



ATHENS COUNTY BOARD OF
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

2017 Annual Report



athenscbdd.org

Our BOARD



From left to right, Dr. Leonard Allen; Pam Bond, Board Secretary; Dr. Jason Jolley; Margaret Hutzell, Board Vice President; Michelle Oestrike; Sherri Oliver; Margaret Demko, Board President; Dr. Kevin Davis, Board Superintendent.

We are incredibly grateful to our 2018 Board Members, pictured above. These amazing individuals volunteer an enormous amount of time ensuring people with intellectual and developmental disabilities receive the highest quality of services in Athens County. We appreciate them and everything they do. Last year, the year covered in this Annual Report, marked the concluding terms for board members Rebecca Robison-Miller and Jennifer DeForest (not pictured). We appreciate their commitment to our organization, as both are hard-working and dedicated people who served our board well during their tenure.

Front cover: The summer of 2017 included our Week of Service, when we made special efforts to give back to our communities. Here ACBDD staff and individuals of ATCO pose together after helping the Athens County Children Services' School Outreach team with their Peanut Butter & Jelly Project. This period also marked the second year of ATCO's three-year transition. We selected this as our cover photo as a way to recognize ATCO's final years in operation and to celebrate its service to the community.



Dr. Davis poses next to the recently installed "Welcome" sign outside of the ACBDD's administration offices and Beacon School.

A Message From Our Superintendent, Dr. Kevin Davis

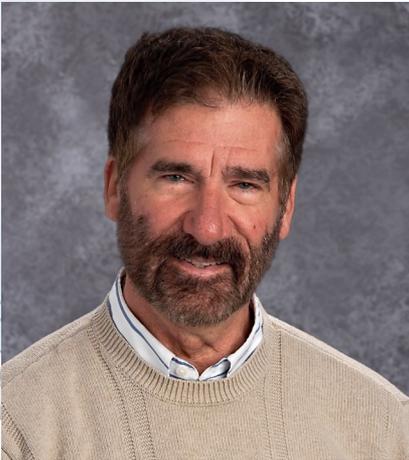
This past year has been one filled with a long list of significant accomplishments. We are incredibly proud of our work, which we welcome you to learn more about by perusing the pages of this Annual Report. We recognize we could not have done any of this without the support of our community. There are few counties in Ohio that show the level of commitment and support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities like Athens County. We know we are truly fortunate.

Likewise, Athens Countians can feel proud about the positive impact the staff of Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities has on the lives of nearly 600 individuals we assist. You can see it in the number of individuals employed in the community, you can see it in the faces of our students at Beacon School, you can see it in the physical improvements to our facilities, you can read about it in our accreditation reports, and you can see it in our financial projections.

We hope you enjoy reading about our milestones from 2017. We not only welcome you to read about us, but we also welcome you to visit us so you can see our good work first-hand. Thank you, again, Athens County. Thank you for allowing us to do what we love.

Dr. Kevin Davis, Superintendent

Our Senior Leadership Team



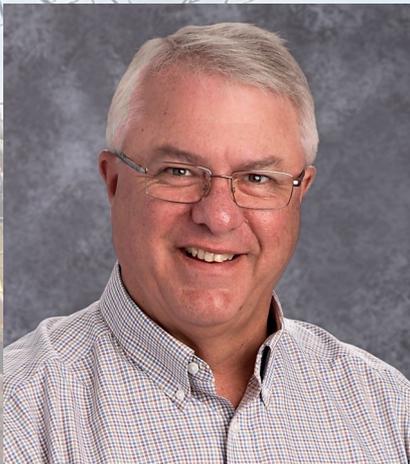
Steve Kramer
Director of Finance



Gwen Brooks
Director of Human Resources



Becky Martin
Director of Education



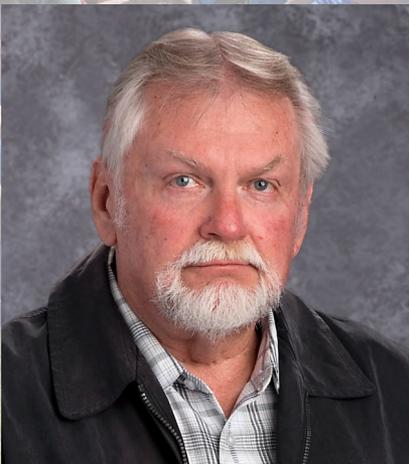
Richard Suehrstedt
Director of Service & Support



Autumn Brown
ATCO Transition Manager



Doug Mitchell
Director of Employment Options



Richard Withem
Director of Facilities & Transportation



Beth Atherton
MUI Coordinator



Arian Smedley
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

About Our Agency

Since its inception in 1957, the Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities has been providing individuals opportunities to learn, grow, and enrich their lives. For Athens County individuals with developmental disabilities, we provide quality services by assessing their needs and creating individual plans. We offer education, employment, life skills training, recreation, transportation, residential support, service coordination, and more. We help to integrate individuals with developmental disabilities into their community as valued citizens.

