



REFLECTIONS

April 2007 • Volume 28 • Number 4

Agency well represented in Reds Opening Day Parade



Dozens of individuals, families, and staff proudly represented Hamilton County Board of MR/DD by walking in the annual Reds parade on April 2.

The weather was perfect, and the red, the smiles, the cheers and the support were abundant.

Beckman Adult Center staff and individuals made banners that they carried to support the Reds (bottom left.)

Representatives from Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries, one of the agency's valued contract partners, marched, too (right.)

Thanks to everyone who took time to participate in this proud Cincinnati tradition.



Graduation

Friday, May 18, 2007
7 p.m.

Margaret B. Rost School
5858 Bridgetown Road, 45240

Bobbie B. Fairfax School
4999 Kingsley Drive, 45227

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Kidd Center collects sauce for homeless shelter

Individuals and staff at Kidd Adult Center recently completed a hot sauce drive for the St. Vincent Homeless shelter in Dayton.

Director Preston Bartlett is connected with the shelter.

"We learned that hot sauce is a much requested item but isn't a basic that the shelter can provide with its limited funds, so we decided to take this on for them," Preston said.

More than nine gallons of sauce were collected, which is 108 bottles, exceeding the goal of 100.



Preston (back right); Joe Kettler (top left), Victor Bluestein (bottom left); John Conyers

From the Superintendent

We're "moving" forward this month to bring to fruition two more stipulations from the Tax Levy Review Committee (TLRC) process from more than two years ago, both of which pertain to facilities.

Work is proceeding on schedule at the new Support Center building, at 1520 Madison Road in East Walnut Hills.

The first groups of staff currently at the Blue Ash location are scheduled to begin moving the first weekend in May, with the last groups to be in the first weekend in June.

The newer section of the building didn't require as many renovations as the older section, which is part of the reason that we are moving in phases.

This month-long move process gives extra time for renovations to the older part of the building to be completed, and for our move to not be so disruptive to normal operations.

Basically, all functions currently operating in Blue Ash will be moving to Madison Road. The exception to this is the Northeast Service Facilitation team.

The Northeast Service Facilitation team was temporarily housed at Support Center after it was moved from Fairfax to make space for students from Breyer's closing. This team will be moving to its new location on Montgomery Road in some time in May.

In addition, the advocacy team will be leaving Northside and moving to Madison Road.

We are very much looking forward to settling into our new quarters, which are more accessible to individuals served and many of our contracted partners.

The main phone number will stay the same – 794-3300 – so we can be reached as seamless as possible throughout the transition and after.

In other building and TLRC news, Hamilton County Commissioners are preparing a resolution to begin the process of selling Breyer School. A minimum bid amount is being established, to eliminate what has been termed "garbage bids."

We will be sharing this update along with updates on the other recommendations with the newly-appointed TLRC later in the year, as our mid-levy review was postponed to give the committee time to focus on agencies with levies coming up in November.

Since providing people with quality, person-centered services is our primary emphasis, not bricks and mortar, we are anxious to see these building-related issues completed so we can move on to more important things!



Cheryl

Kunick at legislative rally



Cheryl Phipps and Linda Kunick represented Hamilton County at the recent legislative rally at the statehouse, coordinated by Arc of Ohio. Cheryl was a featured speaker as president of the Ohio Superintendent's Association, and Linda spoke as president of People First of Ohio.

Passport to Self Advocacy

A retreat for Ohio's Self
Advocacy Groups

July 6, 7, 8, 2007
Xavier University

Buenger Residence Hall
3800 Victory Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45207

Sponsored by:
Empowered People Reaching Out
(Butler County)
and
Leaders in Action
(Hamilton County)

\$150 cost includes shared dorm
room, meals for three days

Registration forms must be received
by June 15, 2007

Contact:

John Romer
Hamilton County Board of MR/DD
541-2021. ext. 35

or

Keith Banner
Butler County Board of MR/DD
867-5932

The conference Brochure and reservation
form is on the Hamilton County web site at
www.hamiltonmrdd.org

Hamilton County Board of MR/DD Residential Provider Fair



June 14, 2007

Bobbie B. Fairfax School

4999 Kingsley Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45227

4 – 7 p.m.

If you are interested in
showcasing your
agency at the fair,
please contact Jan
Chambers at 794-3300.
Let us know how many
representatives from
your agency will be
present and what type
of accommodations
you may need.



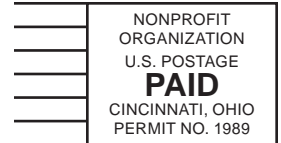
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Greg Webb, Vice President
Robert Hall, Secretary
Cindi Andrews
Pat Leary
Martin Miller
Cheryl Phipps, Superintendent

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(513) 587-7315
www.hamiltonmrdd.org

24 Hour
Emergency Number
(513) 794-3308

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Adam Hardin sends update from Kuwait



Adam (back) and friends

One of the agency’s Behavior Support Specialists - Adam Hardin – has been on a 14-month Kuwait deployment with his Navy Reserve Unit since May 2006.

He reports that he has been working 10-hour days guarding a port with incoming supply ships for Operation Iraqi/Enduring Freedom. Half of his time is with a radar station and the other half is as a liaison in a lookout tower with Kuwaiti staff.

Adam and his colleagues have been doing some volunteer activities in the community as they get time, and spent one day at a school at a Kuwaiti orphanage.

“I’ve developed a very rudimentary knowledge of Arabic and been exposed to some interesting foods,” he said. “I’ve acquired a taste for lamb and curry; I’m still working on sour milk.”

Adam has met people in Kuwait who have relatives with disabilities, including “a line coach at the gun range whose daughter has Down’s Syndrome, a chief whose child has Autism, and a Kuwaiti tug boat driver whose child has a developmental disability.”

He is on schedule to return to his duties at the agency this summer.