



From left to right, Board Vice President Margaret Hutzel, Mayor Steve Patterson, Lt. Gov. Regional Rep. for Southeast Ohio April Cohagen-Gibson, Board President Margaret Demko, Supt. Kevin Davis, Beacon Principal Becky Martin, Board Member Pam Bond, Board Member Rebecca Miller, and Athens County Auditor Jill Thompson prepare to cut the ribbon. Photos by Sally Biancone.

## ACBDD cuts ribbon, recognizes past superintendent

Staff, board, and community members gathered on June 8 for a ribbon cutting in front of a recently completed parking lot and newly installed marquee, signifying the agency's own space apart from Morrison-Gordon Elementary School.

The entryway affords Beacon students and parents an additional level of safety and improves traffic flow into the school.

Following the ribbon cutting, staff re-dedicated a newly renovated garden to former Supt. Harry Sands in front of the grounds of Beacon School. Sands, who served as superintendent from 1972 to 1982, passed away in 2012. He spearheaded the effort to have the school built and was responsible for other advances at Beacon School and in local programs for people with developmental disabilities.

Daughters Melody Sands and Cynthia Chalfant

attended the ceremony and received Passion Flowers as an additional demonstration of the agency's appreciation of their father's legacy.

Lt. Gov. Regional Representative for Southeast Ohio April Cohagen-Gibson delivered a proclamation commemorating the occasion. It stated, "We commend the staff and supporters of the ACBDD for the positive difference you have made in your community. Best wishes for many more years of continued success."



April and Kevin pose with the proclamation commemorating the occasion.

## Re-dedicated garden recognizes former Supt's legacy



Melody Sands and Cynthia Chalfant, daughters of Harry Sands, pose with Supt. Kevin Davis in front of the re-dedicated garden. After the passing of Sands in 2012, the board recognized him by enacting a board resolution stating that a garden would be named in his honor for all of his good deeds.

## CARF surveyors refer to agency as resilient, optimistic

We recently completed our CARF accreditation review, and we are incredibly proud of the outcome. Congratulations to all our staff for supporting individuals with disabilities and their employment needs.

Of the several hundred items reviewed, only seven resulted in a recommendation. This translates to passing with 98% accuracy.

“If that’s all we found, you can be pretty proud, because we are nitpicky,” said Marilyn Flanagan, our Lead CARF Surveyor.

Flanagan and her colleague Deanna Johnson added that the agency was clearly transparent, resilient, and optimistic about its future. They both picked up a sense of camaraderie, “an aura of commitment,” and a collective “sense of renewal.”

Based on this and other feedback, we are confident we will receive the highest certification



From left to right, Dough Mitchell, Deanna Johnson, Marilyn Flanagan, and Supt. Kevin Davis pose together at Beacon.

possible (3 years). However, the official recommendation and final report is not expected until later this year.

CARF stands for Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities and is an independent nonprofit accreditor of health and human services entities.

## Transportation Division passes annual inspection

We are pleased to announce that all of the agency’s buses were stickered during our annual inspection.

Wes Kline and Jeff Dolman did a wonderful job of getting the fleet ready for this inspection. Nice job to all involved!



## New hires in the month of June



### Logan Amon – Sub Adult Service Aide

Logan is our new Substitute Adult Service Aide. He started with the agency on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Prior to joining the agency, Logan was an intern with ATCO, where he focused on communication skill building and community inclusion efforts. We are so glad to have Logan as a member of our team.



### Stacy Hayes – Sub RN at ATCO

My name is Stacy, and I've been a nurse for almost 20 years. I subbed at ATCO and Beacon for many years in the late 1990s-the mid 2000s. I'm glad to be back! I have 4 kids—2 girls and 2 boys, ages 21-6. I work part-time at Ohio University in their Community Health Program. I enjoy running (I ran my first half marathon in April!) and reading in my spare time.



### James Marcus—Assistant Custodial Worker

James “Jamey” Marcus is our new Assistant Custodial Worker. He started on June 5<sup>th</sup>. He comes to us with extensive custodial experience. Prior to joining the agency, he did utility / housekeeping for Hampton Inn. Before that, he was a custodian with Appalachian Behavioral Health. We are thrilled to have Jamey join our team.



### Jonathan Roy—Intervention Specialist K-12

My name is Jonathan Roy and I am excited to join Beacon School as the intermediate II Intervention Specialist! I am moving to Athens from Cleveland and spend my free time drinking coffee and reading. I am looking forward to a great school year!



