

Levy campaign planning underway

Although it won't be on the ballot until officially approved by the Licking County Board of Commissioners, the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities expects to ask voters to renew our 1-mill, five-year levy on March 6, 2012. Our Board of Directors voted in October to ask the Commissioners to put the renewal on the ballot, and they are expected to address that request in the coming days.

In the meantime, it is important for staff to know the facts concerning the levy. Here is some vital information for you to know:

- **FACT:** Two levies currently generate 2.3 total mills for the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Together, these levies account for about 70 percent of the Board's operating funds.

- **FACT:** The first levy is a 1.3-mill continuing levy. A 1-mill continuing levy passed in 1979, and a 0.3-mill continuing levy passed in 1984. They were combined and replaced in 1999.

- **FACT:** The second levy is a 1-mill, five-year levy first approved by voters in May 1987. This levy expires every five years. This means that without specific action by voters to renew or replace it, the levy ceases. This levy was replaced in 1992, 1997, 2002, and 2007.

- **FACT:** The current 1-mill levy will expire on December 31, 2011. Because tax collections are retroactive, the levy will continue to generate funds until Dec. 31, 2012. If renewed on March 6, 2012, the levy will be effective on January 1, 2013.

- **FACT:** The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities is asking voters to renew the 1-mill levy at the current collections rate. Property owners will not see an increase in their taxes if they approve the renewal levy on March 6, 2012.

- **FACT:** The 1-mill levy generates about \$3.7 million each year. It costs the owner of \$100,000 worth of property about \$30.33 per year.

- **FACT:** The Board serves more than 1,400 individuals and their families each year. Enrollment has grown by about 400 children and adults since this levy was last on the ballot in May 2007.

- **FACT:** The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities has not asked voters to approve additional mills -- beyond the total 2.3 mills since 1987.

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November LICCO Team Member of the Month

Harold Fogg

Diligence and pride take center stage whenever Harold Fogg is at work in the LICCO Spirit Line jewelry department.

For his hard work, his supervisors have chosen Harold as the LICCO

Team Member of the Month for November.

"Harold is very proud of the jewelry he makes and is always determined to break his record for the number of pieces made each day," says Workshop Specialist Vicki Wilkey. "He is a ray of sunshine every day, and is kind to everyone. It is a pleasure to work with Harold."

Adult Services Facilitator Daryl Waterman adds that "Harold's positive attitude and friendliness to everyone serves as an example to others."

Harold is a Pataskala resident who has worked at LICCO since March 2010.

Congratulations, Harold, and thank you for your dedication!

November staff anniversaries

- Marina Anderson (Service Coordination) -- 21
- Dorinda Burley (Service Coordination) -- 7
- Heather Odendahl (Administration) -- 4
- Michelle Rosenberger (Early Intervention) -- 2
- Amber Rowley (Administration) -- 13
- Amy Thieken (Early Intervention) -- 8
- Barb Wheeler (Early Intervention) -- 2

Editor's note: These listings indicate the LCBDD staff members' most recent hire dates, although some may have prior years of service to the County Board of DD or other public/government entities.

Reminder: Please nominate a worthy staff member for **Staff Member of the Quarter**. The official nomination form can be found at the end of this newsletter.

"What we're really talking about is a wonderful day set aside on the fourth Thursday of November when no one diets. I mean, why else would they call it Thanksgiving?"
~Erma Bombeck



‘Thumbs Up!’ to **all staff**. Everyone worked very hard to prepare for a great CARF survey and I sure do appreciate it. We looked downright beautiful. ‘Thumbs Up!’ to **Matt Young** (MEORC/Administration) for recently receiving his undergraduate degree from Franklin University.

- **Nancy Neely** (Administration)

‘Thumbs Up!’ to **Jay Courson** (Administration). He took time out of his busy schedule to assist a person we serve with getting a new futon. He also helped another person become more active by helping him have access to an exercise bike. Way to go, Jay!

- **Jean Neader** (Service Coordination)

‘Thumbs Up!’ and thanks to **everyone** who worked so hard to gather information and ready the buildings for the CARF survey. Staff spent hours upon hours getting ready for this and they deserve recognition.

- **Barb Luce** (Administration)

‘Thumbs Up!’ to the staff United Way committee for their creative and fun fundraisers: **Barb Luce** (Administration), **Susan Kennedy** (Early Intervention), **Ashley Washburn** (Service Coordination) and **Linda Hogue** (Adult Services).

- **Louise Decker** (Administration)

‘Thumbs Up!’ to **Sue Ormiston** (Service Coordination) for taking the boxes of papers (from just a few years) from my office to recycle. She is truly amazing! I appreciate her help.

