



The ALL-STAR Newsletter

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Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Issue 9

**Jefferson County
BDD**

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A Message from the Superintendent

Your Tax Dollars are at Work through JCBDD

With the November elections coming up, it provides an opportunity to reflect, recognize and analyze how our local levy dollars are used.

Our first levy was passed in 1971 and was followed by an increase in 1985, and then a second levy was passed in the early 1990s as a 10-year measure. Since then, only the latter levy has been renewed with no additions placed on the ballot.

The Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities has strived to remain financially prudent, responsible and adaptive and our board's leadership team has

enabled the program to operate with relatively the same local funding. Using our yearly cost report, our local levy supports the following areas: the Jeffco Services adult program, the School of Bright Promise, case management services, Shaffer Plaza, early intervention, community employment, general administration, family resources and federal Medicaid matching funds.

As you can see, every program we operate relies in some way on our local levy system. Jefferson County is not alone; all 88 counties in Ohio have local levy support for their boards. Ohio's system for support-

ing individuals with disabilities is arguably one of the top in the country. I am proud to live in a state that has developed an effective system which supports individuals with disabilities.

With our total effective tax rate at 1.54 percent, it ranks us in the lower 10 percent of levy support across all 88 counties. It is with much appreciation that we thank Jefferson County voters for their past support. We will continue to take seriously the trust bestowed upon us and will remain diligent as we continue to analyze the best use of county tax dollars.

Agency Donates Backpacks to School of Bright Promise

One local insurance agency helped some special needs kids kick off their school year with free backpacks and supplies.

Calcutta-based DeSantis & Associates, an Allstate provider, donated about 65 backpacks to the School of Bright Promise in August with nearly another dozen given this month. Agency owner Cullen DeSantis, a Steubenville native, said it was a way to give back to the community.

"We dropped some off before school started and are giving them extras in case of new enrollment or if they had absences," DeSantis said. "We gave about 60-65 backpacks and they will have about 75 total."

He added that his company had furnished backpacks to local domestic violence organizations, such as Christina House in Columbiana County, to ensure children had what they needed for the classroom. This year, they focused on the School of Bright Promise—where his relative Andrea Starkey is a speech therapist—in addition



Cullen DeSantis, owner of DeSantis & Associates Insurance Agency of Calcutta, donated backpacks full of school supplies to the School of Bright Promise. Pictured are, from left, DeSantis with students Jackson Smith, Paxson Gorby, Brad Abshire, Braydon Patrone, Caylee Kausky, Marshall Smith and Gaige Roski.

to the Robert Bycroft School in Lisbon and the women's shelter and distributed a total of 300 backpacks filled with everything from pencils and crayons to rulers and folders.

"This year we wanted to expand

a little more," he noted, saying emphasis was placed on helping the local community. "As an agency, we're out to help families and it's an extension of our everyday

(Continued as BACKPACKS)

Adult Transportation Privatized

Transportation for special needs adults is now privatized and Jeffco Services is offering it to those in need.

The service has transitioned from under the umbrella of the Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities to Jeffco as part of the ongoing plan to meet federal mandates for privatization. About five passenger vans are currently utilized and carry 63 individuals from throughout the county to the Jeffco Training Center, to work or to other agency providers. Jeffco Services CEO Tracey Thomas said the change has gone well, due in large part to the staff's efforts.

"We cover a large area of Jefferson County from Adena to Bergholz and the larger towns," she said. "We have excellent van drivers and an excellent transportation coordinator."

Jeffco initially had four solid routes but added a fifth through JCBDD during the privatiza-

tion process, which also led to the addition of an extra vehicle over the last year. The passenger vans currently travel 550 miles per weekday and Jeffco is among several providers available.

"It is free and [potential passengers] need to be determined eligible as an individual with developmental disabilities, plus he or she must be 21 years old and live in Jefferson County," Thomas continued, adding that morning and afternoon transports are available from as early as 6 a.m. to roughly 6 p.m.

JCBDD Superintendent Michael Zinno said the transition was a long time coming and efforts have gone smoothly.

"Transport to and from day services are no longer provided by the county board. It is 100-percent privatized to providers," he said.

For information, call Jeffco Services at (740) 266-6167 and ask for transportation.



Budding Artist

Ryan Mollenkopf, a sixth-grader at the School of Bright Promise, colors a lovely picture with help from aide Stacy Schaffer during an art session with Gerald Van Scyoc of the Center of Music and Art in Wintersville. Also pictured is sixth-grader Jeremiah Christian with aide Jesse Kuczykowski.

