

September is Preparedness Month

September has been designated National Preparedness Month. This is a great time for all of us to take the necessary precautions so we are ready in case of an emergency. As we saw with the recent earthquakes and Hurricane Irene, events that cause unforeseen problems can occur at any time.

“We should all take the time to make sure we have emergency supplies like working flashlights, non-perishable food items and bottled water in our homes in case of an emergency,” says Licking County Health Commissioner Joe Ebel. “Having the necessary supplies on hand is the best way to prepare for these situations.”

According to www.ready.gov, these are some important things you should have on hand in a basic kit should a disaster occur. Stock up on supplies that will last you three days or more:

- Water -- one gallon of water per person per day, for drinking and sanitation.
- Food -- At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food.
- Can opener, if kit contains canned food.
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries (remember to rotate your extra batteries to be sure they work when you need them).
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- First-aid kit.
- Soap and moist towelettes for sanitation.
- A whistle to signal for help.
- Dust mask or cotton T-shirt to help filter the air.
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities.
- Utility knife.
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place.
- Garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation.
- Warm blankets and an extra set of clothing.
- Consider your unique needs. You may need to pack medications (just remember to periodically rotate things you take daily such as insulin and heart medicine. You may also need diapers and formula if there is an infant in your family. Pet food, comfort items, books, paper, pens a deck of cards or other forms of entertainment should be considered.

You also should have a family communication plan. Gather your family members to discuss escape routes, utility shut-off and safety, insurance and vital records, special needs,

(continued on page 3)



LCBDD Staff Member of the Quarter

Teresa Valentino

For a variety of reasons, **Teresa Valentino** (Adult Services) was nominated for and has earned the LCBDD Staff Member of the Quarter designation.

“Teresa creates a desire within people to do their best,” her anonymous nominator states.

Her honesty and the respect Teresa shows for the people in her crew is another reason she was honored. “Teresa’s hard work with people who are new to community employment has helped them to mature and increase production. She has an ability to make them see that work is an opportunity. She encourages those in her group to work together and to learn new jobs. She helps people bring out their self confidence, and that is a beautiful gift that people will carry with them throughout their lives.”

Teresa is a CES Job Coach assigned to a THK crew. She has been employed by the LCBDD for more than five years. Congratulations on a job well done!



September LICCO Team Member of the Month

Linda Giles

Newark-resident Linda Giles has been selected as the September LICCO Team Member of the Month.

Linda has come a long way since she first started working at LICCO about 18 months ago, according to her supervisors who selected her for this honor.

Linda used to be very shy, notes Workshop Specialist Jaclyn Alexander, but now she interacts well with her coworkers and takes the initiative when it comes to work-related tasks.

“Her willingness to learn and gain independence is an example to others,” adds Adult Services Facilitator Daryl Waterman.

◆ Congratulations, Linda, and keep up the great work!



‘Thumbs Up!’ and congratulations to **Michelle Rosenberger** (Early Intervention) for becoming credentialed as a Help Me Grow service coordinator. ‘Thumbs Up!’ to **Louise Decker** (Administration) for planning an amazing all-staff inservice. If we each apply the concepts of a Positive Culture Initiative to ourselves, we will be more effective

professionally and our personal lives will be richer. ‘Thumbs Up!’ to **all who donated gently-used books** to the Leave A Book Behind (LABB) program and helping to promote literacy.

‘Thumbs Up!’ to the LABB committee from the EI department: **Amy Thieken, Courtney Bidwell** and **Barb Wheeler**. ‘Thumbs up to **all who participated in the inservice style show**. Who knew we had so many models among us? Move over “America’s Top Model!” ‘Thumbs Up!’ to **Jay Courson** (Administration) for climbing up on the roof on the hottest day of the year to make sure the air conditioning at ESW was repaired.

- **Judy Buehler** (Early Intervention)

‘Thumbs Up!’ to **Sue Ormiston** (Service Coordination) for always being willing to answer any questions that come up as I’m learning my duties as Secretary even when she is busy with her own workload. Thanks, Sue!

- **Lori Payne** (Service Coordination)

‘Thumbs Up!’ to **Louise Decker** (Administration) for her planning, hard work, and running of another extremely successful all-staff inservice. It is difficult to find speakers who can relate to everyone who works for the agency, not just direct-care staff. Louise worked for months with **Casey Claxon** (Novelty Advertising) to select logo items, get the website up and running, and coordinate the style show. ‘Thumbs Up!’ to **Jay Courson** (Administration) for getting the gym clean and set up, only to turn around later to tear it all down. ‘Thumbs Up!’ to **Shelley Hummel** (Administration) who stayed and helped clean up the kitchen. That was a huge help. ‘Thumbs Up!’ to **Betsy Nixon** (Early Intervention). She was gracious enough to give up using the LCB van so **Diana Shannon** (Service Coordination) could use it to take people to a meeting in Columbus. That’s what teamwork is all about!

