

Employment First

In Erie County

March/April 2016

Volume 2, Issue 2

A Story Told - Julie Kessler



My name is Julie Kessler and I retired from Kroger after working there for over 21 years. It was easy. I bagged groceries and got all the carts in. I liked getting the carts because customers wanted to use them. There were big carts and little carts. We wiped them off if they

were wet. I made some friends there. We took our breaks outside when it was nice. There was a picnic table out there for us to sit on. We still keep in touch. Plastic or paper was the question I asked customers when they came through the check out? The heavy stuff goes in the bottom. Things like tomatoes go

on the top. I still do all my grocery shopping at Kroger! I can't wait until the new Kroger opens. It's really big and so is the parking lot. I'm glad I won't have to get carts in that big parking lot. Kroger is a great place to work and shop! I recommend it!

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

March is designated as Developmental Disabilities Awareness month in Ohio. Awareness in general is a great thing. And the larger community knowing, forming friendships with, and embracing those with developmental disabilities is important. But this type of awareness in the community will not come from an open house or a billboard. This month should be about you sharing your story, your personal experience, and parts of

your life.

Every year the ECBDD picks a "theme" for awareness month, which is then used all year. The 2016 theme is "Every person has a story. What's yours?"

Story telling is one of the most powerful tools to informing others, giving them insight into who a person is. Look at the recently released show "Born This Way". Described as a show with "young adults born with Down syndrome pursue their passions

while defying society's expectations", the show tells stories that everyone can connect to in some way. This story telling leads to connections and "ah ha" moments, which then leads to awareness.

This month, let's do more than simply declare "March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month". Let's share stories! Talk about your dreams and goals, and demonstrate who you are. This is what will make an

impact. This is what will bring awareness. This is how we can celebrate.

So I ask....



And how will you share it?

Contact Jennifer Yingling at Jyingling@ecbdd.org to share your story this year.

Ohio Employment First - and the ADA

[Employment First was signed into rule in 2012](#) by Governor Kasich. A part of the rule includes defining different words or phrases.

Knowing the language and words of the Employment First rule may help you to feel more empowered when it comes to making employment decisions.

This month we will talk about the ADA. Although not a “definition” the ADA is an important thing to know about. In many ways the ADA is the driving force behind

Employment First!

ADA stands for American’s with Disabilities Act. The ADA became law in 1990 and is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities. The ADA extends to jobs, schools, transportation and ALL places public and private that are open to the general public. The ADA was written to make sure that all people with disabilities, even those with developmental disabilities, have the same rights as everyone else.

The ADA includes an “integration mandate” that basically says public agencies need to provide services in the “most integrated setting appropriate to the person’s needs”.

It is important to know about the ADA. Examples of the ADA in action include curb cuts on sidewalks, public transportation with wheel chair lifts, workplace accommodations, and opportunity for equal access in the community. This is just a small glimpse into the ADA. Read more information at www.ada.gov

Sign up for local Project STIR!

The Erie County Board of DD will be hosting a local opportunity for people to attend Project STIR (Steps Towards Independence and Responsibility).

This eight week program is for individuals and is designed to provide people with the tools to advocate for themselves and gain leadership experience.

Project STIR teaches lessons such as knowing yourself,

communication, problem solving steps, rights and responsibilities, being a part of the community and so much more!

Our local Project STIR group will begin May 5th and will meet every Thursday from 3:30-6:00pm until June 23rd. Those who complete this session will be honored at a graduation ceremony!

Registration form is available on our website or by request. Spaces are limited. There is no cost to attend.

Please contact Jennifer Yingling at JYingling@eriecbbdd.org or call 419-502-4124 for more information or with any questions.



Upcoming Events and Training Opportunity

Art Show - opening party
03/10/16 6-8pm 138 E Market Street Sandusky

March is DD awareness month. To celebrate the self-advocate group has teamed up with the Sandusky Artisans to host an art exhibit showcasing the amazing talent in Erie County. Join us for the show opening!