Backpacks

(Continued from Front)

operation. It gives kids a good chance to start the year off and get excited to get back to class."

School of Bright Promise Principal Jane Bodo appreciated DeSantis and his agency for their act of kindness.

"It was a nice surprise to get the phone call [about the donation] and the very generous offer," Bodo said. "They made sure everybody was taken care of."

She added that students made cards to express their gratitude.

Calendar of Events

Oct. 1– Mobile Dentist (SBP); Urban Mission Ministries Jobs for Life, Business & Professional Women & SET Meeting (Employment Navigator/Community Facilitator); Craft Night (Shaffer A); Decorate for Fall (Shaffer C)
 Oct. 2– Parent/Teacher Conferences (SBP); Kiwanis (EN/CF); Trampoline Park (Shaffer B); Bowling @ Steel Valley Lanes (C)
 Oct. 3– Picture Day (SBP); Taste of Jefferson County (A); Bowling League (B)
 Oct. 4– Downtown Farmer's Market (A)
 Oct. 5– Family & Children First Council (EN/CF); First Friday on 4th (A & B)
 Oct. 6– Festival in the Woods (A); Dillonvale Fall Fair/Night Rider Park (B); Resident's Choice (C)
 Oct. 7– Make Your Own Sundae (A); Walk on the Track (B); Wellsburg Applefest (C)
 Oct. 8– **Columbus Day (NO SCHOOL @ SBP)**; Edison School Visit (EN/CF); Craft Night (A & B)
 Oct. 9– JCBDD Leadership Team Mtg. & Tim Timmons (EN/CF); God's Choice Church Party (A); Bowling (B); Popcorn & Movie Night (C)
 Oct. 10– Jefferson County Chamber of

Commerce Coffee & Connections & Harding Middle School (EN/CF); School Behavior Mtg. (SBP); Bowling at Steel Valley Lanes (A); Fall Craft Night (C)
 Oct. 11– Human Rights Mtg. (SBP); DT Farmer's Mkt. (A); Ride to Cabela's (B)
 Oct. 12– Special Education Coordinator Mtg. @ JCESC (EN/CF); Big Red Game (B & C)
 Oct. 13– Chili Cook-off Weirton Event Center, noon (A); Game Night (B); Algonquin Mill Festival (C)
 Oct. 14– Hozak's Fall Festival, 10-6 (B); Picnic (Weather Permitting) (C)
 Oct. 15– Peer Leadership Mtg. (SBP)
 Oct. 16– Kiwanis (EN/CF); Safety Mtg (SBP); Movie Night (A); Trampoline Park (B); Pumpkin Decorating (C)
 Oct. 17– Bowling (B); Country Van Ride (C)
 Oct. 18– IEP/ETR Mtg. & Parent Support Group Mtg. (SBP); Strengthening Families Learning Network (EN/CF); DT Farmer's Mkt. (A); JCBDD Board Mtg.
 Oct. 19– Fire Drill, 10 a.m. (SBP); Dusk to Dawn Night of Living Dead 50th Anniversary @ Drive-in (A); Winter Drive-in Trunk or Treat (B); Indian Creek Football Game (C)

Oct. 20– Strutter (Kiss Band) @ WEC, 6:30 p.m.; Monster Jam @ WesBanco Arena (B); Apple Stirrin' Time (C)
 Oct. 21– Jefferson County Animal Shelter @ Rural King (B); Hozak's Fall Festival (C)
 Oct. 22– Jefferson County Christian School (EN/CF); Walk at Park (A); Resident's Choice (B)
 Oct. 23– God's Choice Church Party (A); Movies @ AMC Theater (B); Bowling @ SVL (C)
 Oct. 24– Lockdown Scenario (SBP); Bowling @ SVL (A)
 Oct. 25– Multi-agency County Transition Team Youth Team Mtg. (EN/CF); End of First Quarter (SBP); DT Farmer's Mkt. (A); Fall Foliage Ride (B); Resident's Choice
 Oct. 26– Professional Development Day (SBP); IC Game ©
 Oct. 27– Scary Movie Night (C)
 Oct. 28– Game Night (A); Halloween Movie Night (B); Resident's Choice (C)
 Oct. 29– Progress Reports (SBP); Resident Council Meeting (Shaffer)
 Oct. 30– Kiwanis (EN/CF); Movie & Popcorn @ Home (A); Basketball @ Home (C)
 Oct. 31– **HALLOWEEN; Trick or Treat (SBP); Halloween Party (B)**