Madison student getting recognized on YouTube

Madison High School’s Interactive Media class teaches students some of the finer aspects of broadcast journalism and uses YouTube to share reports about what’s happening in the school district.

But perhaps one of the most popular reports isn’t about Madison. It’s about making the right food choices.

‘Healthy Hacks,’ as it’s called, is the brainchild of Irene Taylor, one of the students in the class. Irene says she started the segment in hopes that she, too, could become healthier.

All about work

(Editor’s Note: The following is part of a series of stories about providers that Richland Newhope partners with to provide services for people with developmental disabilities in Richland County.)
Helping individuals with developmental disabilities to learn job skills and find employment has taken on greater meaning since the Employment First Initiative began in Ohio in 2012.

One local provider doing its part to help with the effort is The Alpha Group – a non-profit agency based in Delaware.

The Alpha Group, which at one time was called Ergon, has been in north central Ohio for more than 20 years. Chari Shick first joined the company in 2007 as a job developer. Today she serves as the Alpha North vocational coordinator and supervisor.

Fond farewell to a friend
By Lynn Wilson, occupational therapist, and Laura Brackett, physical therapist

Hudson Budd is embarking on a new adventure, but it's bittersweet for Richland Newhope employees who have served the youngster since he was born six years ago.

Hudson first came to us as an infant after he was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Help Me Grow and Early Intervention staff served Hudson and his family until he was 3-years-old when he transitioned to preschool at the Early Childhood Center.

Richland Newhope has provided educational and therapy supports as well as family resources for Hudson over the years, and that resulted in a close bond between his family and all of the employees who delivered those services.

April Employee of the Month
Name: Christopher Meister
Position: Individual Consultant
Employed since: December 19, 2016
**Nominators Comments:** Christopher is described as being patient, attentive, and understanding to the individuals on his caseload. “He has so much life and work experience from being a teacher and an APSI Guardian. He seems to be one of the most seasoned and resourceful ICs I have met so far.”

**Employee of the Month Comments:** Christopher says he is proud to be selected as Employee of the Month by his colleagues. “Every day I see actions of compassion and kindness by those who work alongside me, as ICs towards individuals on their caseload.” Christopher says what he likes best about his job is helping those on his caseload to live their best and helping their families to navigate the developmental disabilities’ system.

**May Employee of the Month**

**Name:** Melissa Cole

**Position:** Community Contracting Specialist

**Employed since:** August 8, 2012

**Nominators Comments:** Melissa’s peer says she is always willing to take on tough issues to help individuals have the lives they deserve. “In addition, she always gets things done in the most kind, diplomatic and professional way possible.” Director of Medicaid Services Rodney Willis said she has proven to be both a team leader and a collaborative team player.

**Employee of the Month Comments:** Melissa says being Employee of the Month is a huge honor because she has so many co-workers who do amazing work. Melissa says the best part of working at Newhope is the people, both those that she supports and those that she works beside. “I feel so lucky to get to be a part of the lives of some of the most amazing and accepting people that I have ever met.”