The Whetstone Connection

Morrow County Board of Developmental Disabilities**406 Bank Street*Mt. Gilead, OH**419-947-7045
Whetstone Industries**440 Douglas Street**Mt. Gilead, OH**419-947-9222**whetstoneserves.com

Spring 2019

Morrow County Board of Developmental Disabilities

My dreams...My job...My goals...My friends...My family...My hobbies...My neighborhood...

JUST ASK ME...

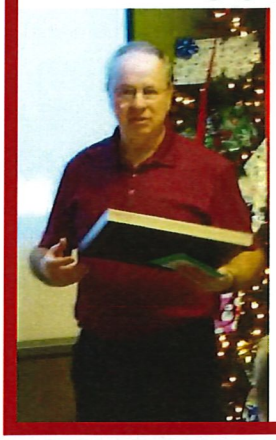
. . . . about volunteering

. . . . about helping in our Community

. . . . about Summer Transition Camp

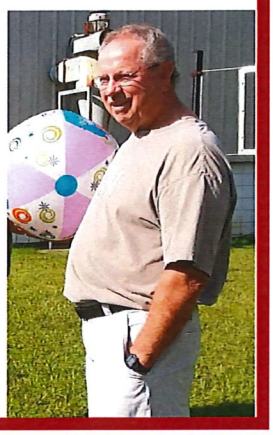
. . . . about Special Olympics

JUST Ask Me. . . . *How much Mr. Barchus will be missed!*



It was with very mixed emotions that Whetstone Industries celebrated the retirement of Don Barchus at its annual Christmas celebration. After 44 years of service as the Morrow County Board of DD Adaptive Physical Education and Special Olympics Coordinator, Don Barchus said goodbye to many friends and co-workers at Whetstone. Words cannot express how much Don has meant to the staff, the individuals, and the families of Morrow County. Don, we hope that you are able to look back at your time spent at Whetstone as rewarding but look forward to your times ahead with anticipation. **You will be greatly missed!**

The new COG Special Olympics Coordinator for Morrow and Crawford Counties is Kelly Hufford.



JUST Ask Me . . . . *About the new Whetstone Café!*

Raven Carroll (pictured at left) submitted the winning name for Whetstone Industries' newest venture! The ***Whetstone Café*** coffee shop opened in March 2019 so that employees, guests, and individuals can purchase coffee and snacks during the day.

Barista "Chad" (pictured at right) will be serving the coffee and snacks to help in his development of skills for a community job. This new venture provides opportunities for people to practice money skills, time management skills, self-advocacy skills, and social skills, but have a little fun at the same time! The hours of operation are Monday-Friday 10:00-10:15 and 2:00-2:15. Stop in and check us out!

JUST Ask Me . . . . *About The Great People of Morrow County!*

What a special young lady! During the holiday season this year, Kami Workman chose to give up birthday gifts and asked that her friends and loved ones give donations to the Clothes Closet instead of purchasing her gifts. Whetstone was excited to partner with Kami to give all the donated hats, gloves, and scarves to the Closet. It is important for all the children of Morrow County to stay warm this winter. The "Giving Tree" was created to display all the generous donations of hats, scarves, and gloves that were donated to the local Clothes Closet.

When you are able to do such selfless acts as a young person, you are likely going to grow into an amazing adult. We are so glad that you touched our lives, Kami.

Early Childhood Home Visiting | Ohio Department of Health

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has a new Facebook page for Maternal, Child and Family Health! Help Me Grow is just one of many great programs within Maternal, Child and Family Health at ODH. Some of the others include: Tobacco Cessation and Asthma , Safe Sleep, Breastfeeding , Children's Hearing and Vision , Birth Defects , Reproductive Health and Wellness, The Ohio Equity Institute (OEI), School Nursing , And more!

This Facebook page, on top of the already existing Help Me Grow pages, will help ODH connect with more people, and better raise awareness throughout the state for many different health topics. To stay up to date with events, announcements, health facts and more, visit and like the Ohio Department of Health page at odh.ohio.gov

Our mission: is to cultivate a dynamic community where people can make meaningful contributions and lead fulfilling lives.

JUST Ask Me. . . . *About My Love For Animals!*

Many individuals at WI are very passionate about their love of animals. What better way to fuel this passion than to volunteer in a pet socialization program at the Humane Society. For these volunteers, being around the animals helps bring them joy, helps relieve their stress, and definitely makes them laugh. But this volunteer experience is about so much more. Whetstone Industries partnered with the Morrow County Humane Society for the pet socialization program because of the many ways it benefits both pets and the individuals involved. The volunteers spend time interacting, exercising, and playing with the pets. Through the pet socialization program, the pets learn to be gentle around children, for example, and not to be aggressive toward other pets they may encounter. They learn not to bite or nip at people. Pet socialization leads to a happy and confident pet that is trained to react comfortably and appropriately to his environment. By interacting with the animals weekly, the volunteers hope that their efforts ultimately lead to the pet getting adopted and being able to lead a healthy, happy, and well-balanced life. If you are looking to adopt a pet, contact your local Humane Society.

