

THE SCOOP

March 21, 2018

Richland Newhope holds Community Awareness Day

Twenty-four people representing businesses, schools, and agencies in Richland County on March 8 participated in the 17th Annual Community Awareness Day sponsored by Richland Newhope/Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities. The event is one of several activities marking Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

The purpose of Community Awareness Day is to increase knowledge and understanding of how people with developmental disabilities are supported in Richland County. More importantly, it serves as an opportunity to highlight a person's abilities and to show that people with disabilities can be valuable members of the community when given the opportunity.

During Community Awareness Day, participants first had an opportunity to learn how adaptive equipment can assist people with disabilities in the challenges they face



daily. Then they were paired with hosts and taken to several Richland Newhope facilities, provider agencies, and into the community where individuals who receive county board supports are working or attend school.

Some comments afterwards included:

- Joe Armstrong/KeyBank: "The staff made them feel like they have value."
- George Velez/OhioHealth: "Yet another jewel of Richland County. A fantastic time; I wanted to stay longer."
- Whitney Schroeder/Massage Matters: "It was an awesome experience."
- Stephany Elgin/Richland Area Chamber of Commerce: "The programming they are providing is giving these students opportunities to do what they would like to do."
- Abby Hamilton/Mechanics Bank: "It was great to see the interaction."

This year's participants are members of the Mansfield-Richland Area Educational Foundation's 2017-2018 Leadership Unlimited class.

Check out more photos from the day on our [Facebook](#) page!

Mall walk is tomorrow

Don't forget to join us for 'Step Into Spring' – a free fun walk at the Richland Mall on Thursday, March 22.

The first 100 people to sign in starting at 10 a.m. will receive a goodie bag. The walk will start about 10:30 a.m. There's no set distance but we are encouraging people to try to do two laps inside the mall. That's equivalent to a mile.

In addition to the walk, several of our provider partners will have information tables so you can learn more about the services and supports available in Richland County.



Proclamations abound

Communities in Richland County are proclaiming March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Staff and individuals we support have been busy attending council meetings to accept these proclamations and share information about Richland Newhope. In all, we will be receiving 10 proclamations throughout the month. Thank you to all of our local communities for your support and to our volunteers who are attending the meetings!



March Employee of the Month

Name: Andrea (Andi) Franks

Position: Raintree Nursing

Employed since: March 15, 2016

Nominators Comments: "She is a joy to be around and is amazing at her job. She never hesitates to help someone out and has a bubbly-personality. She is accurate with her med passes and gets them completed in a



timely manner. She doesn't just pass meds and goes on her way. She takes time to socialize with the residents. She works hard to make sure everyone is taken care of. She has developed a trust with the individuals so they feel very comfortable around her."

Employee of the Month Comments: "It's an amazing feeling to know that my co-workers feel I deserve recognition for simply doing what I love. I love the interactions I am able to have with both individuals and staff. I am able to stop my "nursing" duties for a moment to play catch or tag with the individuals or assist with staff needs."

EMPLOYEE MILESTONES

25 Years – Virginia Peyton

23 Years – Susan Petersen

22 Years – Melissa Nedelkos

21 Years – Patty Reece

20 Years – Amy Eaton

19 Years – Nikki Kepple

16 Years – Daniel Eaton

15 Years – Jeri Zeigler

11 Years – Renee Putman

9 Years – Pam Imhoff

8 Years – Melinda Warren, Julie Mlakar

Mark your calendar!

The Kiwanis Aktion Club will hold a charity basketball game Monday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m. at the Friendly House. Donations will be accepted at the door. All proceeds will go to the Friendly House!



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