

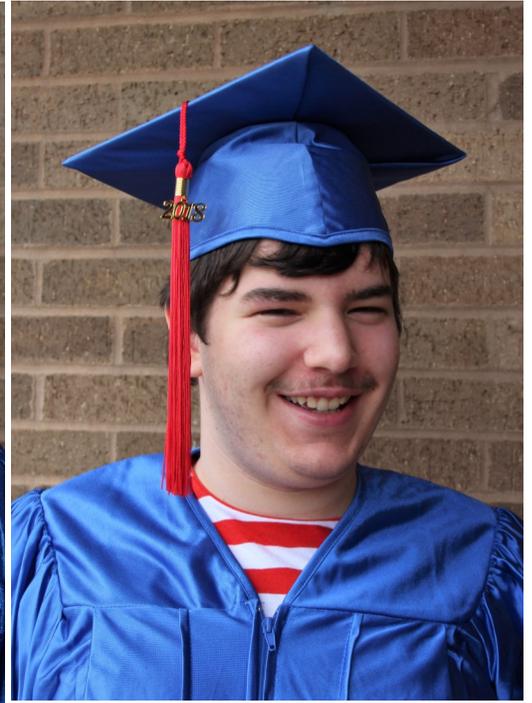
ACBDD and Beacon School graduate 3 stellar students



Gabrielle (Gabby) Moulton



Morghen Smith



Justin McCormick

This year's Beacon School Graduation & Awards Ceremony recognized all of our students' accomplishments throughout the year. We also had a wonderful and motivational commencement speech from William Peacock, a long-time self advocate and public speaker.

The highlight of the event was the graduation of three of our students: Gabrielle (Gabby) Moulton, Morghen Smith, and Justin McCormick. We are incredibly proud of these students. We will miss them as they venture off to do new things, and we hope they come back to visit us soon.

Now that they're graduated, all three plan to spend some of their time at an adult day habilitation program and also to continue working on their job skills.

Get to know the graduates

Gabby loves watching sports, shopping for jerseys, talking to her friends, and going on YouTube.

Morghen loves cooking, using her iPad, playing on her phone, and going shopping.

Justin loves to socialize and greet other people; he also enjoys going on the computer. He is a whiz with puzzles.



ATCO, Beacon take first trip together to Columbus Zoo



ATCO and Beacon School went on their first trip together to the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. The trip was especially significant for Beacon students. This was the first time the school had ever made the trip, which so many other schools often take for granted. It was a great day. Everyone had a wonderful time walking around looking at all the animals and taking in the sights and sounds. The trip could not have happened without our staff across multiple divisions advocating for this trip and working together to coordinate all of the details. Thank you to everyone involved!

Annual Spring in-service tweaked to improve experience

The format of our annual Spring in-service training for all staff was adjusted this year to better meet the needs of each department. In the morning, all staff members met together to go through standard annual trainings and reminders. In the afternoon, the agency split into groups to focus on division-specific needs. Several department heads used this opportunity to create unique training experiences. For example, the Service & Support Division focused on training staff on how to access and navigate the Athens Public Transportation bus system. Thanks to everyone for making these experiences unique and worthwhile.



ACBDD well represented at OACB Spring Conference

We had several staff members attend OACB’s Spring Conference. Some went to learn, others hosted a table highlighting their program, and others presented during one of the sessions or facilitated a table-top discussion. The conference was a great opportunity to learn, network, and share our good work.

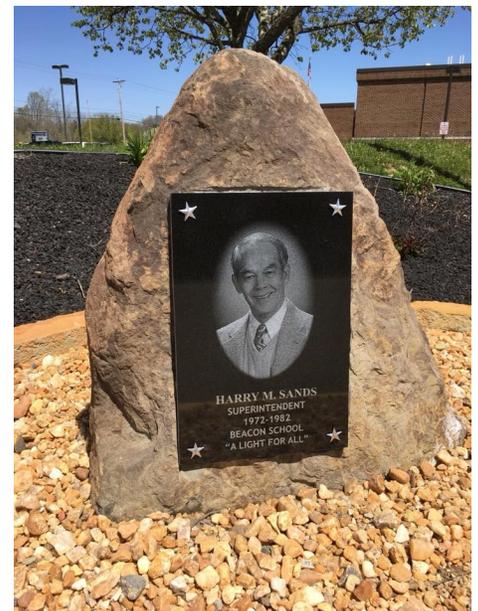


Harry Sands Memorial Garden now complete

ACBDD recently unveiled a new granite plaque in honor of Harry Sands, a former superintendent who served from 1972 to 1982. The installation of the plaque helps complete the Harry Sands Memorial Garden in front of Beacon School. The garden was first dedicated in 2012 and underwent renovations in 2017.