Our Mission & Vision

Our Mission is to enhance the quality of life for individuals by encouraging integration and independence, fostering partnerships, and advocating for individual rights.

Our vision is to provide experienced leadership so all individuals with developmental disabilities may achieve their dreams.

Our Core Values

- We believe in the potential of all individuals served.
- We believe our organization must be responsible and flexible.
- We believe in being fiscally responsible.
- We believe in Person Centered Planning and Self-Determination.
- We believe in providing safe and secure environments for individuals to be served.
- We believe in valuing employees and partners.
- We believe in visionary leaders and innovation.



A student plays in the gym during the first-ever fully integrated Kids on Campus Summer Camp Program at Beacon School. Photo by Lauren Dickey, OHIO College of Health Sciences and Professions



From left to right, Dale White, his son Pete White, and Lillian Stamm, take a breather during the ATCO Community Halloween Dance.

"One strains to think of a more worthwhile purpose for public dollars than providing help to fellow community members with developmental disabilities."

- The Athens NEWS, October 2017

Highlights from 2017

This year was filled with a long list of positive changes that directly impacted individuals we assist. We are grateful for the community's support. Here are just some of the year's accomplishments.



Beacon School hosted its very first prom

Spring time is a special time for students who are graduating from high school. The moment is traditionally marked with an annual prom. However, students at Beacon School had never experienced one of their very own. That changed in 2017. The “Under the Stars”-themed event was open to all local Special Education students, ages 14-21. The event was made possible by the hard work and dedication of staff and through the support of our community.

Photo by John Halley of The Athens Messenger.



Inaugural Integrate Athens Forum focused on accessibility, community collaboration

Our first-ever Athens County Community Integration Forum highlighted ways the broader community could partner with ACBDD to improve accessibility and integrate all activities. The forum also focused on educating the community on our new model of services with the ATCO and Passion Works transitions. We will host another forum in 2018, in collaboration with the Athens City Disabilities Commission.

Superintendent honored as Outstanding Champion for Children

Our very own Superintendent, Dr. Kevin Davis, was honored as an Outstanding Champion for Children. The acknowledgement came from Athens County Children Services during their Child Abuse Prevention Breakfast. It represented Dr. Davis' tireless advocacy for not only the children assisted by the ACBDD, but for all children in our county. For many years, Dr. Davis served as a board member of the Athens County Child Advocacy Center.



Highlights from 2017



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; Superintendent Kevin Davis, EdD; Beacon Principal Becky Martin; Board Member Pam Bond; Board Member Rebecca Miller; and Athens County Auditor Jill Thompson prepare to cut the ribbon.

Entryway and parking lot constructed for Beacon and Administration, memorial renovated

Staff, board, and community members gathered in the summer of 2017 for the official ribbon cutting ceremony for the recently constructed parking lot and newly installed marquee, signifying the agency's own space apart from Morrison-Gordon Elementary School. The entryway affords Beacon students and families an additional level of safety and improved traffic flow into the school.

Following the ribbon cutting, staff re-dedicated a newly renovated garden to former Superintendent 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, pictured at right with Dr. Davis, attended the ceremony and received Passion Flowers as an additional demonstration of the agency's appreciation of their father's legacy.



Highlights from 2017



Kids on Campus Summer Camp launched at Beacon

Our agency's inaugural partnership with Kids on Campus was an absolute success and a perfect example of a community partnership that prioritizes integration. Third graders without disabilities were fully integrated into the Beacon School program. This created a wealth of positive memories for all students. In addition, children with disabilities for the first time in Athens County had five weeks of summertime activities, free of charge. The experience included transportation and meals. It is a service we plan to keep providing to the students and families we assist in the county.



