

ALWAYS THERE

50 YEARS RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

THE SCOOP

March 1, 2017

Newhope ready for DD Awareness Month

Richland Newhope is planning several activities to mark Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month this month.

We'll kick things off March 2 when the Richland County commissioners present one of the 10 proclamations we'll be receiving during the month.

Our 24th Annual Richland County Third Grade Coloring Contest Awards Luncheon takes place March 10 at our Early Childhood Center. The contest involves hundreds of students from Richland County schools.

Newhope will hold its 16th Annual Community Awareness Day on March 16. More than two dozen people will spend the morning "trying on a disability."

Our 7th Annual Bringing the Elements Together Art/Talent Show will be March 24 from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. at the Richland Mall. Individuals supported by Richland Newhope who would like to perform should



call 419-774-4215. We'll also have a window display at the mall during March.

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

County boards celebrate 50 years

Did you know this year marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of Ohio's 88 county boards of developmental disabilities by the Ohio General Assembly?

The first meeting of the Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities was Oct. 25, 1967. The original members were David Ott, Warren Rupp, Don Finefrock, Dr. Lawrence Thompson, Dr. Gene DeLapa, Dr. J. Harold King, and Zorayda Bussom. This board took over the operation of the Richland Newhope program, whose roots actually date back to 1952.

Ohio's system is unique in that funds and services are managed at the county level, not the state, which allows for better community-integrated programs. We're also unique because we provide a lifetime of services to those with developmental disabilities.

Look for our 50th anniversary window display at the Richland Mall during March and other activities throughout the year. Also, we're looking for stories from individuals, families, employers, providers, community leaders, and our staff about the evolution of developmental disability services over the years



and what those supports have meant to you or the community. If you have something to share, contact Community Relations Director Jane Imbody at jimbody@newhope.org.

Staff changes

There have been some leadership changes at Richland Newhope in the past few months.

Fiscal Director Gary McKean retired after more than 20 years with the agency. He was also the long-time chairman of the annual Newhope Charities Golf Outing.

Our new fiscal director is Alicia Bailey, who also serves as Richland Newhope's human resources director. Alicia has worked for the Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities for the past six years.

There's also a new director of Residential Services. Jessica Winans was promoted following the departure of Court Sturts, who took a position with the Crawford County Board of DD. She has been employed in a variety of positions with Richland Newhope since 2001, most recently as assistant Residential Services director.

Court hasn't left the agency entirely. He continues to oversee our Operations/Transportation department.

[March Employee of the Month](#)

Name: Katie Griffeth

Position: Nursing Coordinator, Richland Newhope Group Homes



Employed since: Feb. 9, 2011

Nominators Comments: She always goes above and beyond her job duties; she expects all of her nurses to do their best; she NEVER just sits at her desk; she is always in the field with us doing the same work we do; she does very well to lead the group home nursing team and I've heard the nurses express how much they appreciate her.



**Richland County Board of
Developmental Disabilities
314 Cleveland Avenue
Mansfield, Ohio 44902**

P: 419-774-4200

F: 419-774-4207

TOD: 1-800-750-0750