### Arian Smedley—Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

I’m so excited to join ACBDD. It’s truly an honor to serve alongside all of you. I’ve lived in Athens for most of my life. I now live on the West side of Athens with my husband, son, dog, and cat. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family, watching goofy comedies, and training in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

## Employment Options staff settle into new location

Staff of our Employment Options Division have been in their new location, at The Market on State, for about a month. If you have not yet seen the space, you will be impressed with its sleek and professional look. The location is also very convenient for our job seekers.

A special thanks is extended to the agency and to Supt. Davis for supporting the changes in this division.



## Summer Youth Education Week for 2017 is in the books

All of our Summer Youth Employment participants did a fantastic job during Education Week. We had no problems with behavior or lack of effort and enthusiasm. This was impressive, considering we had a group of teenagers back in school, at 8 a.m., every day, as early as their first week of summer break. Attendance was near-perfect, with only one approved absence for the week.

The students learned about work-place communication, expectations, and hygiene. They also learned about money management and the importance of saving. Students met with their job trainers and co-workers in small group sessions to talk about their job sites and what job duties they would be doing. Students were given time to ask questions, which

hopefully eased any nervousness before heading to work. They ended the week with a pizza party. Special thanks to Sam Dunlap and Talia Parotti for the amazing teaching they did this week.

Trainers have had only positive comments about the work and attitudes they are seeing at the job sites. This year's sites include Athens High School, Taylor Motors, The Laurels, Sandlot Baseball/Memory Gardens, and Sweet Arts bakery. The participants are working Monday—Thursday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

With the generous support of Brennen's, Donato's, Kroger, Walmart, Athens Lion's Club, and the Athens Civitan Club, students are able to enjoy a tasty lunch each day at work.

## Kids Place gains new exceptional employee—Glenda

Congratulations to Glenda Murray! With her professional work skills and abilities, Glenda landed a part-time job at Kids Place (Church of the Nazarene) in The Plains.

Special thanks must go to her PersonnelPlus, ATCO, and SSA support teams for helping her reach this important goal.

At right, Glenda poses with Autumn at ATCO, moments after learning the good news. We are so proud of you, Glenda!



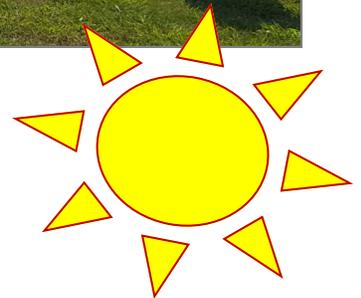
# KOC Field Day brings around 250 students to Beacon



Kids on Campus at Beacon School is in full swing, and the kids are having a blast. As many of you know, Beacon has traditionally offered a summer camp program, but a first-ever partnership with Kids on Campus has allowed for a longer, enhanced camp experience.

The 2017 Kids on Campus Summer Camp is fully integrated, with one group staying on Ohio University's campus, and the other group spending their days at Beacon School. The integrated summer camp is allowing children to interact with a diverse group of other children. The hope is that campers are given the chance to break down stereotypes and gain rewarding friendships.

All of the children will be together multiple times during the summer, as well. On Field Day, all campers (around 250 students, pictured above) converged onto the Beacon School campus for slip-n-slides, shaving cream art, and other fun activities.



*OU publication contributed to this piece.*

## Sarina finds passion in reading to children at KOC



Sarina Winner has become a regular volunteer at KOC. Reading to the children is something she loves so much, she wants to do it even more.

She is working with her PersonnelPlus team in the hopes of turning her passion into an employment opportunity elsewhere in the community.

You're doing a great job, Sarina!

**P**ete the **C**at snuck out of Beacon School to meet Passion Works Studio artist David Dewey.

Pete will be vacationing at ATCO for a few weeks. Be sure to come visit him and all his friends at ATCO.



## Bowling Team brings home gold, silver, bronze medals

**Special Olympics**



Congratulations to the Athens County Bowling team for bringing home several metals, including the gold, silver, and bronze, from the annual Special Olympics competition in Columbus.

Our team has been working hard mastering their skills on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the Roller Bowl Lanes here in Athens. Looks like that hard work paid off!

“We were easily the most rowdy fans in the alley, getting our fellow teammates hyped up with chants and cheers,” said Nancy Epling.

A big huge thank you to the Glouster Eagles for helping us with the reverse drawing and everyone that contributed to it. We could not do this without their support. This is a weekend we look forward to all year long. We are proud to represent Athens County and the ACBDD.



