

HOPE HAPPENINGS

Hello
September

NEWS FROM HOPE SERVICES

Seeing Potential ~ Inspiring Opportunities

September 2025

CELEBRATING DSP AWARENESS WEEK

This September 7th-13th, we proudly recognize Direct Support Professional (DSP) Awareness Week and extend our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated DSPs serving individuals right here in Henry County.

DSPs are the backbone of support for people with developmental disabilities, providing daily care, encouragement, and advocacy to help individuals live meaningful and independent lives. Whether it's assisting with personal care, supporting someone at their job, helping them stay active in the community, or being a steady source of friendship and support, DSPs make a lasting impact each and every day.

Here in Henry County, we are fortunate to have so many compassionate DSPs who give their time, energy, and hearts to ensure that the people they serve can thrive. Their commitment, patience, and dedication do not go unnoticed.

During DSP Awareness Week—and every week—we say THANK YOU to all of the Henry County DSPs. Your work is essential, and the difference you make is immeasurable.

Thank You For Your Hard Work and Dedication!



The next Board Meeting will be on
Wednesday,
September 17th, 2025 at 4:00 PM
HOPE Services Activity Center.

HOPE Services will be closed Monday,
September 1st, 2025 for the Labor Day holiday.
The office will reopen on Tuesday, September 2nd at 8am
Please call 419-599-2892 option 6
to speak to the on call SSA



Meet the Author

Book Release & Signing

IF IT AIN'T BROOKE, DON'T FIX IT.

BROOKE M. WARD

New Release

September 27, 2025
1pm-6pm
American Legion Annex
Napoleon, OH

Brooke Ward
BrookeWard88@yahoo.com
@brookeward9194

Finding Strength in the Struggle

Local Author Brooke Ward Shares Her Story During Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month

September is Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month, and HOPE Services is proud to highlight an inspiring local voice — Brooke Ward, an author, advocate, and Napoleon resident who is using her story to spread awareness, hope, and strength.

At just 15 years old, Brooke's life changed forever after an alcohol-related car accident left her a C4 quadriplegic. Doctors gave her less than a year to live. Twenty-one years later, Brooke is thriving — and now she's sharing her journey in her memoir, *If It Ain't Brooke, Don't Fix It*.

"I don't want to be 'fixed.' This is who I am. This is my story."

— Brooke Ward

A Book Born from Resilience

The idea for Brooke's memoir started with journaling on her phone. A friend encouraged her to turn her words into something bigger. "It's my life — the ups, the downs, the realness," Brooke said. "It's about injury, but also family, parenting, addiction, loss — really, just life. If it helps even one person, it's worth it."



Breaking Misconceptions

Brooke hopes to challenge common misunderstandings about spinal cord injuries.

"One of the biggest misconceptions is that we're all the same. But every person with a spinal cord injury has a unique story. We're not a diagnosis — we're individuals."

She also emphasizes the importance of community support and education: "Educate yourself. Advocate. Volunteer. Be kind. You never know when something like this could touch your life or someone you love."

Upcoming Events

Book Release & Signing

American Legion Annex, Napoleon
September 27 | 1–6 p.m.

Author Talk & Signing

Holgate Library
October 18 | 11 a.m.–Noon

Words of Advice

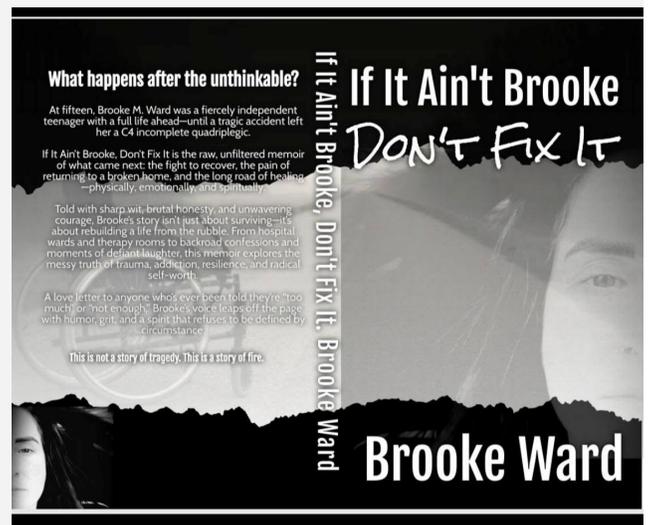
When asked what message she would share with others living with SCI, Brooke offered heartfelt encouragement:

"Learn everything you can. Ask for help. Love yourself first. For families — be patient. Support means everything. There will be tears, there will be laughs. But it's worth it. We're worth it."

