HOPE HAPPENINGS

NOVEMBER 2026 EDITION

Seeing Potential - Inspiring Opportunities

Gratitude

KELLY'S COLUMN

NOVEMBER 2026



A SEASON OF GRATITUDE

by Kelly Rieke

Superintendent

As Thanksgiving approaches, I find myself reflecting on the many reasons we have to be grateful. Gratitude is more than a feeling, it is a reminder to pause, recognize the good around us, and appreciate the people who make our community stronger.

I am especially thankful for the individuals with developmental disabilities who share their talents, perspectives, and determination with us every day. Their accomplishments—large and small—remind us of what is possible when people are supported, included, and encouraged to pursue the lives they choose.

I am also grateful for families, friends, providers, educators, employers, volunteers, and community partners who work alongside our county board. Your advocacy, creativity, and commitment help open doors and create meaningful opportunities. I am equally thankful for our dedicated staff, whose compassion and steady service reflect our mission each day.

This month, I encourage each of us to express our appreciation in a simple way: offer a sincere thank-you, recognize someone's contribution, or make time to listen. Small acts of gratitude can strengthen relationships and remind people that they are valued.

On behalf of the county board of developmental disabilities, thank you for being part of a community that believes in belonging, opportunity, and respect for every person. I am HOPEful for all that lies ahead.

The next Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 4pm

HOPE Services Activity Center



The HOPE Services Office will be closed the following dates in Novemeber:

November 11th for Veterans Day

November 26 & 27th for Thanksgiving

EARLY INTERVENTION PLAYGROUP

Join us for Thanksgiving Crafts & Sensory Play,
Gross Motor Fun,
and Parent-Child Interaction!

When:
Tuesday, November 17th, 2026
9:30a to 11:00a



Where:
HOPE Services
135 E Maumee Ave,
Napoleon, OH 43545

A fun, social, environment for children 0-3 yrs
and their families!

Thank You for a Spooktacular Trunk or Treat!

Rain Couldn't Stop the Halloween Fun!

A little rain couldn't dampen the Halloween spirit at HOPE Services' annual Trunk or Treat on October 15! Despite the sprinkles, families and community members came out to enjoy an evening of treats, activities, and community connections.

A special thank you to 4A Creative Design, HARC, Inc., Soaring Arts Studio, and Top Dog for helping make the evening memorable. We also appreciate everyone who generously donated candy and helped make this event possible!

Visitors also had the opportunity to explore the HOPE Services Tech Lab, where they discovered how assistive technology can make everyday activities easier, encourage independence, and create new opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Events like Trunk or Treat remind us how special our community truly is. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the evening a success!

Rain or shine, we're proud to be part of a Community of HOPE!

TRUNK OR TREAT

Halloween fun and community connection







Early Intervention

Thank you to all the families who came out to our Hope Services Trunk or Treat last Thursday. We loved seeing everyone enjoy the decoration, costumes, treats, and time together.

Early Intervention helps to support infants and toddlers as they learn and grow. Through our partnership with families, we help to build skills into everyday routines and play such as communication, movement, and sensory. Small moments of learning can lead to big milestones, helping children remain on track developmentally. What we do wouldn't be possible without families beng such a big part of the team.

Thanks for sharing your smiles and spooky-cute costumes!











Toys That Promote Speech and Language Development in Children

Open-ended play that helps children communicate, create, and grow



As the holiday season is approaching and you find yourself thinking about giving the child in your life new toys, think about open-ended high-quality toys that can develop that child's skills. The best toys are the toys that do nothing. They do not have batteries, and this allows the child to do the work of playing. The less that a toy does the more a child can do with the toy. This will help to expand a child's play skills, communication skills, motor skills, and cognitive skills.



Liliana is labeling the pictures she is coloring.