### Nelsonville Elks donates to Beacon



The \$10,000 donation, which came from the Ohio Elks Association of Cerebral Palsy Fund Board, will be used to buy equipment for students at Beacon. We are so fortunate to have such great community support. Thank you, Elks!

### ACS' Patriotic Presentation



The Athens County Community Singers, once again, put on a wonderful show. Their Patriotic Concert, hosted at ArtsWest, featured several favorites and sing-alongs. Well done!

### Passion Works Discount Reminder

Passion Works will soon be owned and operated by Creative Foundations. This transfer of ownership should occur early August. Once this happens, employees of the ACBDD and ATCO, Inc. will no longer receive a discount at Passion Works. If you wish to make a purchase at Passion Works with the discount, you'll want do so before Aug. 2.



### Pride is a Passion (Flower)



We are proud to represent an agency that embraces diversity and inclusion in all its forms. Passion Works Studio made three special edition Pride Passion Flowers for the recent Pride festival. Passion Works represents the best of the Athens community.

### Putt People First upgraded



Putt People First is now open for the 2017 season with new and improved holes. Additions to the course include a giant bagel, a new windmill, inclusive disability awareness art, two structurally rebuilt holes, fresh paint, new carpet, new landscaping, and new sponsors. The course is open from 4—8 p.m. Monday—Friday and noon to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in South Side Park.

# Anniversaries

- Grace Holland —18 Years
- Karen Hynes —9 Years
- Carol Janes-Tinkham —37 Years
- Cindy Rector —18 Years
- Kathy Radcliff —3 Years



# Birthdays

- Heather Clemons —July 4
- Kris Dunlap — July 9
- Julie Jones — July 13
- Nancy Epling — July 18
- Angela Carter — July 19
- Tristin Lawrence — July 19
- Dick Suehrstedt — July 21
- Heather Buckley — July 24
- Tina Wilson — July 30
- Gwen Brooks — July 30



# Dates To Remember

## July 10-28

**Kids on Campus @ Beacon**

## July 28

**Kids on Campus @ Beacon—Final Friday**

Time: 9 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Details: All KOC campers (roughly 250 students) will be at Beacon, along with their family members.

Please be aware that parking at Beacon on this day may be difficult.

## Aug. 2

**Last Day of Employee Discount at Passion Works**

\*No July board meeting

## August 3rd

**PPAAC Annual Summer Picnic**

Time: 3—6 p.m.

Location: The Plains Community Park

Details: All are welcome.

## August 4th

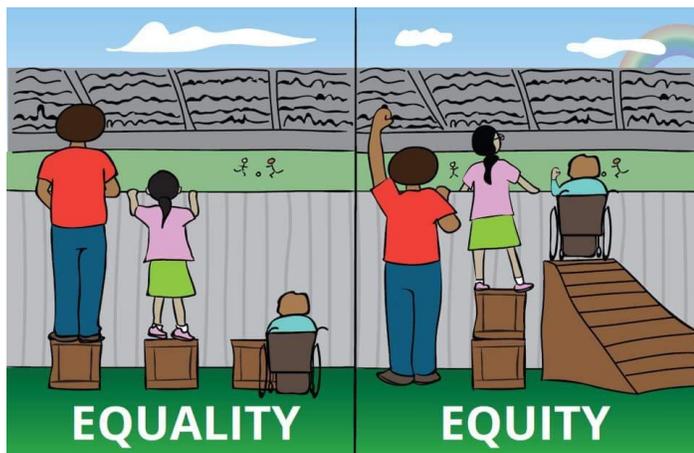
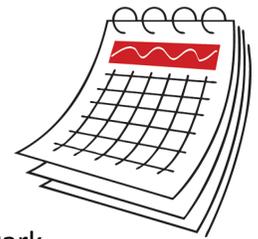
**ACBDD Annual Summer Picnic**

Time: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Location: Beacon School

Details: Lunch will be served from 11-1. Live music (by Chris Biester), games, crafts, swimming in the morning, and a movie in the afternoon.

All are welcome.



**“Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are.”**

**— Benjamin Franklin**

# Doug, a.k.a., CARF Slayer

We would be remiss not to include this gem by artist Wes Hilton. This piece was commissioned by Angela Carter, his sister and our colleague here at the agency. As you can see, he's an amazing artist, and we are thankful that he used his talents to help us capture what we all felt! Once again, congrats to Doug and all other staff who did such a great job with our CARF accreditation.

## DOUG MITCHELL



## CARF SLAYER