

HOPE HAPPENINGS

MAY 2026 EDITION

Seeing Potential - Inspiring Opportunities

Welcome
OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER



Welcome Our New Board Member: Brenda Kruse

HOPE Services is pleased to announce that Brenda Kruse has joined the Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Brenda brings a strong dedication to our mission of supporting and empowering individuals with developmental disabilities throughout our community.

We look forward to the expertise and passion she will contribute to our leadership team as we work together to foster inclusion and opportunity in Henry County. Please join us in welcoming Brenda to the board!

Pictured: Brenda Kruse and Superintendent Kelly Rieke



Lydia Kuehner Receives Statewide Honor

Henry County athlete Lydia Kuehner has received an incredible honor! Lydia's artwork was selected as the official logo for Special Olympics Ohio newest health initiative, EmpowerHER.

EmpowerHER was created to address important health disparities faced by women, especially women with intellectual disabilities, who often experience barriers such as limited access to preventive care, fewer health screenings, and unmet physical and emotional health needs. The program focuses on education, empowerment, and access helping women athletes take charge of their health and well-being.

As part of this exciting recognition, Lydia traveled to Progressive Insurance Headquarters, a proud sponsor of EmpowerHER, where she attended the very first EmpowerHER packing event. During the visit, she had the opportunity to see the first prints of her artwork being used in action.

The first EmpowerHER event took place on Sunday April 26th at the Northeast Regional Games, where Lydia proudly volunteered alongside several of our Athlete Leaders to help support this inaugural event.

Congratulations, Lydia, on this outstanding achievement and for representing Henry County in such a meaningful way!

HOPE Services newsletter is fully DIGITAL!

Stay connected in just a few simple ways:

- Follow the link: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/uTHCLmJ>
- View online anytime: www.henrydd.org/resources/newsletters
- Follow us on Facebook: [HOPE Services - Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities](#)

The next Board Meeting will be held
Wednesday, May 20th, 2026 at 4pm
HOPE Services Activity Center



The HOPE Services Office
will be closed Monday,
May 25th for Memorial Day
We will re-open May 26th
at 8:00am



FRIDAY MAY 15TH, 2026
11AM-1PM



(OR UNTIL WE RUN OUT)
 135 E MAUMEE AVE, NAPOLEON, OH

DRIVE THRU ~ EAT IN ~ CARRY OUT



FREE WILL DONATION

PROCEEDS GO TO: VOICES OF HOPE COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND



Voices of HOPE Self-Advocates Attend OSDA Training

Several of our Voices of HOPE self-advocates recently traveled to Tiffin University to attend the Ohio Self-Determination Association (OSDA) training event! This opportunity allowed individuals to connect with other self-advocates from across Ohio, learn valuable leadership and advocacy skills, and strengthen their voices in speaking up for themselves and others.

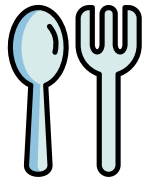
Throughout the day, participants joined discussions, interactive activities, and workshops focused on self-advocacy, rights, leadership, and building confidence. They also had the chance to network, share experiences, and enjoy time together as a group.

We are proud of our self-advocates for representing Henry County and continuing to grow as leaders in our community!

Let's get cooking



Cook Night sponsored by HARC Inc.



Our recent Cook Night was a wonderful evening filled with delicious food, teamwork, and new connections. We were excited to welcome several new individuals who joined the group and quickly became part of the fun. It was a great opportunity for everyone to build friendships, learn new skills, and enjoy time together in the kitchen.

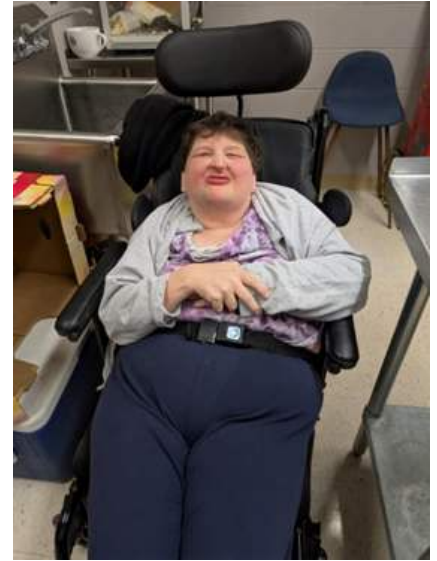
The menu for the evening was a crowd-pleaser. Participants prepared a Million Dollar Chicken Casserole served over egg noodles, The Best Garlic Green Beans, Rice Krispy Treats, fresh rolls, and refreshing lemonade. Everyone worked together to help with measuring ingredients, mixing, preparing dishes, setting the table, and cleaning up afterward.



