



## THE SCOOP

February 21, 2018

# Newhope ready for DD Awareness Month



Richland Newhope is planning several activities to mark Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March. This year's statewide theme is 'Celebrate CommUNITY.'

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

Our 25th Annual Richland County Third Grade Coloring Contest Awards Luncheon takes place March 2 at our Early Childhood Center. The contest involves hundreds of students from Richland County schools.

Newhope will hold its 17th Annual Community Awareness Day on March 8. Twenty-nine people will spend part of the morning visiting various locations that provide supports for people with developmental disabilities in Richland County.

We've added a new event this year. 'Step Into Spring' – a free, fun walk – will take place at the Richland Mall on March 22. This is being held in conjunction with the mall, Richland Public Health, and the Mansfield Y. Registration will begin at 10 a.m. with the walk starting around 10:30 a.m. The first 150 people to sign in will receive a goodie bag.

Other activities planned include an informational display at the Mansfield-Richland County Public Library and the Richland Mall plus the distribution of thousands of pamphlets through area churches.



## **Newhope's Vision – Always There**

### **2018 Update to the 2016 – 2018 Strategic Plan**

By Greg Grambush, director of CQI, Planning, and Information Systems

Richland Newhope (Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities/RCBDD) worked diligently during 2016 to transition from being a provider of services to being a funding source of waiver services for Adult Day programs and Transportation services.

For individuals and families, it meant more options in 2017 as the RCBDD continued to connect people to providers and natural supports in the community to meet their individualized needs as stated in their person-centered plans.

Because 2018 represents the final year of our three-year strategic plan, our planning efforts during 2017 focused largely on objectives that had already been established for the coming year. The Leadership Team, with input from their staffs, reviewed and revised these objectives and also generated additional objectives to supplement those previously stated. The existing planning document contained data presentations and several narrative sections. These were updated and the process was completed in time for Board review and approve in early December.

In some ways, the planning process was easier this past year. We now had a year of experience without Richland Newhope Industries, Inc. The resulting plan reflected the shift away from providing those services directly and toward a more comprehensive role for our Service and Support Administration and Community Contracting departments. They play key roles in connecting people to service providers in order to satisfy the needs and desires of individuals with developmental disabilities. And, while still funding Adult Services and Transportation, Richland Newhope continues to provide direct services in Help Me Grow, Early Intervention, Preschool, Therapy, and Residential Services.

You can read the 2018 update to the 2016 - 2018 Strategic Plan, "Newhope's Vision – Always There," on our website.

## **Seeking nominations**

Richland Newhope/Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities continues to seek nominations for its new CARE awards.



CARE stands for Compassion, Advocacy, Respect, and Excellence. The award categories are Direct Support Professional, Self-Advocate, Community Partner, and Hero with Heart.

A nomination form with descriptions of all of the award categories can be found on our [website](#). Forms are also available at the Richland Newhope Administration Building, 314 Cleveland Ave., Mansfield.

The nomination deadline is March 7. Winners will be honored at the agency's annual Recognition Banquet on May 4.

For more information, contact Community Relations Director Jane Imbody at 419-774-4215 or [jimbody@rnewhope.org](mailto:jimbody@rnewhope.org).

## Hearts and smiles

Valentine's Day was a chance for preschool students at our Early Childhood Center to enjoy some sweet treats, sing, dance, and exchange cards. Students got to take home a special goodie bag that they decorated. More photos can be found on our [Facebook](#) page.



## Employee of the Month

**Name:** Danielle Porter

**Position:** Individual Consultant (IC)

**Employed since:** January 18, 2016

**Nominators Comments:** "She has only been with our department for about two years, but you would think that she was a seasoned veteran when talking to her or problem-solving an issue. She is part of the transition team and does a great job being creative and innovative in supporting the individuals she works with. She is an especially skilled IC and is a great benefit to Richland Newhope."



**Employee of the Month Comments:** "It is an honor and a privilege to know that what I am doing is making a difference. The most enjoyable part of my job is working with those people on my caseload. I love assisting my people in gaining not only increased self-confidence with gaining employment but also a better outlook on accomplishing goals."

## EMPLOYEE MILESTONES

22 Years – Terri Benson, Angie Shaw

20 Years – Debra Jolin

12 Years – Deborah Fraley

9 Years – Erin Isch, Allen Trosper

7 Years – Katherine Griffeth

5 Years – Kimberly Duncan, Kristy Harris

## IN MEMORIAM

Sharon Myers

Feb. 16, 2018

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