

HOPE HAPPENINGS

SEPTEMBER 2026 EDITION

Seeing Potential - Inspiring Opportunities



DSP APPRECIATION WEEK IS COMING!

HELP US CELEBRATE HENRY COUNTY'S OUTSTANDING DSPS!

KNOW SOMEONE
MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

SUBMIT A NOMINATION!

Celebrate. Recognize. Inspire.
Help us honor outstanding individuals who go above and beyond!

RECOGNIZE. CELEBRATE. MAKE AN IMPACT.

IT'S EASY!

- 1 TELL US WHO YOU'RE NOMINATING
- 2 SHARE THEIR STORY & IMPACT
- 3 SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION TODAY!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION TODAY!

TOGETHER, WE CAN RECOGNIZE THE EXTRAORDINARY.
Thank you for helping us celebrate our community!

Direct Support Professional (DSP) Appreciation Week is September 13–19, and we want your help recognizing the incredible DSPs who make a difference every day!

Do you know a Direct Support Professional who goes above and beyond to support individuals with developmental disabilities in Henry County? Tell us about them before September 7th!

We're collecting positive stories and recognitions to highlight during DSP Appreciation Week. This is a chance to shine a spotlight on the dedication, compassion, and important work DSPs provide throughout our community.

★ Nominate or recognize a DSP by completing our quick online form: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/bqax4TgxGE>

Questions or need help submitting a recognition? Contact:
Keri Bunke - Community Relations Coordinator
☎ 419-599-2892 ✉ kbunke@henrydd.org

Help us fill DSP Appreciation Week with stories about the people who make inclusion, independence, and opportunity possible every day!

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, September 16th, 2026 at 4pm
HOPE Services Activity Center

**WE ARE
CLOSED**

The HOPE Services Office will be
closed Monday, September 7th
for the Labor Day Holiday.
We will re-open September 8th
at 8:00am

Last Chance!

Scan Code
To Purchase
Online



HOPE
SERVICES
FOUNDATION



ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

BBQ



★ DONATION \$10.00 ★

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

Secure tickets by September 4th

★ *Meal Includes* ★
PULLED PORK SANDWICH, MAC-N-CHEESE & BAKED BEANS



DATE

Friday
September 11, 2026



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



Last Chance!



HENRY COUNTY

EARLY INTERVENTION PLAYGROUP

9:30 AM
TO
11:00 AM

September 15th, 2026

5:30 PM
TO
7:00 PM

A Day Full of Sensory Fun

Sensory Bin | Play Doh | Connect with Early
Intervention Providers | Meet other Early Intervention
Families | Explore Sensory Items

135 E MAUMEE AVE NAPOLEON, OH 43545

EARLY INTERVENTION DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

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/Feeding

Motor

Sensory

Hearing/Vision

Social/Emotional



HOW TO REGISTER:

419-966-5146 or 419-591-6027



Scan the QR code below to
schedule a time!



Ohio Early Intervention is a statewide program that supports families with children from birth to age 3 who have developmental concerns, delays, or disabilities. This program partners with parents/caregivers in their home to provide coaching that helps children build essential skills. Ohio Early Intervention services are provided at no cost to the family.



HOPE Services Presents

Trunk or Treat

Thursday October 15th
5pm-7pm


HARC, Inc.
Henry County
Abilities Resource Council

SOARING
ARTS *Studios*
Inspiring Creative Expression

4A
Creative Design

HOPE
SERVICES
Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities


TOP DOG



Treats-Activities-Food-Goodies

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

www.henrydd.org

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HAVING A TRUNK CONTACT KERI BUNKE BY OCTOBER 1ST
CALL 419-599-2892 - TEXT 419-966-3239 - EMAIL 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.



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



DATE:
September 22nd



TIME:
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM



LOCATION:
WOW
2525 Oakwood Ave.
Napoleon, OH 43545



RSVP BY
SEPTEMBER 11TH
Please sign up today!