Cook Night continues to be a favorite activity because it promotes independence, teamwork, communication, and confidence in the kitchen. Most importantly, it gives everyone the chance to share a meal, laughter, and create lasting memories.

We look forward to seeing you at our next Cook Night!

If you are interested in joining the group sign up by contacting Trace at 419-906-0759. Hope to see you next month!



HARC REC Calendar May & June

Call Trace at: 419-906-0759

To sign up, Pay **ONE WEEK** prior to the event.

Tuesday, May 5, 2026	Toledo Mud Hens vs. Memphis Redbirds	4-10:30 pm	\$30	Fifth Thirds Field
Saturday, May 9, 2026	Out to Eat & Movie	10:30-4 pm	\$35	TBA
Wednesday, May 13, 2026	Cook Night	5-7 pm	\$5	HOPE Activity Center
Monday, May 18, 2026	Craft Night	6-8 pm	\$5	HOPE Activity Center
Tuesday, May 26, 2026	Memorial Day Cook Out & Games	4-6pm	\$10	TBA
Wednesday May 27, 2026	BINGO	6-8 pm	\$5	HOPE Activity Center
Wednesday June 3, 2026	Cedar Point	8am-8:00pm	\$42+ money to eat on	Cedar Point
Saturday, June 6, 2026	Paulding County Fair	12-6 pm	(Money for FUN)	Paulding Country Fair Grounds
Sunday, June 7, 2026	Micro Wrestling	2-11pm	\$50	Standard Hall - Columbus, OH
Wednesday, June 10, 2026	Cook Night	5-7 pm	\$5	HOPE Activity Center
Friday, June 12, 2026	Toledo Mud Hens vs. St. Paul Saints	5-10 pm	\$30	Fifth Thrids Field
Monday June 15, 2026	Craft Night	6-8 pm	\$5	HOPE Activity Center
Wednesday June 24, 2026	BINGO	6-8 pm	\$5	HOPE Activity Center
Friday June 26, 2026	Eagles "Get Down in Naptown"	6-11 pm	\$5	Downtown Napoleon
Saturday June 27, 2026	Toledo Zoo	2-7 pm	\$30	Toledo Zoo & Aquarium

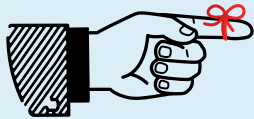
Reminder

All HARC events can be found on <https://www.henrydd.org/events/category/harc/>
The 3 month calendar of events will show the 1st of each month on the Events Page as well.

Or follow Rec and HOPE on Social Media!

HARC: <https://www.facebook.com/harchenrycounty>

HOPE: <https://www.facebook.com/HOPEservicesHenryCountyBoardofDD>



HARC SUMMER CAMPS 2026

Camp Palmer • Fayette, Ohio

Adult Camp

Dates: July 24 – July 27

Who: Adults Ages 12 & Up

Cost: \$250 (4 Days/3 Nights)

Day Rate: \$80 per day

Activities:

- Swimming & Canoeing
- Nature Hikes & Animal Study
- Tall Tales & Games
- Arts & Crafts
- Campfires & S'mores

Kids Camp

Dates: August 2 – August 5

Who: Kids Ages 6 – 11

Cost: \$250 (4 Days/3 Nights)

Scholarships: Available

Activities:

- Swimming & Canoeing
- Animal Studies
- Hiking & Fun Games
- Arts & Crafts
- Campfires & S'mores

REGISTER NOW!

Contact Trace: 419-906-0759

Henry County Abilities Resource Council (HARC, Inc.)

Voices of HOPE

MAY SELF ADVOCACY GROUP MEETING



BBQ KICKOFF TO Summer!



FOOD



GAMES



CONNECTING



WHEN: Friday, May 29th
5:00 – 7:00 PM



WHERE: HOPE Services Activity Center
135 E Maumee Ave, Napoleon



WHO: Ages 14+

RSVP BY MAY 22ND TO:

-  Keri Bunke
-  419-599-2892
-  Text 419-966-3239
-  kbunke@henrydd.org





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.



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FAIR

What a great day of learning and connection at the recent Assistive Technology Fair hosted by the Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities and Owens Community College!