Examples of open-ended toys

- Blocks, magnetic tiles, and other construction materials
- Baby dolls and accessories
- Puzzles
- Toy Kitchen and accessories
- Vehicles
- Books
- Balls
- Tools
- Barn/Farm set
- Little Animals or Characters
- Musical Instruments
- Drawing or craft supplies











HARC, Inc.
Henry County Abilities Resource Council

call/text Trace at: 419-906-0759

***UPDATED* HARC REC Calendar**

November, December 2026

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

Wednesday, November 4th, 2026	Cook Night	5 - 7 pm	$5	HOPE Activity Center
Saturday, November 7th, 2026	Fort Wayne Komets at Toledo Walleye	5:30 - 10:45 pm	$25	Huntington Center
Monday, November 16th, 2026	Craft Night	6 - 8 pm	$10	TBA
Friday, November 20th, 2026	The University of Toledo vs. BGSU Football Game	5:45 - 11:30 pm	$37	Glass Bowl Stadium, Toledo, OH
Saturday, November 28th, 2026	Toledo Zoo – Lights Before Christmas	4 - 10 pm	$35	Toledo Zoo
Friday, December 4th, 2026	Trans-Siberian Orchestra	5:45 - 11:15 pm	$50	Huntington Center
Wednesday, December 9th, 2026	Cook Night	5 - 7 pm	$5	HOPE Activity Center
Saturday, December 12th, 2026	Disney on Ice	4:45 - 9:30 pm	$25	Huntington Center
Monday, December 21st, 2026	Craft Night	6 - 8 pm	$10	HOPE Activity Center
Wednesday, December 30th, 2026	BINGO	6 - 8 pm	$5	HOPE Activity Center

Updated: 9/29/26*

Let's get cooking

HARC, Inc.
Henry County
Abilities Resource Council

Cook Night sponsored by HARC Inc.



Cook Night: A Delicious Evening!

Participants enjoyed another fun and tasty Cook Night! This month's menu featured One Pan Chicken Parmesan Pasta, green beans, garlic toast, and peanut butter cookies for dessert.

Everyone had the opportunity to practice cooking skills, follow recipes, and work together to prepare a delicious meal. Cook Night continues to be a great way to build independence, learn new skills, and enjoy time with friends.

Great food, teamwork, and lots of fun made for another successful Cook Night!

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



GOOD food GOOD friends GOOD times









HARC RECREATION PRESENTS

Boston, Salem, & Cape Ann



INCREDIBLE PRICE INCLUDES:

- Motorcoach transportation
- 5 nights lodging including 3 consecutive nights at a Boston area Hotel
- 8 meals: 5 breakfasts and 3 dinners
- Full Day Guided Tour of Boston, including Trinity Church, Boston Common & Boston's tallest skyscraper, formerly known as John Hancock Tower, USS Constitution & Cambridge
- Boston's World Famous Faneuil Hall & Quincy Marketplace
- John F Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum, exhibits include First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy & The Space Race
- Full Day Guided Tour of Scenic Coastal Massachusetts
- Guided Tour Of Lexington & Concord, including a visit to Minute Man National Historic Park
- Guided Tour Of Salem, the town of the infamous Salem Witchcraft Trials
- Guided Tour of Gloucester on Cape Ann, America's Oldest Seaport

and much more

$835*

6 Days 5 Nights

*PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

(Thu - Tue)
Sep 16 - 21
2027



A Guided Tour of Boston



JFK Library & Museum



Historic Gloucester "America's Oldest Seaport"