RSVP to Keri Bunke:

- Call **419-599-2892**
- Text **419-966-3239**
- Email **kbunke@henrydd.org**

*Self-Advocacy
in Action!*



We must have **at least 5 members** enrolled
for the training to happen.



call/text Trace at: 419-906-0759

HARC REC Calendar



September 2026

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

Friday, September 4th, 2026	Toledo Mud Hens vs. Indianapolis (Star Wars Night)	5 pm - 10:30 pm	\$15	Fifth Third Field
Wednesday, September 9th, 2026	Fulton County Fair – Rodeo Night	5-10 pm	\$20 + Money for food	Fulton County Fairgrounds
Saturday September 12, 2026	Detroit Tigers vs. Rockies	10:30 am - 7:30 pm	\$37	Comerica Park, Detroit
Saturday, September 19th, 2026	Out to Eat & Movie	10 am - 4 pm	bring money (\$35)	TBA
Friday September 11, 2026	Hollywood Casino! (21+)	5 - 10 pm	\$ (?) Bring your luck	Hollywood Casino, Toledo
September	Michigan Stadium Guided Tour	TBA	\$20	Michigan Stadium, Ann Arbor

*For all events that are "TBA" please refer to the "HARC, INC" or HOPE facebook page closer to the month of the event for dates, times, and prices!

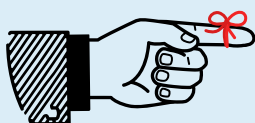
Reminder

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>



**DON'T
MISS OUT!**



Mission Statement

"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."

2025 COMMUNITY IMPACT - SUPPORTS - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

507	257	250	143	63
Total Individuals Supported	Adults Supported	Children & Youth Supported	Special Olympics Athletes	Community Employed

Q: What is the primary role of HOPE Services?

A: HOPE Services is a community partner that makes sure people with developmental disabilities get the support they need at every stage of life. We don't just connect families to services, we help coordinate, guide and make sure individuals have support and funding to build their independence to live, work and thrive in Henry County.

Q: What are the terms and millage rates of the levy?

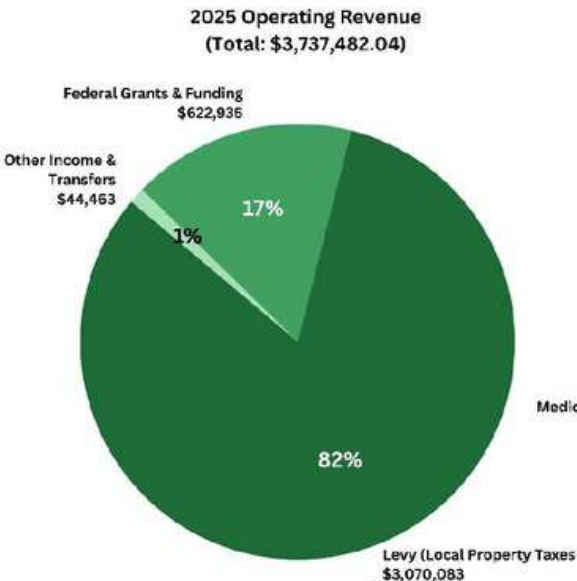
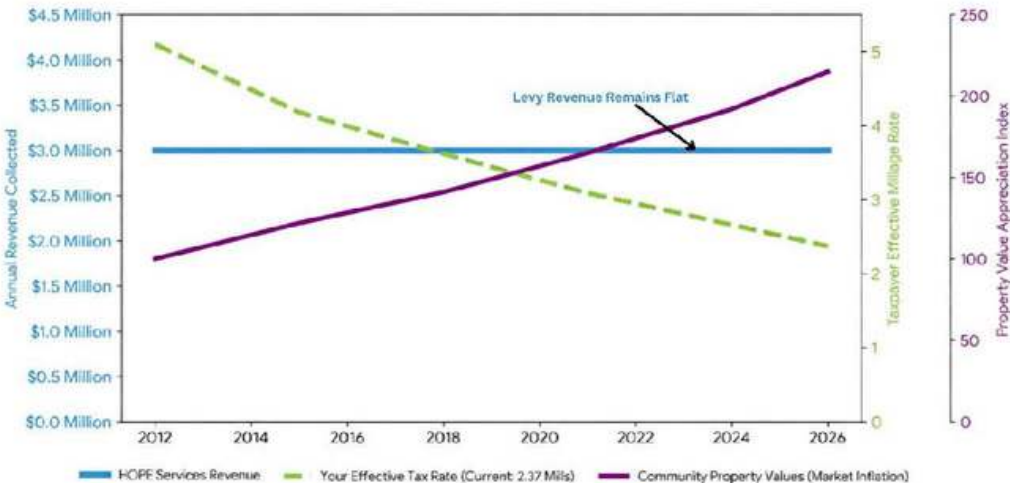
A: 2.5 mills levy for five years, which is estimated to generate \$2.95 million per year. It stands as the primary funding vehicle ensuring stable long-term local operations and would first be collected in 2027.

Q: What does the levy cost an individual local taxpayer?

