



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LCBMRDD recognizes local supporters: West Licking Special Olympics receives top honor

NEWARK – The Licking County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (LCBMRDD) recently handed out its annual awards to those in the local community who have shown the highest level of support for people with disabilities.

Phyllis Colvin of Newark received the Jane Marsh Disability Awareness Award in the individual category. This award is named after the late Jane Marsh, a pioneer in the local MRDD movement. Colvin was nominated by the Center for Disability Services. For more than 48 years, she has served as a parent-advocate, fundraiser and tireless volunteer for people with disabilities.

“Phyllis’s passion for the rights of individuals with disabilities never waivers, her energy is endless, and her heart is bigger than both,” the Center for Disability Services said in nominating Colvin. “She lives as a quiet advocate, gently teaching the community that individuals with disabilities have the ability to contribute to society, the right to live as independently as possible, and should be accepted as a natural part of their communities.”



Phyllis Colvin

The Knights of Columbus Johnstown Council #4324 received the Jane Marsh Disability Awareness Award in the business/organization category. The group was nominated by the LCBMRDD Adult Services staff and LICCO Inc. employees.

The nomination was reflective of their generous cash donations to adults with disabilities who work at LICCO and need assistance during the holiday season, said Kyle Miller, the LCBMRDD’s director of Adult Services and LICCO chief executive officer.

“These donations are much appreciated,” Miller said. “In past years, we have used their donations to purchase coats, clothes, personal items and food for many people with disabilities who need extra assistance during the winter months.”



*Joe Weiner, left, and
Charles Kramer of the Johnstown
Knights of Columbus*

LICCO Inc. awarded its Employer of the Year honor to Big “O” Refuse of Newark for its partnership with the Community Employment Services (CES) work crew at the Denison University Recycling Center in Granville.

“Through Big ‘O’ Refuse, a CES crew started working two days a week at Denison,” explained Sam Schirtzinger, a LICCO/CES job developer. “We are now up to five days per week. This is a wonderful partnership. They appreciate our flexibility and can-do attitude.”

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The Above & Beyond Award – the LCBMRDD’s highest honor – went to the West Licking Special Olympics organization. They were nominated by Gary Smith, the LCBMRDD’s director of finance. He praised the group’s strong ability to recruit volunteers as the reason for its success.

“Volunteers are the backbone of this organization,” Smith explained. “Through the generous gift of their time and skills, individuals who may not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy sports and healthy activities are able to participate.”

The awards ceremony was held on March 12 – MRDD Awareness Day in Licking County – at the E.S. Weiant Center, Newark. The event was sponsored by a generous donation from The Boeing Co., Heath.

The LCBMRDD provides comprehensive services to about 1,300 Licking County children and adults with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. The agency currently offers preschool and early intervention services at the E.S. Weiant Center in Newark; early intervention services at the Ann Davino Center in Pataskala; adult services at LICCO Inc. in Heath; residential supports; family respite; transportation services; and service coordination.

The LCBMRDD is nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for providing high-quality support and vocational services to individuals with disabilities and their families.

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*Sam Schirtzinger of LICCO/CES, left,
and Marvin McCord of
Big "O" Refuse*



*Deb Hobbs and Mike Sussman,
West Licking Special Olympics*