Faneuil Hall Marketplace

Departure: Hope Services, 135 E. Maumee Ave, Napoleon, OH @ 8 am

Day 1: Depart your group's location in a spacious, video and restroom equipped Motorcoach and set off for historic Boston. This evening, relax at your en route hotel.
Day 2: After a Continental Breakfast, you will set off for historic Boston. Upon arrival, you will enjoy a visit to the JOHN F. KENNEDY PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM – with permanent exhibits dedicated to First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy, The Space Race, and more. Then, enjoy Dinner before checking into your Boston area hotel for a three night stay.
Day 3: After enjoying a Continental Breakfast, you will depart for a Full Day GUIDED TOUR OF BOSTON. Today's sights include Trinity Church, Boston Common, John Hancock Tower, and more. During the day, stop for a lunch break at world famous waterside attraction "QUINCY MARKET & FANEUIL HALL MARKETPLACE", enjoy great shopping, and more. Afterwards, your guided tour continues with sights such as USS Constitution ("Old Ironsides") and Cambridge. This evening, enjoy a relaxing Dinner and return to your hotel.
Day 4: Enjoy a Continental Breakfast before departing for a Full Day GUIDED TOUR OF BEAUTIFUL COASTAL MASSACHUSETTS. Visit SALEM, a city with more than three hundred years of New England history and the site of the infamous Salem Witchcraft Trials. Then, continue your tour onto scenic CAPE ANN. There you will visit the vintage New England seaside town of GLOUCESTER - "America's Oldest Seaport". Next visit ROCKPORT, another coastal town with quaint shops, restaurants, and galleries. This evening, enjoy Dinner and entertainment before returning to your hotel.
Day 5: Enjoy a Continental Breakfast before leaving for a guided tour of Lexington and Concord. This tour highlights a visit to the Minute Man National Historical Park, the birthplace of the American Revolution. This is often voted by groups as their favorite part of the trip. This evening, relax at your en route your hotel.
Day 6: Today, after enjoying a Continental Breakfast, you depart for home… a perfect time to chat with your friends about all the fun things you have done, the great sights you have seen, and where your next group trip will take you!

ADD SOME PEACE OF MIND TO YOUR TRIP…
With Diamond Tours Exclusive *Travel Confident*® Protection Plan.
See separate advertisement…

$75 Due Upon Signing. *Price per person, based on double occupancy. Add $298 for single occupancy.
Final Payment Due: 7/9/2027

FOR INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

Randy Barnes @ (419) 599-2892

Diamond Tours® inc.
Bringing Group Travel to a Higher Standard®

Fla. Seller of Travel Ref No. ST32973.

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.







Members of Voices of HOPE joined in the Halloween fun by volunteering at HOPE Services' annual Trunk or Treat event! Despite a little rain, it was a wonderful evening filled with costumes, candy, smiles, and community connections. Our members enjoyed being part of the festivities and helping make the night special for everyone who attended.

A big THANK YOU to our Voices of HOPE members who volunteered their time! Events like Trunk or Treat are a great opportunity to give back, connect with others, and make a positive difference in our community. We appreciate your willingness to get involved and help spread a little Halloween cheer!

Voices of HOPE Continues Building Advocacy Skills

Voices of HOPE members attended an Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) training in Tiffin this October. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about the Best Buddies program and the services and opportunities offered by The Ability Center. Special thanks to Kim Fennell and Taylor Czaja from The Ability Center for sharing their knowledge and resources!

Opportunities like these are small but meaningful steps toward building confidence, developing self-advocacy skills, and making connections with others. Every experience helps members grow as advocates and discover new ways to get involved!

Interested in connecting with Voices of HOPE and participating in future opportunities? Contact Keri Bunke by calling or texting 419-966-3239. We'd love to have you join us!



HENRY COUNTY SPECIAL OLYMPICS





Cougars Wrap Up Fall Sports, Tip Off Basketball Season

October is a month of transitions for the Henry County Special Olympics Cougars. Golf, cornhole, and flag football are winding down, basketball practices have begun for all teams, and our athletes closed out the fall with some impressive results.

State Golf Results

- 1st place: Zach Parcher, Matt Harris, Jacob Heath, and Ashley Curtis/Cliff Curtis
- 2nd place: Dom Salinardo/Zach Meister
- 3rd place: Khristian Miller, and Nate Vogelsong/Joe Bialorucki
- 4th place: Anthony Delgado/Joe Kuehner
- 5th place: Aaron Delgado/Tim Downey, and Juan Delgado/Conner Bialorucki



Cornhole Regional Results

On October 4, our cornhole teams traveled to Ohio Northern to compete at Regionals:

- 1st place: Zach Parcher/Anthony Delgado, Josh Babcock/Aaron Delgado, Josh Snow/Juan Delgado, and Bishop Nieto/Jessica Clapp
- 2nd place: Dom Salinardo/Liberty Kern, Jacob Heath/Job Knepper, and Matt Harris/Griffin Paradyse
- 4th place: Ashley Curtis/Candy Heath

Headed to State!

