

HOPE HAPPENINGS

JANUARY 2026 EDITION

Seeing Potential - Inspiring Opportunities



Celebrating Sue Hartsworm

After an exceptional 41-year career in human services, Sue Hartsworm is retiring from HOPE Services, leaving behind a legacy of compassion, expertise, and unwavering dedication to families and children in the field of developmental disabilities.

Sue earned her Bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stout and her Master's in Social Work from The Ohio State University, combining formal education with hands-on experience to make a profound impact in her work.

Sue began her career in 1984 as a social worker serving individuals and families at various agencies. In 1994, Sue joined HOPE Services as a Service and Support Administrator for the preschool and school-age population. Over her tenure, she worked under six different superintendents and navigated significant changes in the field of developmental disabilities, earning the respect and admiration of colleagues and families alike. Her knowledge, dedication, and steady guidance will be extremely difficult to replace.

Beyond her professional achievements, Sue leads a rich and active personal life. She has been married for over 50 years and is a proud grandmother of five. She enjoys traveling to Florida but also enjoys spending time at her cabin in northern Michigan. A true lover of the outdoors, Sue enjoys snowmobiling, boating, and reading.

HOPE Services expresses its heartfelt gratitude for Sue's decades of outstanding service and wishes her many joyful, well-deserved years of retirement. Sue's remarkable career is a testament to dedication, expertise, and the lasting difference one person can make.

Holiday Office Closures

January 19th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day



The next Board Meeting will be held
Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 4pm

HOPE Services Activity Center



Henry County Special Olympics – Winter Sports in Full Swing!

December marks the exciting full start of our winter sports season! During these months, Henry County athletes are busy with competition cheer, basketball, powerlifting, competitive swimming, and esports. There's almost always a Cougar game or practice happening nightly—our athletes are working hard and having fun!

Basketball Season Highlights

This year, we are proud to have four basketball teams, divided by skill level:

- **School Age Team** (Division 2) – For athletes up to age 21
- **Three Adult Teams** (Divisions 3–5) – Division 3 is currently our highest skill level, though Special Olympics Ohio offers teams up through Division 1

Team Rosters:

Division 5 – Green Team: Cody Steen, Caitlin McCafferty, Breckin Maas, Dalton Kidd, Samantha Dorrington, Krysta Delgado, Maylynn Sterrett, Ashley Curtis, Lydia Knepper, Lydia Kuehner, Joey Kuehner, Robby Bauer, Collin Johnson, Gary Cody

Division 4 – Black Team: Juan Delgado, Aaron Delgado, Domenik Neumeier, Griffin Paradyse, Job Knepper, Matt Harris

Division 3 – White Team: Jacob Heath, Zach Parcher, Anthony Delgado, Brett Mason, Keith Vardinakis, Skylar Miller, Tyler Silveous, Tracy Rose

School Age D2 Team: Katy Kuehner, Adrienne Gerken, David Rose, Savannah Rose, Utah Harris, Wyatt Babcock, Warren Ames, Jordyn Beilharz, Shyann Roehrs-Hale, Elijah Harris, Aryon Nolan

Our Division 3 team recently attended the Mount Vernon Nazarene College Basketball Tournament on December 14, finishing with a 1-1 record against Medina and Hilliard counties. Great job, Cougars!

Social Connections & Inclusion

We also attended a Winter Dance with our friends from Lucas and Wood County Special Olympics programs. A big thank-you to Wood County for hosting! These events remind us that Special Olympics is about more than sports—it's about friendship, teamwork, and inclusion.

Special Olympics provides opportunities that go beyond competition:

- For Athletes: Friendships, a sense of belonging, reduced isolation, and empathy through Unified Sports
- For Families: Support networks, shared experiences, and community involvement
- For Communities: Inclusion Revolution, unified culture, and empowerment for athletes as leaders

Sports truly are the universal language that builds a more inclusive world—one team, one friendship, and one competition at a time.

