

# Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities



## Superintendent's Report - January 2021

### Community Awareness/PR Opportunities/Collaborations

Our continued vocational partnership with the Educational Service Center of the Western Reserve's Unique Like Me store in Painesville began the week of November 23. Broadmoor School Age and LEEP students skillfully and enthusiastically made Christmas ornaments framed art that was sold during the holiday season. Running for only three weeks--the total sales were \$665.

Broadmoor Family Network (BFN) created a Facebook group for families to connect and support each other.

The Mentor United Methodist Church donated Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to 30 families in need within our school community.

St. Gabrielle chose Broadmoor School for their Day of Caring. The St. Gabe's community generously donated markers, folders, notebook, and paper supply boxes, filled with pencils crayons and scissors for our students.

The Early Childhood Program is participating in an ODE pilot test of a webinar series to introduce PBIS to the Head Start programs. We will provide feedback to Wendy Grove (Office of Early Learning and School Readiness Director) about how these would be received by LCBDD preschool teams.

Members of LCBDD Early Intervention Department lead a training with the staff at Project Hope Homeless Shelter on 12/10/2020. Their staff was able to ask questions and be coached on how to help children and families who have challenging behaviors during their short stay at the shelter.

Broadmoor School and the Transportation Department teamed up to hold a Food Drive to help stock Project Hope for the holidays. The food was dropped off and much appreciated.

The individuals at the Imagine Program were busy during December making the Pieces of Imagination dog treats to fill all the orders that were received.

Groovy Garfoose music therapy ended on Dec 15, but the Imagine Program is looking forward to the next session beginning again in February!

On 12/20/20 the Burnt River Brown's Backers Club in conjunction with the Mentor Fire Fighters Union held a fundraiser at Hooley House. The Brown's Backers Raffle raised over \$2,900.00. Proceeds from this charity event went toward holiday gifts for the 38 individuals residing at ARC and JCDC.

Throughout the month of December, many organizations and private donors decked the halls at ARC and JCDC with Christmas cards, brought presents, helped make it the most wonderful time of the year with favorite things like warm woolen mittens, hats and scarves, and gift bags with treats. However, the families would agree that the best part of this white Christmas was "Ohio in the red," which assured that loved ones were near and "I'll be Home for Christmas" was not only in our dreams.

Broadening Abilities worked tirelessly with the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Ohio and American Legion Auxiliary, Palmer Roberts, Unit 214 and created lovely cards made from scrap-booking materials (which included photographs, and cut outs of soldiers), for veterans who reside at Ohio Living Breckenridge Village and the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky. These cards were individually constructed with care, good thoughts, and well wishes.

Willoughby branch is working with community integration specialists to collaborate with outside agencies. Some of the agencies mentioned have been Lake Health, local police and fire, and the Lake County Health Department. We look forward to continuing to develop these outside relationships.

### Department Program Enhancements/Updates

The Early Childhood Department attended various virtual OACB Conference Professional Development sessions during the month of December: Supporting Staff vs. Supervising Staff, Preschool Updates, IDEA Data Evidence during COVID: ODE Recovery Services, Don't Throw the Tele-EI Baby out with the Pandemic Bath Water!

Preschool classes held virtual holiday concerts and guest readers so that parents were able to enjoy the celebrating with their students. Other special events included Secret Santa Book Exchanges, classroom celebrations that included PJs while enjoying a holiday movie, and of course a virtual visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus to review the "good" list.

Early Intervention created the Twelve Days of Christmas activities that families can do with the youngest children at home to share with all the families and our community.

### Special Events

Thank you to Deepwood Industries for funding CES individuals for the holidays! Over 80 travel mugs were created with the Deepwood Industry's logo by Rouhier Advertising Specialties, a contact from the Willoughby Western Chamber of Commerce. Unique Marketing Solutions a CES employer, donated a healthy snack to add to the gifts. Additional items were added, the mugs were beautifully wrapped, and distributed the week of Christmas and New Year's.

Broadening Abilities made the best of snowy days by listening to holiday music, making seasonal crafts, and making the days brighter with stories, good food, and old movies. Celebrating the Browns with eating a brownie, making sensory bottles filled with colored glitter and water, and doing Boredom Buster activities kept us busy and full of excitement. Groovy Garfoose was a fun and virtual interactive experience that individuals enjoyed. Making holiday presents for family members, helping to make signs to support our Browns and Ohio State Buckeyes, and watching Polar Express in our pajamas, made the month comfy and cozy. Highlights of December include a delicious chicken parmesan luncheon from Mama Roberto's and a fast food celebration the day before our break with Chick-fil-A sandwiches, nuggets, and mac & cheese. It was simply delightful and we savored every bite!

Willoughby branch held our annual OSU vs. Michigan party with prizes and trivia for all. Go Buckeyes!

Willoughby revised their annual Christmas party with LaVera Party Center and had them cater to us. We thank them for their continued support of our Agency and programs. They catered 100 meals for us on grounds and they were incredible! Thank you to Deepwood Run, Deepwood Foundation, and

Deepwood Industries for again supporting us in our endeavors. We look forward to returning to the LaVera Party Center next year.

### Agency Resources

While Early Intervention services continue to be provided remotely, there have been a handful of high priority in-person visits with therapists to help with equipment needs. These visits were being conducted outside; however, now as the weather has turned colder, we have been able to use isolated locations on the Deepwood Campus to be able to safely provide these visits.

Early Intervention completed 31 evaluations with 28 of the children being eligible for Ohio Early Intervention Services.

### Staff Development/Training

School Age Supervisor, Mary Elshaw and Intervention Specialist, Brooke Svoboda, virtually attended the 2020 Ocalicon Conference. A few of the session focuses were: transition from School to Adult Programming, Least Restrictive Environments for Diverse Learners, and Supporting Autistic Individuals Experiencing Dysregulation. The keynote speaker was Temple Grandin who talked about how the world needs all kinds of minds and the importance of fostering creativity and problem solving in children.

The Early Childhood Department has attended many professional development trainings during November, including topics on: Autism, Self-Care, Resilience & Racial Equity, NAS, Developmental Specialist Certification Rule, Social Emotional Skills through Emergent Literacy, and the SST4 Fall Regional.

The Residential management team completed the DODD Ohio Single Plan training and received certificates.