



Devin Warren (at right), a Passion Works artist, shakes hands with David Robins, Executive Director of Creative Foundations, moments after handing him the studio's keys. The studio has become a new nonprofit and no longer an entity of our agency.

Passion Works Studio gets new owner, new outlook

Earlier this month, Passion Works Studio celebrated the first day of its operation under new management. The milestone was marked with a small artist-appreciation event at the studio at 20 E. State St.

As many of you already know, our agency earlier this year chose Creative Foundations of Delaware, Ohio, to take over the art program.

It was a bittersweet moment, particularly for staff and artists who have been with the program since its beginnings at ATCO nearly 20 years ago. Although these changes were mandated at the federal level, it has opened up new opportunities for the studio to have a greater impact on the community, including extended hours and additional programming.

Supt. Kevin Davis said he's "extremely excited" about Creative Foundation fulfilling a role as manager of Passion Work.

"The fact that they're going to be open more hours, to serve more people with disabilities... and that Passion Works will be available to the general

public more is exciting," Davis said.

Creative Foundations will be the supplier of services for Passion Works, providing transportation and Medicaid services to the individuals with disabilities who come there, and providing other kinds of care and support, including helping those individuals achieve personal goals.

David Robins, Creative Foundation's executive director, said there's plenty of room for Passion Works to grow.

All county boards were ordered last year by the federal government to divest itself from programs like Passion Works in order to comply with conflict-free case management rules and regulations.



Laura Olinger, a Passion Works artist, sits down to some art in the studio

Highlights from final CARF accreditation report

We received the final CARF accreditation report notifying us that the agency did, indeed, receive the expected three-year accreditation – the highest possible. Once again, we are incredibly proud of this outcome and congratulate all of the staff for their hard work and commitment to those we serve. The agency has undergone an incredibly positive transformation that can only be credited to leadership and staff. Thank you all for what you do.

“A spirit of **cooperation, collaboration and teamwork** permeates the relationship with each other, employers, individuals served and their families.”

“Staff **intently listens** to the needs and preferences of the individuals served, and gets to know them and their families so they can **better serve them.**”



Three-Year Accreditation

“Personnel are **dedicated, competent, committed and enthusiastic.** They display enthusiasm, collectively appear committed to providing person-first and person-centered services.”

“Individuals served uniformly express being treated with **respect and dignity** and credit personnel with giving them the opportunity to work and to **improve their lives.**”

New after hours contact number for emergencies

The Service and Support Department of the agency is transitioning from a pager to a cell-phone as the primary contact for after-hour emergency situations. **Effective Sept. 1, 2017, the pager will no longer be in service.** The new phone number to reach the on-call Service and Support Specialist will be **(740) 447-0710**. Please make a note of the new number.

In the event of an emergency involving an individual with a developmental disability, or to report abuse, neglect, misappropriation or other unusual incidents, please use the new phone number if the incident is after hours. A service and support specialist is on call 24 hours/day, 7 days/week to respond to emergency calls.

During normal business hours, please continue to use the SSA business office number at (740) 592-6006 for assistance.



Job opening—help spread the word

Job Developer—Employment Options Division

Duties include (but not limited to) recruiting community-based businesses for employment, documenting job development activities, maintaining a positive professional relationship with employers and community resource organizations, and assisting in the development of public relations materials for supported employment.



For more information about this position or any future postings, please visit the agency’s website, www.athenscbdd.org.

New hires in the month of August



John Copen – Substitute Adult Services Aide

John Copen is our new Substitute Adult Services Aide. He started on Aug. 22. He comes to us after serving as a Direct Support Professional for SechKar and a Residential Aide with HAVAR. Prior to that, he served as a Substitute Teacher with Southern Local Schools in Perry County. Welcome to the agency, John!



Greg King – Vehicle Operator I & Facilities Maintenance Worker

Greg King is our new Vehicle Operator I & Facilities Maintenance Worker. He started on Aug. 15. He comes to us after several years with Ohio University, first as a College Bus Driver and then as an Equipment Operator III. Prior to that, he worked in West Virginia as a Crew Leader with a construction company. We are thrilled to have him join our team.



Miriah Park—Adapted Physical Education Instructor

My name is Miriah Park. I am 25 years young from Chillicothe. Last year, I worked for The Pioneer School for Developmental Disabilities as their Floating Substitute for PK-21. My first day with Beacon School was officially August 16th. I am looking forward to working with the kids not only in the gym but also the pool. I am looking forward to growing as an instructor in this position as well as helping my students better themselves physically through various physical activities.



Bethany Rivera – SSA/Transportation Administrative Assistant

Many of you already know and appreciate Bethany. She has transitioned from ATCO to the SSA/Transportation department to serve as their Administrative Assistant. She officially started on Aug. 14. She said she’s looking forward to continuing being a part of ACBDD. In her free time, she likes making crafts and trying new recipes. While most of us knew her as Bethany Deem, many of you may not know she recently got married. Congratulations, Bethany!

'Twas the seasons ... for picnics

Both the agency summer picnic and the PPAAC annual picnic were within days of each other this year, making it an especially festive week. Special thanks to all the staff who worked to create both events. They were filled with great activities, good food, and even better company.



Always There: Week of Service

Earlier this summer, county boards across Ohio united in support of their communities by participating in the Always There Week of Service. Athens County was no different. We participated in two events, both designed to address food insecurity. We assisted the Athens County Children Services' School Outreach team with their Peanut Butter & Jelly Project. We also helped serve meals during United Campus Ministry's weekly free supper. ACBDD is proud and honored to give back to our community in this way.