And her outlook on life?

"Life is a test — you only get one. Be safe, have fun, and get weird with it!"

HOPE Services celebrates Brooke's resilience and thanks her for sharing her journey with our community. Join us this September in raising awareness for Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month.



PreSale Until September 19th

HOPE Services Foundation Annual Fundraiser BBQ



Donation \$10.00



**** Pre-Sale Only ****

*Secure tickets by September 19th

Meal includes Pulled Pork Sandwich, Cheesy Potatoes & Baked Beans

Carry Out/Drive Thru

Date: Friday September 26, 2025

Time: 4:30pm-6:00pm

Location: HOPE Services 135 E. Maumee Ave.



**** Pre-Sale Only ****



Tickets are available at HOPE Services, from any HOPE Services employee or HOPE Foundation Board Member.

Please make checks payable to:
HOPE Services Foundation

World Lymphoma Awareness Day

World Lymphoma Awareness Day on September 15 is dedicated to informing the public about cancers of the lymphatic system.

The lymphatic system is made up of a vast network of vessels, branching out into every tissue of our body. They contain a colorless fluid called Lymph. This intricate system of fluid and vessels act as a transport system carrying lymphocytes. These specialized white blood cells fight infection.

When lymphoma develops, it attacks the lymphocytes making it difficult for our bodies to fight infection. These cells are found throughout our body, not just our lymph nodes. Lymph nodes live in our bone marrow, spleen and our blood.

There are over 30 types of lymphoma with two main subtypes - Hodgkins lymphoma and non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

Symptoms include:

- *lymph node swelling
- *fatigue that persists
- *night sweats
- *fever
- *difficulty catching breath
- *unexplained weight loss

According to the National Institute of Health, in the United States in 2019, an estimated 74,200 new cases of non-Hodgkins lymphoma was reported. Of all new cancer cases reported, non-Hodgkins lymphoma accounts for 4.2%.

I found this information on www.nationaldaycalendar.com/international/world-lymphoma-awareness-day-september-15

-submitted by Stephanie Jones



Quote of the Month by Jessica

[quote] verb

"Good sportsmanship means to be kind if you win and if you lose, tell the other team it was a good game"

~Author Unknown

*We look forward to
next month's quote...*

CELEBRATING IN SEPTEMBER

September Birthdays

Robin Rettig
Joel Gerken
Breanna Jensen
Luke Zachrich
Lupe Rivera
Brandon Bishoff
Dallas Cupp
Edmund Kretzer
Jody Farber
Cheryl Lewis
Kelsey Wayne
Robert Lee, Jr
Linda Baser
Tracy Deblin
Jennifer Cordes
Shannon Allen
Logan Cavazos
Mary Ellen Ochoa
Zachary Hopkins
Rebekah Hoagland

September Anniversaries

- Cheryl Lewis is celebrating 13 years at HOPE Services
- Jessica Harmon is celebrating 7 years at HOPE Services
- Darwin Becker is celebrating 2 years at HOPE Services
- Marco Delgado is celebrating 1 year at Napoleon Spring Works

Know someone who would make an awesome volunteer?

Share this opportunity with them and help us reach more individuals who are eager to make a difference!

Are you passionate about creating inclusive and empowering experiences for individuals with special needs? Do you want to make a positive impact in your community? If so, we invite you to volunteer with us for our upcoming Special Olympics and HARC recreational events!



Contact Zach Meister for Special Olympics at 419-260-2176 or Randy Barnes for HARC Recreation at 419-591-6798.

Attention Early Intervention Families

Early Intervention

September Playgroup

9/9/25

Join our Speech-Language Pathologist in the morning session!

Let's explore speech, language and motor development, together!

9:30am-11am

Tuesday, September 9th

5:30pm-7pm

135 E. Maumee Ave.,
Napoleon, OH 43545

EARLY INTERVENTION DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH
8AM-11AM & 2PM-6PM
AT HOPE SERVICES
135 E. MAUMEE AVE., NAPOLEON, OH 43545**

**AGES
0-3!**

FREE TO ALL FAMILIES!

Do you have questions or concerns about your child's development? Early Intervention is happy to announce free developmental screenings for children in Henry County, ages 0-3!



AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT:

- Cognitive/Adaptive
- Communication/Speech
- Motor
- Hearing/Vision
- Social/Emotional
- Sensory
- Feeding

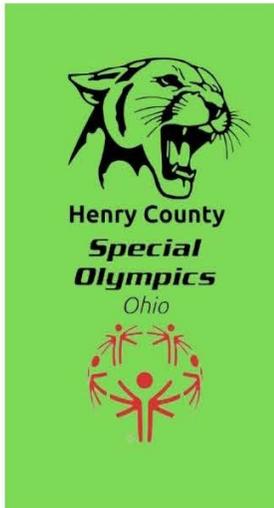
HOW TO REGISTER

419-966-0545 or 419-966-5146 

Scan the QR code below to schedule a time! 

Complete the information form prior to your appointment and save time! Scan the QR code here.





Henry County Special Olympics – Fall Highlights & Upcoming Events

Our athletes have had an incredible season filled with hard work, dedication, and outstanding achievements!

Softball Success

Traditional Team 1 showed true grit at the Regional Softball Tournament, battling through three back-to-back games with minimal rest. Their perseverance paid off as they emerged victorious in their division alongside Golf and will be advancing to State on September 6.

In Softball Skills, congratulations to Collin Johnson, Joey Kuehner, Robbie Bauer, Warren Ames, and Cody Steen, who each earned Gold in their divisions. Ashley Curtis and James Guinn also made us proud by earning Silver.

The Traditional Team also competed in the Mike Piero Memorial Softball Tournament on August 9, placing 1st in their division.

Equestrian Excellence

On Sunday, August 24, our Equestrian Team headed to the Special Olympics Ohio Equestrian State Competition, and their hard work truly shined!

- Anthony Cline – 3rd in Equitation, 5th in Barrels
- Rockne Saunders – 1st in Equitation, 4th in Barrels
- Aryon Nolan – 2nd in Showmanship, 1st in Equitation
- Bob Rosebrock – 2nd in Showmanship, 4th in Barrels
- Jaycie Kinn – 1st in Showmanship, 2nd in Equitation
- Elizabeth Helberg – 3rd in Equitation, 1st in Showmanship
- Robbie Bauer – 4th in Equitation, 2nd in Barrels
- Keon Fields – 1st in Barrels, 3rd in Equitation
- Lydia Kuehner – 1st in Equitation, 1st in Barrels

Everyone had a wonderful time, and we extend a heartfelt thank you to Dusty Boots in Weston for your time, guidance, and support in helping our athletes succeed.



Cheer Squad Brings the Spirit

Our Competition Cheer Squad had its biggest season yet, with nearly 20 athletes joining! They brought energy and enthusiasm to events at the Wood County Fair, Liberty Center Cheer Fest, Napoleon Grand Canyon Cheer Fest, Henry County Fair Cheer Fest, and Holgate Cheerleaders Gone Mad, earning trophies and recognition for their incredible spirit.

Golf Team Grows and Excels

Our golf program has seen tremendous growth this year. At Regionals, our athletes performed exceptionally well, and we're proud to announce that 3 singles and 6 unified teams will be heading to State on September 20.



Singles golfers:

Zach Parcher, Jacob Heath, and Khristian Miller

Unified pairs:

- Ashley Curtis & Cliff Curtis
- Joe Kuehner & Anthony Delgado
- Zach Meister & Domenik Neumeier
- Aaron Delgado & Tim Downey
- Juan Delgado & Conner Bialorucki
- Nate Vogelsong & Matt Harris
- Tyler Silveous & Joe Bialorucki





Victory Day at Tiffin University

Several of our athletes had the opportunity to attend the annual Victory Day at Tiffin University, an inclusive event where athletes are paired with TU football players and cheerleaders. They spent an hour and a half learning new skills, building friendships, and experiencing true inclusion. The impact of this event is deeply felt by our athletes, and we are incredibly grateful to Tiffin University for hosting such a meaningful experience.

Flag Football Season Kickoff

Our Flag Football team kicks off their season next week at Oakwood Park. Come out and cheer them on throughout September as they prepare for the Regional Tournament on September 27 at Defiance College.

We are currently seeking volunteer referees for both our home games in Napoleon and the Regional tournament. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact us for more details.

Cornhole & Fall Sports Sign-Ups

Our Cornhole season begins on September 15, and sign-ups are now open for all fall sports, including:

- Basketball
- Competition Cheer
- Swimming
- Esports
- Community Bowling (starts in November)

If you haven't signed up yet, please reach out to Zach or Renita.



Spotlight on Krysta Delgado

Krysta Delgado continues to shine both on and off the field. She was honored with an invitation to speak at the Sandusky County Raptors Athlete Banquet. Krysta is currently working on a sustainable workplace inclusion project through the Diana Davis Spencer Grant with Special Olympics Ohio and is also completing her Health Messenger certification—a first for our county! On October 5, she'll be partnering with Girls Run the City to raise awareness about healthcare inequalities for women with developmental disabilities.

