

HOPE HAPPENINGS

NEWS FROM HOPE SERVICES

Seeing Potential ~ Inspiring Opportunities

hello
October

October 2025

2025 THE BEST OF THE BEST DSP AWARD WINNER RHONDA MATHENY



Hi, my name is Rhonda Matheny. I'm living my best life, working my best job and praying that my best is allowing others to live theirs. Working for Easy Living these past 22 years has allowed me to do that with my friends here in Napoleon. With humor & compassion we all have been able to just that.

Best of the Best - DSP Week 2025

We are proud to recognize Rhonda Matheny as one of our Best of the Best DSPs for 2025!

Rhonda was nominated by Christina Clark, who shared:

"She goes above and beyond every day to support us girls and make the right decisions each day. She is always involved with our daily skills. She encourages us to live the best life we can and live independently, making life easier to live in. She has always been there for us in bad times and the good times. She is very good at her job and willing to help when she can. She has very good skills and teaches us new skills all the time."

Rhonda, thank you for your dedication, compassion, and commitment to helping others thrive.

You truly embody what it means to be the Best of the Best!



The next Board Meeting will be on
Wednesday,
October 15th, 2025 at 4:00 PM
HOPE Services Activity Center.

HOPE Services will be closed Monday,
October 13th, 2025 for Columbus Day.
We will reopen on Tuesday, October 14th at 8am
Please call 419-599-2892 option 6
to speak to the on call SSA



Celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness Month

#NDEAM

Each October, organizations across the nation recognize **National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)**—a time to highlight the important contributions of workers with disabilities and to reaffirm a commitment to building inclusive workplaces.

The 2025 NDEAM theme, **“Celebrating Value and Talent,”** reminds us that every person brings unique strengths, perspectives, and skills that enrich our workplaces and communities. Individuals with disabilities contribute innovation, dedication, and creativity every day, and when employers embrace inclusive practices, they unlock the full potential of this talent.

This month, we also extend a **heartfelt thank-you to our employer partners**. Your leadership in providing opportunities, making workplaces accessible, and championing inclusive hiring practices ensures that individuals with disabilities are not only welcomed but valued. By doing so, you are helping to shape stronger organizations, a more equitable workforce, and a community where everyone can thrive.

As we celebrate NDEAM, let us continue to recognize the **value of every employee** and the **talent that flourishes when inclusion is prioritized**. Together—with the dedication of employers and professionals who lead by example—we move closer to a workforce where ability is always recognized, and opportunity is open to all.

🏆 Employer Appreciation Spotlight

We would like to thank our employer partners for their dedication to inclusive hiring and workplace equity. Your leadership creates opportunities that make a lasting difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities.

All God’s Children Day Care	Ancor Rigid Plastics	Americold Logistics
American Road Diner	Arby’s	Archbold Furniture
Buffalo Wild Wings	Burger King/Napoleon & Defiance	Chief Supermarket
Chiesa Construction LLC	Clubhouse Pizza/Holgate	Cooper Standard Automotive
Dana Incorporated	Danuval Service Solutions	Deshler Lanes
Dollar General/Napoleon & Defiance	Dollar Tree	Eastland Estates
Easy Living LLC	Embassy of Swanton	Filling Home
Henry County Courthouse	HOPE Services	Goodwill Industries
HPJ Industries	JAC Products	Jersey Mike’s Subs
Keller Packaging of Napoleon	KK Collision	Kroger Marketplace
Little Caesars Pizza	Love’s Travel Shop	Lowe’s Home Improvement
Manpower	Marco’s Pizza	Mama Roses
Mayville Engineering Company	Mc Donald’s/Napoleon, Defiance & Wauseon	
Napoleon Lynx	Northwest State Community College	
Ohio Guidestone	Ollie’s Bargain Outlet	Petro Travel Center
Pizza Hut/Wauseon	Sauder Village	Spengler’s Restaurant & Pub
Taco Bell	Talent Mgmt. LLC	Top Dog
Tractor Supply Co./Wauseon	Wal-Mart/Napoleon & Wauseon	Wood County Board of DD

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

- ⇒ We will have the mobile changing unit available for the community.
- ⇒ 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!

Email Keri Bunke at kbunke@henrydd.org if you are interested in having a trunk. 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

October is Spina Bifida Awareness Month

Spina bifida is a type of neural tube defect that happens when a fetus's spine and spinal cord don't close properly during early pregnancy.

The neural tube forms the brain and spinal cord during embryonic development. When it doesn't close, it leaves a gap in the spine. This gap can affect the vertebrae, spinal cord and nearby nerves. In more severe cases, a fluid-filled sac may stick out through the opening.

