



## THE SCOOP

December 7, 2017

### **Richland County Board of DD receives three-year accreditation**

The Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities (Richland Newhope) has been accredited by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) for the quality of services and supports it provides to people with disabilities.

The comprehensive state review was conducted in July 2017. A team of surveyors from DODD reviewed all areas of county board operations, including personnel administration, services and support, and other indicators of the general efficiency and effectiveness of the county board.

The results of the review found that the Richland County Board of DD achieved substantial compliance with state standards and subsequently obtained a three-year period of accreditation by DODD, the maximum possible term.

The surveyors singled out the enthusiasm and creativity of staff, the focus on provider development, early intervention services, and the person-centered planning for individuals who receive supports.

County boards are given two months of advance notice to prepare for the accreditation review, which requires many staff hours and a great deal of coordination between programs and departments.

“Department staff and I are well aware that this accomplishment required considerable commitment of resources and energy,” said DODD Director John Martin. “The board and staff are to be commended for your efforts in achieving this status.”

## **Liz Prather honored with award from OACB**



The Ohio Association of County Boards – Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB) recently presented Richland Newhope Superintendent Liz Prather with a 2017 Distinguished Service Award during a ceremony at the association’s annual convention in Columbus.

Commissioned in 2006, this award recognizes three board members, employees, or volunteers – one from a small county, one from a medium-sized county, and one from a large county – for their outstanding service and commitment to their local county board of DD.

Several members of the Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities traveled to Columbus for the awards presentation on Nov. 29.

“Liz has shown an overwhelming commitment to improving the lives of not only Richland County residents but all Ohioans,” says Board President Nick Gesouras, noting her more than 35 years of work in the developmental disabilities field and her community service efforts.

Liz has served as Richland Newhope’s superintendent for the past 10 years. She plans to retire at the end of this year and will be succeeded by

Michele Giess, the current director of Richland Newhope's Service and Support Administration.

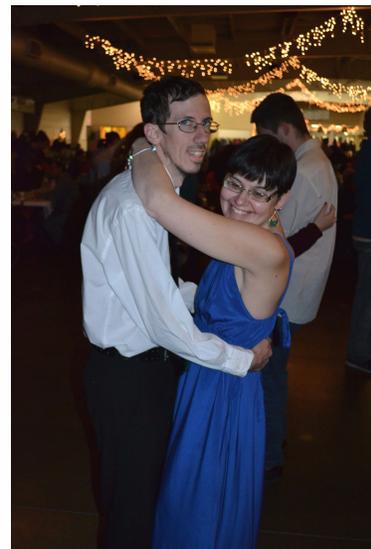
## Gymnastic performance

The children involved in the SPOT ( Speech, Physical, Occupational Therapy) group showed off their gymnastics abilities to their family and Newhope staff on Nov. 9 at the Early Childhood Center. The kids chose three different gymnastics activities for their routine: a jump, a balance activity, and a roll. Each child finished their gymnastics routine beaming from ear to ear with the final pose. The SPOT group started three years ago.



## Holiday fun

A holiday tradition continued Dec. 1 as more than 700 people filled Fairhaven Hall at the Richland County Fairgrounds for Richland Newhope's annual Christmas Party. The event is held each year for individuals who receive supports from the agency and their family members. Everyone enjoyed snacks, great music and dancing, photos with Santa, and a coloring page station. You can find more photos on our [Facebook](#) page.



## Thanksgiving feast

Residents of Raintree, along with their friends and family members, enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving meal on Nov. 15. The festive dinner included special decorations plus turkey and all of the trimmings. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed dessert and musical entertainment by Sarah Spayde. This was the 17th year for the event. Click [here](#) to see more photos on Facebook.

# December Employee of the Month

Name: Lin Moyer

Position: Disbursements - Payroll

Employed since: Aug. 29, 1988

Nominators' Comments: "Lin does an excellent job handling the many duties she has. She stepped in and took over payroll on top of her regular job responsibilities. Her hard work and can do attitude has made her successful in her position. She comes in on her days off and can be found working many weekend hours and even holidays in order to make sure that our department is able to process pay and ensure bills are being paid. I appreciate all of the hard work and dedication that she brings to our team."

Employee of the Month Comments: "I'm just a small cog in a big machine that works to provide excellent service and opportunities to the individuals we serve. Never been a dull moment and lots to do every day. It's an everyday process of learning and it's great. It is an honor to be singled out but one to be shared with many."



## EMPLOYEE MILESTONES

26 Years - Debra Marth

20 Years - Hobie Prince

16 Years - Ben Crouch, Karen Smith, Nicole VanTilburg, Nancy Riebau

# Calendar



**Dec. 15** – Retirement party for Richland Newhope Education/Therapy Director Carla Rumas, 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m., Early Childhood Center, 255 Hedges St., Mansfield

**Dec. 18** – Retirement party for Richland Newhope Superintendent Liz Prather, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m., Richland Newhope Administrative Offices, 314 Cleveland Ave., Mansfield

**Dec. 21 - Jan. 2** – Winter break for preschool classes at the Early Childhood Center

**Dec. 25 - 26** - Christmas Holiday: Richland Newhope Administrative Offices, Service & Support Administration, and Early Childhood Center closed

**Jan. 1** – New Year’s Day: Richland Newhope Administrative Offices, Service & Support Administration, and Early Childhood Center closed

## IN MEMORIAM

Ruth Ann Lape - Nov. 24, 2017

Diane Renz - Dec. 2, 2017

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