Self-advocates and staff from HOPE Services attended a variety of breakout sessions, including a powerful presentation with author Marian Schembari, who shared her personal journey outlined in her book *A Little Less Broken*, focusing on her later-in-life autism diagnosis. The day also included time exploring innovative assistive technology vendors, enjoying local food trucks for lunch, and participating in Tech Jeopardy with the Ohio Tech Ambassadors—where we learned more about their unique paths to becoming ambassadors and the impact of assistive technology in their lives.

Pictured are Phil, Amber, Marissa (SSAs), Keri, Tyler, and Bethany representing HOPE Services and Voices of HOPE.

If you are interested in learning more about assistive technology and how it may support greater independence and daily living, contact your SSA at HOPE Services.

Voices of HOPE: Visualizing Our Future

Our April meeting was filled with inspiration and creativity as we gathered to discuss our goals and dreams. It was a powerful session focused on self-advocacy and taking charge of our individual journeys.

To help bring these ambitions to life, everyone created their own vision boards. These boards serve as a colorful and personal way to show others exactly what we want to achieve. By putting our aspirations into pictures and words, we aren't just dreaming—we are making a plan to show the world where we are headed!

Thank you to everyone who shared their vision. We look forward to supporting each other as we turn these boards into reality.

Interested in Attending Voices of HOPE Meetings?
 Please reach out to Keri Bunke at 419-599-2892,
 Text to 419-966-3239 or Email at kbunke@henrydd.org



ATHLETES IN ACTION: TRAINING FOR THE 2026 SPECIAL OLYMPICS OHIO SUMMER GAMES



Henry County Special Olympics athletes are in full training mode as they prepare for the 2026 Special Olympics Ohio Summer Games. Across every sport, athletes are putting in the work, setting goals, and celebrating progress as they chase new personal bests.



Our powerlifting team has been hitting the gym hard and making impressive gains. Nearly every practice brings new goals—and new records—as athletes push themselves to new heights. This year's powerlifting team includes Anthony Delgado, Krysta Delgado, Joey Kuehner, Lydia Kuehner, Lydia Knepper, Job Knepper, Aaron Delgado, Zach Parcher, Tyler Silveous, Jacob Parry, and Vinnie Simon. We also want to recognize Jaeson Donnett and Warren Ames, who will not be attending Summer Games for powerlifting this year but are already setting goals to return even stronger next season.



Our bocce teams have been rolling right along with strong practices and early competition. The team recently attended a meet in Bryan alongside Williams County and will host a tournament with Fulton and Defiance Counties on May 4. This year's bocce representatives are Ryan Moore and John Stout, supported by a dedicated team of Aryon Nolan, Anthony Delgado, Ashley Curtis, Krysta Delgado, Jacob Heath, Kelsey Wayne, Jodi Hoagland, and Shannon Allen.

Track and Field athletes are off to a fast start, rushing through practices and competing at their first meet of the season in Defiance County on April 20. The athletes performed exceptionally well as they kicked off the season. Representing Henry County this year are Shyann Roehrs-Hale, Savannah Rose, Tracy Rose, David Rose, Aryon Nolan, Caty Kuehner, Nate Vogelsong, Bob Rosebrock, Domenik Salinardo, Juan Delgado, Utah Harris, and Elijah Harris.



Henry County Special Olympics

Paws In Motion

Community Walking Club

*Weekly starting
Monday, June 8 - 7 pm*

Oakwood Park



On the lanes, our state bowlers continue to improve week after week. Big score jumps, loud cheers, and plenty of strikes and turkeys have made practices exciting and rewarding. This year's bowlers representing Henry County are Alex Eis, Warren Ames, Abbey Hinkleman, Jennifer Cordes, Linda Baser, Jaeson Donnett, Brayden Kuehner, Derrick Maassel, Jacob Heath, Ashley Curtis, and Josh Babcock.



Looking ahead, mark your calendars for the Henry County Special Olympics 2026 Law Enforcement Torch Run. The event will begin with lineup at Pocket Park in downtown Napoleon at 10:00 AM, with the torch arriving around 10:15 AM. After the Athlete Oath, participants will walk and run to HOPE Services, arriving around 10:45 AM. From 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Voices of HOPE will host their annual Brats Bash, raising funds for their community project fund, with fun and games available after the parade of athletes. If you can't walk with us, line the streets of downtown Napoleon and cheer on our athletes as we paint the town Cougar green!

