

THE SCOOP

April 4, 2018

Smiles abound at mall walk

Dozens of people of all abilities came together to celebrate Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month on March 22 as Richland Newhope held 'Step into Spring' – a free fun walk at the Richland Mall.



Walkers received a goodie bag, free snacks, and a chance to win a gift basket donated by Care Companions of Ohio/Your Choice Home Care – one of several agencies that had information tables during the event.

The walk was an opportunity to do a healthy activity, meet new people, and learn about services and walking programs in Richland County.

'Step into Spring' was co-sponsored by Richland Public Health, the Mansfield Y, and the Richland Mall.

Check out video and photos from the event on our [Facebook page!](#)

RNI, Inc. growing

A lot of changes have happened at Richland Newhope Industries, Inc. (RNI) over the past 16 months.

The biggest change happened in December 2016 when RNI transitioned from Richland Newhope/Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities (RCBDD) and became a separate, non-profit provider agency – one of more than 150 providers the county board works with to ensure services for people with developmental disabilities in Richland County.

Last fall, RNI took over adult services and community employment operations for the Crawford County Board of DD.

As a result of these moves, RNI has added 31 positions, including 22 in Crawford County, and now employs 107 full-time and 16 part-time employees while serving 594 individuals.

Executive Director Amanda South said during a recent presentation to the RCBDD they'll soon be expanding the woodshop operations in Crawford County, and they're doing a new document imaging job for the Richland County Recorder's Office that will take about three years.

RNI is also partnering with Commercial Cleaning Enterprises, LLC, on a contract with the city of Mansfield to provide custodial services at the city municipal building, wastewater treatment plant, water treatment plant, and the utility collections building.



In addition, RNI offers other employment training opportunities through its lawn care services and the City Garden Café.

As part of the transition from the RCBDD, RNI took over transportation operations, which now includes a fleet of 24 vehicles that transport 300 individuals per week. South said, in the future, they would like to increase evening and weekend transportation service.

And look for a new RNI logo soon.

“Things are going really well,” South added.

For more information about RNI, go to www.rniinc.com.

Best Buddies fundraiser

The Best Buddies Chapter at The Ohio State University-Mansfield/North Central State College will hold its biggest fundraiser of the year coming up next month.

The Masquerade Gala and Dueling Pianos event will take place Saturday, April 28, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Mid-Ohio Conference Center, 890 W. 4th St.

There will be appetizers, a cash bar, and a silent auction. Masquerade attire is requested. Tickets are \$35 each and can be purchased by clicking [here](#).

If you're interested in sponsoring a table for \$500 – which includes 8 tickets and 16 drink tickets – contact Kodey Kreglow at 419-774-4452.



Did You Know?

Richland Newhope (Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities) offers ADOS (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule) testing for families with a child they suspect might be on the autism spectrum. We also are part of the PLAY Project, an evidence-based autism early intervention program. April is National Autism Awareness Month.



Calendar

April 6 – First Friday, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m., Element of Art Studio/Gallery, 96 N. Main St., Mansfield

April 9 - SCRAP recycling trailer, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m., Early Childhood Center, 255 Hedges St., Mansfield

April 9 – Aktion Club charity basketball game, 6:30 p.m., Friendly House, 308 N. Mulberry St., Mansfield

April 25 - Richland Co. Board of Developmental Disabilities meeting, 11:30 a.m., Early Childhood Center, 255 Hedges St., Mansfield

April 25 – RNI Dance Troupe’s International Celebration of Dance, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Renaissance Theatre, 138 Park Ave. West, Mansfield

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