



Athens County Board  
of Developmental Disabilities  
*Building on Abilities*



*2009 Annual Report*



# Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities 2009 Highlights

ACBDD serves eligible Athens County children and adults who have developmental disabilities such as autism, intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, down's syndrome, epilepsy and other conditions that are manifested before age 22. Services are provided through the following programs.

## Beacon School



Beacon School provides academics, services, and programs for infants through 21 years of age. The Early Intervention program is a home-based service designed to enhance the development of infants and toddlers with delays. The Pre-school program fosters pre-academics, art, music and group activities for ages 3-6. The School age provides functional academics, pre-vocational, socialization and daily living skills for students age 6-21. During 2009, Beacon had 54 students enrolled, and Early Intervention served 83 children. In addition, 153 families were enrolled in our Family Support Services Program. This program is designed to assist families with the cost of providing support to loved ones with developmental disabilities.

Beacon School received the Buckeye Best Award for a healthy school environment. We promote healthy choices for snacks and meals and many opportunities through-out the school day for physical exercise. Beacon students participated in many activities during 2009. We had 26 athletes participate in Special Olympic activities. Our athletes enjoyed all the competitions and exhibited good sportsmanship through-out all the events.

Beacon students wrote letters and made cards for Army soldiers. We received the U.S. Army Team Salute Appreciation Award for our thoughtfulness and patriotism. Beacon School hosted the 2009 Summer Fun Camp for Special Children. This 3-week program is the only structured summer program available in this area for children with special needs.

## Atco Adult Services

Atco Adult Services served 189 individuals in 2009, not including transitional youth. Atco provides employment, training, recreational opportunities, Life Skills Training classes, nursing and other services to individuals with disabilities.

Atco Adult Services and Atco, Inc. celebrated their 40th anniversary in October by hosting an Open House. Visitors experienced the variety of services offered. Through a grant from the Athens Foundation we expanded the sensory garden. This allowed us to purchase equipment enabling individuals to work more independently. Everyone enjoyed the garden through a series of "garden parties". We also expanded the Developmental Activity Center area in order to serve individuals who were on the waiting list.



## Passion Works Studio

Since 1998, Passion Works has created art opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. The studio welcomes professional artists and other community members to collaborate with Passion Works' artists. Over 60 individuals were served through Passion Works in 2009.

Passion Works continued to promote individual artists through its web site, blogs and the monthly newsletter in 2009. It has shown the works of our artists at several exhibitions including, "Athens Voices 2009" at The Dairy Barn, "A Small Village of Friends" at the Athens Public Library and "Music to Your Eyes" at the Open Door Studio.

Passion Works received capacity building grants from the Ohio Arts Council and the Ohio Department of Development Office of Appalachia. It hosted visiting artist Melissa Godoy through an Ohio Arts Council Grant. In 2009 Passion Works hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Souper Bowl fundraiser, the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Fine Art sale, a Holiday Open House and two visiting artists from Chile.

The studio and store moved to its new uptown location and held a Grand Opening celebration. Passion Works provides collaborative art opportunities to over 50 artists in the studio each week.



## Personnel Plus

Personnel Plus is a no cost, no obligation employment service, designed to increase operational efficiency through the hiring of reliable and dependable employees with disabilities. Personnel Plus has been in existence since 1983 and is accredited by the Commission for Accreditation for Rehabilitation Service Facilities (CARF).

Despite a challenging economy in 2009, Personnel Plus enjoyed a successful year training and placing workers with disabilities in area businesses. Personnel Plus placed 16 workers in 17 Athens County businesses. This represents the largest number of job placements for Personnel Plus since 19 individuals were placed in 2006.

It also represents a nearly 30% increase in job placements in comparison to years 2007 and 2008. Moreover, Personnel Plus placed 11 workers in jobs for the first time. The termination rate for workers placed in 2009 was 0%. In total, Personnel Plus supported nearly 80 individuals working in the community on a regular basis. Our general retention rate is well above industry standards with an astounding 86% job retention rate for all individuals working in 2009.

Our training programs included the new Personnel Plus STARS (Socialization, Training, Achievement, Recognition) program which provided classroom training in a fun and entertaining way.