JUST Ask Me. . . . *About My Trip to the Statehouse!*

Six Morrow County residents travelled to the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus on March 5, 2019 to celebrate Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day. What a great opportunity to meet old and new friends from around the state, to hear from state leaders, including Governor Mike DeWine, Lt. Governor Jon Husted, and State Treasurer Robert Sprague, and to meet with State Representative Riordan McClain. Rep. McClain was interested to hear about the community service projects such as making grieving bears and journals for Hospice of Morrow County and collecting hats, scarves, and mittens for the Clothes Closet. Rep. McClain was aware of Morrow County's new transit system (MCAT) and will be interested to hear if it helps to improve the independence of individuals in Morrow County who have disabilities.

Pictures (l-r): Christina, Ann, Penny, Sandi, John, and Chad met with District 87 State Representative Riordan McClain to share and advocate regarding local activities and issues which impact individuals with developmental disabilities; the group admired the beautiful Seal of Ohio; Chad meeting Governor Mike DeWine.

Subscribe to our Newsletter!

If you would like to receive our newsletter by email, please contact Michelle Brown at mbrown@whetstoneserves.com. Email is the best way to make sure you receive the latest newsletter hot off the press!

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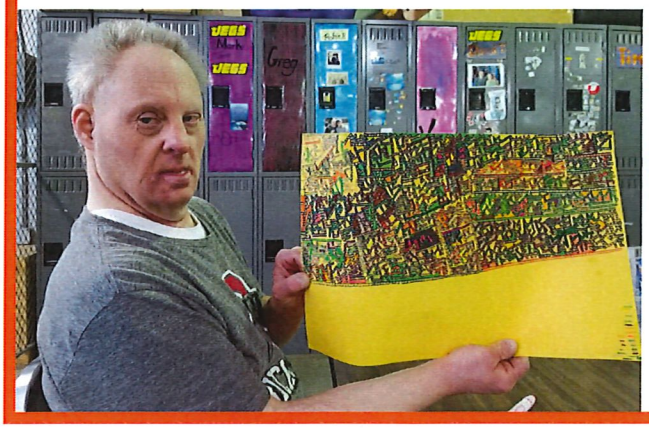
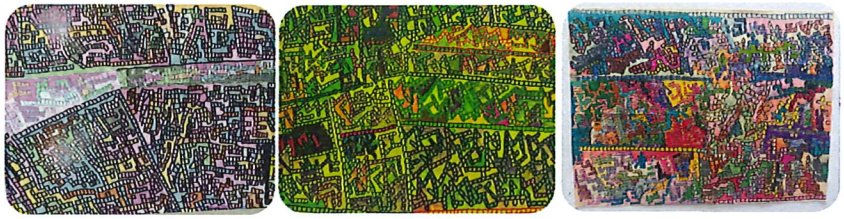
JUST Ask. . . . *Mark Jones About His Awesome Drawing Skills!*





Original artwork created by Mark Jones and pictured above is being used in our DD Awareness Month Facebook posts. Mark resides in Cardington and is an avid artist, community volunteer, and friend. Oh yeah, he also has down syndrome. Mark truly enjoys creating these unique works of art and sharing them with his friends. Ask Mark about his unique artwork the next time you see him!

JUST Ask. . . *A Morrow County Self-Advocate or Aktion Club Member about their Community Service Projects!*

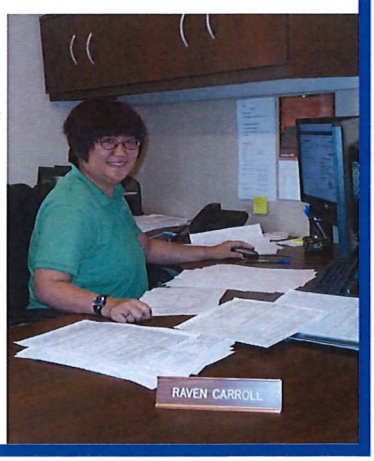
Aktion Club is a service club for adults with developmental disabilities and is a sponsored organization of Kiwanis International. Whetstone Aktion Club is sponsored by Mt. Gilead Kiwanis. Aktion Club members have completed many service projects during the past year, including making journals and Grieving Bears for Hospice staff and volunteers to give to grieving children and teens, collecting hats, scarves, and mittens for the Mt. Gilead Clothes Closet, roadside clean-up along Douglas Street in Mt. Gilead, assisting Mt. Gilead Kiwanis at their annual pancake breakfast, and partnering with students from Pioneer JVS to complete service projects around Mt.Gilead.