There are three main types of spina bifida:

- **Meningocele:** A fluid-filled sac forms on the opening of the gap in the spine. It's the least common type.
- **Myelomeningocele:** A fluid-filled sac that contains part of the spinal cord and nerves forms on the opening of the gap in the spine. It's the most serious type.
- **Spina bifida occulta:** There's a small gap in the spine, but it doesn't cause a fluid-filled sac to form. Spina bifida occulta is the most common type.

The exact cause isn't fully understood. Experts believe a combination of genetic and environmental factors may interfere with how the neural tube develops in early pregnancy. When this process doesn't go as expected, it can result in conditions like spina bifida.

Like many other conditions, education about spina bifida and local support groups can be the greatest tools for managing the disorder and preventing further complications.

These organizations will give you additional information on spina bifida:

Spina Bifida Association of America
March of Dimes National Office

-submitted by Stephanie Jones
Information from my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/8719-spina-bifida



Quote of the Month by Jessica

[quote] verb

"A friend who cheers you on is a friend who believes in you, even when you struggle to believe in yourself,"

~Jessica Clapp

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

CELEBRATING IN OCTOBER

October Birthdays

Sydney Fein
Nathaniel Vogelsong
Kaydence Kunsman
Matthew Flory
Zachary Wendt
Keon Fields
Teresa Baser
Robert Rosebrock
Nickolaus Wainscott
Holly Helberg
Brandon Gomez
Enrique Reyes
Juan Delgado, Jr.
Melissa Spencer

October Anniversaries

- Connor Hockenberry is celebrating 2 years at McDonald's
- Holly Helberg is celebrating 7 years at Marco's Pizza
- Zach Meister is celebrating 7 years at HOPE Services
- Tracy Rose is celebrating 2 years at Archbold Furniture
- Bill Sonnenberg is celebrating 2 years at Top Dog

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

OCTOBER 14TH
EARLY INTERVENTION

**PLAY
GROUP!**

AGES 0-3

9:30AM-11AM & 5:30PM-7PM

**COME EXPLORE FOOD
PLAY WITH YOUR EARLY
INTERVENTION TEAM!**

135 E. MAUMEE AVE.,
NAPOLEON
HOPE SERVICES

Early Intervention September PlayGroup



Our speech therapist joined us for our morning session of play group to share strategies to help with speech development! Next playgroup is scheduled for October 14th.

We HOPE you can join us!



Contact Us
at 419-599-2892 if you have
concerns for your child's
development

🌟 Help Shape the Future of HOPE Services! 🌟

STRATEGIC PLAN SURVEY



We are creating our next Strategic Plan to guide how we serve individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in Henry County.

Your input is vital! By completing our short survey, you are helping us stay true to our mission and ensuring we continue to provide meaningful support, opportunities, and services.

📅 Please complete the survey by November 1st, 2025.

🔗 <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X5LVgH8>

Together, we can make a difference and build a stronger future for our community.



Meet the Glassfords



Ben, Iman, Zayden and Anika Glassford live in McClure. Anika is 2 years old and has been involved with HOPE Services Early Intervention Program for about 7 months. The Glassfords enjoy family walks, TV and hanging out as a family. They also enjoy dancing together to a variety of music. Ben/Dad likes many different types of music, Iman/Mom enjoys disco, Zayden/Brother likes Disney soundtracks and country. Parents note that Anika will dance to “anything with a beat” or in imitation of her family.



Anika was referred to Early Intervention due to language concerns. Anika was not using true words and was mostly quiet. Iman says now she jabbers a lot! She is beginning to imitate words and has names for her parents. Anika sometimes says “mom” and “dad” more than they want to hear it. 😊 Anika enjoys playing with her baby dolls, gives many hugs in a day, eating pears and peaches, and is beginning to pretend. She likes to be near and imitate her brother, Zayden, who is 6 years old. Ben and Iman say that they enjoy “listening to other people’s stories and helping them out as they can”. They “enjoy the differences and similarities in people” and like spending time with family, neighbors and friends as well as meeting new people.



The Glassfords are “thankful for Early Intervention and the way they have helped their daughter begin to use words and develop skills such as following directions, beginning to pretend, being able to sit for just a little longer, and learn more play skills”. They are looking forward to seeing what Anika learns next.

Thank you to the Glassford family and other families that participate in HOPE Services Early Intervention Program. We share in the joy of watching you and your family grow and learn new skills!



If you are concerned about a child’s skills or would like more information, you are always welcome to call HOPE Services Early Intervention at 419-599-2892 or the centralized intake number at 800-755-GROW (4769).





Thank You Community Quilters!

