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Erie County DD Participates in Pumpkin Fest



Individuals receiving services from the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities decorated pumpkins and participated in the seventh annual Pumpkin Fest in Huron, which was held in the Boat Basin on Oct. 11.



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Lucy Idol Center Named Provider of the Year

The Lucy Idol Center in Vermillion has been named the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities' Provider of the Year for 2014.

The Lucy Idol Center has provided services to individuals with developmental disabilities for more than 50 years.

The award is given annually to a Erie County provider for exceptional service to individuals with developmental disabilities through advocacy, support, promotion and commitment.

In the nomination form, Denise Klein said, "The Lucy Idol Center deserves this award because of the love and care the staff gives to not only the clients, but the entire family. They truly live up to their motto, When no one else can help. It would mean so much to the people whose lives they have touched to be considered for this award."

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Michelle Marcellus Wins Prestigious ESDY Award



Michelle Marcellus is not one to be timidly guided through life.

In fact, she is very much in charge of her own life. "Michelle is very much in control of her life and her routine," said Larrick Zirkle, an Erie County DD SSA.

Michelle's passion for self determination was recently recognized when she was named a recipient of the Ohio Self Determination Association's prestigious ESDY Award.

"Michelle exemplifies the principle of self-determination in every aspect of her life," Larrick said.

Michelle is a Norwalk resident and a Unique Project Assistant at Ability Works, where she performs many functions to assist other staff and improves service for individuals. She is a 2005 graduate of Kent State University where she earned a bachelor's degree in human development and family services.

She serves as the service excellence liaison to the Clearwater Council of Governments and is an advocate for national waiver portability. She likes to write poetry in her spare time.

She was nominated for the ESDY by Larrick and Lisa Moore.

Jenny Smith Named DD Direct Care Professional of the Year

Jenny Smith, an independent provider, has been named the 2014 Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities' DD Direct Care Professional of the Year.

The award is given annually by Erie County DD to recognize a provider agency for exceptional service to individuals with developmental disabilities through advocacy, support, promotion and commitment. The award winner should display an indisputable quality of character by the interest, energy and dedication they exhibit when engaged in the lives of the

individuals they support.

Jenny was nominated by Erie County DD Superintendent Carrie Beier.

"Jenny is a person who values others and all they have to offer," Carrie said in her nomination. "She is respectful, genuine, kind and compassionate. She is someone who supports others so that they may develop and come to know their own talents and abilities."

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See "DD Direct Care Professional"

Moms are Marvelous

The Moms are Marvelous event was held Sept. 26 at Osborn Park in Sandusky. Six families came out to enjoy the beautiful fall weather and engage in fun activities with the Early Intervention staff. We made butterfly pictures from each child's footprints, took wagon rides around the park, played on the playground and had a lot of fun with a large parachute. It was a very fun day and it reinforced the message that Moms are Marvelous -- but who didn't know that?



PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

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In 1954, Lucy Idol was a kindergarten teacher in Vermillion when she began working with children with disabilities after school in the basement of the Congregational Church. She was recognized as being one of the first individuals to take on the challenge of special education. As word of her work spread, more parents began bringing their children to her.

To meet this growing need, Lucy enlisted the aid of volunteers and teachers while raising money for her own facility. In 1969, a five-room building was constructed on donated land and it was christened the Lucy Idol Center. The facility has continued to grow

and serve children with developmental disabilities and has expanded through donations and an endowment fund.

Services are provided to anyone with developmental disabilities, mental health issues or medical conditions, such as a traumatic brain injuries. The Lucy Idol Center has seven handicapped accessible vehicles that transport individuals from Erie and Lorain counties. The center is certified by the Ohio



Department of Developmental Disabilities, the Ohio Department of Mental Health, and accredited by CARF International.

Adrainne Keys Wins 2014 Steve Lippert Award

Adrainne Keys, the Lead Service & Support Administrator with the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities, has been named the winner of the 2014 Steve Lippert Award.

Established in 2008, the Steve Lippert Award recognizes an individual's services to people with developmental disabilities through their advocacy and support.

The nomination form stated, "What Adrienne does goes way past the parameters of her job. Adrienne not only does her job, but often provides assistance to others as they work to complete their job as well."

"The individuals on her caseload know her, care about her and ask about her often. Adrienne is a rare example of an individual not needing a title, a badge, or an official position to be noticed as a leader."

Adrienne has worked for the Erie County DD for eight years. Prior to joining our staff, Adrienne worked six years for a residential provider as a direct care and program specialist.

In her current position as Lead SSA, Adrienne works with individuals with waivers. She also works on projects for the Individual and Family Supports Department as it relates to SSA services.



DD DIRECT CARE PROFESSIONAL

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"Along with these fine qualities, it appears Jenny finds joy in her work and shares that joy with others. Jenny provides supports that often lead to success and new opportunities. Jenny does not seem to see problems; I think she sees challenges and possibilities."



Goodwill Industries of Erie, Huron, Sandusky & Ottawa Counties Named Winner of Erie County DD's Opening Doors Awards

Goodwill Industries of Erie, Huron, Sandusky & Ottawa Counties has been named the Erie County DD's winner of the 2014 Opening Doors Awards.

The recipient of the Opening Doors Awards is a business or agency that recognizes people with developmental disabilities by "opening doors" to opportunity. Nominees can be co-workers, friends, business owners, and valuable members of the community. The award was established in April 2008 by Erie County DD.

In the nomination form, Goodwill was lauded for its efforts in employing individuals with developmental disabilities.

"In the past several years, Goodwill has opened a Dollar Store with the specific goal of employing individuals with developmental disabilities to train them in all areas pertaining to the operations of a retail store. Each participant works with the retail store staff member who is also trained in workforce development and working with individuals with developmental disabilities. The retail store staff collaborates with the Service and Support Administrator from the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities to incorporate information into the Individual Service Plan.

"This is just one of many programs that Goodwill offers to individuals with developmental disabilities to 'open doors for opportunities' and assist them in becoming successfully employed in the community and as independent as possible."