#DDAwareness

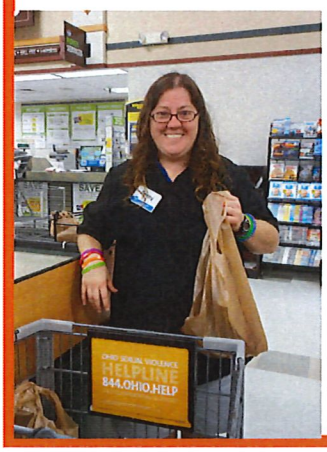
Pictured above are President Chad Wogan, Glen LaVan, and Advisor Sandi Williamson with Jeff Slider and Julie Blankenship from Hospice of Morrow County accepting the donations from the Self-advocacy group and Aktion Club.

JUST Ask Me . . . . *About My Job!*

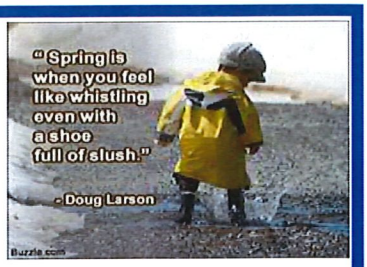
Raven is excited about working at AgCredit in Mt. Gilead. Her title is "Scan Reviewer" but she has completed other duties such as preparing 400 Christmas cards. Raven started October 4, 2018, with an orientation in Fostoria, Ohio to learn about how AgCredit supports rural America. Raven likes working in the community because she knows she has many skills and abilities that can be helpful to others. Raven is an Ohio Leader for Project Stir and also is involved with People First and Aktion Club. She's a part of Special Olympics, participating in bowling, softball and track activities. Raven enjoys going four-wheeling and attending the Morrow County Fair with her fiancé Garet. She is looking forward to a Virginia Beach vacation.



Penny enjoys working at the Mt. Gilead Kroger 3 days per week. Her favorite part of her job is making friends with her co-workers. Penny has learned new skills including some computer applications, the process of using a fingerprint time clock, and how to properly bag groceries. She knows it is important to pack the bags so they are not too heavy. She also gathers shopping carts and returns them to the store. Sometimes Penny finds groceries that customers left in the carts and returns them to the customer service desk. Penny has learned to operate the electric motorized carts and although she finds them difficult to maneuver, she still gathers them when her job requires it. Penny has learned and understands the importance of company policies, such as no phone calls while at work, returning from breaks on time, tardiness, etc.



Superintendent's Corner by Nancy Foglesong, Morrow County Board of Developmental Disabilities



Spring. **This time of year offers us so much! The sunshine boosts our mood, the sprouting spring flowers gives us hope for tomorrow, and the new growth on trees reminds us that growth from change can be beautiful and healthy too! Even with the occasional shoe full of slush!**

County boards of developmental disabilities across Ohio are experiencing many changes, and while at times it all seems to be happening too quickly, the changes have been evolving over several years and will continue for several more. Many of these changes are mandated. In Ohio, the County Boards of DD are required to transition out of providing direct services, specifically adult services and transportation, by 2024 to meet Medicaid requirements.

As we carefully plan to execute this transformation, there are many questions, and most are quite similar to those occurring in other counties. What does this transition mean? In a very simplified snapshot, it means that Whetstone Industries will become the Medicaid provider, billing for the services it provides, and employing the direct service professionals, much like residential providers do for their services. The county board's role and responsibilities will continue to grow and change. We will continue to provide Early Intervention, Service and Support Administration, supports to providers, Medicaid administration, and continue to be a significant funder of the transitioned adult services just like residential and other services, by providing the required matching funds. We will continue to monitor services to ensure health, safety and wellness. Equally important, we will ensure that people receive the supports they need at each step along the way of their personal journey, to ensure they have the same opportunities as other citizens, to enjoy meaningful relationships, and have cherished memories of a full life.

As this process continues, developmental disabilities services are being transformed in other ways too. Regardless of how much we personally want to embrace technology in our own lives, our world is quickly being changed by the innovations made possible through technology. Medical advancements are Intertwined with it. The applications available to people, and especially those with disabilities, is beyond amazing! We have seen an explosion in advancement, from simple modifications, like mechanized wheelchairs and communication devices, to "smart" devices and applications that increase safety and Independence and open the doors to a world most could only dream about. The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), under the Technology First Executive Order issued by former Governor Kasich, is working with County Boards to ensure that technology opportunities will be discussed as a part of all service and support plans for individuals.

