



# The ALL-STAR Newsletter

November 2018

Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Issue 10

## Jefferson County BDD

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## *A Message from the Superintendent*

### **Some Reasons to be Thankful This Holiday Season**

November is a time of Thanksgiving, a time to give thanks to those around us.

Because time goes by too fast, failing to thank those around us happens too often. Let me take a moment to reflect upon what I am thankful for:

—Being surrounded by family and friends;

—The ability to get up and go to work;

—The co-workers who are committed to our program and those we serve;

—The leaders of the State of Ohio and their commitment to those we serve;

—Jefferson County residents that support our program;

—The volunteers of our program;

—The Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities and Jeffco board members;

—Past leaders of our program;

—Our independent and agency providers;

—Financial stability within our program and the county government;

—The county commissioners and probate judge who appoint our board members;

—The support of our local school districts that makes it possible to serve kids at the School of Bright Promise;

—The challenges each day brings, both personally and professionally. With them, I am reminded of my purpose in life.

I wish each of you a wonderful Thanksgiving and holiday season. May you be blessed with being surrounded by family and friends.

## **Residents, Students Raising Funds for United Way**

Residents of Shaffer Plaza and students at the School of Bright Promise are raising funds for local charity in a series of separate events.

The estimated 20 adults living at the Shaffer Plaza Apartment complex are going green to make some green with a recycling event over the next week. Phyllis Westfall, one of the building managers, said the special needs adults will recycle aluminum cans through Halloween and proceeds from the moneymaker will go to the United Way of Jefferson County, which supports about 20 area programs from Boy and Girl Scouts of America to the ALIVE Shelter.

“They’re going to be collecting empty pop cans and will recycle them, and all of the money will go to the United Way,” said Westfall. “We’ll do that in each building.”

She added that the residents have actively supported the organization in the past with other fundraisers such as tie-dyed T-shirt sales, bake sales and a soup of the day event.



**The Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities is raising money for the United Way of Jefferson County and Shaffer Plaza residents Shirley Robinson, Lacey Karas and Trisha Fox are recycling cans for the cause.**

candy bar sale for \$1 each.

“We raised about \$150 last year and the candy bar sale and aluminum can collection are new this year,” she commented. “We’re always looking for something for the consumers to do to give back to the community because the community has done so much for them.”

Meanwhile, the School of Bright Promise has several events in store for November that will combine fun and fundraising. Principal Janie Bodo said an all-school dance is slated for Nov. 9 at 12:30 p.m. in the school gym and students will

“It’s by donation and all proceeds will go to the United Way,” Bodo added, saying it was the first year the school has held the activity.

Things will get a little sticky on Nov. 13 when JCBDD Superintendent Michael Zinno gets duct taped to the wall for another benefit. Students can pay \$1 per piece of tape or \$20 per roll and the fun begins at 12:30 p.m. in the gym.

# Student Empowerment Tours Begin at Local Schools

Special needs students are learning about options for their future as the Student Empowerment Tour gets under way.

The Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities, in conjunction with Eastern Gateway Community College, will travel to schools throughout the county for the Student Empowerment Tour. SET, as it is known, intends to address those students about developing their potential in a post-secondary setting. Cookie West, JCBDD employment navigator and community facilitator, said the tour would occur throughout the autumn with return visits in the spring. She will be joined by JCBDD Community Employment Services Specialists Renee Pastre and Angela Goodrich and EGCC Recruit-

er Cristen Tarquinio along with college Director of Career Development Lisa Ward, Career Development Coordinator Leanna Lulla, Upward Bound representative Tracey Yaich and Director of Student Support Services Dawn Gombar.

Officials began Oct. 30 with a trips to Buckeye Local High School and Harding Middle School to inform students in grades 7-12 about available employment and academic services as they transition into the community. West said they generally may not understand what their job interests may entail, such as obtaining certifications to bolster opportunities to earn higher wages, and the tours will allow pupils to get answers they need from the experts.

“In November, JCBDD will send out a questionnaire to transition students’ families to gauge their understanding of the transition process,” she continued. “We want to determine where the gaps are when connecting with other local school districts and setting up visit times in the transition process and how we can assist in connecting those families who need support with the services available.”

Officials plan to return to the schools next spring to follow up with students and learn if there is more interest in the information they have shared.

For more information about the program, contact West at (740) 264-7176, Extension 2118.

## Olesky Becomes First Certified Coach in Jefferson County

Janna Olesky is leading some special athletes as the first certified coach for Special Olympics in Jefferson County.