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the talented Community Quilters of St. Paul Lutheran Church for their generous donation of handmade quilts. These beautiful gifts will bring warmth and comfort to individuals with disabilities in our community. Your kindness and creativity make a lasting difference, and we are deeply grateful for your support!



📖 ✨ Reminder! ✨ 📖

Don't miss local author Brooke Ward at the Holgate Library Saturday, October 18th from 11 AM – Noon!

She'll be sharing her story and signing copies of her book. Come show your support and be inspired!

NAMI TraumaInSight
National Alliance on Mental Illness



Enroll today!

Trauma awareness training for people working with youth.

Did you know NAMI has a free, online training course to empower professionals to support youth experiencing trauma in their work? Register today and progress at your own pace!

Sign Up at this link below:

<https://trauma-insight.nami.org/login>

What happens after the unthinkable?

At fifteen, Brooke M. Ward was a fiercely independent teenager with a full life ahead—until a tragic accident left her a C4 incomplete quadriplegic.

If It Ain't Brooke, Don't Fix It is the raw, unfiltered memoir of what came next: the fight to recover, the pain of returning to a broken home, and the long road of healing—physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Told with sharp wit, brutal honesty, and unwavering courage, Brooke's story isn't just about surviving—it's about rebuilding a life from the rubble. From hospital wards and therapy rooms to backroad confessions and moments of defiant laughter, this memoir explores the messy truth of trauma, addiction, resilience, and radical self-worth.

A love letter to anyone who's ever been told they're "too much" or "not enough", Brooke's voice leaps off the page with humor, grit, and a spirit that refuses to be defined by circumstance.

This is not a story of tragedy. This is a story of fire.

If It Ain't Brooke, Don't Fix It
Brooke Ward

Brooke Ward



SPEAK UP

Our Voices of HOPE *October* Meeting will be volunteering at the HOPE Services Trunk or Treat Event! Voices of HOPE will be decorating a trunk and assisting as needed during the event! Our theme is Luau, so dress

the part! We will have some extra accessories if you need anything (grass skirts and leis)

Please bring a bag of candy to pass out at the event.

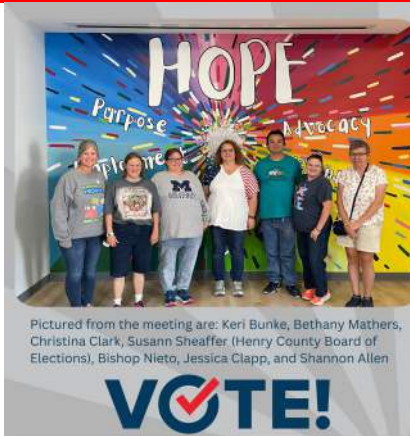
RSVP to Keri Bunke so we know how many to expect!

Call, text or email Keri Bunke

419-599-2892

419-966-3239

kbunke@henrydd.org



Pictured from the meeting are: Keri Bunke, Bethany Mathers, Christina Clark, Susann Sheaffer (Henry County Board of Elections), Bishop Nieto, Jessica Clapp, and Shannon Allen



On September 11th, 2025, Voices of HOPE held a special meeting focused on the importance of voting and leadership. Susann Sheaffer from the Henry County Board of Elections gave an engaging presentation, reminding everyone that "Your Vote is Your Voice."

The meeting kicked off with a welcome from current Voices of HOPE President Christina Clark, followed by snacks and time for members to connect. Members also received information about how to complete nomination forms for upcoming officer elections.

Interested in becoming a Voices of HOPE Officer?

We are looking for leaders who want to help guide the group! Positions available include:

- President – Leads meetings, helps plan activities, and represents Voices of HOPE.
- Vice President – Supports the President and steps in when needed.
- Secretary – Keeps records and takes meeting notes.
- Treasurer – Manages group funds and reports on fundraising.

If you'd like to run, come to the Voices of HOPE meeting and complete your Nomination Form by going to the link at the bottom of the page and bring it to the November 7th meeting, where elections will be held along with dinner and games.

We also enjoyed discussing upcoming events, including Trunk or Treat on October 16th, the OSDA Training in Tiffin on October 28th, and the November officer elections.

**Join Voices of HOPE
for the
November Meeting**

Please bring a canned good or personal care item. We plan to donate those to Together We Can Make A Difference on behalf of Voice of HOPE.

We look forward to seeing you there for food, fellowship, and the opportunity to make your voice heard!

RSVP at this link:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/qscx483/lp/cddc1cdb-1718-4f3a-a2f5-9005e169a7ef>

Call, text or email Keri Bunke

419-599-2892

419-966-3239

kbunke@henrydd.org



Or scan the code to RSVP!