Athlete Leadership Updates

Our State Athlete Leadership Council members attended a two-day meeting in Columbus to plan activities for 2026. Anthony Delgado and Lydia Knepper were able to give a short presentation to the staff of the Special Olympics State office about the Athlete Leadership Council. Special Olympics Ohio Board Member Krysta Delgado also participated in a board retreat to learn about exciting new initiatives coming next year.

A huge congratulations to Anthony Delgado, who was elected Chairman of the State Athlete Leadership Council! We know you will represent Henry County with pride and excellence.

Locally, our athlete leaders held their monthly meeting, played holiday games, and began working on their community plan for 2026. We can't wait to see all the amazing ideas they bring to life!

We want to wish everyone an amazing New year! May 2026 bring you all new adventures and experiences!

Coach Zach and Coach Renita





What Is Voices of HOPE?

Voices of HOPE is our self-advocacy group made up of individuals who are passionate about speaking up for themselves and others. The group focuses on building confidence, developing leadership skills, and creating opportunities for members to make their voices heard in the community. Through meetings, activities, and special events, Voices of HOPE encourages independence, inclusion, and positive change for people of all abilities.



Voices of HOPE WON the NOWAC Theme Contest!!!

Join us to celebrate!

Our Voice, Our Strength

PIZZA PARTY

JANUARY 22ND, 2026
5 PM - 6 PM

HOPE Services Activity Center
 135 E Maumee
 Napoleon

RSVP TO KERI BUNKE
 419-599-2892
 KBUNKE@HENRYDD.ORG

Voices of HOPE Celebrates the Holidays with Local Author Brooke Ward

The Voices of HOPE self-advocacy group rang in the holiday season with a special gathering that brought joy, laughter, and inspiration! We were thrilled to welcome local author Brooke Ward, who joined us to share her story and discuss the ways she advocates for her wants and needs.

Attendees had the opportunity to chat with Brooke, receive a copy of her book, and engage in lively teamwork games. Some games even offered fun prizes, adding to the festive spirit. It was wonderful to see everyone come together, connect, and celebrate the season in a supportive and joyful environment.

A big thank you to everyone who attended and participated—you made this holiday event truly special!



Early Intervention December Playgroup Recap

The Early Intervention December Playgroup and Christmas party was held on December 10th in the Activity Center at HOPE Services. We had 6 families attend. The Early Intervention team provided a meal for the families. The families enjoyed participating in ornament making using foam stickers, decorating cookies with frosting and sprinkles, a sensory bin with beans and pom poms and decorating a tree using Christmas bows. It was a jolly-good time for all!



Next Early Intervention Playgroup February 10th
 Look for the details on www/henrydd.org/events



**HELP SAVE
A LIFE.**

Schedule your blood donation appointment today.

Red Cross Blood Drive - January 22nd, 2026 10am-4pm
 To register, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or go online to redcrossblood.org and use Keyword: HOPESERVICES



HARC December Adventures

December was a month full of fun, excitement, and holiday magic for HARC Recreation! Participants traveled near and far to enjoy some truly memorable experiences. Highlights included trips to the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, the Toledo Zoo Lights, and Disney on Ice. HARC Rec also hosted a festive BINGO night, bringing everyone together for fun, prizes, and laughter.

The adventures didn't stop there! Many participants also made the trip to Michigan International Speedway to enjoy the dazzling holiday lights display. It was a month packed with memories, joy, and community connection.

REMINDER



For a full list of upcoming HARC events, be sure to visit www.henrydd.org and click on the Events tab—everything happening with HARC will be listed there. Don't miss out on the fun!



**HARC & FRIENDS PRESENT
A SPOTLIGHT ON ABILITIES:**

A TALENT SHOW

*Featuring Athletes,
Advocates and Artists*

01 MAR **AT 2:00 PM**
Filling Home
Community Center
in Napoleon, OH

**Show us what you've got and grab
your chance to shine on stage!**

**SAVE THE DATE - REGISTRATION
OPENS SOON**

Contact Us

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

Find Event Calendars on our website.

www.henrydd.org/events

**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.

