



# Let's Talk...

The Newsletter of the Ashland County Board of Developmental Disabilities

## Ashland County Park District - "Me Too" Adventure Club

**ACBDD Members:**

- Christine Tharp - President
- Jerry Simon - Vice President
- David Stimpert - Secretary
- Laura Corbett
- Todd Geren
- Tonya Louis
- Martha Pendleton

David Ashley - Superintendent



A large turnout enjoyed the activities at the Freer Barn on November 2.


The Ashland County Park District is expanding opportunities for individuals with disabilities and their families to enjoy the out-of-doors.

The "Me Too" Adventure Club is intended to offer family oriented activities throughout the year and to piggy-back on the "Everybody Rides" project. The "Everybody Rides" program provides an opportunity to utilize adapted bikes which are kept at Freer Field and Byers Woods and can be used on the paved trails at those locations. The goal of the "Me Too" Adventure Club is to offer outdoor events for individuals with disabilities and their families throughout the year. "We are shooting for three to four activities in the coming year." said Dave McClure, a volunteer park manager and board member of the Ashland County Park District.

Their first event was held at Freer Field and Barn on November 2. Hay rides, pumpkin decorating, face painting, a petting zoo, and an old-fashioned sing-a-long were some of the activities that were enjoyed. In spite of the chilly evening, a larger than expected crowd had a wonderful time. "I am thrilled!" said Bob DeSanto, another park board member.

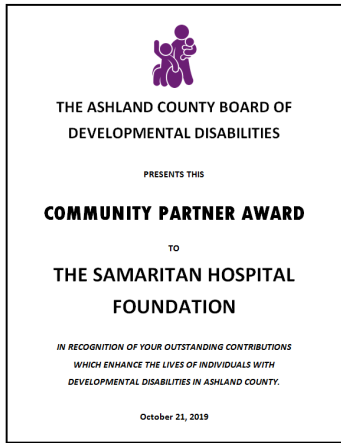
The group is encouraged by the tremendous turnout and is busy looking to plan its next event. It looks like a large number of individuals and their families will be anxiously waiting to join in the fun again as well.

**Inside this issue:**

ACBDD Community Partner Award	2
Upcoming Calendar	2
Technology First	3
By the way... 	4



## ACBDD Community Partner Award



ACBDD President Chris Tharp, Mona Campbell, ACBDD Vice-President Jerry Simon

The ACBDD presented the Samaritan Hospital Foundation with the Community Partner Award at its monthly board meeting in November. The purpose of the Community Partner Award is to recognize people or organizations that make a difference in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities in Ashland County. These partnerships support and enhance the board’s mission to promote opportunities for individuals and their families to live, learn, work, and play in the communities of Ashland County.

The Samaritan Hospital Foundation has generously partnered to provide for individuals with developmental disabilities and for the programs that serve them. With gifts totaling over \$50,000 in recent years, the foundation has supported activities such as therapeutic horseback riding, Dale-Roy Summer Camp, and the Ashland County Special Olympics. The foundation has also funded the purchase of a variety of adaptive equipment and devices that enable individuals with disabilities the ability to better engage the world around them.

Accepting the award was the Director of Grants and Community Relations for the Samaritan Hospital Foundation, as well as a longtime advocate, family member, and past ACBDD board member, Mona Campbell.

## Upcoming Calendar

Jan	6	Dale-Roy School resumes
Jan	17	Dale-Roy School Parent Conference Day
Jan	20	MLK Day ACBDD Closed
Jan	23	Super Bowl Bingo 6:00 Dale-Roy Cafeteria
Jan	27	ACBDD Board Meeting 6:30
Feb	17	President’s Day ACBDD Closed
Feb	24	ACBDD Board Meeting 6:30
Mar	6	Dale-Roy School Early Release 1:00
Mar	16	ACBDD Board Meeting 6:30
Mar	25	ACBDD Celebrity Bowling Tournament





## Technology First

Many Ohioans with developmental disabilities encounter obstacles in daily tasks and activities as well as accessing education and jobs. Devices that engage in two-way communication or provide step-by-step assistance can help people overcome these barriers and help them live the lives they want. For example, many new technologies can help someone feel more secure in their home, provide instruction on how to prepare an evening meal, or help to access public transportation. With these advancements, more Ohioans with developmental disabilities will have the opportunity to experience a life more fully integrated into their community.

Under Ohio's Technology First initiative, DODD will work with county boards of developmental disabilities to ensure technology is considered as part of all service and support plans for people with disabilities. Remote Support must be considered as the first option when authorizing services for a person with disabilities before authorizing on-site Homemaker/Personal Care staff. Technology First, created through a 2018 executive order, is not a technology-only policy but aims to help people learn more about how to use technology to improve their quality of life and how they can experience more independence and personal freedom.

## Supportive Technology

DODD's supportive technology-based services include Assistive Technology and Remote Support. Something is considered Assistive Technology if it helps provide personalized support for daily tasks, such as a cellphone application that reminds someone to stay on task at their job, or appliances with automatic shut-off features.

Remote Support uses two-way communication in real time, just like Skype or FaceTime, so a person can communicate with their providers when they need them. This allows for a person to be more independent in their home without a provider being on site.

## Benchmarks For Ohio

2,150 people with disabilities receiving Medicaid-funded supports will have supportive technology authorized in their annual plan by December 31, 2019:

- 1,000 people will have authorization for Remote Support
- 1,150 people will have authorization for Assistive Technology services via Ohio Administrative Code 5123-9-12: Assistive Technology under the Individual Options, Level One, and Self-Empowered Life Funding waivers (unduplicated count, not inclusive of Remote Support authorizations).

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*“The Ashland County Board of Developmental Disabilities (ACBDD) supports and partners with individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to explore and choose opportunities to live, learn, work, and play in the communities of Ashland County.”*

## By the way...



## Meet Noelle!



Dale Roy School has gone to the dogs.... a therapy dog that is! Noelle, a Golden Retriever owned by Joyce Mansfield, Speech Language Pathologist, is now a frequent visitor to our classrooms and is welcomed by students and staff alike. Noelle is a certified therapy dog under the auspices of Therapy Dog International.

Noelle and Joyce began their training when Noelle was a 12 week old puppy in June of 2018. They passed their certification test in May of 2019. Since then, Noelle has offered canine comfort and stress relief during staff trainings and is the patient co-provider of Animal Assisted Intervention, during which she helps Joyce target each student’s Speech Therapy goals.

Through interacting with Noelle, students are learning the importance of eye contact, vocal tone, respecting personal space, appropriate (gentle) touch, following directions, and speaking clearly. In addition, the students are learning the “Dragon Rules” for Noelle, and how to be Safe, Respectful and Responsible with any dog. Noelle absolutely LOVES our students and enjoys being our “Dragon Dog”!

- Joyce Mansfield

