

Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities



Superintendent's Report - November 2020

Community Awareness/PR Opportunities/Collaborations

Individuals at the Imagine Program continue to double bag lunch bags for the End 68 Hours of Hunger campaign.

Groovy Garfoose's music therapy at the Imagine Program continued this month, and the individuals enjoy this activity every Tuesday morning!

The Imagine Program also started making their Pieces of Imagination dog treats this month. Please contact Rachael at 440-918-1717 or via email at Rachel.urbanek@lakebdd.org, and let her know if you are interested in purchasing some treats.

On October 29, Imagine individuals participated in some Halloween activities within their groups. They watched a Halloween movie, decorated cookies, and decorated a pumpkin.

Patterson's Fruit Farm did a virtual tour with all of our preschool classes. All students were able to attend from the classroom and from their home. Grandma Connie and Mindy from the farm lead the virtual field trip having as much fun as the students. Students were able to see orchards, pumpkins, where apples are stored, how to make apple cider, and learn about the history of Johnny Appleseed.

Chardon National Honor Society donated over 100 pumpkins to the students at Broadmoor School. Each pumpkin had a note attached with Halloween wishes for our students.

Mentor United Methodists Church donated food and gift cards to families at Broadmoor who needed some additional assistance during these challenging times.

Mentor Rotary made their annual donation of student dictionaries that were given to all LEEP students. In addition, they sent a special message to students explaining what Mentor Rotary does, explained the concept of its service, and introduced the students to the "The Four Way Test" of things to say and do.

On September 14, Torque Transmissions hired a CES individual full-time. This is the second individual hired by Torque Transmission since CES and Deepwood Industries entered into a contract in March.

On September 29, CES acquired a new group employment site, through Deepwood Industries, with Unique Marketing Strategies located in Willoughby. Individuals working there are doing packaging jobs for Amazon customers and are earning minimum wage (\$8.70 per hour).

By a CES individual being offered the opportunity to return to Food for Thought four days a week, two CES individuals who had not worked since the beginning stages of the pandemic, were given the chance to work at CES group employment work sites. By the end of October one individual did so well they offered her another day. She is now happily working five days a week!

Department Program Enhancements/Updates

Early Intervention completed 31 evaluations in the month of October with all of them qualifying for Ohio Early Intervention services.

Preschool completed their fall parent conferences on October 23. They met with parents via Zoom or over the phone.

Special Events

On Thursday, October 29, the preschool students held their Halloween celebrations. A virtual costume contest was held with the parents of the students. Awards were handed out to each student. Parents were delighted to still be able to be involved in the celebration while not being in the school building. Also, School age and LEEP students participated in classroom Halloween celebrations while dressed in their costumes.

Broadmoor School held its first ever virtual Open House on October 6. Highlights of our Early Intervention, Preschool, School Age and LEEP programs were narrated by our teachers and support staff.

The Willoughby branch completed a drive-by for one of our fellow individuals who is currently being treated for multiple medical issues and has not been able to return to work. They sent multiple vehicles with accompanied signage to lift her spirits up. We also sent a basket of fun activities for her to enjoy that were donated by staff.

Willoughby branch held a "Hallow Fest" which included a scarecrow competition, Halloween trivia, and Halloween Bingo. Our day was completed with pumpkin pie and apple cider. A great day was had by all!

At the end of October, Broadening Abilities spent time doing all things Halloween and fall related fun. To set the mood, ghost stories and a virtual haunted house were explored. A Halloween party with cookies and treats were part of the festivities to celebrate Halloween with a few individuals dressing up as Cookie Monster, Batman, a pirate, and a witch. Recreation coordinated a pumpkin craft for Hab 2 & 3 while MH coordinated a fun turkey craft. National Pumpkin Cheesecake Day was a day to ignite the senses with a great tasting treat. Groovy Garfoose was enjoyed through the sound of musical instruments and singing. For many, it was an opportunity to connect and see their friends on Zoom. Many cards were also made for veterans that live in an area nursing home to thank them for their service as part of a Veteran's Day activity. The last few days of "Indian summer" weather was spent outside going for walks, while taking in the sights and sounds of mother nature.

Agency Resources

With the assistance of the Human Resources Department, all Willoughby staff have now been set up with a Department of Developmental Disabilities learning account since almost all training is now being completed online.

Staff Development/Training

All Willoughby branch staff completed COVID-19 training on October 9. Thank you to LCBDD Nursing staff for their efforts in keeping everyone safe and up to date!