

# Community holds baby shower



Richland Newhope was among 19 organizations that participated in Richland Source's Community Baby Shower on Sept. 9.

The inaugural event was designed to raise awareness about infant mortality and give parents an opportunity to learn about ways to prevent it. Participating agencies provided parents with information about the different resources, activities, and services available to them and their family. Soon-to-be moms also went home with many items for their babies.

Newhope's Early Intervention (EI) staff spent weeks preparing for the baby shower.

"EI is sometimes a well-kept secret, and it was a great opportunity for us to get the word out about our program," says EI Specialist Amber Merrell. "We were able to explain that EI is a program that can come into the home to help parents if they feel like

their infant or toddler is not where they should be with their development.”

In addition to information about Richland Newhope, parents were given a book of milestones that lets them know when to expect their babies to demonstrate specific skills or steps in development. In addition the agency provided jars of baby food, growth charts, and cookie cutters with a Kool Aid Play dough recipe parents can make with their kids.

That’s not all. There was a raffle for a soft duck blanket made by EI Instructor Connie Emery, and diapers provided by a Community Development Block Grant were also handed out.

“It was an exciting and fun-filled day, and we want to thank Richland Source for letting us be a part of this experience,” adds Amber.

(Photo courtesy of Richland Source)

## **Did You Know?**

Richland Newhope (Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities) remains a direct provider of early intervention services and that 100% of those services are paid for using local dollars.



## **Synergy Conference registration underway**

Registration is now open for the 2017 Synergy Conference, sponsored by the Ohio Self-Determination Association and PAR. The conference is set for Oct. 4-6 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. Sessions target developmental disabilities professionals, individuals with DD, parents,

guardians, family members, county board staff, and providers in the areas of residential, direct service, day services, social work, management, and service coordination.

For conference details and registration, go to [www.synergyohio.org](http://www.synergyohio.org).

## Special Olympics cards available

Richland County Special Olympics is once again selling cards that can be used for discounts at 21 area restaurants and other businesses. Among them are Donatos, Gionino's, Old Carolina Barbecue Company, Athens Greek Restaurant, Whit's Frozen Custard, Old Bag of Nails, Olive Garden, Roosters, Texas Roadhouse, The InField, Little Buckeye Children's Museum, O'Charley's, Fazoli's, and Dunham's Sports.

The cards cost \$5 each and are available for purchase at Richland Newhope's Administrative Offices, 314 Cleveland Ave., Mansfield. The cards are good until Oct. 30, 2018. All proceeds will go to Richland County Special Olympics.



## September Employee of the Month

Name: Irene McConnell

Position: Human Resources

Employed since: June 8, 2000

Nominators Comments: Irene is always looking out for the best of Newhope. Her complete dedication to training and developing everyone at the



Administration Building to the standards of excellence must be recognized. Although she is not directly working with the individuals that we serve at Richland Newhope, she is very familiar with them from her 17 years working here. She has single-handedly influenced every employee as she is working on the back end of the employee records, certification, performance appraisals, and so many different areas.

Employee of the Month Comments: "What I like best about my job is all of the employees I get to meet and if/when possible assist in some way. I am so very honored and was definitely surprised to be chosen Employee of the Month. To be recognized for my work by co-workers makes me feel appreciated and lucky to have such a place to come to for work. I thank all for this recognition. I have always been proud to be associated with Newhope."

## **EMPLOYEE MILESTONES**

25 Years – Chris Stransky

21 Years – Ron Frasher

16 Years – Jeff Stacklin

15 Years – Tamara Camp

14 Years – Annette Cottrill

10 Years – Amber Merrell

8 Years – Kelly McConachie

7 Years - Velma Anderson

5 Years – Betty Kleri, Dawn Trosper, Devon Ruiz

**IN MEMORIAM**

Nate Bradley

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