Superintendent Update

The Richland County Board has successfully completed most of the objectives outlined in our three-year strategic plan. With the close of 2019, we have many successes to celebrate from this past year.

We received grant dollars to enhance the availability of Remote Supports and better educate potential recipients on the benefits of this service. A portion of the money went to setting up a demonstration room at our SSA Building so that individuals and families can have a hands-on experience of how these supports work in real-time.

Through a collaborative effort with Mansfield City Schools, we were able to hire a second Employment Navigation Specialist to work with students on their post-high school transition plans.

DODD Director Davis visits Newhope

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) Director Jeff Davis visited Richland Newhope/Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities on January 14. Accompanying Director Davis was also DODD Chief Strategy Officer Raivo Murnieks and DODD Legislative Liaison Jeremiah Wagner attended.

Director Davis met with Newhope staff at Raintree for breakfast and discussion, followed by a tour of Raintree. During the visit, he was able to observe the services provided to the individuals enrolled with services.

Following the tours, Director Davis attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony presented by the Richland Area Chamber of Commerce for the county's first multi-system youth care home.

Newhope seeking award nominations

Richland Newhope/Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities is now seeking nominations for its CARE awards.
CARE stands for Compassion, Advocacy, Respect, and Excellence. The award categories are Direct Support Professional, Self-Advocate, and Community Partner.

A nomination form with descriptions of all of the award categories can be found on our website, www.rnewhope.org. Forms are also available at the Richland Newhope Administration Building, 314 Cleveland Ave., Mansfield.

The nomination deadline is March 16.

For more information, contact Manager of Community Education and Special Projects Troy Smith at 419-774-4215 or tsmith@rnewhope.org.

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**Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**

As you drive around the Mansfield area next month, look for Richland Newhope’s five billboards as we mark March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

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**March activities planned**

Richland Newhope is planning several activities to mark Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March.

We’ll kick things off February 27 when the Richland County commissioners present the first of 10 proclamations we’ll be receiving through March.

Our 1st annual Awareness Bowling Event takes place March 4 at Lex Lanes. The event involves students from Richland County schools and public officials.

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**DD Board reorganizes for 2020**

The Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities held its 2020 organizational meeting on Jan. 22.

Stephen Swank will continue to serve as president. Swank has been a board member since 2014 and previously served as vice-president and secretary. He is also a board trustee for the Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB).

The other officers for 2020 are Richard Otto, who will continue to serve as vice-president, and Michael Howard, who was elected secretary.

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**Kudos to...**

- Staff at Richland Newhope’s Administration Building and Service and Support Administration (SSA) who participated in SSA's Christmas Stocking Project, resulting in gifts of wanted or needed items for 13 individuals who otherwise may not have received any presents.
- Mechanics Bank, Meijer, Worker’s Council, People First, Aktion Club, Newhope Charities, Mansfield Rotary, Galion Women of the Moose, Gorman...
Rupp, Richland Newhope Administrative staff dress down days, and Deb Moritz for donating money to provide gift cards for 54 individuals and their families who receive services from Richland Newhope. This was part of SSA’s Christmas Basket program.

- Richland Newhope staff, individuals, HR Choices: My Choice Activity Center, RNI, Inc. and All Care Services who donated non-perishable food and/or personal hygiene products to restock the food pantry at Richland Newhope’s Service and Support Administration (SSA). This was our most successful food drive! The items are used to help individuals and families throughout the year.
- Deb Moritz for coordinating and getting donations for the location, food and gift cards, for the Christmas Luncheon. One hundred and one individuals were invited to the annual Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 2nd, at the Life Celebration Center. Santa presented each attendee with a Christmas card that included a $35 Wal-Mart gift card, a McDonald’s free-meal coupon, and a DQ free-blizzard coupon. Also, thanks to Newhope staff for all of their help.

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**November Employee of the Month**

**Name:** Halie Nipuerdo  
**Position:** Direct Support Professional/Residential  
**Employed since:** November 24, 2014  
**Nominators Comments:** Halie is an awesome team player and is always very helpful. Her quick thinking and reflexes saved a young man’s life. She is a phenomenal employee and truly is person-centered.  
**Employee of the Month Comments:** The relationships I have built with every single one of the individuals is what I like best about my job. Also, I enjoy watching them grow, learn, and mostly by happy.