Stay connected and follow our Facebook page for updates, photos, and more information about Henry County Special Olympics and our Young Athletes Program.

Young Athletes



Sponsored by:
Henry County Special Olympics

Special Olympics Young Athletes is a sports based play program for children with and without intellectual disabilities, ages 2 to 7 years old. Young Athletes introduces basic sports skills like running, kicking, and throwing. Young Athletes offers families, teachers, caregivers, and people from the community the chance to share the joy of sports with children.

Benefits of Young Athletes

- Motor skill Development
- Social, Emotional, and Learning skills
- Fun Learning environment
- Inclusive play builds acceptance
- Weekly Physical activity

When & Where

- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18
- SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1
- SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

Sessions are from

10 am - 11 am

**HOPE SERVICES
135 E. MAUMEE AVE,
NAPOLEON, OHIO**

Questions?? Call or Email:
Zach Meister 419-260-2176
zmeister@henrydd.org
Renita Kuehner 419-601-2372
rkuehner@henrydd.org

COUGARS SWIM SIGN-UPS ARE NOW OPEN.

SWIMMING PRACTICES START IN NOVEMBER. THEY WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY EVENINGS.



CONTACT ZACH OR RENITA

COUGARS BASKETBALL SIGN-UPS ARE OPEN



COMMUNITY BOWLING STARTS BACK:

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4
TIME: 4-5:30 PM**

**RIVER CITY
BOWL A WAY**

**PLEASE CONTACT ZACH
OR RENITA TO GET
SIGNED UP.**

HENRY COUNTY SPECIAL OLYMPICS CORNHOLE SIGN-UPS ARE OPEN





HARC Recreation Calendar September 2025

Contact Randy Barnes at 419-591-6798 or 419-599-2892 to sign up (required) Pay ONE WEEK prior to the event

DATE	EVENT	TIME	COST	LOCATION
Wednesday Sept. 10, 2025	Cook Night	5:00 pm-7:00 pm	\$5.00	HOPE Activity Center
Sunday, September 14, 2025	Mud Hens	12:00 pm-5:00 pm	\$20+ money to eat	Fifth Third Field-Toledo
Saturday, September 20, 2025	Tigers Game vs. Atl	10:00 am-7:00pm	\$36 + money to eat	Comerica Park-Detroit
September 22-26, 2025	Lancaster Bus Trip	8:00 am leave		Pennsylvania

HARC Recreation Calendar—Youth September 2025

Contact Randy Barnes at 419-591-6798 or 419-599-2892 to sign up (required) Pay ONE WEEK prior to the event

DATE	EVENT	TIME	COST	Sign up required	LOCATION
Sunday, September 28, 2025	Kids Day at the Park	10:00 am-4:00 pm	\$10.00		TBA

👻 Calling All Trunks! 🎃

HOPE Services is excited to host our Trunk or Treat on Thursday, October 16th from 5–7pm at HOPE Services, Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities! 🎃🌟

We're looking for community members, groups, and businesses to join the fun by decorating a trunk and passing out candy to our trick-or-treaters. This is a great way to get involved, show your creativity, and make Halloween extra special for the kids!

🌟 Sign up today to host a trunk!

🎃 Bring the candy, we'll bring the fun!

🌟 PLUS:

🚚 The State Bank will be here with their Gives Truck, serving up food and drinks for free will donation (cash only).

🍷 Icy Paw will also be here with shaved ice available for purchase!

📍 135 E Maumee Ave, Napoleon, OH 43545

👉 Reach out to Keri Bunke at 419-599-2892 or kbunke@henrydd.org to sign up!

Let's make this year's Trunk or Treat the best one yet! 🎃🌟

HOPE Services Presents
Trunk or Treat
Thursday October 16th
5pm-7pm

THE ICY PAW

Candy-Fun-Food-Shaved Ice!

Come Trick or Treat, Get Dinner and Dessert!
Follow Our Facebook Event Page For Full Details
@ Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities

.....
135 E Maumee Ave, Napoleon, OH 43545
.....

www.henrydd.org



Henry County Fair Recap

We had a blast at the Henry County Fair Parade — and we're proud to share that we placed 3rd in the Organizational Category!

Our entry featured a conveyor belt with workers "moving" boxes labeled with the services HOPE provides — Early Intervention, School Age, Transition, and Adult Services — along with plenty of HOPE Services staff, families, and our amazing Henry County Special Olympics Cougars.