Beacon's playgrounds finally become fully accessible

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 all-accessible equipment and rubberized surfaces (instead of the pea gravel that had been there for years) were all installed before the start of the 2017 school year. During the official unveiling, community members from all over the county took the time out of their days to appreciate the significance of this milestone.



Passion Works transitioned to new management

Summer of 2017 also saw the successful transition of Passion Works Studio to Creative Foundations. This came after a long, collaborative, and transparent process that took over a year. All county boards were ordered by the federal government to divest themselves from programs like Passion Works in order to comply with conflict-free case management rules and regulations. Pictured here, artist Devin Warren (at right), shakes hands with David Robins, of Creative Foundations, moments after handing him the studio's keys.

Highlights from 2017

ACBDD among the highest-rated DD agencies

Two independent reviews found ACBDD to be among the highest-rated county boards. Both granted us a three-year accreditation – the highest possible. Reviewers for the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (or CARF) conducted their review of the agency's employment services division. Reviewers from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) assessed our programming from birth through end of life. ACBDD has gone through an incredibly positive transformation over the past few years. It is reassuring to have our good work confirmed by two independent entities.

HIGHEST RATED



Employment Options Division moved to new location

We had our official Open House for Employment Options/PersonnelPlus in the fall of 2017. The new location puts this division in an active business district, which is beneficial for both job seekers and our business partners. The new space also has a professional look and feel and improves communication among staff. When job seekers walk into our new office, they will see our focus is not on their disabilities. Our focus is on new opportunities to help individuals reach their potential.



Advocacy group celebrated its 25th anniversary

The PersonnelPlus Advocacy and Advisory Council (PPAAC) celebrated its 25th year of advocacy and support of community employment. To celebrate this anniversary, ACBDD formally recognized current and former members of the PPAAC with awards. The PPAAC is designed to give individuals who received services and supports from ACBDD a forum to provide feedback on those services. It is also designed to create opportunities for individuals to be more included in their community.



Highlights from 2017

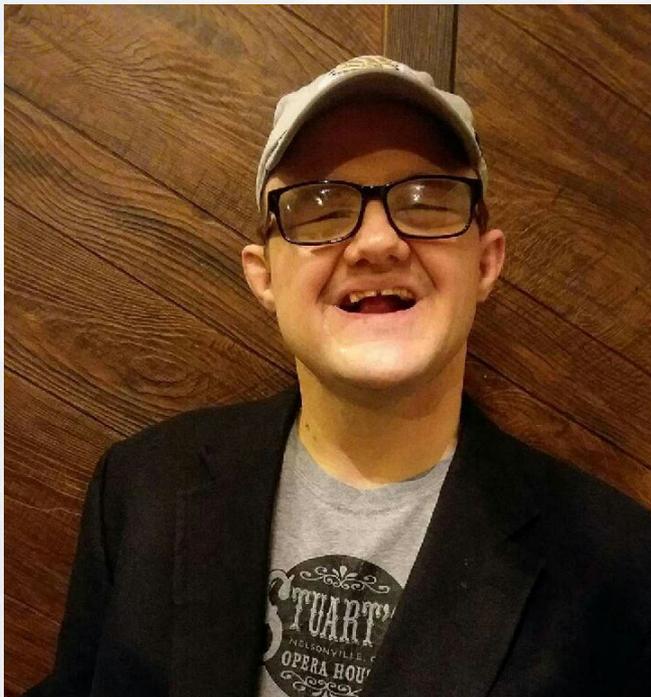


Renewal levy passed with overwhelming support

Staff at ACBDD were grateful to the voters of Athens County who cast their vote of confidence in what we do by supporting Issue 4. The 1.8-mill, eight-year renewal levy passed with 71 percent of the vote. This funding, which represents roughly 15% of our annual budget, is estimated to generate \$1.75 million annually. This is funding that will stay in Athens County and will be used to provide direct supports to the most vulnerable citizens among us.

“We have worked extremely hard over the last few years restoring the public’s trust. This vote clearly demonstrates we are moving in the right direction.”

- Dr. Kevin Davis, Superintendent



ATCO Transition creates new opportunities

The conclusion of 2017 also marked the end of the second year of a three-year transition plan for ATCO, the long-standing adult services program operated by ACBDD. All county boards were ordered by the federal government to divest themselves from programs like ATCO in order to comply with conflict-free case management rules and regulations. The transition of ATCO has led to individual transformations and renewed interests in exploring more community opportunities. Individuals have branched out and tried new things like employment, volunteering, and other new interests. Increasing self-advocacy education has assisted people in feeling confident in speaking up about their choices. Everyone currently served by ATCO has been exploring new options and are on their path to transition, all to be finalized by the end of 2018.

