



# The ALL-STAR Newsletter

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Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Issue 1

## Jefferson County BDD

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***\*JCBDD Gains  
Nearly \$600K in  
Housing Grants***

***\*Lions Club Hosts  
Luncheon at the  
School of Bright  
Promise***

## ***JCBDD Awarded Nearly \$600K in Housing Grants***

Plans to create new housing for disabled residents in Jefferson County have gained nearly \$600,000 in grant funding from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DoDD).

Officials with the Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities will receive up to \$598,000 from the Community Capital Assistance Program, which provides financing to county boards and non-profit organizations for the purchase, construction and/or renovation of community housing for persons with special needs. The DoDD's Capital Housing Office is responsible for the program and three grants for up to \$130,000 each, or a total of \$390,000, will be used to acquire homes with another \$208,000 to help construct fully accessible lodging to better serve consumers. Local officials said it will provide more independence to developmentally disabled individuals and also help JCBDD meet federal mandates for privatized services.

JCBDD Superintendent Michael Zinno learned of the awards this fall and said two houses were already purchased in Wintersville and Mingo Junction. Plans are to place three occupants at each site this winter, after which a third house will be acquired and a fourth site will be built. The latter project would be the first such undertaking since the formation of the Shaffer Plaza Apartments in 1980.

"I am excited," Zinno said. "Two

homes have been purchased in Wintersville and Mingo. There will be three people in each and we're slated to fill them on Feb. 1."

He applied for the funding in June and received a quick response for approval on the construction grant. While the board will be responsible for building the final site, the structure itself will be owned by the Eastern Ohio Housing Corporation, a non-profit agency. Zinno said the project was just the beginning of a long-term plan to improve community living for the people JCBDD serves. About 21 individuals presently live in six of the seven homes throughout the county, but their conditions are a concern and he wanted to acquire the funds to provide updated lodging.

"Our housing in the county needs to be improved and this is the first step," he added. "Over the next five years, we hope to make an impact with more appropriate housing with better homes in better neighborhoods. These are going to be smaller style family homes with four people or less. They will not be clustered together but sprinkled throughout the county."

He added there was a housing shortage in Jefferson County when considering the Shaffer Plaza residents. The facility is a three-home operation with 10 people per home, while it was established for individuals with high needs. Nursing, occupational and physical therapy and direct care are

set up to operate like a nursing home, but over the years individuals have been placed at the site partly because available housing was lacking. As a result, individuals have lived at Shaffer but did not require the extensive care, leading federal and state officials to encourage and even mandate that more appropriate housing be developed.

"We are working on downsizing Shaffer Plaza," Zinno continued, saying the facility used to have 33 residents but currently stands at 29. "There are individuals at Shaffer who don't need 24-hour nursing service and can live in the community. The optimal number we'd like to see at Shaffer is 21 and everyone can have their own bedroom."

He noted that community isolation and segregation has occurred through residential and day service settings, but times are changing and integration will be the new norm. Federal mandates dictate that BDD's have until 2024 to privatize services for adult consumers to get them more fully integrated into society. Efforts have already gotten underway to shift from a center-based operation to a more community-based system. Officials said the primary mission is to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the individuals served and the new lodging is long-term. The occupants will

**(Continued on Page 2)**

### **Calendar of Events**

Jan. 1: New Year's Day; Holiday Break (Program Closed)  
Jan. 2: Holiday Break (Program Closed); Shaffer Movies at Carmike Cinema; Trampoline Park (Home B)  
Jan. 3: Holiday Break Ends, Program Resumes; SBP Pennies for Patients Campaign; Shaffer Bowling at Steel Valley Lanes (Home A)  
Jan. 4: SBP Planning Meetings; All-Stars Home Game vs. Carroll Co. at 6  
Jan. 8: Shaffer Steubenville Country Club Dance Class at 5:15  
Jan. 9: SBP Safety Meeting; Shaffer God's Choice Church Party  
Jan. 10: Shaffer Bowling at SV Lanes

(Home B); All-Stars at Coshocton County at 6  
Jan. 11: SBP Human Rights Meeting  
Jan. 12: End of Second Quarter at SBP  
Jan. 13: Shaffer at Wheeling Nailers  
Jan. 15: Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday (Program Closed); Shaffer Dance Class at Country Club at 5:15  
Jan. 16: Progress Reports Sent Home (SBP); Shaffer at Carmike Cinema, Trampoline Park (Home B); All-Stars at Guernsey County at 6  
Jan. 17: SBP School Behavior Meeting; Shaffer Bowling at SV Lanes (Home C)  
Jan. 18: SBP Parents' Support Group at 1:15; BDD Meeting

Jan. 19: SBP ETR Meetings; Shaffer M&M Party  
Jan. 22: Student Advocacy Meeting; Shaffer Dance Class at Country Club at 5:15; All-Stars at Carroll Co. at 6  
Jan. 23: God's Choice Church Party  
Jan. 24: African Drum and Dance at SBP; Shaffer Bowling at SV Lanes (Home A); All-Stars at Belmont Co. 6  
Jan. 26: SBP Curriculum Meeting  
Jan. 28 Shaffer Resident Council Mtg.  
Jan. 29: Shaffer at Capitol Music Hall  
Jan. 30: SBP DD Month Committee Meeting  
Jan. 31: SBP Ends Pennies Campaign; Shaffer Bowling at SV Lanes (Home B)

# Lions Club Hosts Luncheon at the School of Bright Promise

Staff and special needs students at the School of Bright Promise were treated to a meal and visit from Santa Claus during the Steubenville Lions Club's annual holiday luncheon on Dec. 6.