Four Cougars teams headed to the State Cornhole Tournament in Dublin, Ohio, on October 24:

- Josh Babcock/Aaron Delgado
- Josh Snow/Juan Delgado
- Bishop Nieto/Jessica Clapp
- Ashley Curtis/Candy Heath



Good luck, Cougars!







Flag Football Regionals

Cougars Team Green (Team 1) had a day to remember at the 2026 Northwest Regional Flag Football Tournament on October 10, winning their divisional game 72–0 over the Lucas County Lightning. With the win, Team Green advances to the Special Olympics Ohio State Tournament on October 24 in Dublin, Ohio. Good luck, Team Green!

Team 2 also competed at Defiance College on October 10, taking part in the skills challenge:

- 1st place: Dalton Kidd, Collin Johnson, and Tyler Silveous
- 2nd place: Juan Delgado, Aaron Delgado, Cody Steen, and Utah Harris
- 3rd place: Kaleb Thomas, Anthony Cline, and Robby Bauer

Trunk or Treat Fun

The Cougars had a great time handing out candy at the HOPE Services Trunk or Treat on October 15. They loved seeing all the costumes and can't wait until next year!

Athlete Leaders at the NAMI Walk

Our Athlete Leadership crew took part in the NAMI Walk at Northwest State Community College on October 3 and raised $200. It was a meaningful morning supporting speakers who shared honest stories of their struggles to help others.











Still Time to Sign Up!

Basketball practices have begun for all teams, and there is still time to sign up for swimming, basketball cheer, and winter competition cheer. Come join the Cougars!

Congratulations to all of our athletes, and thank you to the families, coaches, and volunteers who make these seasons possible.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday with your family and friends!



Celebrating 2026 Staff Milestones at HOPE Services!

This year, HOPE Services is proud to recognize three dedicated team members celebrating special employment milestones in 2026!

🎉 Kelly Verbeke – 30 Years of Service
🎉 Renita Kuehner – 5 Years of Service
🎉 Phil Etoll – 5 Years of Service

Each of these individuals plays an important role in helping HOPE Services fulfill its mission of supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families throughout Henry County.

From 5 years to an incredible 30 years of service, these milestones represent dedication, compassion, and a commitment to making a difference in the lives of others.
Please join us in congratulating Kelly, Renita, and Phil! We are grateful for their years of service, the talents they bring to our team, and the positive impact they continue to make in our community.

Thank you for being part of the HOPE Services family!

Meet Beth Saneholtz – A Passion for Supporting Our Community

We are excited to introduce Beth Saneholtz, a lifelong Henry County resident and proud mother of two sons, Ethan and Eli.

Beth's connection to HOPE Services – Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities (HCBDD) is a personal one. Her 13-year-old son, Eli, was diagnosed with autism at just 20 months old and currently receives support through HCBDD.

As a parent who has experienced firsthand the importance of services and support for individuals with developmental disabilities, Beth brings a meaningful perspective and a passion for helping others.

For some time, Beth has been searching for an opportunity to give back to the community she calls home. Her personal experiences, combined with her commitment to supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, have inspired her to become more involved.

Welcome

TO OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER



"This opportunity feels like the right fit, not only because of my personal connection, but because I am deeply committed to supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and the families who walk alongside them," Beth shared.

We are excited to welcome Beth and appreciate the experiences, dedication, and perspective she brings to HOPE Services!

HOPE SERVICES FOUNDATION

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

COORDINATED ENTRY IN-PERSON

HENRY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

OUTREACH HENRY COUNTY

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



HOPE SERVICES

Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Contact Us

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

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

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