2017 by the Numbers



66



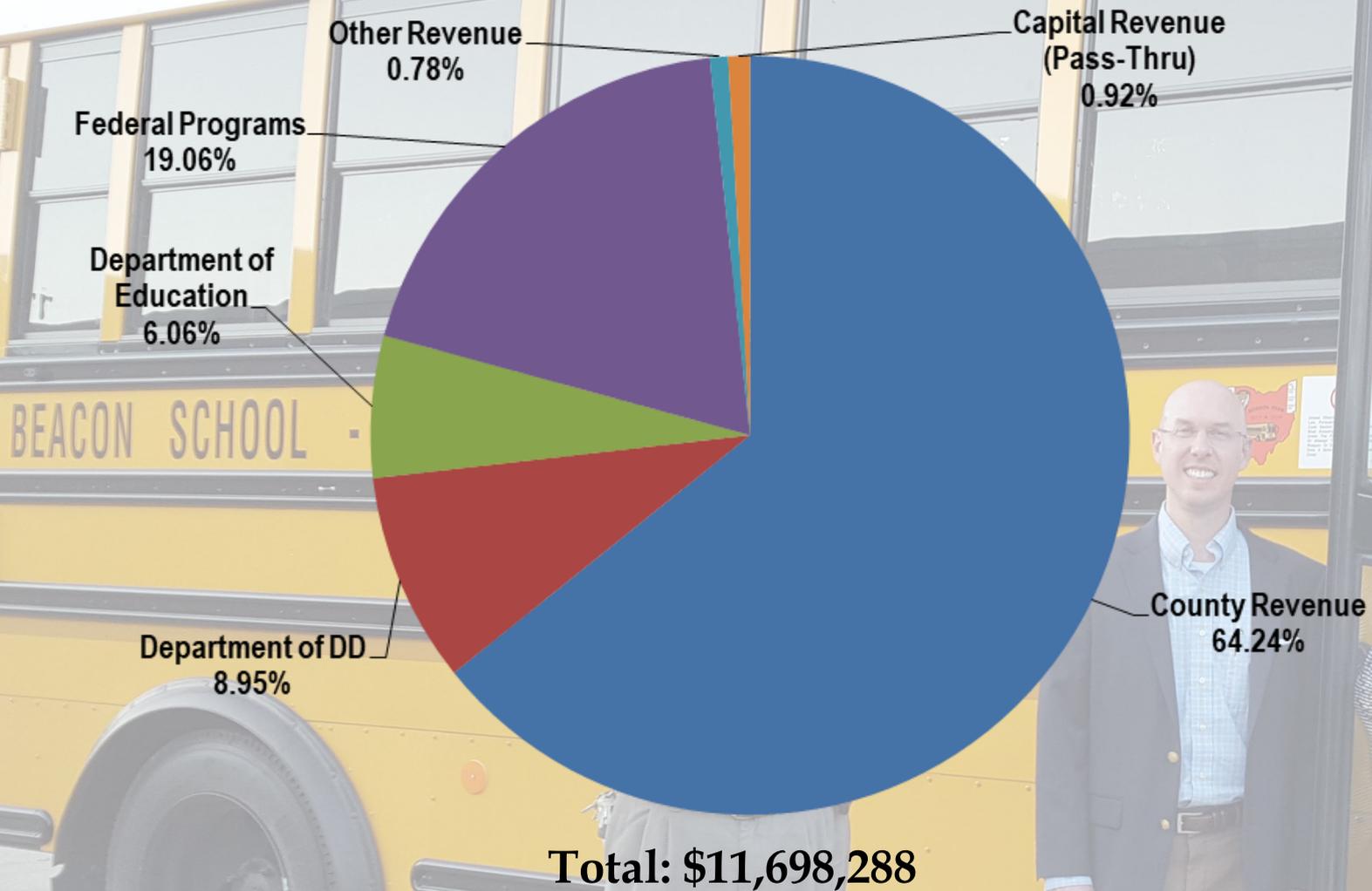
Number of young people age 3-21 who
are enrolled in our Preschool and
Beacon School

