

# HOPE SERVICES

July 2016

Seeing Potential ~ Inspiring Opportunities

## In This Issue

HOPE'S Hot Dog & Brats Bash	1
Gerald Award	2
ABLE Accounts	2
Commitment Ceremony	3
Special Olympics	3
Job Club	3
SASS	4
Supported Employment	5
Voices of HOPE	6
Henry County Fair	7
Weapons Against Abuse	7
Upcoming Events	8



*HOPE Services is committed to creatively working in partnership with eligible individuals and their families to discover, pursue and achieve what is important to them.*

Listen to WNDH 103.1 every Thursday at 12:30 p.m. for more information about HOPE Services.

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## HOPE'S HOT DOG AND BRATS BASH

HOPE Services held their annual Hot Dog and Brats Bash in June. We had a great turnout! A big thank you to Thrivent Financial, Ron's Super Valu and Henry County Pork Producers for their financial assistance.

Because of the overwhelming community support, Henry County's Relay for Life and the Henry County Fairground's Ag Building each received a check for over \$450 from HOPE Services.



## GERALD AWARD

*Giraffes Can't Dance* is a book about Gerald the giraffe, who wants nothing more than to dance. With crooked knees and thin legs, it's harder for a giraffe than you would think. Gerald is finally able to dance to his own tune when he gets some encouraging words from an unlikely friend.

The Gerald Award is an award presented among the staff at HOPE Services on the basis of seeing beyond what others believe to be possible. This professional has demonstrated gentle inspiration and a vision based on possibilities, so that every person we serve might be able to reach his/her greatest potential.

JoAnn (last month's recipient) presented the award to Mel Dachenhaus who is an SSA at HOPE. JoAnn shared that Mel is always willing to go above and beyond what's expected of her for the individuals we serve. Every individual she serves speaks very highly of her!



**Congratulations Mel and thank you for everything you do for the individuals of HOPE!**

## ABLE Accounts Make Debut

For the first time, people with disabilities can open special accounts where they can save money without jeopardizing their government benefits. In early June, Ohio became the first state to offer accounts made possible through the Achieving a Better Life Experience, or ABLE, Act with the launch of its program. ABLE accounts are available to individuals with disabilities nationwide through the state's offering known as STABLE.

With ABLE accounts, people with disabilities can save up to \$100,000 without risking eligibility for Social Security and other government benefits. Medicaid can be retained no matter how much is in the accounts. The accounts are nearly a decade in the making, becoming possible thanks to federal passage of the ABLE Act in 2014. However, states had to pass their own legislation and implement regulations before the offering could become available to consumers.

"The ABLE Act was an idea that started around a kitchen table in Northern Virginia by five dedicated parents from the Down Syndrome community. Today is a historical achievement as now ABLE accounts are a reality for all individuals with disabilities in America thanks to the hard work of so many dedicated advocates from across the U.S.," said Sara Hart Weir, president of the National Down Syndrome Society. While Ohio is first to unveil its ABLE program, the state is not expected to be the lone player for long. Nebraska and Tennessee are set to launch their offerings this month, which will both be available to individuals nationwide. Meanwhile, Florida is planning to open its program by July 1, though that offering will be limited to residents. Each state program is expected to be somewhat unique and fees are likely to vary. Ohio's STABLE accounts can be established through a dedicated website with an initial contribution of at least \$50. State residents will pay a \$2.50 per month fee for the accounts while residents of other states will pay \$5 per month. Additional fees apply depending on the investment options chosen and amounts vary depending on whether the account holder lives in Ohio.

Up to \$14,000 per year can be deposited in an individual's ABLE account. Funds can be used to pay for education, health care, transportation, housing and other expenses. Interest earned on savings in the accounts is tax-free. ABLE accounts are currently limited to individuals with disabilities that originated before the age of 26, though federal lawmakers have proposed legislation to raise that threshold. One caveat to the accounts is that states can recoup money remaining after an account holder dies to pay for Medicaid benefits disbursed to them.

Advocates recommend speaking with a financial advisor before deciding how to take advantage of an ABLE account.



*Congratulations to Christopher Parker and Marissa Cortez who committed themselves to each other at a ceremony on Saturday, June 18. We wish you years of happiness!*

All DD Employees are required to be trained, annually, on identification and reporting of Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs) and Unusual Incidents (UIs) prior to direct contact. This training includes the review of any Health and Welfare Alerts released since the previous calendar year's training. Please contact the MUI Registry Unit at 614.995.3810 with any questions.

## JOB CLUB

In June, Job Club members divided into two teams for a friendly competition of Family Feud. The questions included being prepared for work, what to do in certain situations at work, who to go to when they have a problem, etc. The members really seemed to enjoy this interactive game. Of course both teams ended up winners!



More than 2,600 Special Olympics Ohio athletes competed in 11 different sports during the 47th Special Olympics Ohio State Summer Games in Columbus. Huge thanks to the coaches, families, and friends of athletes and to the more than 3,000 volunteers who worked tirelessly to make it a success. Shown here is the group from Henry County.

# SENIOR AND ADULT SUPPORT SERVICES



SASS paid homage to National Doughnut Day by having a blind doughnut taste-test. Todd and Donna did an amazing job cleaning their plates . . . not so much at guessing the flavors correctly though!



Morris has loads of fun while at SASS, but he also enjoys sweeping the activity center floors each day before he leaves. Thanks, Morris!

Mike and Todd helped plant our wooden patio gardens. All of the individuals at SASS will be weeding, watering and caring for them throughout the summer.



SASS will be hosting our Summer Youth. SASS staff, along with SES, will be working on employment and independent daily living skills with them as a group. They will then have lunch and participate in activities with SASS individuals for the remainder of the day.



