



# The Cable

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

## EMPLOYMENT FIRST

We all love hearing success stories about someone finding community employment, but we also love seeing the data that illustrates a positive trend showing that community employment is becoming an obtainable goal for many individuals served by the Board.

From 2016 to 2017, the number of individuals served by the Board working in the community grew from 74 people to 101 people. This represents a 37% increase. This trend of community employment continues to move into 2018 with the percentage increase already up 40% when compared to 2016.

This is significant when we look at this in terms of income earned for those working individuals. Those working in the community earn an average of \$9.77 per hour.

We feel fortunate to have a supportive, creative and accepting community that plays a huge role in these successful numbers. We have many great partners, providers and employers, and they are essential to making the dream of community employment a reality. As we continue to move forward with Employment First, we are optimistic that the opportunities for community employment will continue to increase so more and more individuals with developmental disabilities will be competitively employed in our community.



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**3rd THURSDAY OF THE MONTH March/April/May**  
**Board Meeting** at 5pm at Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities on Galloway Road.

**EVERY TUESDAY April/May/June**  
**Tiny Tot Tuesday** 10-11am at the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities on Galloway Road (starting April, 2018).

### Fix The List is Here!



Have you ever experienced confusion, delays, or complexities with Ohio's Medicaid Waiver waiting list for Home and Community-based Services (HCBS)? Have you wished for something simpler and more responsive? Well, now there is a greatly improved way Ohio's waiting list for HCBS waivers operates: "Fix The List!"

For 15 months, a variety of organizations have advocated for you to fix the HCBS list, including



Through the efforts of this coalition, and informed by the feedback of people with developmental disabilities and their families, a new approach to the way Ohio's HCBS waiver waiting list operates has been needed. With over 49,000 names on the current list, it was somewhat misleading that so many needed services when they might have been receiving local services instead. No longer do families need to leave names of their loved ones on the list anticipating possible future needs for services.

In 2017, people with developmental disabilities and their families were sent a survey to provide their direct feedback on what parts of the current waiting list is valuable to them and what would make the waiting list work better to meet their needs in the future. 651 surveys came back and served as the backbone for Fix The List. These findings were used to build the new system.

- 53% did not know that their local county board may have services available that do not require waiver funding and can be provided without having to be placed on a waiting list.
- 81% ranked "Timely Access to Services Regardless of Funding Source" as Extremely Important.
- 74% ranked "A Transparent System to the Order of Waiver Enrollment" as Extremely Important.
- 63% ranked "Uniformity of the System Through All 88 Counties" as Extremely Important.

The proposed new system uses an assessment tool to better determine a person's eligibility to be added to the Waiver Waiting List. If you would like to know more about this new assessment tool or the proposed new implementing legislation, you are urged to attend:

- March 19, 2018: Central Ohio Transition Bootcamp
- May 3, 2018: PAR Ohio Regional Training
- May 10, 2018: PAR Ohio Regional Training

Note, too, that every Friday the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities does a Family Talk. Also consider downloading the Fix The List FAQ at: [http://www.fixthelist.info/uploads/8/3/7/2/83720792/ftl\\_faq.pdf](http://www.fixthelist.info/uploads/8/3/7/2/83720792/ftl_faq.pdf).



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**BOARD MEMBERS:** David Stuck, President • Howard Collins, Vice President • Stacie Schmid, Secretary  
 Don Sieg • Bob Wright • John Hoty

The Cable is a publication produced by Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities and The Krabill Marketing Group, LLC. Inquiries can be addressed to [info@eriecbdd.org](mailto:info@eriecbdd.org).

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

As 2018 begins, I would like to take time to recognize two of our Board Members who ended their service on the Board at the end of 2017.

I would like to personally thank Eric Kibler and Jude Theibert for their years of service as Board Members of the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities. I would like to thank them for bringing their passion, intellect, insight, experience and wisdom to the Board, and for challenging me, the staff, and other Board members to always do our best. They used their skills, experience, knowledge and education to move our organization forward and positively impact our community. Eric and Jude have positively impacted the lives of those we serve with their thoughtfulness, service, commitment, leadership, guidance and respect.

I would like to recognize Eric for serving as our Board President and managing all the extra duties this position entailed and for also serving on the finance and other committees. I would like to recognize Jude for his special expertise, leadership and attention to detail on our policy and finance committees. Thank you both for your hard work and commitment to those we serve.

The Board has updated our 3 Year Strategic Plan and our Mission Vision and Values. In our Plan, we continue to focus on Self Advocacy, Person Centered Planning, Community Engagement, Competitive Community Employment, and Birth through 3 Services. In the next

three years, we are also looking to strengthen family-to-family connections, the use of remote and adaptive technology, and our partnership with providers. You can find a copy of our Strategic Plan on our website at [www.eriecbdd.org](http://www.eriecbdd.org), or you can visit "Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities" on Facebook to find information about our activities and events.