Looking forward, what can we expect to see in our future? After privatization, the county board will support Whetstone Industries, like all other private providers, to ensure people have opportunities, are supported in decision-making, and to ensure they are receiving the services they need. We will see integration grow where people will enjoy being more involved in their communities, whether for employment or recreation. On Governor Mike DeWine's first day in office, he issued an Executive Order on Disability Inclusion, to highlight the importance of employment of individuals with disabilities. The resolution established Ohio as a Disability Inclusion State and model employer of individuals with disabilities and authorizes the appointment of a State Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Coordinator, who will be responsible for advising all state agencies and departments of disability policy and compliance with state and federal disability rights laws. The Executive Order further requires each state agency to review hiring practices to identify and eliminate barriers to employment of individuals who have disabilities. The Ohio Department of Administrative Services and the State ADA Coordinator will also ensure that all state employees participate in regular disability etiquette and awareness training to build and sustain a culture of inclusion in the workplace. This action should help to open the doors for better employment opportunities for many people with developmental disabilities.

While change is often challenging, you will find now, and in the future, county board employees committed to supporting the best path for each person with developmental disabilities. Our mission speaks from the heart and mind of every county board employee: to cultivate a dynamic community where people can make meaningful contributions and lead fulfilling lives. If you have questions regarding current services or our future, please contact us!

Respectfully,
Nancy

Guardianship Training

Morrow County Board of DD will once again be offering the 3-hour guardianship broadcast from the Ohio Supreme Court Judicial College. Every person in Ohio who holds adult guardianship is required to participate in a one-time fundamentals course and continuing education requirements for each following year. This year's course will be presented on **October 16, 2019** from 8:45 a.m. to noon at Whetstone Industries, 440 Douglas St., Mt. Gilead. If you have questions or want to register for this course, please call Ann Artrip at 419-927-9222.

Did you know—What Are Waivers???

Waivers allow in-home and community care that help certain Medicaid consumers stay in their own home rather than having to move to a long-term care facility or nursing home. A waiver "waives" certain Medicaid eligibility requirements such as family size when considering household income. This allows individuals who might not be eligible for Medicaid under regular Medicaid rules to become eligible based on their disability diagnosis and assessed needs.

There are currently three different types of Medicaid waivers which are administered by county boards of developmental disabilities: Level One waivers, Individual Options (I.O.) waivers, and SELF (Self-Empowered Life Funding) waivers. Currently in Morrow County 81 individuals are enrolled onto one of these waivers.

FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK OF OHIO

Families Supporting Families

The Family Resource Network of Ohio believes that together we can achieve great things, and now the group has a **new website** (frnohio.org) to bring people together and offer support to Ohio families. Also in website news, OhioSibs (OhioSibs.org) has **redesigned its website** and continues to support and connect siblings of people with disabilities.

Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council

Conducts activities that improve Ohio's capacity for delivering services to people with developmental disabilities. These activities include grant projects that are designed to ensure that self-advocates and their families have a voice in issues involving their services and supports and projects intended to streamline the quality and efficiency of services people with developmental disabilities need. For more information contact Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council at 614-466-5205 or visit their website at oddc.ohio.gov

HIO Early Intervention

Coordinated services to parents of young children with disabilities. Early Intervention builds upon and provides supports and resources to assist parents and caregivers to enhance children's learning and development through everyday routines. It is a collaborative, home and community-based system where you and a team work together to provide ongoing support to your child. For more information visit:

www.ohioearlyintervention.org
or call Robyn Harriman at 419-947-1545

People First of Ohio assists people with disabilities who are self-advocates to talk about their needs and rights with people in their communities, making sure that people with disabilities have the right to do what they want in their lives, are responsible for their choices , and have the right to live and do things in the community. For more information in Morrow County, please contact Sandi Williamson, People First Coordinator, at 419-947-9222.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We would like to encourage all to share their great ideas and perhaps offer support and relief from life's daily stresses. We all have talents and ways we can help. Please consider sharing yours as a volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Maggie Clark at 419-947-9222.

Our mission: to provide a dynamic community where people can make meaningful contributions and lead fulfilling lives.

Morrow County Board of Developmental Disabilities Service & Support Administration

Michelle Davenport, Director
Beth Flores, SSA
Mariane Huff, SSA
Brad Jacobson, SSA
Taylor Kelso, SSA
Robyn Harriman,
Help Me Grow Service Coordinator

Ohio Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

An agency that partners with businesses, schools and other organizations to help people with disabilities prepare for careers consistent with their interests and abilities. Services include evaluation, counseling & guidance, training, treatment and job placement assistance. Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities works with individuals with disabilities to achieve employment, independence, and disability determinations. For more information go to www.ood.ohio.gov.