

THE SCOOP

May 2, 2018

Preschool program gets high marks

When you enter Richland Newhope's Early Childhood Center on Hedges St. these days, it's hard to miss a sign proudly proclaiming our preschool program has received a Five-Star Step Up To Quality Award from the state of Ohio.

Step Up To Quality is Ohio's rating system for learning and development programs.

Participating programs can earn a one to five star rating that's determined by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

Research confirms that the first five years of a child's life has a direct impact on how children develop emotional well-being along with learning and social skills.

Through Richland Newhope's preschool program, children with developmental delays as well as typically-developing children are supported in small classrooms or community-based settings. Services include therapy,



specialized education instruction, and on-going assessments using a state-approved curriculum.

The preschool is currently enrolling for the 2018-2019 school year. For more information about our preschool program, call 419-774-4277 or visit our [website](#).

New SSA director named

A long-time Richland Newhope employee is the agency's new Service and Support Administration (SSA) director.



Juanita Shenberger will officially take over the position on May 3. Juanita has been serving as interim director since Jan. 1 and succeeds Michele Giess, who is now Richland Newhope's superintendent.

"Juanita has a passion for supporting individuals in person-centered ways to be part of their community," noted Michele. "She has a wealth of experience and knowledge that will assist Newhope achieve its mission."

"I am honored to accept the position of being SSA director," said Juanita. "The staff in the SSA Department are so committed to helping the people and families that we work with every day. They are a great group!"

Juanita is a graduate of Shelby High School and The Ohio State University. She joined the agency in 1994 as a habilitation specialist in Adult Services and became the supervisor of habilitation programming four years later.

In 1999, Juanita moved to Richland Newhope's Early Childhood Center where she worked as an Early Intervention specialist, a preschool teacher, and an intake specialist. In 2004, she joined the SSA Department as an individual consultant and was named a team leader in 2005 – a position she held until her appointment as interim SSA director earlier this year.

Her goals for the SSA Department include improving its efficiency and effectiveness, such as streamlining the paperwork they're required to do and having all electronic master files.

Juanita, her husband, Rob, and son, Jacob, have lived in Bellville for the past 12 years. They have a dog, Jigsaw, and enjoy spending time watching Jacob play sports. You may also catch Juanita and Rob running in many of the local races and trail running at Mohican State Park.

Design a Magnet Art Contest

Richland Newhope is sponsoring a Design a Magnet contest for individuals with developmental disabilities in Richland County.

The winning entry will be featured on a magnet that's distributed to the community, starting with the Richland County Fair in August. Click [here](#) for the entry form. Artists can use colored pencil (best), markers, or crayons.

Please remember to include the name of the artist, address, and a telephone number and/or



email address with each entry.

The winner will receive two tickets to the fair and a Richland Newhope bag.

Entries should be mailed to Richland Newhope's Community Relations Department, 314 Cleveland Ave., Mansfield, OH, 44902. The deadline is June 30.

For more information, call 419-774-4214 or 419-774-4215.

Did You Know?

Richland Newhope (Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities) operates six residential facilities, including Raintree, and all are manned with direct care staff 24 hours a day/seven days a week. We now have openings for full-time, part-time, and substitute workers. Click [here](#) for a list of current job openings.



CALENDAR

May 4 – First Friday, 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., Element of Art Studio/Gallery, 96 N. Main St., Mansfield

May 14 - SCRAP recycling trailer, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m., Early Childhood Center, 255 Hedges St., Mansfield

May 23 - Richland Co. Board of Developmental Disabilities meeting, 11:30 a.m., Richland Newhope Administration Building, 314 Cleveland Ave., Mansfield

May 24 – Last day for preschool classes at the Early Childhood Center

May 28 – **Memorial Day: Richland Newhope's Administrative Offices, Service & Support Administration, and Early Childhood Center closed**

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