- **Molly Butt** (Service Coordination)

‘Thumbs Up!’ to **Pam Richardson** (Adult Services) for her “mousing skills.” She swept it right out the door!

- **Krista Davis** (Adult Services)

‘Thumbs Up!’ to **Gary Wimer** (Adult Services) who, in partnership with our local businesses, continues to creatively open many doors for job and job-training opportunities.

- **Keith Kokensparger** (Adult Services)

‘Thumbs Up!’ to **Dr. Chip Kobe** (Administration) for helping with a training for teachers, school administrators and Youth Service Coordinators on challenging behaviors. Chip didn’t hesitate when asked if he could help teach participants how to approach behavior issues more positively. The training was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the LCBDD, Newark City Schools and the Licking County Educational Services Center.

- **Laura Middleton** (Service Coordination)

‘Thumbs Up!’ to **Jay Courson** (Administration) for once again finding the time to adapt and modify seating to meet individual children’s needs. Thanks to Jay, some little ones are now able to join their families for mealtime and playtime while

sitting a little straighter.

- **Caley Norton** (Early Intervention)

‘Thumbs Up!’ to **Heather Odendahl** and **Shelley Hummel** (Administration) for the project they completed for me this past month. We now have a complete portfolio with information and pictures about the houses that are owned by our two housing corporations, Center for Disability Services and the Licking County Coalition for Housing. They were able to complete it for me amongst their day-to-day tasks and CARF preparation. Thank you. ‘Thumbs Up!’ and thank you to the Finance Department staff: **Jennifer Denney**, **Rena Williams** and **Teresa McCullough** (Administration). As the budget preparation work progressed forward, I am sure that just about every day I was asking them for some additional information or numbers. Also, thank you to the component directors and their staff members who were instrumental in the budget work for their respective components.

- **Gary Smith** (Administration)

‘Thumbs Up!’ to **Diana Shannon** (Service Coordination) who continually impresses me with her leadership of “the group that never sleeps” -- People First. Diana has made a very positive impact on the members. ‘Thumbs Up!’ to **Gary Wimer** (Adult Services) and **Leland Lescalleet** (LICCO) for seemingly leaving no stone unturned when it comes to approaching local businesses for work opportunities for the adults we serve. It’s a tough job market, but they continue to press on, approaching non-traditional businesses and seizing every suggestion and potential opportunity. Their creativity shows! ‘Thumbs Up!’ to **Diana Shannon**, **Gary Wimer**, **Lorrie Miller** (Service Coordination), and **Lisa Dunaway** (Adult Services) for allowing me to bend their ears about communicating with the public and staying in tune with the latest agency information.

- **Heather Odendahl** (Administration)

‘Thumbs Up!’ to the exceptionally outstanding **EI team** for all their help preparing for the CARF survey. A special thank you to **Barb Wheeler** (Early Intervention) who helped put it all together. ‘Thumbs Up!’ to **Amy Theiken** (Early Intervention) for her interesting and informative presentation on “Medical Child Abuse”. It was especially helpful to the EI team how she related it to the evidence-based set of practices that we use. Way to go, Amy!

- **Judy Buehler** (Early Intervention)

‘Thumbs Up!’ to **my amazing coworkers at 565** for their concern and support while another coworker was off on medical leave. Thanks to all of you, I managed to maintain what little sanity I have left! ‘Thumbs Up!’ especially to **Mary Spain**, **Brenda Colley**, **Tacie Thorne**, **Jean Neader**, and **Kristen Morris** (Service Coordination) for jumping in and handling things for me with individuals on the coworker’s caseload.

- **Bridget Finch** (Service Coordination)

MORE ‘THUMBS UP!’ SUBMISSIONS ARE ON PAGE 3

Levy campaign (continued from page 1)

Superintendent **Nancy Neely** (Administration) will host two meetings for families to get acquainted with the ballot request and to seek their help in getting it passed. The meetings both will be held on Monday, Nov. 21, at the E.S. Weiant Center. The first meeting is at 10 a.m., and the second is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Families and friends are encouraged to attend the meeting that best-fits their schedules. County Board of DD staff also are encouraged to attend -- find out how you can help! Just be sure to RSVP to **Heather Odendahl** (Administration) at ext. 6911, or send her an e-mail.

Open enrollment deadline coming

Don't forget the deadline to turn in your paperwork for the health-insurance benefits open-enrollment period is 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 30. As you know, there are many changes this year, so be sure to get all of your questions answered well in advance of the deadline. If you need assistance, please contact the Employee Benefits Hotline, (740) 670-5407, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., now through Nov. 30.

