

Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities



Superintendent's Report - May 2021

Community Awareness/PR Opportunities/Collaborations

Special Person Day – Preschool parents and special people in their life virtually joined each preschool classroom at Broadmoor. Students sang songs for their special friend and were also able to share a special art project they made.

The entire Broadmoor Teaching Team received the Franklin B. Walter Award for Outstanding Educators of the Year. Teachers were surprised with certificates and flowers presented by Superintendent, Elfie Roman, and Principal, Linda DeRosa.

The last week of April was Autism Awareness Week at Broadmoor School. Staff and students participated in themed activities each day.

A group of individuals at the Imagine Program continue to enjoy their virtual Groovy Garfoose Music therapy sessions on Tuesday mornings.

The Imagine Program continues to double bag lunch bags for the End 68 Hours of Hunger Program. Also, Pieces of Imagination dog treats continue to be sold.

The Willoughby Branch continues to collaborate with the Recreation Department and Community Integration Specialists to provide virtual programs and fun activities offered by local parks, etc.

Donations were collected at the Willoughby Branch during March for the Harvest for Hunger campaign and donated 225 lbs. of food and \$27 to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

In celebration of Earth Day and Arbor Day, everyone was able to take a small tree home to plant. The individuals also participated in parkway pickup and everyone collected any trash that was around the Willoughby Branch.

With the assistance of the Recreation Department., the Community Integration Specialists, and the Vocational Guidance Center's Community Support Specialists, some individuals at VGC will be helping to beautify and maintain the landscape in the VGC courtyard.

VGC had a blast seeing old friends and participating in the virtual dance hosted by the Willoughby Branch!

Broadening Abilities (BA) big event for the month of May was welcoming the American Legion Auxiliary #214 as they presented a certificate to recognize BA for the cards and well wishes to veterans in nursing homes and assisted living facilities throughout the state of Ohio. The presentation was held in our Memorial Garden decorated in a patriotic theme. The president of the Auxiliary participated, as well as local veterans, individuals, and staff of BA.

As BA continues to recognize our veterans and make cards for them, we also recognized our police and firemen by collecting Lifesavers and delivering them to the local offices. We are also collecting dog/cat food for the Lake County Humane Society, as well as canned goods for our local United Way to help with COVID relief. BA supports several community efforts to help and support our citizens and furry friends.

Department Program Enhancements/Updates

Bill Cushwa from Door Bearcade came to Broadmoor on April 22 to train staff on the correct use of the barricades that were placed in each room to protect against unwanted intruders.

The Cleveland Natural History Museum's virtual tour provided our Broadmoor preschool students a field trip to learn about dinosaurs. They were able to see bones and fossils from prehistoric animals. The LEEP students and several school age students participated in Broadmoor's Virtual Science Fair. We enjoyed seeing their experiments and projects ranging from the Life Cycle of the Butterfly to the Walking Water. It can be viewed on YouTube, if you would like to check it out.

Broadmoor's School Age Supervisor participated in the OCALI Transition Innovation Networking Meeting that focused on employment opportunities for young people with more significant disabilities.

Special Events

On April 23, the Imagine Program celebrated Autism Awareness Month. Everyone enjoyed lunch ordered from Scooter's World Famous Dawg House and puzzle piece cookies from Panera! The individuals also created a puzzle piece craft.

In March, the Willoughby Branch individuals began growing plants from seeds within their group, and then in April they planted them outside to decorate the property.

Virtual activities were the popular theme for the month of April at Broadening Abilities. Individuals engaged in the following opportunities via Smart Boards and iPads: Groovy Garfoose, virtual art with the Fine Arts Association, storytelling with the library, exercise with Ellana, crafts with Sarah, dancing with Dancing Wheels, and a fun virtual dance party coordinated by our Community Integration Specialists with Craig Snook as the DJ. These events were a smash hit!

When weather permitted some outdoor activities at Broadening Abilities to take place, walks outside and reading with Pete were scheduled. Other fun activities included wearing a derby hat while watching the Kentucky Derby, making a Mother's Day wreath, doing a bird craft, and playing with bubbles and balloons. Cinco de Mayo was combined with Nurse's Day. Good food and appreciation cards were provided to our nurse to celebrate the hard work and dedication that she demonstrates each and every day. Puzzle piece cookies were provided for all individuals to mark the importance of Autism Awareness for April.

Agency Resources

Early Intervention completed 31 evaluations with 30 of the children being eligible for Ohio Early Intervention Services.

Early Intervention and our community partner, Crossroads Health, started to provide in-person evaluations for children birth to age three at Crossroads Health Early Childhood Center. Families still have the option to have the evaluation held virtually, if they prefer.

Some individuals at VGC concluded the recent virtual music therapy session with Groovy Garfoose and look forward to the live outdoor musical performance to be held sometime in the summer months. We continue to engage in a variety of other virtual community events throughout our day according to each individual's interests. Cinco De Mayo was celebrated with good food, social distant friends, and some lime virgin margaritas!

Featured Success Stories

In April, CES gained a new employer, Giuseppe's Pizza. Two individuals are working four days a week in their dough factory. CES Individual, Bill H., was awarded DI's Employee of the Quarter for his exceptional work skills.

Willoughby Branch's Emily A. earned First Place in the mixed media/textiles category and Honorable Mention in the same category for the Deepwood Virtual Art Contest. She won a beautiful art kit and some Deepwood items.

Congratulations to Charlie M. who was nominated for the 1st Quarter Willoughby Branch Employee Recognition and to R.J.S. who received Employee for the 2nd Quarter! R.J. was nominated for being a good worker, always happy, ready to work, and appreciates getting new jobs.

Congratulations to Emmalynn S. who placed 2nd and Xavier G. who placed 3rd in Deepwood's Virtual Art Contest! Congrats to all the VGC participants, as there were a lot of creative pieces to choose from.