44



Number of individuals enrolled
with ATCO at the end of 2017

Revenues



582



The number of adults & children assisted by ACBDD

76%



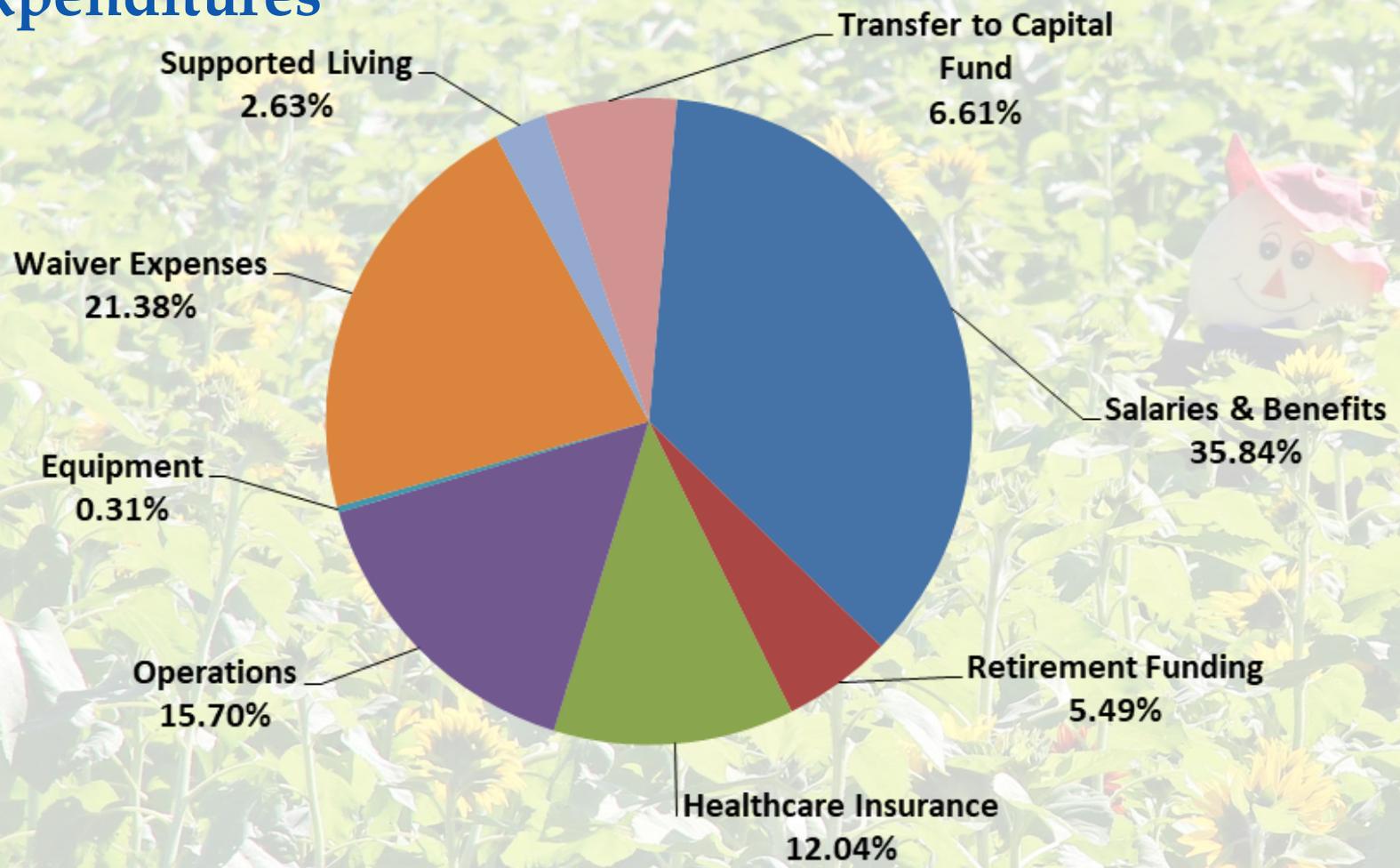
Percentage increase in individuals assisted in 2017, compared to 2010

207,430



Number of miles traveled to provide educational, vocational, and recreational opportunities

Expenditures



Total: \$11,341,718

394



Number of individuals receiving case management services through our Service & Support Division

206



Number of individuals supported to live safely in their chosen community setting

122



Number of individuals who received help from PersonnelPlus to find and retain employment

