



2017 CONNECTIONS

Shelby County SCBDD Board of Developmental Disabilities

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50th Anniversary of Ohio County Boards of Developmental Disabilities

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the creation of Ohio’s county boards of developmental disabilities (DD) by the Ohio General Assembly in 1967. To honor this milestone, the Shelby County Board of Developmental Disabilities is proud to join a statewide campaign – **Always There** – to recognize the continuity of support, promotion of opportunity, and history of partnership offered by county boards of DD to people with developmental disabilities and their families.

By sharing personal stories and historical items provided by the Shelby County Board of DD and other county boards, the campaign hopes to tell the collective story of people with developmental disabilities in Ohio and how the role of the county boards has evolved throughout the years.

“The 50th anniversary is an opportunity for us to reflect on how we have grown and adapted throughout the years to meet the changing needs of the people and families who rely on us for support,” said Laura Zureich, Superintendent. “It’s also a time to look toward the future and how we can continue to best serve them and the broader community moving forward.”

The Shelby County Board of Developmental Disabilities will be recognizing the 50th anniversary and the **Always There** campaign with *posters, social media posts, and other events* throughout 2017. Look for our billboard during the month of March:



ALWAYS collaborative

Promote Opportunities Which Support People of All Abilities

ALWAYS THERE
50 YEARS OHIO COUNTY BOARDS OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Shelby County SCBDD
Board of Developmental Disabilities
shelbydd.org

The Shelby County Early Intervention staff would like to encourage you to get outside and enjoy the beautiful weather. Outdoor play and climbing on toys at the park or even in your own backyard, are great activities that will encourage development with your baby or toddler.

Use your community resources for summer activities:

- Go to your local library. Sign up for the summer reading program or see what other activities are offered.
- Go to the park. Pack a lunch!
- Swim at the pool! Take toys that allow your child to scoop/dump, stir.
- Take walks around your neighborhoods Talk about what you see, hear and smell. Let your child touch leaves, grass and flowers.
- Schedule play dates with neighbors and friends.

Activities for home:

- Sidewalk chalk
- "Painting" with water on the sidewalk-use all sizes of paint brushes
- Water play-in a baby pool or a plastic tub
- Sprinkler fun
- Sand play-use a plastic tub
- Take messy play outside! Finger-paint with paint, shaving cream or pudding
- Plant a garden. Let your children help dig, plant and water. Use a squeeze bottle to water. It will help build hand strength
- Bubble play
- Use a sheet for parachute games
- Let your child help make ice-cream and popsicles.
- Climbing on/off riding toys and play equipment
- Play balance beam by placing a rope on the ground
- Practice walking frontwards/backwards/pretending
- Roll around in the grass! Look up at the clouds-talk about the shapes you see...a fish? a dinosaur?
- Read a book outside under a shade tree!



If you are concerned about your child's development and your child is aged birth – 3, please call the Early Intervention Program intake at 937-658-2185 and talk to Diann or Jessica.



Theresa Kirsch Announces Retirement

When I came "along for the ride" with a friend who was interviewing for a teaching job in Shelby County I had no idea how this would change my career and my life! After my friend's interview the superintendent inquired if I was interested in a job also. I was teaching preschool children with disabilities in Hamilton, Ohio and happy with my job so I thanked him and declined his offer.

But eventually I needed to take advantage of his offer. I joined the staff in 1976 during the school's second year of existence. I was one of three teachers and a staff of approximately eight people. Classes were conducted at St. John's Lutheran Church and we set up our classrooms on Monday morning and put everything away on Friday afternoon. While we waited for the new school building, classes were held in the old Children's Home building. We moved in the new building in January of 1978 and the name changed from the School for the Mentally Retarded to Shelby Hills (thank goodness!). The staff had grown by then to five teachers. I initially taught intermediate aged students and then preschool students. I loved teaching and continued teaching infants and preschoolers for eight years. I was fascinated by how children develop language and decided to go back to school in speech therapy to learn more. I was ready for the "big city" and wished my Shelby Hills family goodbye. I attended the University of Cincinnati and received my degree in Speech Language Pathology. After graduate school I worked for a year in Cincinnati for the Hamilton County Board of DD as a speech therapist. What I discovered is that bigger is not always better! I missed the opportunity to work in a smaller school setting where everyone works as a team to provide the best services possible for each individual child. So when the opportunity to return became available I moved north and rejoined the Shelby Hills staff again.



When I returned to Shelby County I worked with individuals ranging in age from infancy through adulthood. As the school aged children were mainstreamed into the public schools, I began to work exclusively with infants and preschoolers and then eventually with just preschoolers. The majority of my career has been spent working with preschoolers. I love working with children of this age. They are so curious and just excited about life. Everyday with preschoolers is a new adventure...you never know what to expect!

But after 40+ years in education it's time to hang up my key fob, roll my cart into storage and sing one more rousing chorus of the "TerriTime" song! This transition to another lifestyle won't be easy because I'm leaving a job I've always loved, the wonderful children and families I've worked with over the years and fellow staff members I've worked with over the years, many who have become life-long friends. I will miss making my morning coffee and solving the problems of the world!

Although I am sad about leaving the children and families and the staff I am ready for new adventures! In retirement I look forward to having the time to do things that I enjoy such as traveling, decorating my house, gardening, do it yourself projects, reading and spending time with my friends and family. And things that I don't yet know that I will enjoy doing!!

Jackie Cathcart Announces Retirement



I worked as a volunteer from January 1986-August 1990. For part of this time, I had the privilege of working under Wilma Valentine, a secretary for Shelby Hills. She was a highly organized person and a great advocate for the program. Wilma's passion for those served here was contagious so it didn't take long for me to get hooked. My volunteer tasks included everything from office work to helping in classrooms that needed an extra hand. I was in charge of the library, supply room, and even helped to take the students swimming at the YMCA on Fridays. Now, that was an adventure! At this time Shelby Hills served all ages up through high school.