Mr. Sands is said to have been a “driving force” behind Beacon School. He was committed to providing an equal opportunity of education for all children in Athens County.

The plaque symbolizes Mr. Sands’ commitment to the philosophy that children with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Athens County deserve specialized and individualized educational opportunities, just like other students. All are welcome to visit Beacon School to enjoy the renovated garden.



Open Forum updates community on ATCO, 'Fix the List'

We hosted our second Open Forum of 2018 at the ATCO building. The forum updated the community on the ATCO Transition (in its third year of a three-year plan).

ATCO currently has 33 individuals in transition. Of those, 16 have made choices and are attending a new day habilitation program part-time and enjoying their remaining time with ATCO. Another 4 individuals have made a choice for their 2019 transition and have opted to stay at ATCO until end of this year. Lastly, 13 individuals are still in transition: planning and exploring jobs, community options, and day habilitation programs.

Also during the forum, we shared information on the efforts to change Ohio's waiver wait list, known as "Fix the List." For more information about this, visit www.fixthelist.info.



ACBDD and ATCO have final combined meeting

With the transition of ATCO, May 2018 marked the last combined ATCO and ACBDD board meetings. The combined meeting in May has been a tradition for many years and served as an opportunity for the two boards to re-connect.

These two volunteer groups have long been dedicated to ensuring the provision of services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Athens County. We appreciate their level of commitment to our mission and the donation of their time and expertise.

The two groups took the opportunity to pose together for a photo to mark the occasion. Pictured at right, starting with the back row, from left to right: Dr. Jason Jolley, ACBDD board member; Margaret Demko, ACBDD board president; Dr. Leonard Allen, ACBDD board member, Larry Payne, ATCO board president; Pam Bon, ACBDD board secretary;



April Crabtree, ATCO vice president; (front row, left to right) Sherri Oliver, ACBDD board member; Michelle Oestrike, ACBDD board member; and Margaret Hutzel, ACBDD vice president. Not pictured are ATCO board members Helen Klingman, Shawna Stump, and Sharon Horel (secretary).



Graduation & Awards cont...

This year's Preschool and Beacon School graduation and awards ceremonies were a complete success. Congratulations to the graduates and, again, special thanks to William Peacock for the motivational commencement speech.





Graduation & Awards cont...

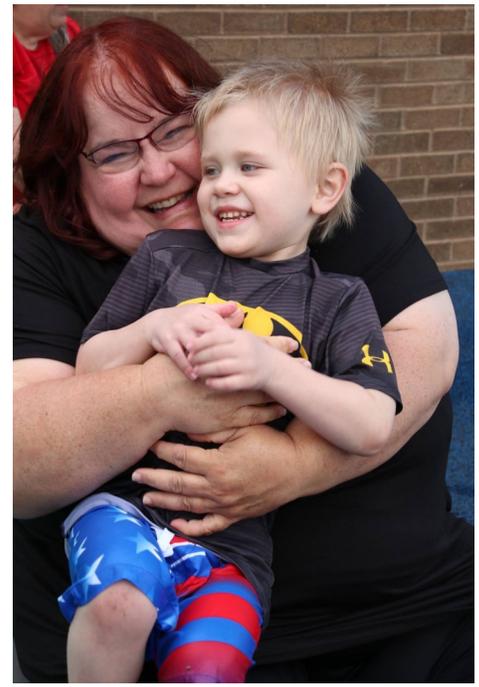
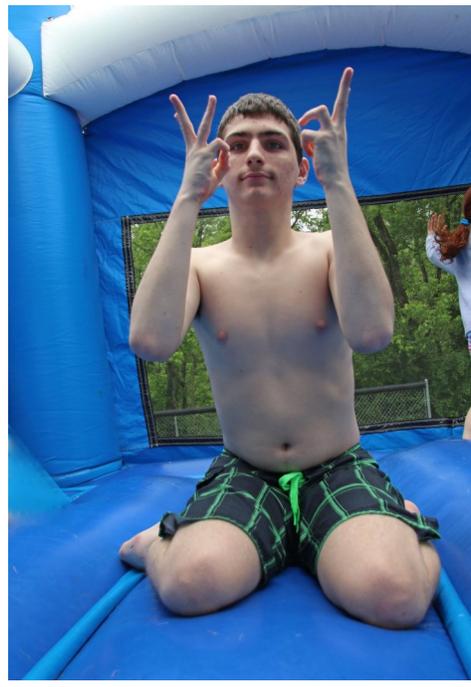
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Water Day 2018!

