



**ALWAYS
THERE**
50 YEARS RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

THE SCOOP

March 15, 2017

New community partnership to train DSPs

Richland Newhope is collaborating with local social services agencies and provider agencies in Richland County in a new initiative to train people to become direct support professionals (DSP) who can help people with disabilities integrate more fully into the community.

Funded by monies awarded through the Healthier Buckeye grant, Richland Newhope is working with Richland County Job and Family Services, the Area Agency on Aging, the Success Unlimited program, several provider agencies, and the Madison Adult Career Center to develop a training program that will help providers hire qualified staff while also promoting the DSP profession.

The 'one-stop' training program will be offered by the Madison Adult Career Center and will be supplemented by the DSPaths curriculum, which was developed by the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP). Fifteen people have been certified by the Ohio Association of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) to teach the DSPaths-portion of the training.

Potential students, if employed first by a provider agency, will receive a wage while going through the training. Employers will be compensated for their employees' wages while they are participating in the training program as well as a couple of weeks after training is completed. If a participant decides they would prefer not to work with people with disabilities, the training will complement direct support staffing for facilities such as nursing homes.

The first DSP class will start in late April. You can sign up by contacting Madison Adult Education at 419-589-6363 or by contacting Heather Nore, Richland Newhope's coordinator of Provider Recruitment and Development, at 419-774-4418.

Proclamations issued for awareness month



The Richland County commissioners have joined other local leaders in proclaiming March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Tammi Black, who owns a snack stand located at the Richland County Administration Building, was among those on hand to accept the proclamation from the commissioners. During the presentation, representatives of Richland Newhope highlighted the many awareness activities taking place and shared information about the agency's efforts to help youth transition from school to employment.

Kendra Roberts, an intervention specialist at Pioneer Career and Technology Center, talked about how Pioneer partners with Richland Newhope through its STEP program (Specialized Transition Education Program), which currently has 16 students.

"We work together to help connect the students...so that they can go out and visit different business locations that are open to accepting employees with various disabilities," said Roberts.

The commissioners praised the efforts of Richland Newhope and Pioneer.

"The work you do in the community is critical to families," said Commissioner Marilyn John. "My

family benefits greatly from Newhope, so I know first-hand how important it is to have you here.”

Displays raise awareness

There’s still plenty of time to check out Richland Newhope’s two displays that are in the community to help mark Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Stephen is among those who’ve visited the information table on the second floor of the main branch of the Mansfield-Richland County Public Library. There you’ll find various brochures and handouts related to supports for people with developmental disabilities. At the Richland Mall, you’ll find a window display which celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities. It’s located near Macy’s. Both displays will be up until the end of March.



Mark your calendar

You’re invited to join us for the 7th annual Bringing the Elements Together Art & Talent Show on March 24 from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. at the Richland Mall. There will be artwork from Element of Art Studio/Gallery, various craft projects, two artists doing free portrait sketches, informational displays, a coloring page stations, and several performers taking the stage, including the dance troupe from Richland Newhope Industries, Inc. Stop by!

Coloring contest luncheon fun

Richland Newhope hosted a luncheon March 10 to honor the 16 winners of our 24th annual Richland County Third Grade Coloring Contest Awards Luncheon. It's one of several activities to mark Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. [Check out our Facebook photo album!](#) A news release about the event is posted on our website.



Power of positive parenting

Richland Newhope's Early Childhood Center (ECC) held a morning and afternoon session parent educational training on Feb. 28. Kelly Rapp, Step Up to Quality specialist with YWCA of Northwest Ohio, was the guest speaker. She talked about the power of positive parenting. Rapp said children of all of ages need a safe, secure, and loving environment to do well and to have the confidence and skills to succeed in school. She also said it's important for parents to take care of themselves and learn how to balance work and family. She encouraged parents to share their experiences and gave them helpful tips. The next parent educational training will be April 4. For more information, call 419-774-4277.



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