- **Barb Luce** (Administration)

‘Thumbs Up!’ to the **Safety Committee members** (and a few others) willing to embarrass themselves during the ‘Project Runway’ portion of the all-staff inservice (they all looked Maaaahvelous!):

- Administration -- **Barb Luce, Jay Courson** and **Heather Odendahl**
 - Adult Services -- **Jaclyn Alexander, Mark Bryant, Laura Kreager, Courtney Johnston, Daryl Waterman, Angie Watson, Carolyn McCallister** and **Chad Strohl**
 - Early Intervention -- **Michelle Rosenberger**
 - Service Coordination -- **Molly Butt** and **Robin Verkest**
- **Louise Decker** (Administration)

MORE ‘Thumbs Up!’ submissions are on page 5

Annual dessert contest:

NEWER STAFF MEMBERS TAKE HONORS IN “SINFUL” CATEGORY

It was a tough year to be a veteran staff member competing in the annual “Sinful Dessert” contest. During the Staff Development Day on August 26, two newer staffers took home the top spots in that category, a long-time tradition for the all-staff inservice.

Courtney Bidwell (Early Intervention) was the grand champion with her truly-sinful Butterfinger Trifle dessert. **Lori Payne** (Service Coordination) came in a close second with her Almost Heaven cake. Congratulations to them both. Let this serve as a lesson to all the old-timers to step up their game!

Speaking of old timers, there was one staff member who really did step up to the plate for the “Healthy Dessert” category. **Doug Price** (Adult Services), the staff member with the most number of years of LCBDD service, took home the top prize. The “Healthy Dessert” category was started just a few years ago as part of our wellness initiative. The presentation of Doug’s Watermelon Bowl and Fruit Dip was simply divine!

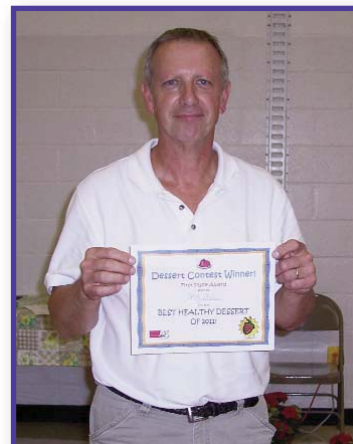
Judy Buehler (Early Intervention) took home the No. 2 spot in the “Healthy” category with her yummy marble brownies. Congratulations, and thanks to everyone who participated.



Courtney Bidwell



Lori Payne



Doug Price



Judy Buehler

Health and wellness news

5-A-DAY CHALLENGE RETURNS! The LCBDD Staff Wellness Committee has deemed September as another 5-A-Day Challenge month!

The contest was such a big success the last time it was held -- back in July -- that it was resurrected to encourage staff to eat more fruits and vegetables.

We'll post the names of the prize-drawing winners in the October edition of The Loop. In the meantime, keep up the great work eating all those healthy fruits and veggies!

DONORS NEEDED! Since Hurricane Irene began its path along the East Coast, the storm forced cancellations of numerous American Red Cross blood drives.

The Red Cross is urging immediate blood and platelet donations in areas unaffected by the storm. Nationwide, about 44,000 blood donations are needed each and every day to meet the needs of accident victims, cancer patients, and children with blood disorders. These patients and others rely on blood products during their treatments.

When disaster strikes, this need does not diminish. And if collections are negatively impacted by a disaster, the long-term needs of these patients could also be affected.

Please consider giving blood or platelets now. To schedule an appointment to give, call 1-800-RED CROSS or go online at www.redcrossblood.org. To schedule an appointment to give platelets, please call 1-800-448-3543.

Don't forget to order your safety-incentive items online!

As announced during the Staff Development Day, the LCBDD staff has reached a milestone in workplace safety.

To honor our two years without a lost-time injury or illness, each staff member received a \$10 voucher to shop in our online store.

Vouchers expire on Oct. 14, so it's important to get your order placed in a timely fashion. Just go to www.LCountyDD.org, and click on the Careers page. Scroll down to the link that states, "[Visit the LCBDD Online Shop!](#)"

Vouchers are good for one use and may not be reproduced. However, you can order items at full price as often as you'd like. Just remember -- your shipping address is your component address.

If you have any questions about the order process or need clarification about anything, please contact **Louise Decker** (Administration) at ext. 6902.