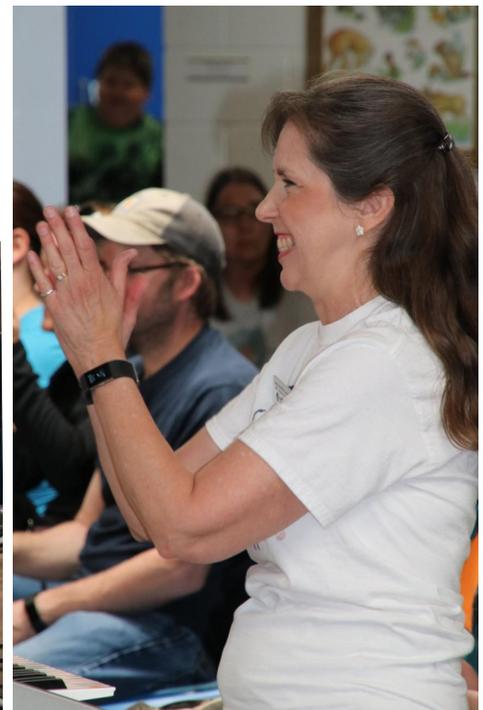
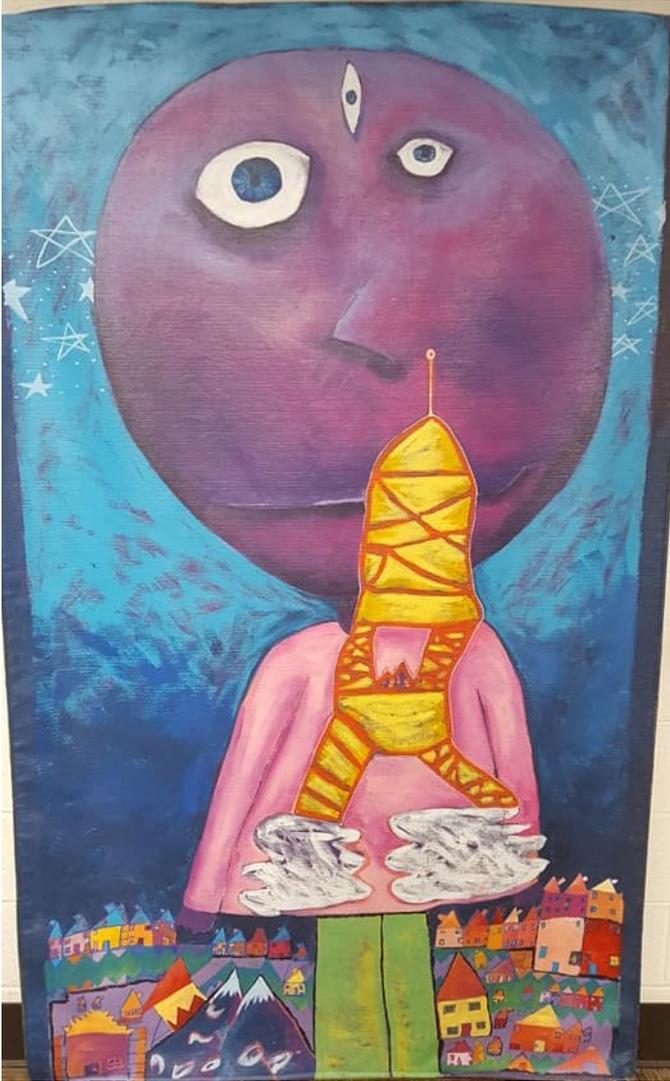
We had perfect weather for the annual Water Day and Cookout. We had two water slides, along with water balloon relay races. The menu for the day included hot dogs, hamburgers, macaroni & cheese, baked beans, watermelon and grapes. Thank you to everyone who made it such a success!