It was the perfect way to show how we are all Moving Forward with the Henry County Fair together, as a community!



Shine in the Show Ring!

A huge thank you to everyone who organizes, volunteers, and supports this incredible event each year. Your hard work and dedication make it all possible—and it truly shows in the smiles and memories made in the ring.



The Fair Kept Us All Busy!

Superintendent Kelly Rieke and Community Relations Coordinator Keri Bunke spent a few hours representing HOPE Services at the Henry County booth in the Merchant Building.

They enjoyed connecting with so many people walking through — such a fun way to share what we do and soak in the fair atmosphere!



Do you have an article or photos to submit? We are always looking for stories. Submit items of interest to Keri Bunke: kbunke@henrydd.org



Volunteering at the Henry County Fair



This summer, our amazing youth volunteers have been serving up more than just delicious milkshakes — they have been serving our community with heart, energy, and a whole lot of smiles! From taking orders to blending the perfect shake, these young leaders are gaining valuable experience while bringing joy to every customer. Thank-you for volunteering!



Our walls just got a whole lot brighter!

We are thrilled to unveil our new mural at HOPE Services, beautifully completed by the talented team at Soaring Arts Studio!

This vibrant artwork is more than just colors—it represents the values that guide our work every day:

HOPE, Purpose, Employment, Community, Support, Advocacy, Independence, and Dignity.

A huge THANK YOU to the artists who poured their heart and creativity into this piece. Your work brings joy, inspiration, and a true reflection of what HOPE means to us all.

Voices of HOPE



Voices of HOPE Serving Up Snacks & Smiles!

Voices of HOPE officers Shannon Allen & Christina Clark along with Jackie Allen, Keri Bunke & Melinda Camp (not pictured) had a great time working the HARC concession stand at The Henry County Fair!



****Make sure that you are contacting Keri Bunke to RSVP to events. Call 419-599-2892 or email at kbunke@henrydd.org**

Thank you to everyone who stopped by for a treat and helped support HARC and all they do for our community. Together, we're making a difference—one hot dog and popcorn at a time!

RSVP Today!

September 11th, 2025

5-6:30pm

Light Snacks and Drinks Provided

Presentation by Susann Sheaffer with Henry County Board of Elections

Are you interested in becoming an Officer with Voices of HOPE? Come to this meeting! We will be accepting nominations for our upcoming elections in November!

RSVP Required Contact Keri Bunke at kbunke@henrydd.org or 419-599-2892



**OSDA
Training**

Voices of HOPE Attends NW OSDA Training

On Tuesday, August 26, 2025, members of Voices of HOPE had the opportunity to attend the Northwest OSDA Training at Tiffin University, alongside advocates and leaders from across the region. This day of learning and connection brought together people passionate about advocacy, leadership, and building stronger communities for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Morning Session: Hearts in Aktion – Service and Sun Safety

The morning presentation, led by Dick Brulotte, Ohio District Kiwanis Aktion Club Administrator, along with Keesha Hiser and Corinna Feasel from the Seneca County General Health District, focused on “Hearts in Aktion: Service and Sun Safety.” Attendees learned about the positive impact Aktion Clubs have in communities while also gaining valuable education on sun protection and prevention.

Afternoon Session: Positive Interactions with Law Enforcement

In the afternoon, Lea Perrine, Investigative Agent with Sandusky County Board of Developmental Disabilities, shared strategies and resources for promoting positive interactions between individuals served and law enforcement. Her session emphasized safety, respect, and building strong relationships between self-advocates and first responders.

Voices of HOPE Participants

Representing Henry County, Christina Clark, Shannon Allen, Bethany Mathers, Chris Scarberry, and Bishop Nieto proudly attended the training. Each participant engaged in the sessions, networked with advocates from other counties, and brought back valuable insights to share with Voices of HOPE.

A Day of Learning and Connection

The OSDA training was not only educational but also inspiring. It reinforced the importance of self-advocacy and the power of individuals working together to create change. Voices of HOPE members enjoyed connecting with peers, asking questions, and participating in discussions that will continue to guide their leadership in Henry County. We are proud of our Voices of HOPE members for representing Henry County so well at this regional event!



Contact Us

www.henrydd.org

HOPE Services Office	419-599-2892
Special Olympics	419-260-2176
HARC Recreation	419-591-6798



**Scan Code to sign up
for the newsletter!**



Seeing Potential – Inspiring Opportunities

Our Mission

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.

HOPE Services does not discriminate in provision of services or employment because of disability, race, color, creed, national origin, sex or age.

Napoleon, OH 43545

135 E. Maumee