A: For a home valued at \$100,000, the levy costs approximately \$88 a year (or just \$7.33 per month). Actual tax rates vary based on individual property valuations.

Q: Why is a levy needed?

A: A levy is needed because the cost of services continues to increase, while our current revenue is no longer keeping pace. Our existing levies are from 1982, 2000 and 2006 so they are still collected based on property values from those years. Updated levy funding would help ensure that individuals and families in our community can continue to access the support, resources and opportunities they depend on each day.



Voices of HOPE Advocates Attend OSDA Leadership Training



We are proud of our advocates for continuing to learn, grow, and represent Henry County with enthusiasm. Thank you to OSDA, Tiffin University, and all of the presenters for providing an engaging and empowering day of learning. Pictured above are Bethany Mathers, Bishop Nieto, Shannon Allen, LaNae Thompson, Marrisa Campos (SSA) Christina Clark and Keri Bunke (HOPE)

Members of Voices of HOPE recently traveled to Tiffin University for another educational training hosted by the Ohio Self-Determination Association (OSDA).

During the training, representatives from the Sandusky and Seneca County Boards of Elections shared information about the voting process, voter registration, and accessible voting options. Members learned more about the resources available to help ensure people of all abilities can participate in the voting process.

The group also heard from Jake Dowling, Legislative Affairs Manager with the Ohio Association of County Boards of DD, who discussed legislative advocacy and the importance of building relationships with legislators. The session gave members additional tools and knowledge to help them become stronger self-advocates and make their voices heard.

HOPE Services appreciates OSDA for continuing to provide meaningful opportunities for self-advocates to learn, connect with others, and strengthen their advocacy skills.

Our advocates were also busy in the community during the Henry County Fair! It was great to see several of our Voices of HOPE members volunteering and giving back throughout the fair. Opportunities like these allow our advocates to be active members of their community, build connections, and show the many ways they can make a difference right here in Henry County.

Interested in attending trainings like these or becoming involved with Voices of HOPE? Contact Keri Bunke at HOPE Services at 419-599-2892 or text 419-966-3239 to learn more.

OUR VOICE. OUR STRENGTH!

Advocates At The Henry County Fair



HENRY COUNTY SPECIAL OLYMPICS

August is always one of our busiest months of the year! This is the time when regional competitions for fall sports take place, summer cheer wraps up, flag football kicks into full gear, and this year we welcomed cornhole as an official Special Olympics Ohio sport.



Cheer Season Success - Our largest Competition Cheer Team ever finished an outstanding summer season with five first-place finishes. The athletes' dedication, hard work, and team spirit truly paid off, and we could not be prouder of their accomplishments. If you would like to cheer at our local basketball games, Basketball Cheer practices will be held on Tuesdays,

October 13, 20, and 27, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. at HOPE Services. Athletes interested in participating should contact Zach or Renita to sign up.

Champions Day at Archbold High School - Our Flag Football Team had the opportunity to participate in Champions Day at Archbold High School. Hosted by the Bluestreaks Football Program, the event gave athletes of all abilities the chance to practice alongside members of the Archbold Bluestreaks football team. Our players had a fantastic time learning new skills, building friendships, and creating lasting memories.



Softball Season Continues Strong - Our Traditional Softball Team completed an undefeated regular season with a perfect 11-0 record. The team carried that momentum into the Northwest Regional Softball Tournament, where they battled hard throughout the day and captured the Division 2 Championship. The regional championship earns the team a trip to the Special Olympics Ohio State Softball Tournament on September 19.

Six of our softball skills athletes also competed at Northwest Regionals and brought home impressive results. They will also be headed to the Special Olympics Ohio State Softball Tournament.

Division Champions - Joey Kuehner, Dalton Kidd, Aryon Nolan
Silver Medalist - Robby Bauer
Bronze Medalists - James Guinn, Cody Steen





Kickin' Down Barriers at Tiffin University - Eighteen of our athletes recently had the opportunity to attend Tiffin University's Kickin' Down Barriers Day. Athletes were paired with Tiffin University football and cheer team members for a day filled with fun, inclusion, and learning. Participants took part in football drills, ran touchdowns, learned cheers, and built new friendships with the university students

Golfers Shine at Regionals - Our golf team traveled to Sycamore Springs Golf Course in Findlay for the Northwest Regional Golf Tournament. Despite some rainy weather, our athletes stayed focused and turned in excellent performances. These athletes have qualified to compete at the Special Olympics Ohio State Golf Tournament on September 20.