*Carri Baier*

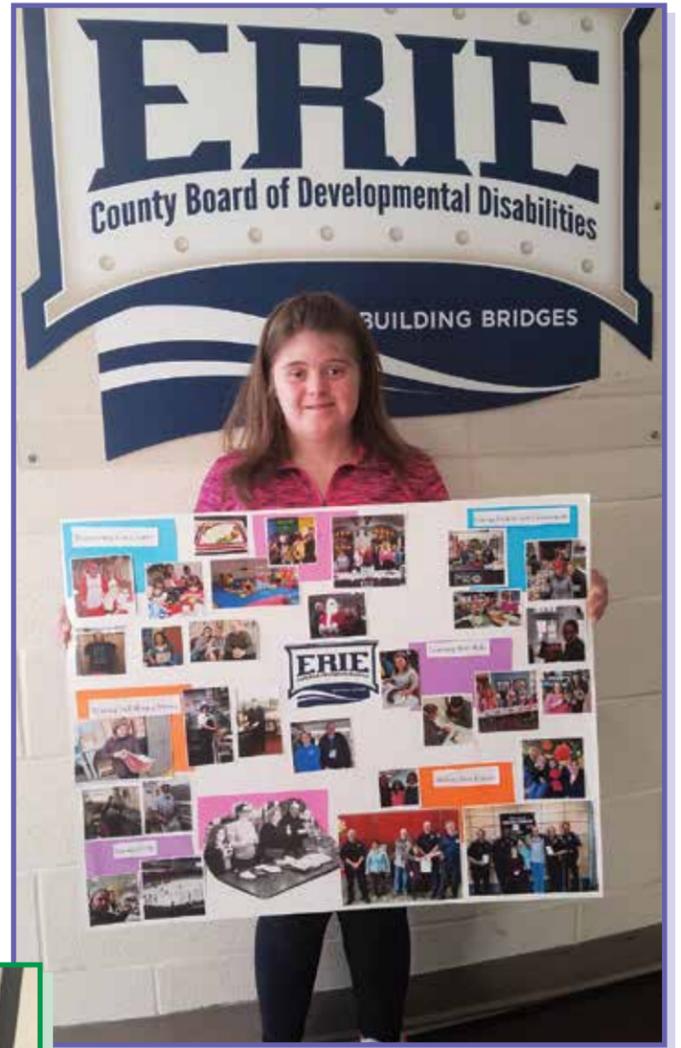


*Eric Kibler and Jude Theibert were awarded commemorative plaques in appreciation for their many years of service on the Board of the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities.*

## SELF-ADVOCACY

Meet Marcee Esposito, a Self-Advocate of Erie County. She and other Self-Advocates went to Columbus to the State House to speak with our local legislative representatives to talk about the needs of individuals with Developmental Disabilities, and to share information about the supports that the Erie County Board provides.

In this photo, taken just prior to her March 7th trip, Marcee shows off her picture board created to help highlight the wonderful accomplishments of the ECBDD and the Self-Advocates of Erie County.



## OUR MISSION

*The mission of the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities is to: Inspire, empower, and support individuals and their families.*

419-626-0208

4405 Galloway Road  
Sandusky, Ohio 44870



## VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY

### Early Intervention Group Opportunities

We recently held a Valentine's Party for our Early Intervention and Home Visiting Program as well as our community, and had 18 families who attended.

We made hand-print Valentines, played in red feathers and red rice, made Valentine's trail mix, and crawled through a lighted tunnel. Everyone got an "Eye think you're cool" Valentine with sunglasses to take home.

Some comments we heard at the event:

- "This is so fun!"
- "It's so hard when we are home all day, so we look forward to getting out and having fun together!"



## E.C.B.D.D. STAFF GIVES BACK



The July "Always There" event resulted in the collection of 207 pantry items, more than 1,100 diapers, and seven packs of baby wipes.

It's true! The staff at the ECBDD works hard each and every day, but what is less well known is how much they give back to their community. For example, in 2017 our staff did all of this:

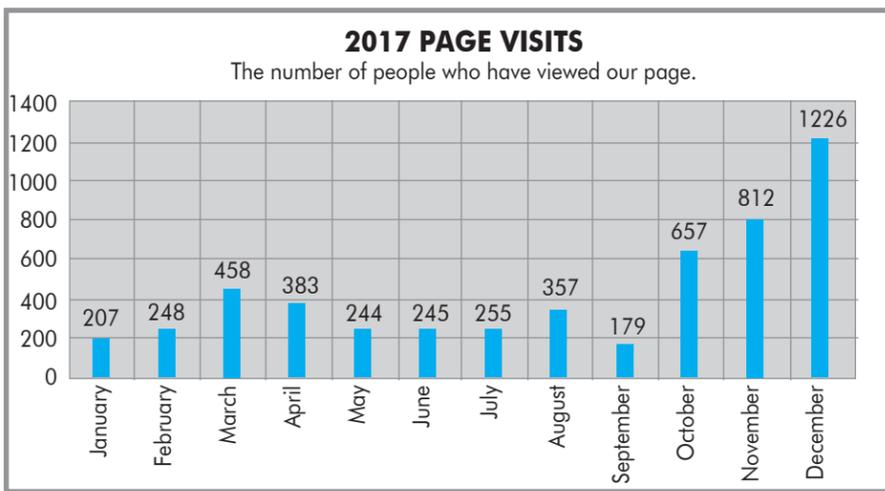
- Raised \$306 for United Way through various small fundraisers
- Raised \$207 for United Way with Football Fridays
- Raised \$274 for March of Dimes
- Donated diapers and pantry items to the "Always There" event in July
- Raised \$180 for the Alzheimer's Association in August
- Donated \$187 for Santa's Workshop door prizes in December
- Collected jean/jean card \$ for Friends of DD

We are so proud of our staff and how they give back to our community. They are certainly worthy of a little pat on the back!

# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

In recent months, we have been making a targeted effort toward increasing our visibility on social media, most notably on our Facebook account. With the ability to announce and promote events and various efforts, as well as being able to give timely updates in an easy-to-access forum for members of the community, we hope that the added exposure will increase interest, participation, and reward for all. A broader community with heightened involvement is good for us, for those we serve, and for our area.

We're pleased to tell you that, as a result our efforts, exposure to our Facebook page continues to grow. Take a look at some statistics from our account in 2016 vs. 2017 to see for yourself. And then check out the photos of some of the fun we promoted!



In addition to the increase in page views, our total reach (the number of people who have seen one of our posts) and our total page "likes" have risen as well.

Why not join in on the trend? Visit our Facebook page today, and don't miss out!

