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MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

On behalf of TuscBDD, I would like to thank you for taking time to read this newsletter. So many exciting things are taking place across our county from the development of the FANS Network to growing advocacy efforts for Special Olympians. Before you read through these stories, I would like to take some time to update you on an upcoming change to Ohio's Waiver Waiting List Rule. Over the past year, a passionate group consisting of individuals served, families, guardians, county board staff, and providers came together to review the Waiting List Rule and devise a strategy for improving this process.

The current rule has been in effect for many years and

numerous Ohioans with developmental disabilities remain on this list. In fact, many people who are currently on the list have noted that they do not have a current need for additional services. Additionally, many people from across the state have found the current process to be overly complex and in need of simplification. Therefore, a new rule has been developed.

On September 1, 2018, the modified Waiting List Rule will go into effect (this is a change from July 1, which was first noted). This new rule seeks to simplify the process by assessing individual needs to ensure that individuals who have an immediate need remain on the list. In the coming

months, Service and Support Administrators (SSAs) from TuscBDD will meet with each person currently on the local waiting list to conduct a new needs assessment to determine if you or your loved one has an immediate need. If you no longer meet criteria to remain on the waiting list, your name will be removed; however, in the event that you meet criteria in the future, your name will be placed back on waiting list and your need will be addressed in an expedient manner. You can request to be re-assessed for waiting list eligibility at any time. For your convenience, you can call the SSA Supervisor, Kyle Wells, at 330-339-9661 or email him at kwells@tuscbdd.org with any questions. ~ Nate Kamban



SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Rockets basketball

Teams competed in a community fellowship game on March 27 as part of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Before the game, the New Philadelphia Police Department provided a police escort from Starlight School to Tuscarawas Central Catholic for the Rockets and Pep Club. Ethan Collins sang, "The Star Spangled Banner." The unity on the court was powerful, and many who participated came away with positive things to say.

Rockets Maroon team won the Division IV State Championship after defeating tough teams from Summit County (72 to 63) and Hamilton County (79 to 75).

Athlete-Leader Input Council

Special Olympics now has an Athlete-Leader Input Council, which met during March and held elections for Chairman and Vice Chairman. Twelve members were present. Alex Adkins (bowling, basketball, track, softball, football) was elected Chairman, and Rachel Russell (bowling, basketball, track, football) was elected Vice Chairman. Chelsea Lefler (bowling, skills basketball, swimming,

pep club, volleyball, bocce, track, softball) and Miranda Milburn (bowling, basketball) will serve as secretaries.

Athlete-Leaders and mentors voted on which area school would receive "The Spirit of Tuscarawas County" award. Newcomerstown Schools was selected as the first recipient, while Strasburg-Franklin Schools and Gary Spinell received a community partnership award for the above and beyond support of the Rockets this basketball season.



MARCH

HOW WE CELEBRATED AWARENESS MONTH

Sensory Friendly Movie

Bridges Out of Poverty Workshop

Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse

Fellowship Talent Show

STEAM Pop-up Museum at Charmed: Gifts With Meaning

Community Partners Pancake Breakfast

Special Olympic Basketball team joining with staff members and community members for a fellowship basketball game

Photographers Reception and Photo Sale at Charmed: Gifts With Meaning

Display at the New Philadelphia Public Library for the entire month of March in celebration of DD Awareness and Advocacy.

FANS NETWORK

Hello. My name is Nicole Donant-Moore, and I have been interning for the TuscbDD for roughly four months as the FANS Network Administrative Assistant Intern.

The Network has received donations like the books for the book club to help people that we serve, and it has been a huge blessing. As a person with Cerebral Palsy, it warms my heart to see the community come together to help others like me.

With this position, I want to show the community that people with disabilities can do different and great things! People with disabilities all have barriers to face, and for some it's a daily struggle. I feel privileged to work for TuscbDD because I feel like I can give others a voice and give them hope. In the words of Helen Keller, "Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it." I hope that my work will help society view people with disabilities in a new light. It will help others to see that we can do whatever we set our minds to.

GET INVOLVED



Make A Memory Team: Donate gift cards to help provide people an experience that they might not have otherwise been able to afford.

Novel Adventures Book Club: Meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 4-5 pm. This club is open to everyone with or without disabilities who has a love of reading.

Game Time: Meets every second Saturday in the evening from 6-8 pm in May through August. At Game Time, people with and without disabilities can hang out and enjoy playing board, card and other games together.

Serving Hands: A group of people that pitch in wherever there is a need. Serving Hands consists of professionals, family and community members, and people from our FANS Network.

IMPORTANT DATES

June 6
The FANS Network Novel
Adventures Book Club

June 8
The FANS Network Game
Time

June 11
Always There Week of
Service

July 14
The FANS Network Game
Time

August 1
The FANS Network Novel
Adventures Book Club

August 11
The FANS Network Game
Time

September 5
The FANS Network Novel
Adventures Book Club

September 13
Charmed Art: Coffee &
Canvas

October 3
The FANS Network Novel
Adventures Book Club

October 18
LunchBox Talk: National
Disability Employment
Awareness Month

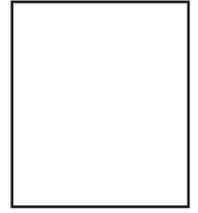
November 7
The FANS Network Novel
Adventures Book Club

December 5
The FANS Network Novel
Adventures Book Club

December 6
Charmed: Gifts With
Meaning Holiday Open
House

FANatics Allies Outreach: Contact us about outreach programs available to the community. Email Nicole at fans@tuscbdd.org or call 330.339.3199.





WHAT'S NEW

After working collaboratively with area agencies, TuscBDD was awarded grant funds in the amount of \$372,705 from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) to develop a model to provide therapeutic respite and in-home support for youth with intensive behavioral needs in Tuscarawas and Carroll counties. As part of the grant application, TuscBDD partnered with area agencies to develop a comprehensive model for serving youth who have both a developmental disability and intensive behavioral needs. It is the goal of this grant to develop our local capacity to serve this population in order to reduce the need for out-of-county residential placements. Currently, many counties lack placement options for youth with developmental disabilities and intensive behavioral needs. Many children that have multiple intense needs are placed outside of the county and often far away from their family and community, and this funding will be invested locally so that children can stay close to home. We are excited about this new collaboration!

Collaborating Agencies

- ★ Alco Services, LLC.
- ★ Carroll County Board of Developmental Disabilities
- ★ Personal and Family Counseling Services
- ★ Tuscarawas County Family and Children First Council

**ALWAYSSM
THERE**
50 YEARS OHIO COUNTY BOARDS OF
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

TuscBDD
Empowering • Partnering • Achieving

60 YEARS