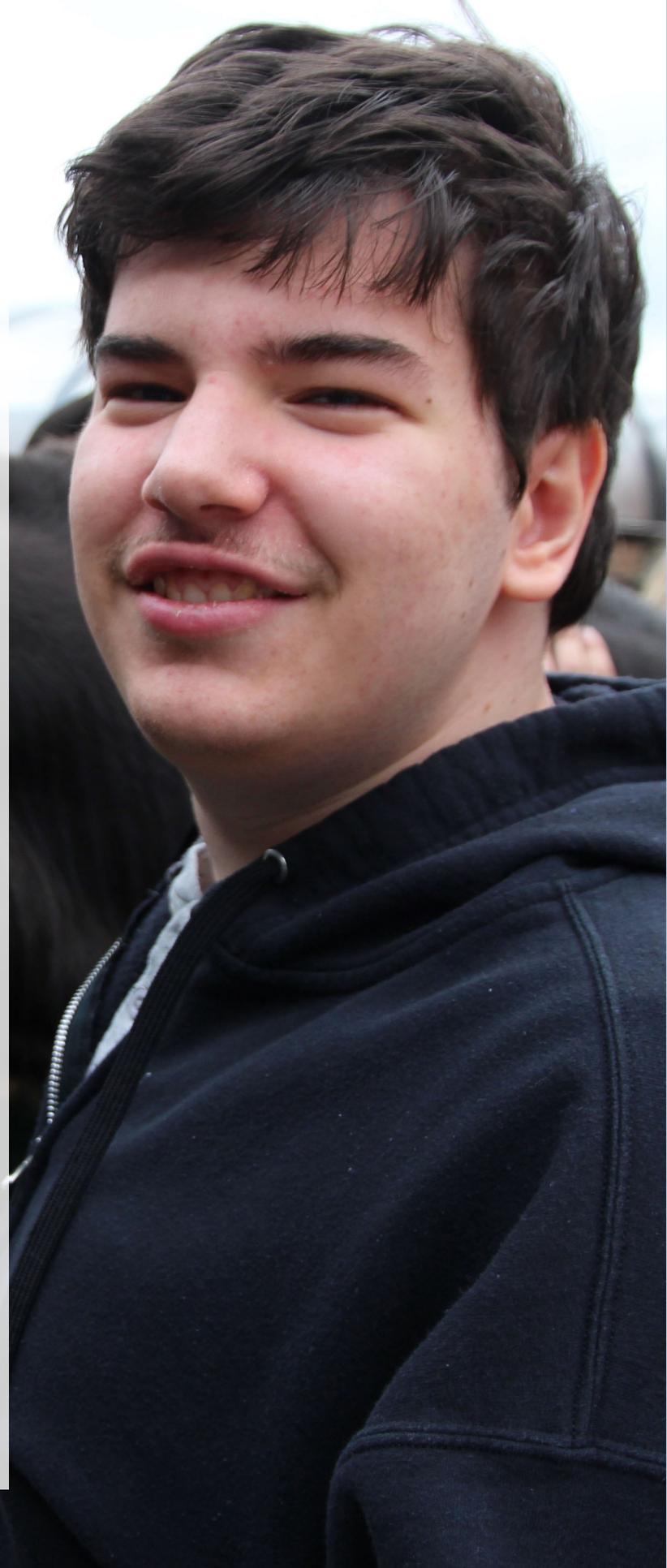
ACBDD in 2018 and beyond...

While 2017 saw a number of positive accomplishments, 2018 will be a difficult year, as it will be our final year of ATCO programming. However, we firmly believe our role in adult services in 2018 and beyond will continue to be just as strong and positive. ACBDD continues to be committed to assisting individuals, families, providers, and our community. We will still serve as a resource and liaison to inclusive opportunities. We look forward to sharing with our community what we have in store. Our mission remains the same, to enhance the quality of life for individuals.

Are you interested in what we do? Consider getting involved in one of the many inclusive opportunities throughout the county.

Inclusive Opportunities in the County

- Athens County Community Singers
- Friends, Allies, Neighbors program (F.A.N.S.)
- Journey To Be Still Yoga
- Team Heart & Sole
- Zumba classes
- Good Life Network
- Volunteering at Beacon School
- Weekly bowling night
- Monthly movie night
- Community potlucks and cooking classes



ACBDD Administration
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Pam Cline loves to volunteer during Nelsonville's annual Parade of the Hills event. Here she is getting ready for Senior Day.



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