Olesky, who is an aide at the School of Bright Promise, completed training in order to receive her certification and now oversees about five athletes in the swimming program for Area 9 Special Olympics. She said she underwent training for CPR and First Aid but was also required to complete behavioral and other related trainings both online and at a conference in Columbus.

“They went over all of the rules and you could get into the water and see people’s techniques and learn what you can teach Special Olympics athletes,” she said. “We have started to practice and will have our first meet on Nov. 3 in Dover.”



Olesky

The Area 9 Swim Meet will take place from 4-8 p.m. at the Tuscarawas County YMCA in Dover. Olesky, who replaces longtime coach Wendy Tucker, has been involved with program for three years and has spent a similar amount of time on the school staff. She said she looks forward to working with the athletes in her new role.

“I like it. It’s something different and I’ve gotten to learn a lot of new things. I know Wendy Tucker and I swam since I was little, and she got me into this.”

## Calendar of Events

Nov. 1: Makeup Picture Day (SBP); State Support Team Mtg. (Employment Navigator/Community Facilitator); Bingo Night (Shaffer A&C)  
Nov. 2: IEP Mtg. at Toronto City Schools (EN/CF); First Friday on Fourth (Shaffer)  
Nov. 3: Swim Team Meet; Ice Cream Social (Shaffer A&C); Thanksgiving Craft (Shaffer B)  
Nov. 4: Fall Foliage Ride (Shaffer B)  
Nov. 5: SBP Visit, JVS Mtg. & Business Professional Women Mtg. (EN/CF); Wii Bowling (Shaffer B&C)  
Nov. 6: Safety Mtg. (SBP); Special Educators at Toronto HS, SET at Alternative School & Kiwanis Mtg. (EN/CF); Movie Night at Cinemas (Shaffer A &C); Trampoline Park (Shaffer B)  
Nov. 7: PD Day– NO SCHOOL (SBP); Popcorn & Movie (Shaffer B)  
Nov. 8: Human Rights Mtg. (SBP); Strengthening Families Session (EN/CF); Resident’s Choice (Shaffer A&C); Joke Night (Shaffer B)  
Nov. 9: United Way FR Dance (SBP);

JCESC Special Education Directors Mtg. (EN/CF); Game Night (Shaffer A&C)  
Nov. 10: Festival of Lights– Wheeling (Shaffer B&C)  
Nov. 11: Festival of Lights (Shaffer A); Resident’s Choice (Shaffer B)  
Nov. 12: VETERAN’S DAY– SCHOOL/PROGRAM CLOSED  
Nov. 13: JCBDD Leadership Team Mtg. & Kiwanis Mtg. (EN/CF); Bowling at Steel Valley Lanes (Shaffer)  
Nov. 14: School Behavior (SBP); Coffee & Connections (EN/CF); Movie Night (Shaffer B); Basketball (Shaffer C)  
Nov. 15: Ohio Mid-East Governments Assn. & Strengthening Families Session (EN/CF); Board Mtg.; Thanksgiving Luncheon; Parent Support Group (SBP); Craft Night (Shaffer A&C)  
Nov. 16: Root Beer Floats (Shaffer A&C); M&M Party in Toronto (Shaffer B)  
Nov. 17: Pizza Party (Shaffer A&C); Bingo Night (Shaffer B)  
Nov. 18: Staff’s Choice (Shaffer)  
Nov. 19: Peer Leadership (SBP); Toronto

HS Visit (EN/CF)  
Nov. 20: Kiwanis Mtg. (EN/CF); Trampoline Park and Bowling League (Shaffer B)  
Nov. 21-23: Thanksgiving Break– SCHOOL/PROGRAM CLOSED  
Nov. 22: THANKSGIVING DAY  
Nov. 24: Decorate Christmas Tree (Shaffer)  
Nov. 25: Wintersville Christmas Parade (Shaffer)  
Nov. 26: Resident’s Council (Shaffer)  
Nov. 27: ICHS Visit (EN/CF); Bowling (Shaffer B); Hot Cocoa & Movie Night (Shaffer A&C)  
Nov. 28: Ohio Association of County Boards Conference (EN/CF); Movie Night (Shaffer B)  
Nov. 29: Multi-County Agency Transition Youth Team Mtg. (EN/CF); Resident’s Choice (Shaffer A&C); Christmas Craft (Shaffer B)  
Nov. 30: Harding Middle School Visit (EN/CF); Christmas Karaoke Night (Shaffer A&C)