



## THE SCOOP

April 17, 2017

### **Always There campaign debuts website**

The Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities has created a new website for this year's Always There campaign to mark the 50th anniversary of county boards.

The website, [www.AlwaysThereForOhio.org](http://www.AlwaysThereForOhio.org), features personal stories and is home to the Always There History Project – a permanent archive of historical documents, videos, and other artifacts from Ohio's shared DD history. This project is expected to continue to grow even after the year-long anniversary celebration ends.

The website also includes a calendar of events being held by boards across the state to celebrate the 50th anniversary.

You can also find information about the campaign on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Richland Newhope continues to seek local stories that we can share as part of this effort. Please contact Jane Imbody at [jimbody@rnewhope.org](mailto:jimbody@rnewhope.org).

### **Early intervention launches new website**

Early Intervention, the state program previously known as Help Me Grow that supports infants and toddlers, recently launched a new website. And it features a local teen who once received services from Richland Newhope.

Ellie Nickoli, now a Lexington Jr. High student, initially shared her story last year with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, which now operates the Early Intervention program. That story is highlighted on the home page of the new [website](#) that offers a variety of information for families and providers.



## Comic book author

Daniel Luster has always dreamed of publishing his own comic book.

So Element of Art Studio/Gallery, where Daniel is a contracted artist, teamed up with local artist Lou Graziani to make that happen. Lou and Daniel worked together on storyboard-style comics and created a small book that sells for \$3 at the gallery.



Even better, Daniel traveled to Columbus on March 25 and sold 11 books during SPACE Com – a comic book convention! He also signed autographs and networked with other artists.

Daniel says it was the best day of his life.

## April Employee of the Month

**Name:** Michel Smith

**Position:** Individual Consultant Team Leader

**Employed since:** May 1, 1997

**Nominators Comments:** She is always working to ensure that her team is working to their best potential. She always makes time for you even when her plate is full. She is always working on ways to aide in the success of individuals in the workplace and the community. She is a very good team leader.



**Employee of the Month's comments:** I am truly blown away and honored to be Employee of the Month. I truly am supported by wonderful people who I much appreciate. I have always loved what I have done; being an IC team leader is no exception.

## ECC Easter egg hunt

Preschool students at our Early Childhood Center enjoyed an Easter egg hunt followed by a sweet treat on April 13 - their last day before spring break. Want to see more photos? Check out our photo [album](#) on Facebook!



## Mark your calendar

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) will hold its next Family Advisory Council meeting on April 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Delaware County Board of DD, 7991 Columbus Pike (East Wing/back entrance), Lewis Center. Self-advocates, family members, and professionals are welcome. DODD Director John Martin will be on hand to talk about the state budget and answer other questions. Click [here](#) to register.

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