need it so they can take part in community events,” Zinno said. “This allows the events to be more inclusive and it supports our mission, vision and values.”

Plans were in the works for a year to purchase the trailer and Zinno said JCBDD may be among the first to have the unit on hand.

“Across the state, there have been a lot of talks about access,” he noted. “I believe we’re one of the first boards to do this and other counties are following suit.”

He hoped to utilize the unit throughout the



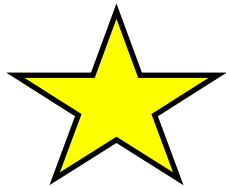
**The Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities acquired a 24-foot Mobile Changing Unit and will provide it free of charge for community events. Superintendent Michael Zinno said it will be debuted during the First Fridays on Fourth on May 3. For more information, contact JCBDD Community Navigator Alex “Cookie” West at (740) 264-5812, Ext. 2118.**

county, particularly with the number of fairs, festivals and other gatherings on the local calendar this summer. Zinno planned to introduce the unit at First Fridays on Fourth on May 3 and hoped other event organizers

would get involved.

Anyone interested in having the mobile changing unit at their activity may contact JCBDD Community Navigator Alex “Cookie” West at (740) 264-5812, Ext. 2118.

## Getting to Know You...



**Jenn Orlando**



Jenn Orlando enjoys being an early intervention (EI) development specialist, something she has done for the past quarter of a century.

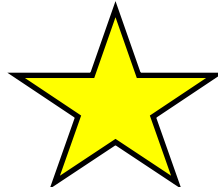
Orlando, of Wintersville, has spent the past 17 years with the Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities and said she is excited to work with the children.

“I LOVE MY JOB! Babies are amazing!”

In her spare time, she spends time with her family, including her husband, Jimmy, and their three children, Alicia Orlando, Sarah (Richard) Sutton and J.J., plus their eight grandchildren: Caleb, Chubby, Brandon, Peyton, Dominic, twins Max and A.J. and “super sassy” Miss Mille. Rounding out the clan is her five-year-old Malamute, Freya, whom Orlando says “thinks she’s a person.”

She is also involved in her community by volunteering on the auxiliary council of the Wintersville Fire Department and her hobbies include gardening, crafting and “grandkid watching.”

“I love any sport or activity my kids or grandkids are involved in,” she said.



**Kayla Henry**



Kayla Henry likes to keep occupied by working, spending time with her family and helping others.

For the past six-to-eight months, she has undergone janitorial training with PALS and she also shared that she attended Eastern Gateway Community College.

Henry notes her family, which includes her mom, Lisa, and her love of music, adding that she would love to meet Taylor Swift.

Meanwhile, Henry has also participated in church and aided local causes.

“I sing at church and I have donated food and clothes at the Friendship Room,” she said. “I also volunteered at the Sycamore Youth Center. I helped the children with music and crafts.”

She shared that she would like to get more involved in church this year and find more opportunities to volunteer and help people. Henry said she is planning to get a kitten in September.