SIGN UP →

Sign-ups are also open for summer cheer, golf, softball, flag football, and cornhole. To register, please contact Zach at zmeister@henrydd.org or 419-260-2176, or Renita at rkuehner@henrydd.org or 419-601-2372



Finally, be on the lookout for our upcoming Paws in Motion Walking Club. This inclusive weekly walking group will take place Monday evenings at 7:00 PM at Oakwood Park in Napoleon and is open to anyone of any ability. Watch our Facebook page for more information—we look forward to seeing the community come together in the spirit of inclusion.



HENRY COUNTY SPECIAL OLYMPICS LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN



FRIDAY, MAY 15

LINE-UP BEGINS AT 10 AM
IN DOWNTOWN NAPOLEON
AT POCKET PARK

PARADE OF ATHLETES STARTS
AT 10:15 AM

IF YOU CANNOT WALK WITH US,
LINE W. WASHINGTON IN DOWNTOWN
OR N. PERRY AND CHEER ON OUR ATHLETES.

TRADITIONAL



MODIFIED

COORDINATED ENTRY IN- PERSON OUTREACH HENRY COUNTY

HENRY
COUNTY
HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

1843 OAKWOOD AVE, NAPOLEON, OH 43545

3/25, 4/29, 5/27, 6/24,
7/29, 8/26, 9/30,
10/28, 11/18, 12/09
9AM-12PM

WHAT TO BRING: ID, PROOF OF INCOME, SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

RESOURCES

ASSESSMENTS

HYGIENE BAGS

FURTHER INFORMATION: JESSICA FARNHAM 419-990-5135



2026 FCA All-Abilities Camp

FREE
REGISTRATION
IS REQUIRED

Saturday, May 30, 2026

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Wauseon High School, Wauseon, OH (Football Field)

This free one-day camp with adaptive activities is open to individuals with all disabilities - physical and non-physical, ages 4-65. The experience is one where they get to be athletes and enjoy a time of utilizing their own special abilities that God has given to them. Campers are assisted by trained buddy volunteers.

FUN AND ADAPTIVE SPORTS:

- Basketball
- Boxing
- Cheer
- Football
- Kickball
- Obstacle Course
- Soccer
- Softball
- Stretching & Strengthening

TO REGISTER:

Scan the QR code
OR register online at:
bbfca.org/all-abilities-camp



THE HELP WE NEED:



SPONSORS

Would you like to help sponsor this year's All-Abilities camp? Camp does have many expenses and we would love to have you partner with us in providing the best experience possible!



VOLUNTEERS

Would you or someone you know love to volunteer with us and help put on a phenomenal camp experience? We need adult Huddle Leaders, volunteer buddies, sports stations assistants and so much more!

To Become A Sponsor, Volunteer Or For More Information Contact:
Mindy Cross, Camp Director at: mcross@fca.org

The interRAI Assessment: What You Need to Know

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) is introducing a new way to understand and support your needs. Starting May 1, 2026, new assessment tools called interRAI will replace the old ODDP and AAI systems for those on Individual Options, Level One, and SELF waivers.

What is interRAI?

It is a "needs-based" assessment tool. Instead of just looking at eligibility, it gathers detailed information on daily living skills, health, and communication. This ensures that the support you receive—and the funding provided—accurately reflects your unique situation.

Key Highlights:

Eligibility is Safe: This change does not change your waiver eligibility.

Timeline: Assessments will occur between 2026 and 2028. Your SSA will notify you when it's your turn.

Funding: Your current services and funding stay the same until at least July 2027.

Next Steps: You don't need to do anything to prepare. An assessor will contact you 30 days before your scheduled date.

The goal is a fairer, more person-centered system for all Ohioans. For more details, visit the DODD website or email redesign@dodd.ohio.gov.