Right, Staff Council member Michelle Rosenberger (Early Intervention) models one item that can be purchased from the LCBDD Online shop.



Preparedness (continued from page 1)

safety skills such as CPR and first-aid, and caring for animals.

Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan how you will contact one another. Think about how you will communicate in different situations. Create a contact card for each family member (sample cards can be printed from www.ready.gov). Have family members keep these cards handy in a wallet, purse or backpack. Pick a friend or relative who lives out-of-state for household members to notify they are safe.

Milestones

Congratulations! Numerous LCBDD staff members recently were honored for meeting milestone years of service. They are:

FIVE YEARS

- **Laura Middleton** (Service Coordination)
- **Katie Jenkins** (Adult Services)
- **Teresa Valentino** (Adult Services)
- **Bridget Finch** (Service Coordination)

TEN YEARS

- **Gary Smith** (Administration)
- **Chad Strohl** (Adult Services)
- **Kristin Moore** (Adult Services)
- **Jaime Lawson** (Service Coordination)

FIFTEEN YEARS

- **Lisa Dunaway** (Adult Services)
- **Beth Riggs** (Service Coordination)
- **Vicki Waterman** (Adult Services)

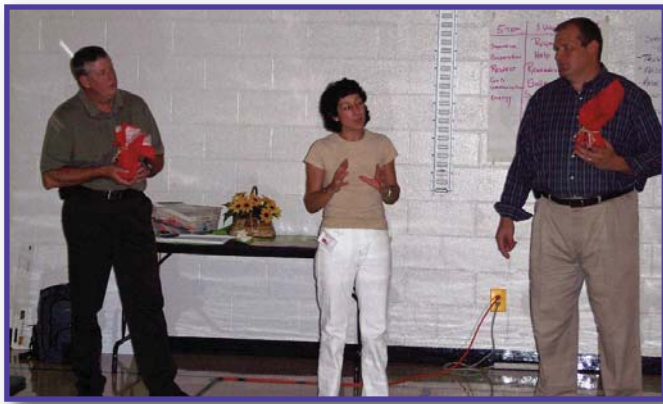
TWENTY YEARS

- **Carolyn McCallister** (Adult Services)
- **Christine Burkamp** (Service Coordination)
- **Daryl Waterman** (Adult Services)

September staff anniversaries

- **Chris Brooks** (Adult Services) -- 13
- **Molly Butt** (Service Coordination) -- 14
- **Jay Courson** (Administration) -- 9
- **Diane Dodson** (Early Intervention) -- 12
- **Angie Hall** (Adult Services) -- 1
- **Laura Kreager** (Adult Services) -- 12
- **Chris Lee** (Adult Services) -- 11
- **Melissa Martin-Davidson** (Service Coordination) -- 8
- **Betsy Nixon** (Early Intervention) -- 12
- **Roy Stutz** (Adult Services) -- 32
- **Angie Watson** (Adult Services) -- 7
- **Aleesa Womer** (Service Coordination) -- 3

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

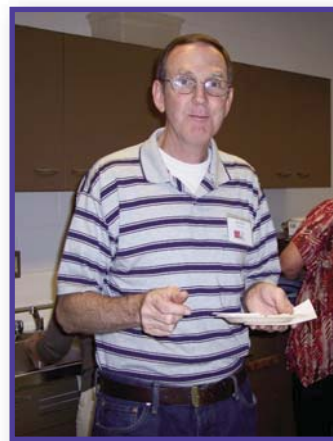
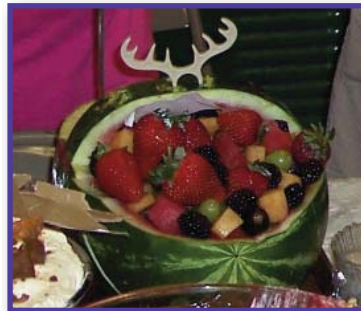


(Left) Superintendent Nancy Neely, center, thanks our keynote speakers Willie Jones, far left, and Pete Moore from the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. The pair presented the "Positive Culture Initiative." (Below) Staff member Portia Sparrow leads a group of coworkers in a "Positive Culture Initiative" exercise.



Staff Development Day

August 26, 2011



(Above, left) Courtney Bidwell's championship sinful Butterfinger trifle. (Above, right) Doug Price's winning "healthy" dessert.

(Below, left) Thanks to all who supported the Early Intervention department's "Leave A Book Behind" book drive. (Below, center) Mary Spain and Brenda Colley pose in their Sunday best to help raise money for Service Coordination's Angel Tree.

(Above, left) Roy Stutz samples the dessert contest entries. (Above, right) Courtney Johnston and Mark Bryant pose for a photo in their "Project Runway" gear. (Below) Staff participate in a fun "thinking outside the square" activity.