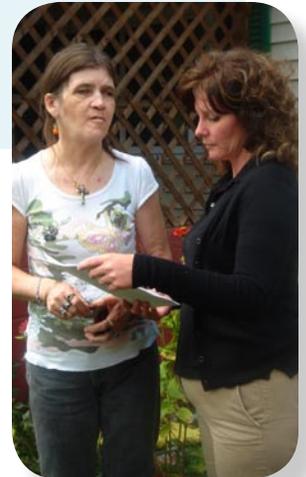
During the summer of 2009 Personnel Plus provided the opportunity to reach out to transitioning youth interested in learning valuable work skills. Nearly 25 young adults worked in the Village of Amesville, New to You, Federal Hocking Schools and Ohio University Office of Design and Construction.

The Personnel Plus Advocacy and Advisory Council worked to eliminate the words "Mental Retardation" from usage by the state of Ohio. This endeavor was met with great success and was signed into law by Ohio Governor Ted Strickland on July 7, 2009.

## Service & Support Administration

The SSA Dept. is the initial point of contact for individuals seeking services. The SSA Dept. coordinates ACBDD services and any necessary services provided by other community agencies. Individuals are supported in determining and pursuing life goals and in assuring their health, safety and welfare.

In 2009, the SSA Dept. provided case management services to 279 Athens County residents with developmental disabilities. In addition, 127 individuals received residential supports to allow them to continue living in the community rather than in an institution, focused on helping them maintain their independence. We continue to offer training opportunities for local providers to improve their skills and services they provide.

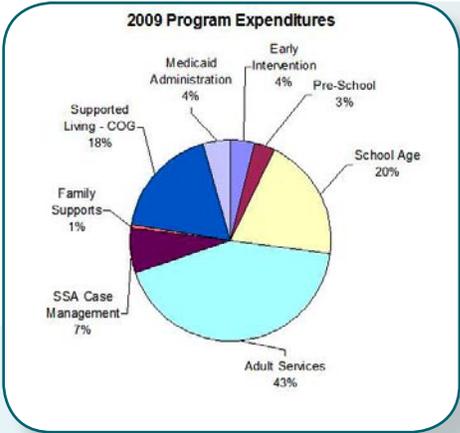


## Transportation

We maintain nine bus regular routes and two van routes, which travel 483 square miles throughout Athens County, to transport our individuals to ATCO, Beacon, Personnel Plus, and Passion Works. Our fleet of vehicles, which includes 13 buses, 9 vans and 1 car, traveled 230,000 miles in 2009 and used in excess of 26,000 gallons of fuel. Our fleet of vans has been updated from a 1984 minibus (that originally was a converted school bus) to new Sprinter vans that anyone would be proud to ride in. We transport 110 adults and 50 school age individuals for an array of services. We transport individuals from all over Athens County to ATCO, Passion Works, and Personnel Plus where they work or are shuttled to area job sites and maintain successful employment.

The Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities has made a major investment in transportation in the last decade, and the staff would like to thank everyone involved in this process.

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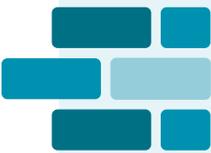
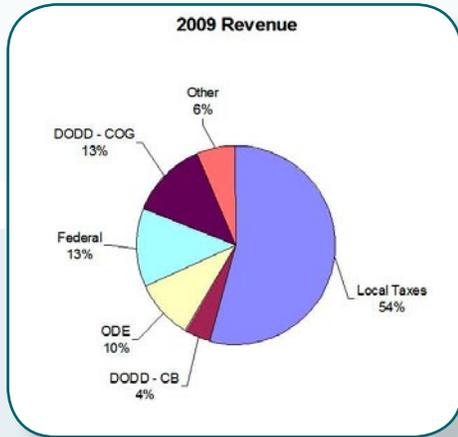


**2009 PROGRAM EXPENDITURES**

Early Intervention	\$320,182
Pre-School	\$292,402
School Age	\$1,668,437
Adult Services	\$3,572,360
SSA Case Management	\$595,190
Family Supports	\$57,430
Supported Living - COG	\$1,523,409
Medicaid Administration	\$362,228
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,391,638</b>

**2009 REVENUES**

Local Taxes	\$4,857,983
DODD - CB	\$378,211
ODE	\$886,667
Federal	\$1,128,033
DODD - COG	\$1,164,067
Other	\$569,138
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,984,098</b>



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