SAVE THE DATE
DD Awareness and Advocacy Day 03/08/2016 Statehouse

March is DD awareness month. The Ohio Statehouse hosts an advocacy day for Ohioans with disabilities. This is your chance to talk with your legislators! More information can be found at www.facebook.com/OhioDDawarness/

Upcoming EVENTS

Sexuality and IDD 04/13/2016
6-7:30pm EHOVE Building A room 101

Guest presenter will discuss five main points for healthy and successful sexual development. Points include basic knowledge of body, private vs public conduct, social rules/body language. This is an EHOVE “Hot Topic” event.

Tis the Season— Spring Job Fairs!

MARCH 3, 2016 4:00-6:00 PM

EHOVE Career Center

316 Mason Road Milan, Ohio

MARCH 30, 2016 1:00-4:00 PM

Ohio Means Jobs at Kalahari

700 Kalahari Sandusky, Ohio

Spring is the season for job fairs. Employers across Erie County are gearing up for the busy summer. A job fair is a great place to meet employers, apply for jobs, or even learn about the different types of job are in our area.

March 3rd Goodwill will host employers from all 50 industries. This job fair will feature FREE workshops and attendees can enter to win a free iPad! March 30th OhioMeansJobs will host their annual job fair at Kalahari from 1-4pm

50
Employers
From All
Industries

Onsite
Interviews

Life Out Loud

Life Out Loud LLC (LOL) is a service provider in Erie county that currently works with transition age youth (13-24). LOL is best know for it's flagship program Camp S.C.R.E.A.M (Social, Career, Recreation and Employment), a two week summer camp. The camp provides youth the opportunity for career exploration, develop work preferences and soft skills. This year LOL will offer an Occupational

Exploration program. The 6 week program will expose participants to six employers in Erie County. Youth will have the opportunity to learn about jobs and think about likes and dislikes regarding environment, tasks, and other elements important to work. Experiences, such as those provided by Life Out Loud are vital to transition age youth. Program co-founder Marissa Merk "Opportunities for early

employment or employment training is vital for transition aged youth. The statistics of obtaining employment after exiting school services exponentially decreases without employment or employment training opportunities during school. Employment is empowerment and can open many doors to help an individual live the life he or she wants."



Call 440-413- 0086 for more information.

Facebook Life Out Loud LLC

Family Corner - Family Information Network (FIN)

FIN group is a chance for families and guardians to get together, learn something new and support each other. In January we heard from Benefits Expert Dawn McDiffit. There were a lot of curious people in attendance. Dawn is an amazing resource to our community to get information around benefits.

March we will hear from Sandusky Transit and in April the group will have the opportunity to meet our new community engagement specialists Topics come directly from those attending, so if there is something you'd like to learn more

about come out to the meeting!

FIN meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month from 6-7:30pm at the ECBDD.

Contact Megan at metzel@eriecbdd.org for more information or to be added to the FIN reminder list.

Find us on Facebook!

Employment First of Erie County can now be found on Facebook! This is a quick and easy way to learn about upcoming events or opportunities. We have a great list of upcoming events, trainings and other activities. Go to www.facebook.com/employment1stoferiecounty.com or search Employment First of Erie County and like our page!



Employment First In Erie County

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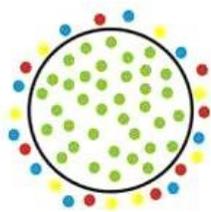


Employment is not a
program. It's an outcome

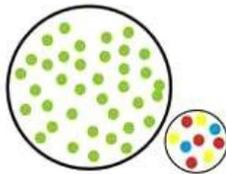
Employment First in Erie County

From the Superintendent Carrie Beier

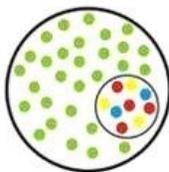
Our agency strives to empower people and their families while living, learning, working, and being a part of the community. We are committed to partnering to provide opportunities for employment and community integration for all individuals through person centered planning and supports. People will recognize possibilities, pursue opportunities, and achieve personal success as valued members within the community.



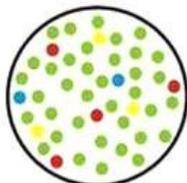
Exclusion



Segregation



Integration



Inclusion

Different Realities, Different Possibilities.
Every person has a story. What's yours?