Singles Competition Results - Jacob Heath - 1st Place, Zach Parcher - Tied for 1st Place, Tyler Silveous - 3rd Place, Khristian Miller - 3rd Place, Matt Harris - 4th Place

Unified Team Results - Domenik Salinardo & Zach Meister - 1st Place, Aaron Delgado & Tim Downey - 2nd Place, Nate Vogelsong & Joe Bialorucki - 3rd Place, Juan Delgado & Conner Bialorucki - 2nd Place, Anthony Delgado & Joe Kuehner - 2nd Place, Ashley Curtis & Cliff Curtis - 5th Place

Winter Sports Registration Now Open - Sign-ups are now open for: Basketball (Adults and Youth Teams), Basketball Cheer, Swimming, Winter Esports & Powerlifting

Upcoming Events

Athlete Recognition Banquet Thursday, September 3rd 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Filling Home Community Center
Please bring a side dish to share.

Basketball Assessments (*required for all adult basketball players*)
Wednesday, October 7th 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Enjoy the upcoming fall weather!! Coach Zach and Coach Renita





Congratulations to Alesha on Earning Her Driver's Permit!

Congratulations to Alesha on reaching an exciting milestone, earning her Ohio driver's permit!

Obtaining a driver's permit is an important step toward greater independence and opens the door to new opportunities for employment, education, and community involvement. Alesha worked hard to prepare for the permit exam, demonstrating dedication, perseverance, and a willingness to learn.

Through support from the HCBDD, Alesha was able to participate in a class to prepare for the driver's permit exam to work toward this goal. This achievement reflects not only her commitment but also the value of providing individuals with the tools and support they need to succeed.

We are proud of Alesha's accomplishment and look forward to cheering her on as she continues practicing her driving skills and works toward earning her driver's license.

Congratulations, Alesha! We cannot wait to see where the road takes you next!



Thank You,  
MILKSHAKE
STAND VOLUNTEERS! 

Our hearts are full of gratitude for the amazing team of volunteers who gave their time, energy, and smiles at the **Milkshake Stand** during the Henry County Fair!

From taking orders and blending up everyone's favorite shakes to greeting fairgoers with a friendly hello, you helped make the stand one of the most popular spots at the fair.



You helped
create sweet
memories!

You make
a difference
in our community!



KELLY'S COLUMN

AUGUST 2026



Celebrating Community at the Fair

by **Kelly Rieke**

Superintendent

The Henry County Fair is always one of my busiest and most rewarding times of the year. There is just something special about walking through the fairgrounds, seeing familiar faces, visiting with families, and watching our community come together. Of course, no trip to the fair feels complete without getting one of those famous milkshakes and maybe a porkchop on a stick, too!

More importantly, the fair gives individuals with developmental disabilities a wonderful opportunity to participate, be included, and Shine in the Showring. At the Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities, we are proud to celebrate those moments and the confidence, hard work, and joy they represent. Thank you to the individuals, families, providers, volunteers, and community partners who help make Henry County a welcoming place for everyone.

Stay Connected with Community Connections!

Looking for an easy way to learn more about HOPE Services – Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities? Tune in to our Community Connections podcasts!

Each episode features conversations with HOPE staff, community partners, self-advocates, and others who share helpful information, resources, upcoming opportunities, and stories from throughout our community.

Whether you want to learn more about available services, hear about what's happening at HOPE, or discover resources that may benefit you or your family, there's always something new to hear.

Catch up on the latest episodes anytime!

Visit www.henrydd.org/podcasts/ to listen and stay connected with HOPE!





Donate To Enrich The Lives Of Those We Serve

The HOPE Services Foundation was formed in 1999 and assists in enriching the quality of life of children, youth and adults who are served by HCBDD.

This is a Tax deduction 501 (c) (3) opportunities for families, friends, neighbors to make a lifetime investment or leave a legacy in honor of or in memory of someone.

At HOPE Services Foundation Inc, we know that change starts with people like you. Every act of kindness, every dollar, and every moment of your time brings us closer to achieving our mission. Together, we can create a brighter, more compassionate world for all.

How you can help power our mission:

- Donate: Every dollar counts. Contribute now to help us reach our goal.
- Share: Share our campaign with your friends, family, and on social media. Your advocacy can amplify our impact.
- Volunteer: Your time and skills can make an impact too.

Thank you for supporting our mission, your support is invaluable. Scan the code below or: [Click Here](#)

SCAN ME



Contact Us

HOPE Services Office	419-599-2892
Special Olympics	419-260-2176
HARC Recreation	419-906-0759

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



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