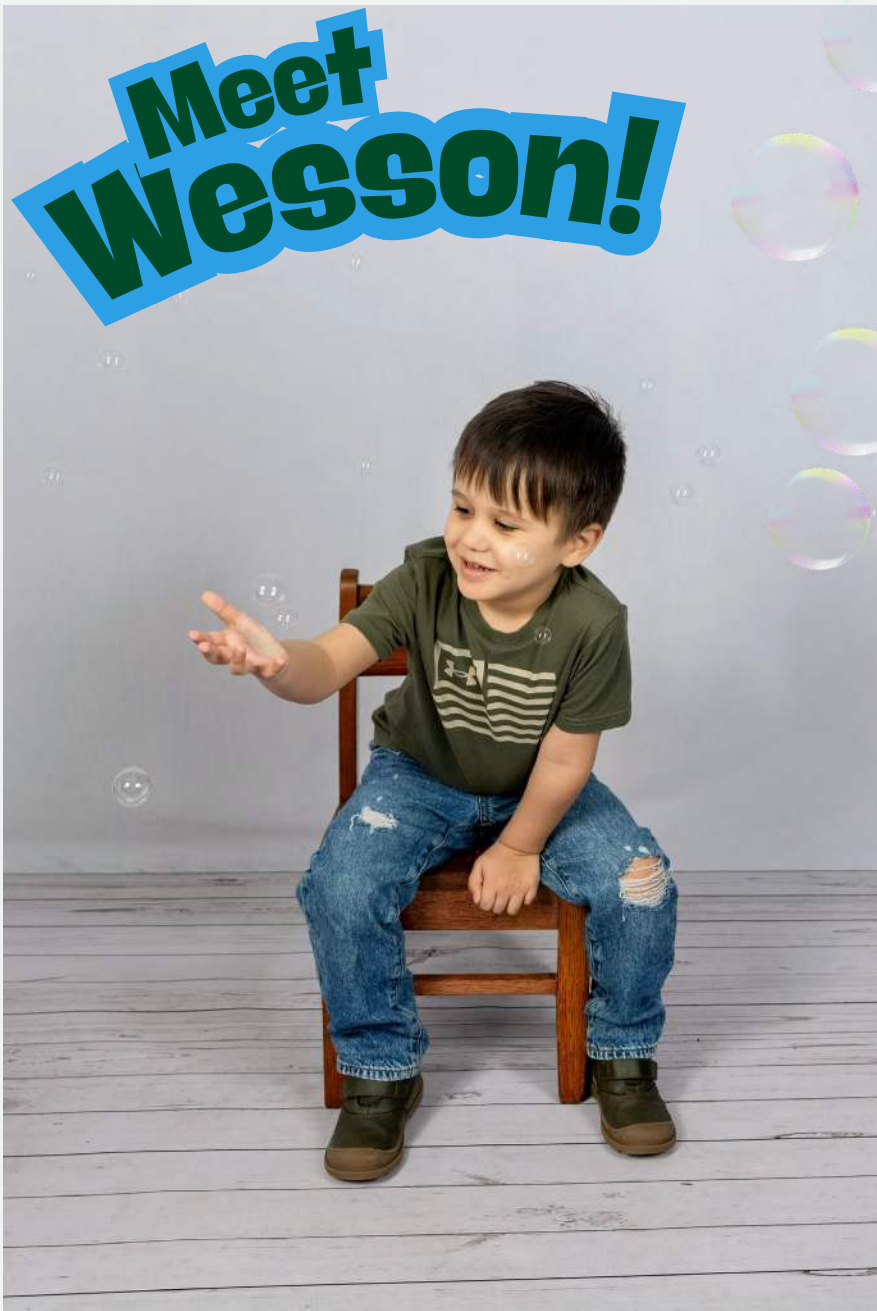
EARLY INTERVENTION May PlayGroup

TUESDAY MAY 12TH

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

LOCATED AT HOPE
SERVICES :
135 E MAUMEE AVE.
NAPOLEON

COME TO PLAY!
JOIN OUR EI TEAM
FOR FUN FOR ALL!



Family Spotlight: A Conversation with Natalie, Wesson's Mom

Our son, Wesson, was part of the Help Me Grow (Early Intervention) program for a year before turning three. Before starting, we watched him go from meeting his milestones to experiencing a regression that led us to seek additional support. During his time in the program, he was diagnosed with autism, and the developmental specialists assigned to our family helped us navigate this new journey with guidance and care. They gave us the tools and confidence to build strong stepping stones for Wesson, and over the course of that year, we saw incredible progress. He has grown in his eye contact, his ability to share attention, and the number of words he uses each day. He has even started singing full songs! We are so grateful to Help Me Grow (Early Intervention) for supporting not only Wesson, but our entire family, helping us better understand his world and empowering us to help him thrive.



Contact Us

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

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.

Scan Code to sign up
for the newsletter!



Find Event Calendars on our website.
www.henrydd.org/events

Community Resource

FOX WELLNESS PROGRAM

NEW PROGRAM

VETERAN-FOCUSED WELLNESS & SUPPORT

We Help you:

- Identify what matters most to you
- Remove Barriers Getting in the Way
- Connect to Trusted Resources
- Build Long-Term Stability

**YOU SET THE PACE.
WE WALK WITH YOU.**



1.800.569.3980
Serving Defiance,
Fulton, Henry, &
Williams Countie

CALL 800-569-3980
maumeevalleyguidancecenter.org