

# Employment First

## In Erie County

May/June 2017

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### Celebrating 50 years of County Boards

This year County Boards across Ohio turn 50 years old. It was March 18, 1967 when Mrs. Betty Rinderle gave the inaugural address at the (ceremonial opening of the Erie County Board). Fifty years ago, her remarks were focused on the grassroots efforts of families to simply find a place for their child to belong. She stated, "A generation ago, approximately 3 out of every 100 births resulted in mentally retarded children... Some of them lived in Erie County, but

*what was their outlook? They were either kept at home and sheltered from the community or placed in a private or state school."* In reading the entire speech (which can be found at the ECBDD), you get a glimpse into the past and optimism for the future.

Celebrating a 50th anniversary is celebrating all achievements along the way. It is celebrating paradigm shifts of a system; it is celebrating

the achievements of single individuals and self-advocates. Whether an individual or family has been connected to the County Board for 50 years, or just a few years, they have been a part of the countless number of milestones and progress of our community.

As one might expect, things look different in 2017 than 50 years ago. Individuals with developmental disabilities are

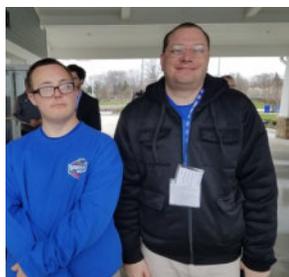
working, getting married, going to college, being active in their community, and just living their lives. As we look to the future, it will be families and individuals who will continue to lead the way forward towards inclusion and opportunity for all people with disabilities.

**ALWAYS<sup>SM</sup>  
THERE**  
50 YEARS OHIO COUNTY BOARDS OF  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

### State of the State

On April 4th, Erie County played host to Governor Kasich and state officials. The Erie County Board and its Employment First efforts were in the spot light! Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) Director John Martin had the wonderful opportunity to meet several individuals served by the ECBDD who are working in the community.

Director Martin met with Sports Force Park owner Brian Storm and met Mike and Max, two employees.



Director Martin met up with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities at Sawmill Creek Resort. The employer was recognized for their hiring efforts and employees were recognized. Attendees had the opportunity to tour the laundry facility and learn from workers.



Robert showing the big dryers!

Finishing out the employer tour was a special event at Steak and Shake. This business was honored for their hiring practices.



The manager Becky was presented a special award by both directors and advocate/employee Julie.

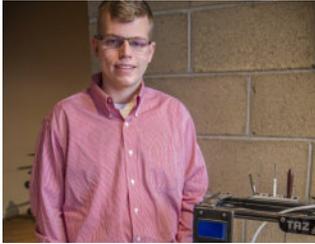
Ending the day of excitement, several members of the Self-Advocates of Erie County had the opportunity to attend the State of the State session to hear Governor Kasich's speech.



## Always There - Local Youth Featured in Ohio Campaign

Ohio is celebrating 50 years of having County Boards in our communities. This is very special and exciting, as Ohio is one of the few states to have County Boards for those with developmental disabilities. The County Board Association has started a special

project called “Always There”. This campaign



will engage and educate the community about Ohio’s DD system by sharing personal stories and historical information.

The especially exciting part of this campaign is a special highlight on Erie County resident Grant!



Grant was selected to tell his “Always Achieving” story. As a young adult, Grant is pursuing a career in 3D printing and design and is even taking steps to start his own business.

Grant had the opportunity to travel to Columbus, Ohio and tour several tech companies. Grant’s passion and drive are definitely worthy of this statewide attention. If you would like read Grant’s story, head over to the website [www.alwaysthereforohio.org](http://www.alwaysthereforohio.org).

Here you will find lots more about the Always There Campaign!

## My Job Means - Tell Us!

This year, 2017, marks five years since the Ohio Employment First Rule was signed by Governor Kasich. The ECBDD wants to celebrate by hearing about work from YOU!

On the next page, you see a flyer that declares “My Job Means...” This is your chance to share with the world why you work and what work means to you. The #MyEmploymentFirst hashtag

was started by DODD as a social media campaign. They have been featuring people from across Ohio who are sharing what their job means to them. You can check the pictures out by going to Facebook and searching #MyEmploymentFirst.

If you would like to share and be featured as a part of this social media campaign, use the next

page and write a few things about what work means to you! Photos can be sent to directly from your phone to Jennifer Yingling at [JYingling@eriecbdd.org](mailto:JYingling@eriecbdd.org). Please include your name and where you work in your submission. You can also post your picture directly to Facebook by using the hashtag #MyEmploymentFirst. Lets show Ohio the great workers we have in Erie County!

## Upcoming Events and Training Opportunity

The best way to stay up to date about upcoming events and opportunities is to like the ECBDD facebook page!

You can also register to be a FAN and receive the FANS newsletter full of great upcoming events!



There are still a few spots left for the Summer Advocacy Group - Friends, Fun, & Food at Quaker Steak and Lube.



## Upcoming EVENTS

This seasonal group is a great way to learn more about self-advocacy, while meeting friends and hearing from guest speakers. The price fixed menu is a great deal for only \$11! To register or for more information, contact Jennifer Yingling at [JYingling@eriecbdd.org](mailto:JYingling@eriecbdd.org) or call 419-502-4124.

Next meeting is May 11th.

**You must register to attend.**

# My Job Means...



**#MyEmploymentFirst**

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## Employment First In Erie County

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Employment is not a  
program. It's an outcome

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