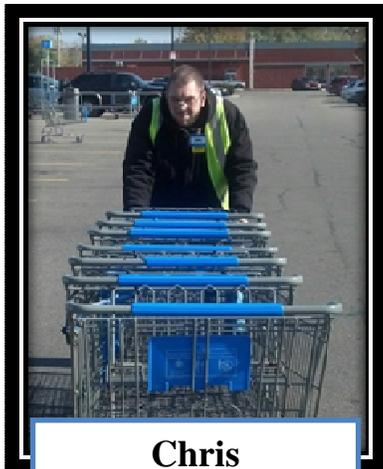
Caitlin and Bret, with guidance from staff, found a Fourth of July recipe on the internet, made a grocery list, went shopping for the items needs and then baked and shared their completed dessert with everyone!



# UPDATE!!!! HIRED



These individuals had been searching for a new job. They are now **hired** and working at their new positions. **Congratulations!**



**Chris**  
Walmart/Defiance  
Stockman  
Hired in March 2016



**Jennifer**  
Walmart/Wauseon  
Deli Worker  
Hired in March 2016



**Job**  
Holgate Schools  
Custodian  
Hired as a sub in April 2016  
Became contracted employee in June 2016



**Theresa**  
Lutheran Home  
Hired in April 2016



**Jacob**  
AMRI/Keller Packaging  
Hired in June 2016

**Brian**  
Walmart/ Napoleon  
Cashier  
Hired in April 2016



**Kelsey Wayne—2 year2 at Holgate Clubhouse**  
**Irma Tovar—12 years at HOPE Services**  
**Barb VanPelt—12 years at HOPE Services**

# VOICES OF HOPE

The Voices of HOPE Self-Advocacy Group had the pleasure of hosting Ohio Senator Cliff Hite at their last group meeting. Senator Hite celebrated with the group the success of their advocacy efforts that helped lead to The Ohio Senate voting 33-0 to remove all instances of the term "mental retardation" from the Ohio Revised Code. The term will be replaced with "intellectual disability." Senator Hite said, "I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to the Voices of HOPE Self-Advocacy Group meeting and must say the questions asked by those present were the best AND toughest I have EVER received!! It was a fun time and very informative. Thank you for inviting me!" The evening ended with a photo op with the Senator!



The next Voices of HOPE meeting will be July 29, 2016, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Special guests will be the Ottawa County Self Advocacy Group "SASSY". Light snacks and drinks will be available.

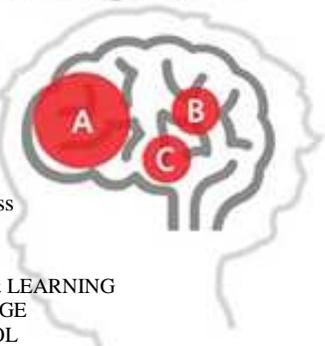
### Nearly half of America's babies live in or near poverty.

This is a clear warning sign for America's global competitiveness; almost half of our future workforce is in jeopardy of falling behind from the start.



### Research shows poverty diminishes brain growth.

Early stress and lack of positive early experiences means poverty gets under the skin, undermining development in key brain regions for school readiness and academic success.



- A. SELF-REGULATION & LEARNING
- B. MEMORY & LANGUAGE
- C. EMOTIONAL CONTROL

HOPE Services appreciates the hard work and dedication of each of its professionals which contribute to the overall success of the agency. We would like to recognize the years of service given by the following professionals:

Melisa Tiell	1 year
Barb VanPelt	12 years
Irma Tovar	12 years
Nikki Diemer	14 years

**ALL HCBDD BOARD MEETINGS BEGIN AT 8:00 A.M. IN THE HOPE SERVICES ACTIVITY CENTER**  
**July 25, 2016**  
**August 22, 2016**  
**September 26, 2016**

# Reporting May Be The Best Weapon Against Abuse

Individuals with a developmental disability, especially those that depend on others for physical assistance and support, are at greater risk of abuse. People have difficulty reporting abuse for a variety of reasons, including difficulty communicating verbally. **That is why it is so important for those around the person accessing services to report suspected abuse.** Reporting doesn't mean "knowing for sure" that abuse has occurred. Anyone suspecting abuse should report their suspicions so that an investigation can begin.

Anonymous reports can be made by calling DODD's Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 866-313-6733 or 419-599-6214.



Your report can save someone from the trauma of repeated abuse.

**HOPE Services will be closed on Monday, July 4, 2016, in observance of Independence Day.**

It's that time of year.....The Henry County Fair!!!  
This year's theme is **"Building Memories at the Henry County Fair"**.

Once again, HOPE Services will be participating in the parade on Sunday, 14, 2016.

If you are interested in being a part of our group, please join us and wear a HOPE Services or Special Olympics T-shirt if you have one.

Please contact HOPE Services if you are interested in participating in the parade this year.



# Upcoming Events

- **HOPE Services will be closed** on July 4 in observance of Independence Day.
- **Henry County Board of DD Board Meeting**—The Board meeting will be held Monday, July 25, at 8:00 a.m. in the Activity Center.
- **Voices of HOPE** will be held on Friday, July 29, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- **HOPE Services** will be selling concession items at the Liberty Center Sand Volleyball matches on July 31 and August 28.
- **Henry County Fair** will be August 11 to 18. HOPE Services will be represented in the fair parade, at the popcorn booth and in the information booth.

HOPE Services does not discriminate in provision of services or employment because of disability, race, color, creed, national origin, sex or age. Send news stories and items of interest to Kathy Bishop or Kent Spiess.



*Address Correction Requested*

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Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities

**HOPE**  
SERVICES