New year, new playgrounds new sign—A welcoming start

The new school year at Beacon started off with a few visible changes. The first one everyone will experience before even walking into the building. The new “Welcome” sign was installed in early August. We hope everyone coming to our building feels the welcoming environment it is intended to create.

In addition, we are especially proud of the fact that our Beacon School playgrounds and equipment are finally accessible to all of our students—after all these years.

The new accessible equipment and rubberized surfaces (instead of the pea gravel that has been there for years) were all installed before the start of the school year.

Special thanks to Butch and his team for getting these projects completed.

Well done!



(Above) Supt. Kevin Davis poses next to the newly installed “Welcome” sign for both Beacon School and the agency.
(Below) Rex puts the finishing touches on the fence around one of the school’s playgrounds.



State Rep. Jay Edwards visits KOC @ Beacon School



State Rep. Jay Edwards poses with some of the teens who participated in the first-ever Kids on Campus collaboration at Beacon School. During the visit, Edwards heard about their experience with KOC. He also shared his experiences as a lawmaker. Photos by Sally Biancone and Regina Schwartz.

Our agency was fortunate to host a visit from State Representative Jay Edwards. He was interested in learning more about the agency and about our first-ever collaboration with Kids on Campus.

During his visit, it was evident Rep. Edwards was very interested and genuinely concerned about the issues facing individuals and families we serve.

He sat down with staff to discuss the partnership, how many children are served and what the program means to the children and families. He

was then given a tour of Beacon School classrooms that were being used for the camp, as well as other areas of the school that make it unique.

Lastly, he spoke with some of our teen students and learned about the camp from their perspective. He even shared with them his experiences as a legislator.

We are thankful for his interest in learning more about what we do.

State Rep. Jay Edwards shakes hands with a camper during his visit to Beacon School.



KOC @ Beacon School comes to an end

Kids on Campus celebrated the last day of camp at Beacon School carnival-style. Campers, family, friends, and staff partied hearty with Rockin' Reggie, Homer (the Copperheads mascot), games, bounce houses, treats, and more. It was sad to see it come to an end, but we had much to celebrate. Our agency's inaugural partnership with KOC was an absolute success and a perfect example of a community partnership that prioritizes integration. Thank you to all of the staff, volunteers, campers and family members for making it memorable and special.



Photos by Regina Schwartz

KOC @ Beacon School comes to an end

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Employment Options/PersonnelPlus official Grand Opening

In celebration of our move to The Market on State and the creation of the Employment Options Division, we are hosting an Open House/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Friday, Sept. 8, from 10 a.m. to noon at The Market on State.

We should all be proud of the transformation we've seen in this division. If you're able, we hope you can join us during the celebration of this milestone.

As you all know, our agency has been a leader in supportive employment services in much of the state. This move and the creation of the new division is taking our services to the next level. It will allow us to continue providing exceptional supportive employment services to individuals with disabilities now and well into the future. Thanks to leadership and staff for their hard work in making this happen.



Event Details:

Day: Friday, Sept. 8th

Time: 10 a.m.

Location: The Market on State, Suite 4

Applebee's Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser for PPAAC

After celebrating everything there is about the Employment Option Division, consider enjoying some pancakes the very next morning at Applebee's in support of the PersonnelPlus Advocacy Advisory Council (PPAAC).

This pancake breakfast will be a fundraiser for the PPAAC, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

Tickets can be purchased in advance. They are \$5 each and are available at any ACBDD office.

Monies generated from this fundraiser will go toward supporting events like the summer picnic, banquets and other events. Thanks to the individuals, staff, and community partners for keeping alive the mission and vision of the PPAAC all these years.



Event Details:

Day: Saturday, Sept. 9th

Time: 8 a.m.—10 a.m.

Location: Applebee's in Athens

Sylvia continues to shine @ Wal-Mart



Next time you're at Wal-Mart, be sure to say "hello" to Sylvia Fields, one of the best employees around. Sylvia is our reigning PersonnelPlus Employee of the Year and earns that title everyday. We're proud of you, Sylvia.

Team Heart and Sole @ POTH



Team Heart and Sole continued their tradition of participating in the Parade of the Hills 5K. Here we have our 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners: Noah Hogan, Brian Mcculloch and Dar Whitlatch. Congratulations!

Birthdays

- Wesley Kline —Aug. 8
- Logan Amon —Aug. 14
- Gabriella Campbell —Aug. 15
- Karen Hynes —Aug. 16
- Sam Dunlap —Aug. 18
- Cindy Johnston —Aug. 19
- Grace Holland —Aug. 21
- Alania Harper —Aug. 23
- Beth Graham —Aug. 24
- Jacque White —Aug. 29
- Carl Johnston —Sept. 5
- Jack Wilson —Sept. 8
- Emily Wilson —Sept. 12
- Greg Grimm —Sept. 17
- Jim Weaver —Sept. 20
- Jamie Hart —Sept. 21
- Sandy Conner Bridgeman —Sept. 3
- Jonathan Roy —Sept. 24



Anniversaries



August

- Gwen Brooks —1 year
- Becky Martin—1 year
- Christina Wilson— 3 years
- David Sincoff—15 years
- Ciara Jenkins—1 year
- Carl Johnston— 4 years
- Cindy Johnston— 3 years
- Lyn Justis— 7 years
- Jeff Dolman— 11 years
- Sam Dunlap— 7 years
- Beth Maccombs— 13 years
- Alania Harper—10 years

September

- Joanne Heinsman —15 years
- David McNelly —3 years
- Scott Crum —8 years
- Jennifer Trotta —16 years
- Emily Finsterwald —3 years
- Leslie Perry —28 years
- Wesley Kline —1 year
- Heather Clemons —2 years

If your birthday or work anniversary is incorrect, please just let me know, and we'll update our records. Thanks!