**VOICES OF HOPE
LEADERSHIP
NIGHT & DINNER**

Join us for the meeting, featuring officer elections and a delicious pasta dinner and dessert. This evening is to connect and take part in shaping the future of the group through your vote.



Date: November 7th
Time: 5:00-7:00 PM
Venue: HOPE Services Activity Center

RSVP Required

Register To Save Your Spot By November 3rd

🏆 Henry County Special Olympics: September Highlights

September has been a month of triumph, teamwork, and community spirit for Henry County Special Olympics! Our athletes have been busy competing, learning, and giving back—and we couldn't be prouder.



Good Luck Cougars!!

🏈 Flag Football: Team 1 Undeclared, Team 2 Building Strong

Team 1 is charging into the Regional Football Tournaments with a perfect 6-0 record! Their determination and teamwork have been unstoppable on the field.

Meanwhile, Team 2 has been focused on skill development and team building. On September 14, they traveled to Williams County for a Flag Football Skills competition—a new format designed to reduce pressure while enhancing field-ready skills. Our athletes shined:

🏆 Aryon Nolan, Aaron Delgado, Juan Delgado, Robby Bauer

🏆 Collin Johnson, Dalton Kidd, Cody Steen

This event was a fantastic opportunity for growth and camaraderie. Huge thanks to Williams County for hosting!

Both teams will be competing in skills and on the field at the 2025 Special Olympics Ohio Northwest Regional Flag Football tournaments on Saturday, September 27.

⚾ Softball Skills: A Game of Friendship

Our softball skills team traveled to Toledo for a friendly game alongside Wood County and Lucas County Special Olympics programs. Every athlete played a full game, cheered each other on, and ended the evening with ice cream courtesy of our gracious hosts. Thank you, Lucas County—we're already looking forward to next year!

🎮 Esports: Gaming for Inclusion

Our Esports team competed in the 2025 Gaming for Inclusion tournament. While no athletes advanced to the finals, they gained valuable experience and are now planning their own Rocket League tournament to prepare for 2026. Game on!

🎯 Cornhole: A New Favorite

Cornhole has officially launched in Henry County, with nearly 40 athletes participating weekly through November. With its growing popularity, Cornhole is set to become a state-recognized sport in 2026. The first regional event kicks off this October, and we're thrilled to be part of this exciting journey.

🏈 Defiance College Football Clinic: Inclusion in Action

Both flag football teams attended a clinic hosted by Defiance College Football, spending hours running drills and bonding with college athletes. This event was a powerful reminder that inclusion matters. We're grateful for Defiance College's continued support and can't wait to cheer them on at a game this fall!

👉 Athlete Leadership: Giving Back

Leadership shined this month as several athletes took initiative to help a local veteran in need. Led by Anthony Delgado, they planned and executed a yard work and painting project that made a meaningful impact. The before-and-after photos speak volumes about their care and dedication. Thank you, athlete leaders, for showing what true community support looks like.

🎃 Trunk or Treat: Join Us October 16

Our Athlete Leaders will be hosting a trunk at the **HOPE Services Trunk or Treat on Thursday, October 16 from 5-7 PM**. Bring your family and enjoy an evening of costumes, candy, and community fun. We hope to see you there!

🏀 Basketball: Time to Sign Up!

Basketball season is just around the corner! If you plan to play and haven't signed up yet, please contact Zach or Renita **immediately** to receive your practice schedule. Don't miss out on another exciting season!

😊 Young Athletes: New Session Begins October 18


We're thrilled to announce that the next session of **Young Athletes** begins **October 18!** This free weekly program is open to **all children ages 2-7**, offering a fun, play-based environment to build sports skills and confidence. Sessions are held at **HOPE Services from 10-11 AM**.





Golf: State Tournament Success

Our golf team traveled to Columbus for the 2025 Special Olympics Ohio State Golf Tournament and brought home impressive results:




 Zach Parcher – (1st place – Driver – Dave Parcher)

 Jacob Heath (tie for 3rd place – Driver– Matt Gehring – Defiance College Assistant Athletics Director)


 Khristian Miller (2nd Place – Driver – Jaime Luce)

Our unified partners tackled a tough course and showed incredible dedication:

 Domenik Salinaro & Zach Meister

 Ashley Curtis & Cliff Curtis, Aaron Delgado & Tim Downey, Anthony Delgado & Joe Kuehner

 Tyler Silveous & Joe Bialorucki, Juan Delgado & Conner Bialorucki (4th)

 Nate Vogelsong & Matt Harris (5th)

Thank you to our unified partners, your commitment has helped our golfers grow and thrive. Welcome to the Cougars family!