**December Employee of the Month**

**Name:** Jeff Stacklin  
**Position:** Programmer/Trainer - IT Department  
**Employed Since:** September 17, 2001  
**Nominators Comments:** Jeff is always here to help with your computer needs. He’s a wealth of information. He’s patient, kind, and a real problem solver.  
**Employee of the Month Comments:** It’s nice to know that people appreciate my contributions! I like helping people by writing programs and solving problems for them, or educating them via training videos.

**January Employee of the Month**

**Name:** Mary Kay Carey  
**Position:** Human Resources Specialist/HR Department  
**Employed Since:** October 19, 2017  
**Nominators Comments:** She has strove for success since her first day at Newhope. That drive to staff open positions in turn gives the individuals the attention that they deserve. She has always been a team player giving assistance in the changing of the group home schedules.  
**Employee of the Month Comments:** I appreciate my co-workers nominating me! I enjoy helping others and look forward to continuing to learn and grow with Newhope.
### Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 7</td>
<td>Independent Provider Meeting, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Administrative office in main conference room, 314 Cleveland Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 7</td>
<td>First Friday, 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Element of Art Studio/Gallery, 96 N Main Street</td>
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<td>Feb. 11</td>
<td>Yoga, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., Mid Ohio Education Service Center, 890 West 4th Street in Inventor’s Hall, (children and adults served by Richland Newhope at no charge to families – please pre-register by texting or calling Stephanie (419) 632-0762)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 12</td>
<td>Free Appropriate Public Education workshop, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Mid-Ohio Conference Center, 890 W 4th St., pizza provided, register at (419) 447-5520 X2018</td>
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<td>Feb. 13</td>
<td>14-hour Medication Certificate (First Day of Two Day Training), 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., SSA Building Training Room 12, 220 Home Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 14</td>
<td>14 hour Medication Certificate (Second Day of Two Day Training), 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., SSA Building Training Room 12, 220 Home Ave.</td>
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<td>Feb. 17</td>
<td>President's Day, Administrative, Service and Support Administration, Early Intervention, and Therapy offices are closed.</td>
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<td>Feb. 25</td>
<td>SSA staff meeting, 9:00-9:45am – Edwin Tharp from Metro will be presenting.</td>
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<td>Feb. 26</td>
<td>Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities meeting, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Administrative office, 314 Cleveland Ave.</td>
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<td>Feb. 26</td>
<td>New Independent Provider 101 Training, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., SSA Building Training Room 12, 220 Home Ave.</td>
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<td>Feb. 26</td>
<td>Special Needs Party, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., Richland Carrousel Park, Event is free and reservation is required (419) 522-4223</td>
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<td>March 4</td>
<td>Medication Certificate I Annual Update, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., SSA Building Training Room 12, 220 Home Ave.</td>
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<td>March 6</td>
<td>First Friday, 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Element of Art Studio/Gallery, 96 N Main Street</td>
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<td>March 10</td>
<td>Yoga, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Mid Ohio Education Service Center, 890 West 4th Street in Inventor’s Hall, (children and adults served by Richland Newhope at no charge to families – please pre-register by texting or calling Stephanie (419) 632-0762)</td>
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<td>March 11</td>
<td>Agency Provider Meeting, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m., Administrative office in main conference room, 314 Cleveland Ave.</td>
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<td>March 25</td>
<td>Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities meeting, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Administrative office, 314 Cleveland Ave.</td>
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<td>March 27</td>
<td>A free fun walk at the Richland Mall. The first 100 people to sign in starting at 10 a.m. will receive a goodie bag. The walk will start in the food court area about 10:30 a.m. following a short program.</td>
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<td>April 2</td>
<td>14-hour Medication Certificate (First Day of Two Day Training), 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., SSA Building Training Room 12, 220 Home Ave.</td>
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<td>April 3</td>
<td>14-hour Medication Certificate (Second Day of Two Day Training), 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., SSA Building Training Room 12, 220 Home Ave.</td>
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<td>March 3</td>
<td>First Friday, 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Element of Art Studio/Gallery, 96 N Main Street</td>
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### IN MEMORIAM

- Eddie Lugarini - November 4, 2019
- Freddie Rice - December 19, 2019
- Michelle Hunter - February 11, 2020