CARF coming soon

A survey team from CARF International will pay a three-day visit to the County Board later this fall.

The team plans to visit Oct. 31 through Nov. 2 to evaluate how well the agency meets international standards for quality.



The survey tells agencies how well they are doing and ways they might improve.

Surveyors will interview people who receive services, their families, County Board staff and others.

The last time the agency was evaluated by CARF was in late 2008. We then received a three-year accreditation, the highest level that can be granted to an organization.

At that time, CARF noted that the local Board showed substantial conformance to standards for serving adults and children with developmental disabilities.

Those agencies receiving a three-year accreditation puts itself through a rigorous peer review process and demonstrates that its programs and services are of the highest quality.

Also during the last CARF survey, the County Board received "exemplary" ratings primarily for its Community Employment Services program, and for the Early Intervention department's cutting-edge services provided to families of infants and toddlers.

CARF International is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative process that centers on enhancing the lives of the people who are served.

Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and now known simply as CARF, the accrediting body establishes consumer-focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services.

The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities was first accredited in the mid 1980s. To learn more, please visit www.CARF.org.

New procedure for reporting IT issues now in place

The next time you have a problem with your computer or any other technology issue within your office, there is a new way to report them to the appropriate staff.

Just log on to our website -- www.LCountyDD.org -- and click on the Careers page. Scroll down to the bottom of the Careers page and you will see the link to 'Click here to submit a Work Request,' for IT/computer issues.

You will notice that the process of reporting your problem is very easy and self-explanatory on the site. Thanks to everyone who got this up and running so that we have a more streamlined procedure for handling these requests.

'Thumbs Up!' (continued from page 2)

'Thumbs Up!' to the LCBDD staff who contributed to the fair-festival-parade season during the last couple of months. I really appreciated everyone's help:

- Hartford Fair -- **Shelly Hummel** (Administration), **David Goslin** (LICCO/CES), **Kyle Miller** (Adult Services), **Gary Wimer** (Adult Services), **Dorinda Burley** (Service Coordination), **Lea Bonner** (Service Coordination), **Molly Butt** (Service Coordination) and daughter **Abby Butt** (People First), **Silvia Murrey** (Service Coordination) and **Lori Crosmer** (Service Coordination).

- Pataskala Street Fair -- The **Adult Services staff** and **Spirit Line jewelry crew**; **Gary Smith** (Administration); **Dori Burley** (Service Coordination) and daughter **Rennea**; and a multitude of **People First members** who participated in the parade. A big 'Thumbs Up!' to **Pat Kunz** (Adult Services) who helped with the setup and tear down in the blistering heat and humidity.

- United Way Parade -- **Diana Shannon** (Service Coordination); **Mary Spain** (Service Coordination); our many **People First friends**; and the **Miller family**.

Another really huge 'Thumbs Up!' to **Diana Shannon** (Service Coordination) and **all those from 565** who made the People First banquet an awesome event. The official caterer was "Mama Ghiloni," AKA **Sue Ormiston** (Service Coordination) and she did a fantastic job!

- **Heather Odendahl** (Administration)

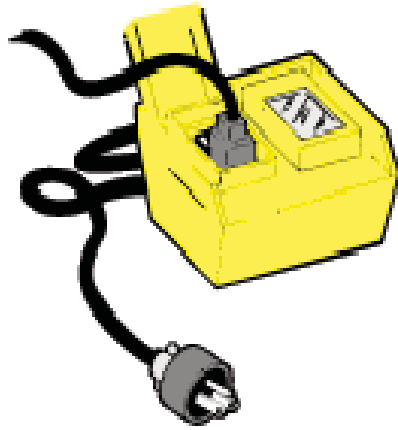
'Thumbs Up!' to the Service Coordination staff of **Diana Shannon, Sue Ormiston, Aleesa Womer, Tacie Thorne, Molly Butt, Lori Payne, Mary Spain, Ashley Foltz and her mom, and Heather Odendahl** (Administration) for making the People First anniversary banquet an awesome event. **Jay Courson** (Administration) also should be recognized for all his help. More than 60 people attended. Another 'Thumbs Up!' to **all who donated food and money** for the banquet. It was great because of all your support. Thank you! 'Thumbs Up!' to **Jay and Sue** for making the painting happen at the 565 building. We are really looking fresh and bright!

- **Chanda Busse** (Service Coordination)



Service Coordination staff members (from left to right) Mary Spain, Tacie Thorne, Diana Shannon, Sue Ormiston and Aleesa Womer pose for a photo at the People First Banquet on Sept. 15

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.