Enjoying art and Beacon Singers

We hosted our first-ever Art Show & Ice Cream Social, a free event for our families and the community to come socialize, enjoy art, and treat themselves to some ice cream. Also, Beacon Singers performed their final concert of the year. Thank you, everyone, for making these events possible.





Picnic & Canvas at Strouds Run State Park

We took advantage of a beautiful day to venture out to Strouds Run State Park, where we enjoyed a lovely picnic. We also took inspiration from our surroundings to create some beautiful paintings. It was a great day with great friends.



“Every particular in nature, a leaf, a drop, a crystal, a moment of time is related to the whole, and partakes of the perfection of the whole.”

– Ralph Waldo Emerson





PP attends annual Job Fair



Job Developers Angela Carter and Marcus Dobro attended the annual Ohio Means Jobs Job Fair at the Athens Community Center. It was a great opportunity to remind job seekers of the services provided at PersonnelPlus.

Pre-Employment program launches



The Pre-Employment Transition Services partnership with OOD was finalized, and we are beginning to see our first referrals. This is a partnership that we are excited about, as we are 1 of 5 counties in the state to be offering these services and the ONLY county in Southeast Ohio! Our transition coordinator continues to meet teachers from school districts in the county to increase awareness of these services and how beneficial they are. Services provided include job exploration, workplace readiness training, learning about opportunities after high school, work-based learning, and self-advocacy.

Employment Options hosts its first waiver employment training



The Employment Options Division hosted its first waiver employment training. The training focused on Career Discovery, which is one of the components of Career Planning as outlined by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. Co-presenters Chanda Busse, of Muskingum County Board of DD; and Doug Mitchell of Athens County Board of DD, trained several providers and SSA staff. The training emphasized searching for an individual's passion and "personal genius."



From left to right, Chanda Busse, of Muskingum County Board of DD; and Doug Mitchell of Athens County Board of DD, present to several providers and SSA staff.

ACBDD hires former Athens JFS Director

We recently hired a new Medicaid Services Manager. Scott Zielinski, the former director of Athens County Job and Family Services, will start June 18.

“We are extremely excited to have Scott join our team,” said Dr. Kevin Davis, ACBDD Superintendent. “He brings over two decades of experience helping the people of Athens County. His commitment to this community and his administrative experiences will translate well into this position. His addition will only strengthen our already dedicated management team.”

As Medicaid services manager, Zielinski will focus on staying current on the implementation and application of Medicaid waiver rules. Some of his other duties will include forecasting waiver expenses, overseeing Medicaid billing, and working with providers and community partners to help monitor Medicaid expenditures. This position is directly supervised by Steve Kramer, ACBDD’s Director of Finance and Operations. At right, Scott poses with Dr. Kevin Davis, Superintendent.



Community Events

ACC Singers participate in Senior Safety Day



The Athens County Community Singers were invited to participate in the annual Senior Safety Day at the Athens County Fairgrounds. Everyone had a great time, and the attendees thoroughly enjoyed their performances.

ACBDD in the news

Video: Team Heart and Sole races Champions

Student Reporter —May 1, 2018

Beacon School completes memorial garden

The Athens Messenger—May 4, 2018

Former Job and Family Services director joins ACBDD

The Athens Messenger—May 24, 2018



June Birthdays:

Sam Hudnell —June 3

Margaret Casey —June 8

Carol Janes-Tinkham —June 8

John Hauser —June 11

Amy Fronck —June 12

Cindy Rector — June 16

Gail Tigner —June 18

Autumn Brown —June 27



June Work Anniversaries:

Jamey Marcus —1 year

Lindsey Bogatay —2 years

Wendy Cremeans —2 years

Greg Grimm —14 years

Arian Smedley—1 year

Andres Munoz—2 years

David McKee—2 years

