

Website has new look

Have you checked out our [website](#) lately? Richland Newhope (Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities) recently launched a newly re-designed website. It's now even easier for individuals and families to find information about the services and supports offered by the county board.

The website includes a number of new features, including an entire section just for provider partners or those interested in becoming a provider. There are also testimonials, a calendar of events, and links to agency publications, such as electronic newsletters and the annual strategic plan.

In addition, the website is now 'responsive,' which means you can now read and navigate the site more easily using mobile devices.

DD Board reorganizes for 2017, accepts donation

Nicholas Gesouras is serving as president of the Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities



for the second straight year. He was appointed to the post during the board's annual re-organizational meeting on Jan. 25.

The other officers for 2017 are Vice-President Stephen Swank and Secretary Richard Otto.

Check out [our website](#) for the DD board's meeting dates and times.

Also during the January meeting, the board accepted a check for \$2,503 from Don Johnson, grand knight of the Knights of Columbus Council 1968 in Shelby. The money, raised last year as part of the Knights' annual Measure Up campaign, goes to Richland Newhope's Gift Fund, which provides various supports for individuals with developmental disabilities, such as the purchase of wheelchairs and other adaptive equipment.

February Employee of the Month

The February Employee of the Month Devon Ruiz says it's an honor and surprise to be selected after working at the SSA department as a Community Contracting Specialist for the past 4 ½ years.

"Having worked in the social services field for almost 15 years and coming from a background in child welfare, it's not often that I have received formal praise or recognition," shared Devon.

[Read more...](#)

Time to nominate a Hero with Heart

Richland Newhope is seeking nominations for its 10th Annual Hero with Heart Award. The award is given each year to at least one Richland County resident who has made a significant difference in the life of someone with a developmental disability and whose efforts have contributed to positive public awareness and understanding of persons with developmental disabilities.

Nomination forms are available on the Richland Newhope [website](#) or at 314 Cleveland Ave. For more information, call 419-774-4215.

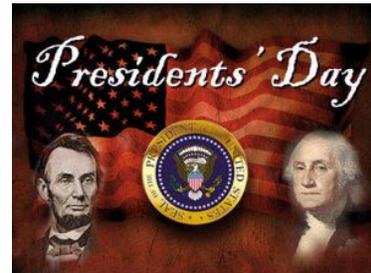
Input Sought

The Ohio State University Nisonger Center is seeking input from people with developmental disabilities, their families, service providers, professionals and other stakeholders.

Information from the [needs assessment survey](#) will be used to craft the Nisonger Center's strategic plan and grant application for the next five years. The survey takes about 10 to 15 minutes to complete and will help identify the important areas of needed supports and services for people with developmental disabilities in Ohio.

Holiday Closing

Richland Newhope's administrative offices, Early Childhood Center, and Service and Support Administration (SSA) offices will be closed Mon., Feb. 20, for Presidents' Day.



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