Members of the Lions Club and Harding Middle School Leo Club served up a delicious meal of roast beef, potatoes and other goodies to more than 140 people while teacher Amanda Baker provided green and red cupcakes to enjoy. Each class then got to spend time with Santa and friends in the gym, where presents were handed out to the excited youngsters. Also on hand was the Lions Club mascot, who greeted students with high fives and hugs.

Lions Club member Tim Walters said it has been a popular event and he enjoyed being involved.

"I love it. I've done it for over 10 years," he added. "To see the children's faces when Santa comes in, it's priceless."

He continued that it was great to see the Leo Club also get involved, as well. The school organization currently yields 70 members and Jennifer Blackburn, Success for All facilitator who led the group of six eighth-graders for the day, agreed that it taught the teens about giving back.

"It's such a great change for the kids to give back to the community and to get involved in a great way," Blackburn added. "They understand service to the community."

Leo members included Olivia Reese, Isabella Yetts, Anthony Shevlin, Chloe Petrelle, Libby Saccoccia and Julianna King, and a few of them mentioned how much they liked participating.

"I really like helping," said Reese. "I feel so good when I help others."



Little Lily Jobs got a chance to meet Santa during his visit to the School of Bright Promise when the Steubenville Lions Club held an annual holiday luncheon for students and staff on Dec. 6. Also on hand were Leo Club members from Harding Middle School including, from left, Anthony Shevlin, Isabella Yetts, Chloe Petrelle, Olivia Reese, Libby Saccoccia and Julianna King.

"It's making me feel like a better person," added Yetts. "It's fun to get to help out."

Even some School of Bright Promise students chimed in about what they liked most.

"I like Christmas," exclaimed Cheyenne Hooper.

"I'm ready for Christmas day," added Logan Briggs.

Mike Zinno, superintendent of the Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities and former Lions Club president, said the civic organization used proceeds from a recent Ohio State-Michigan tailgate party fundraiser to purchase the presents and the luncheon has become an annual tradition.

It began more than three decades ago when then club members Joe DiCarlo and Rick Pfannenschmidt, who also was the county MRDD superintendent, decided to host an event.

DiCarlo donned Santa's red suit for 28 years but the luncheon has continued even longer.

Zinno was also pleased with the participation of the Leo Club.

"I thought it was great," he said. "I think having the Harding Leos here really added a great element and I'm really appreciative to those young kids for giving back to those in need."

## Grants (Continued from Page 1)

live as a family unit and pay rent to EOHC while also working and/or attending day service programming and leading normal lives just like everyone else. Moreover, Consumer Support Services, which was created by county natives Dan and Chris Swickard, will be the main provider and is based in at least a dozen counties statewide. Finally, he said the home will be maintained by people or organizations and there is a contract with Jeffco to oversee the lawn.

"We have a new provider coming to staff the homes and CSS is in more than 14 counties," he commented. "It is a well-respected organization in Ohio and will have an office near the Goodwill in Wintersville. Dan Swickard and his son Chris are from Toronto and have a vested interest in Jefferson County. It's a bit of a homecoming for them and we're excited to welcome them back to Jefferson County."

Dan Swickard, who serves as CEO, said son Chris is president of the operation and they are happy to return to their roots.

"I'm pleased to be back there," he said. "I started teaching at the School of Bright Promise and was there for five or six years, and then I was in Edison and Harrison Hills before starting the company. CSS is a company that takes care of 750 people in Ohio and we're in 19 counties. We provide residential supports to children and adults, but mostly the adults."

Swickard added that Chris will oversee the new operation in Wintersville and staff were being trained with a goal of starting in January.

Meanwhile, a third home will be eyed in the community but no timeline has been given as to when it would be filled. A final site will be constructed with the final grant and those plans are also preliminary.

"We received \$208,000 to build our first fully accessible, four-bedroom home," Zinno said. "This fully accessible home will be for individuals in wheelchairs who can be better served living in the community."

He was grateful to DODD leaders for the funding and said they will make a significant difference in improving lodging for special needs adults seeking more independence.

In addition to downsizing residents at Shaffer, the Jeffco Production and Training centers have worked to partner with community groups and businesses to provide more work and recreational opportunities. Zinno said the new housing will give individuals with disabilities another chance for inclusion by residing in a local neighborhood. He also asks the public and community leaders to welcome the individuals as they make their way into mainstream society.