If you'd like to sign up or have questions, please contact:

 Zach: zmeister@henrydd.org

 Renita: rkuehner@henrydd.org

We can't wait to welcome new faces and see our youngest athletes grow!

Wrapping Up

From undefeated streaks to acts of service, Henry County Special Olympics continues to prove that sports are more than just competition—they're about connection, growth, and heart. Here's to an amazing fall season and all the victories still to come!

**We hope you enjoy the wonderful fall weather.
Coach Zach and Coach Renita**



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

**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.**





HARC REC CALENDAR-ADULTS

October-December 2025

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

DATE	EVENT	TIME	COST	LOCATION
Saturday, October 4, 2025	Leaders Farm	4:00 pm- 10:00 pm	\$30 + \$ to eat	Leaders Farm
Saturday, October 11, 2025	BG vs. UT football	TBA	\$35.00	BG
Wednesday, October 15, 2025	BINGO	6:00 pm-8:00 pm	\$5.00	HOPE Activity Center
Friday, October 17, 2025	Lee Greenwood Concert	5:30 pm-10:30 pm	\$30.00	Van Wert
Wednesday, October 22, 2025	Cook Night	5:00 pm-7:00 pm	\$5.00	HOPE Activity Center
Wednesday, October 29, 2025	Halloween Dance/Party	6:00 pm-8:00 pm		Filling Home Gym
Sunday, November 9, 2025	Walleye	3:30pm-9:30 pm	\$30.00	Huntington Center
Wednesday, November 12, 2025	Cook Night	5:00 pm-7:00 pm	\$5.00	HOPE Activity Center
Friday, November 14, 2025	Hollywood Casino	5:00 pm-10:00 pm	\$? Bring your luck	Hollywood Casino, Toledo
Wednesday, November 19, 2025	BINGO	6:00 pm-8:00 pm	\$5.00	HOPE Activity Center
Saturday, November 22, 2025	Out to Eat & Movie	10:30am -4:00 pm	\$36 + money to eat	TBA
Saturday, November 29, 2025	Cinderella	1:00 pm-7:00 pm	\$36.00	Croswell, Adrian, MI
Friday, December 5, 2025	Trans Siberian Orchestra	6:00 pm-10:00 pm	\$111.00	Huntington Center
Friday, December 12, 2025	Zoo Lights	5:00 pm-10:00 pm	\$30.00	Toledo Zoo
Sunday, December 14, 2025	Disney on Ice	1:30 pm-5:00pm	\$40.00	Huntington Center
Wednesday, December 17, 2025	BINGO	6:00 pm-8:00 pm	\$5.00	HOPE Activity Center
Friday, December 19, 2025	MIS Lights	4:00 pm- 10:00 pm	\$5.00	MIS speedway



HARC REC CALENDAR-YOUTH

October-December 2025

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

DATE	EVENT	TIME	COST	Sign up required	LOCATION
Sunday, October 5, 2025	Leaders Farm	4:00 pm-9:00pm	\$30 + \$ to eat	yes	Meet at HOPE Services
Saturday, October 18, 2025	Jurassic Quest	9:00 am-1:00 pm	\$25 + \$ to eat	yes	Glass City Center
Wednesday, October 29, 2025	Halloween Dance/Party	6:00pm-8:00pm		yes	Filling Home Gym
Sunday, November 23, 2025	Blippi Show	12:00 pm-6:00pm	\$35.00	yes	Van Wert
Saturday, December 6, 2025	Zoo Lights	4:00pm-9:00pm	\$30.00	yes	Toledo Zoo

THE FILLING HOMES AND HARC
SPOOKY

Halloween

Dance Party

Wednesday
October 29th

FILLING HOMES

GYM

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**Snacks, Fun,
Dancing, Music by
Loco Sounds, and
Scary Good Vibes**

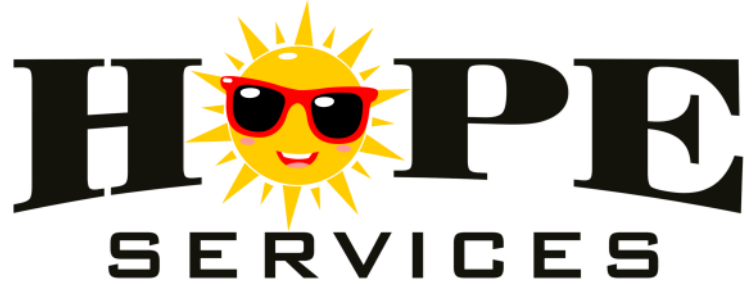
RSUP to Randy at (419) 591-6798

rbarnes510@gmail.com

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