In the fall of 1990 when a classroom aide position became available I applied and well....here I am. It seems like yesterday. The years have gone by so quickly. Oh yes, many changes have taken place, the building, the staff, teaching methods, class sizes, and no we don't go swimming on Fridays anymore. (Thank goodness! But really, the kids had a blast!) There is one thing, however, I feel, that has not changed and that is the children. Kids are still kids. Perhaps they are a little faster than they used to be or else I'm just getting slower. But kids were, are, and will always be kids each one unique in their own way. All just like little sponges waiting to soak up the days adventures. Every day they have taught me something new. I feel honored to have worked in a place and with a staff that places such worth on treating each child as the individual that they are.

Over the years I have worked with many teachers in a single classroom as the Para Professional. I am grateful for the knowledge gained from each of the teachers I worked with. Although I enjoyed these years nothing has intrigued me more than my assignment of the last eight years. I have been a floating para and a one-on-one for children who have so required such assistance. Having a part of the helping these more challenging children strive to be the best they can be has been very rewarding.

This year will be my last year as a one-on-one. In a few months I will begin a new assignment-
RETIREMENT!

I am so looking forward to spending more time with my husband Gary, our married children, and five grandchildren. I can't believe how fast the grandchildren are growing up! Also, it will be nice to be more available to help out with our church's outreach projects and activities.

Although I know this is the right decision for me at this time in my life I will truly miss all the little smiling faces and being a part of such a devoted and remarkable team. It's been great.



Wilma Valentine Childcare



Wilma Valentine would like to thank the many donors who gave time, baked goods, or auction items for our 4th Annual Quarter Auction which was held on Sunday, February 26, 2017. The Quarter Auction was once again held at the VFW in Sidney and they donated the use of their facility for the day. Once again we had some terrific items donated.

Participants had the opportunity to win Reds tickets, Bengals tickets, a \$100 Kroger gift card, a Coach purse, an American Girl doll, a group of gift cards totaling \$200 and SO much more. It is always a great event and we are so thankful for the many people who come out to celebrate and support Wilma Valentine Childcare. Watch our Facebook page if you'd like to participate next year or if you have something that you would like to donate. The 5th Annual Quarter Auction will be held near the end of February.



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of Champaign & Shelby Counties

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Working and your Benefits

As you may already know, research shows that people who work regularly live longer, healthier lives and spend less money on healthcare than those who do not work. Despite this health fact, many people who are already receiving healthcare and financial benefits from programs like Social Security and Medicaid are worried that they may lose this assistance if they begin working. The truth is that everyone who wants to work, regardless of what benefits they receive, will gain financially by attaining employment. Most of the time, the key is determining how much a person is able to work before losing a benefit.

So how can you estimate what your benefits might look like after finding employment? Thankfully, the state of Ohio has created a website called "Disability Benefits 101." This website has a 'benefits calculator' that will help you determine how little your benefits may be impacted when deciding to work. All you will need is your bank statement, amount of Social Security benefits, and up to 30 minutes to put in the information. You can use this site without having to identify yourself so your personal information will not be shared. You can find the website at: <https://oh.db101.org/>

If you don't have access to the internet or would like assistance with this process, please contact your Service and Support Administrator or Jeff Coaty for help. With great programs such as Medicaid Buy-In and Ohio's Stable Account, people are finding greater financial independence now more than ever! Please contact us so we can help you find your path to employment.



JOB LINK

of Champaign & Shelby Counties

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Our team assists individuals with employment services by:

- Identifying an individual's strengths, interests, and goals
- Providing job development in finding a good job match
- Ensuring a job coach is provided to supply on the job, one-on-one training
- Ensuring Job follow-along is provided for service and supports for long-term community employment



Brady

Electro-Controls 3 Years



Joey

Norcold 2 Years



Nina

Fair Haven 1 Year



Ana

The Spot Restaurant
1 Year



Wendell

Peerless 10 Years



Russell

Sidney-Shelby County
YMCA 8 Months



Paul

Wal-Mart 16 Years



Cassie

Kroger, 2 Years

Community & Support Services

On Wednesday, March 8th self advocates from Shelby and Champaign Counties attended DD Awareness & Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse. Many state lawmakers met with the self advocates to discuss topics important to them and our community. They also had a surprise visit from Ohio Governor John Kasich.



SAVE THE DATE

FASHION SHOW EXTRAVAGANZA

Saturday, May 6, 2017

Show Starts at 1:30 P.M., Doors Open at 1:00 P.M.

304 West Ave., Sidney

FREE ADMISSION & REFRESHMENTS



- **New Friday Night Out/Teen Night Out Coordinator.** Anne Abbott began her duties in January, planning a "Snowball Olympics" with a variety of games, a wintry craft and a spaghetti supper. She took over the position from Sharon Williams, who resigned after organizing six years of Night Out fun of her own!
- **New Arc Board Member.** Jana Bolton attended her first board meeting in February and comes with lots of experience to share! She retired from S&H Products where she spent 25 years working with employees at the workshop, in the senior department, and in the accounting office.
- **New E-mail Address.** Due to recent security issues experienced by Yahoo e-mail account users, we have changed our organization's e-mail address to shelbycountyarcs@gmail.com. Be sure to update the contact information you have for us accordingly!

Shelby County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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For a calendar of events please visit our website at: WWW.SHELBYDD.ORG

To receive our newsletter or other correspondence electronically, please e-mail us at:
SUGGESTIONS@SHELBYDD.ORG