New wellness challenge begins

Some very daring staff members are taking the plunge to "Celebrate the New Year in the South Pacific!" The Staff Wellness Committee recently came up with its newest challenge to encourage staff to exercise while attempting to earn prizes! Here's how it works:

Samoa is the first country to ring in the New Year. It is located in the heart of the Pacific Ocean, in a much warmer climate than Ohio! The challenge is to "walk to Samoa" to celebrate with them -- it is only 6,800 miles away! Staff members already have formed two-person teams (chosen by a drawing) to take the challenge, which ends Dec. 31. Each team tracks their minutes of exercise or miles walked/run each week. Fifteen minutes of exercise is equal to one mile. Team weekly numbers are then reported to Wellness Committee representative **Barb Luce** (Administration). First, second and third-place team prizes will be awarded at the end of the competition. The teams to reach or are the closest to reaching Samoa by Jan. 1, 2012 will win!

Good luck to all competitors! We'll keep the rest of the staff posted on how well the teams are doing in the December edition of *The Loop*, and announce the winners in January.

Final United Way results are in

The final numbers are in from our 2011/2012 United Way fundraising campaign. The staff of the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities raised a total of \$6,063.18. Thanks to everyone who worked hard to raise money and make pledges. For each \$26 that you donated through payroll deduction or a direct donation, you were entered into a drawing for prizes. The winners are:

- Lunchbag or padfolio -- **Christine Burkamp** (Service Coordination).

- T-shirt -- **Doug Price** (Adult Services).
- Courtney Bidwell's prize-winning dessert -- **David McManus** (Administration).
- A pan of Nancy Neely's famous lasagna -- **Gary Wimer** (Adult Services).
- One-half personal day -- **Sue Ormiston** (Service Coordination).

Safety stuff

The staff Safety Committee recently met to draw the winner of the "Caught You Being Safe" quarterly award. Congratulations to **Molly Butt** (Service Coordination) for coming out the big winner of a \$25 gift card. Others nominated were:

- **Sue Ormiston** (Service Coordination)
- **Jay Courson** (Administration)
- **Robin Verkest** (Service Coordination)
- **Caley Norton** (Early Intervention)
- **Lorrie Miller** (Service Coordination)
- **Beth Boyle** (Service Coordination)

Nomination forms for "Caught You Being Safe" can be found in each component, and they are published each month in *The Loop*. Please turn in nomination forms to **Louise Decker** (Administration) for consideration in the next drawing, to be held in the first quarter of 2012.

'Thumbs Up!' (continued from page 2)

'Thumbs Up!' to **Dora Young-Ford** (Service Coordination) for facilitating a pet-care group for the people we serve.

'Thumbs Up!' to **Jay Courson** (Administration) for always coming when we yell, "Jay!" 'Thumbs Up!' also to **Rena Williams** and **Teresa McCullough** (Administration) for helping out when a coworker was out on medical leave.

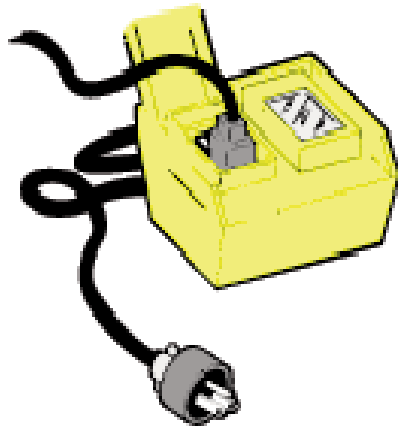
- **Sue Ormiston** (Service Coordination)

'Thumbs Up!' to **Sue Ormiston** (Service Coordination) for all her hard work preparing for the CARF visit. If you couldn't find Sue, you better check the closets as she was cleaning up the clutter, or on the floor trying to remove spots in the carpet. One day Sue even put her Carol Burnett outfit on and brought in her bucket to wash the front windows. Another day she brought in her rake/shovel to cover up the bare spots in the landscaping. Pulling files, updating processes and procedures, etc.. I could go on and on! Maybe I should say, "What didn't she do?" Thank you very much, Sue!

'Thumbs Up!' to **Lori Payne** (Service Coordination) for also helping with getting the notebooks organized on the carousels and getting all the filing up to date. 'Thumbs Up!' to **Jay Courson** (Administration) for all the running around, back-and-forth, from building to building, to make sure maintenance issues were handled. I am sure there were many other staff members who also worked hard to get ready for CARF. Thanks!

- **Beth Riggs** (Service Coordination)

CAUGHT YOU BEING SAFE!!



STAFF MEMBER'S NAME: _____

Date: _____

RECOGNIZED FOR THE FOLLOWING SAFETY PREVENTION MEASURE:

Submitted by: _____

Component: _____



Please submit form to your Component Director for approval.