

# *Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities Building on Abilities*



## *2013 Annual Report*



*[athenscbdd.org](http://athenscbdd.org)*

# Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities 2013 Highlights

Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities (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 developmental delays that occur before age 22. Services are provided through the following programs.

## PersonnelPlus



PersonnelPlus focuses on job training, finding jobs and keeping jobs. PersonnelPlus has been preparing people with disabilities for work by matching their skills and abilities with Athens area employers for over 30 years. PersonnelPlus is considered

a premier leader of employment for workers with disabilities locally, regionally and throughout the state of Ohio. PersonnelPlus continues to be a service that individuals and their families, as well as local businesses, want and like. In 2013, PersonnelPlus provided the following services:

**Job Services** - provided employment services to 128 individuals with disabilities. **Permanent Jobs** - contacted 118 businesses and placed 22 workers in 11 businesses. **Summer Youth Jobs** - employed 28 workers in 8 businesses. These 28 workers earned minimum wage for 5 weeks. Many workers put their earnings back into the local economy by purchasing clothing, food and other necessities. **Temporary Jobs** - 41 individuals participated in paid internships. These on the job trainees worked in 30 businesses while gaining valuable work experience. Our Interns provided 1028 hours of free labor to area businesses while earning over \$9,600. **Job Training Classes** - 24 individuals participated in over 600 hours of job skills education and instruction.



PersonnelPlus has been at the forefront of the effort to find employment for the

people it serves and is proud to be a leading supporter of Ohio's Employment First Initiative. What does this mean to Athens County? PersonnelPlus will now be aided by greater resources and guidance than ever before, meaning PersonnelPlus will be able to serve more employment needs than ever before.

## Passion Works Studio



Passion Works Studio provides artistic opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities offering art programming at Passion Works and ATCO. Passion Works provided services to about 60 individuals per week in 2013.

Passion Works Studio remains highly visible and very active in our community. Passion Works took part in the Ohio University Homecoming Parade, winning 1st Place. Passion Works also had a very successful show at the Athens County Public Library.

A major accomplishment in 2013 was Passion Works being Awarded Official Collegiate Licensing from Ohio State University to produce an Ohio State Buckeye Flower line. WSYX, Channel 6 in Columbus featured the Buckeye Flower and some of the artists who work on the Buckeye flowers.

As we expand into the Columbus market, Passion Works would like to thank Ohio University for our continued local collaboration and for introducing us to Nationwide Insurance who donated \$5,000 to us. We look forward to success in Central Ohio with the Bobcat and Buckeye Flowers and to a long relationship with Nationwide, all to the benefit of the individuals we so proudly serve.

## Service & Support Administration



The SSA Dept. is the initial point of contact for individuals seeking services with the ACBDD. The Service and Support Specialists

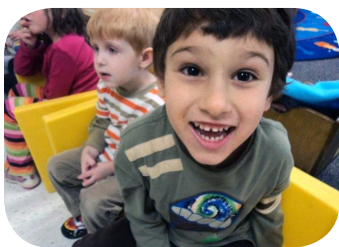
collaborate with 12 agencies and 41 independent providers to strive 365 days a year, 24 hours a day to provide the

basic necessities of life to individuals living in their communities. Some of these individuals have challenging medical and behavioral needs, but all of them have the right to live in the best possible home that the community can provide. As much as possible, these services are provided in a community-integrated and as open of a setting as possible. The individuals live in homes like yours or mine, they go to work each day, shop in the same stores, and participate in the same recreational activities as every other citizen of our community.

In 2013, the SSA Dept. provided case management services to 399 individuals with developmental disabilities. In addition, 195 individuals received residential supports focused on helping them maintain their independence to allow them to continue living in the community rather than in an institution. We continue refinancing Adult Services to Waivers as new enrollees are added to the adult services roles. This refinancing minimizes the dependence on local tax dollars and maximizes the use of Federal Medicaid funding allowing ACBDD to do more with less local levy dollars.



## Beacon School



For over 50 years, Beacon School has been an integral partner with the schools in our region, providing specialized and appropriate education and life skills training for students with severe cognitive delays and physical disabilities. We work

in tandem with our five local districts to ensure their students are provided with an array of experiences and therapies that enhance their educational, personal and future skills. Our educational curriculum is the Unique Learning Curriculum and is combined with numerous other learning components that prepare students for the Alternative Assessment, and life skills attainment.

During 2013, Beacon School served 56 students and Early Intervention served 60 children. Our Early Intervention Specialists are certified trainers in Responsive Teaching and continue the process for the Play and Language for Autistic Youngsters (P.L.A.Y.) Project. Both programs are evidence-based child development programs and provide training and support to families of young children.

In addition, 142 families were enrolled in our Family Support Services Program which helps families with the cost of providing basic needs and medical support to family members with developmental disabilities.

Beacon School was the recipient of The Athens Foundation 2013 Spring Grant which was utilized to purchase physical fitness equipment. Beacon School was also the recipient of the VSA Ohio Adaptation, Integration, and the Arts Grant for the 2013-2014 school year. This is the third school year that Beacon received this wonderful grant opportunity. Beacon School continued to be a collaborating member and host to the 2013 Summer Fun for Special Kids Day Camp for the sixth consecutive year.

We are a primary learning location for Ohio University students, and collaborate with Ohio University to extend our options in such areas as dance, art, field trips and events. Alpha Phi Omega conducted a fundraiser during Dad's Weekend at Ohio University, to help Beacon School enhance our sensory rooms. Fifty-eight members of this group also volunteered over the span of one week to help our classes with a theme each day. The themes were: Fitness Day and Kickoff for our virtual walk of the Buckeye Trail, Art Day, Swimming Day, Craft Day and Carnival. We also collaborated with a Shawnee State University research study that evaluates the grasping patterns of special needs students.

Beacon School was represented with a float in the Ohio University Homecoming Parade. We also participated in the Athens Veteran's Day parade, honoring our community Veterans.

## Atco Adult Services



During 2013, Atco Adult Services worked with 64 individuals including 4 new intakes. Services included employment, training, recreation, personal care, sensory integration, pet therapy, nursing and classes on a variety of life skills

topics. With the assistance of volunteers, we are able to help adults with developmental disabilities continue to learn and become more active members in their communities. In 2013, we welcomed an increase in unique on-site work and training opportunities for individuals served, including jobs producing Passion Flowers in collaboration with Passion Works. We are also pleased with the growth of our Horsemanship Program in cooperation with Hocking College, through which individuals learn to groom, bond with, and ride horses.

Atco collaborates frequently with programs at Ohio University, including serving as an experience site for music therapy students and for physicians in training. In cooperation with Ohio University, medical students have the opportunity to educate themselves on the special needs of our population. The students are an important part of the Atco Healthy Seniors program in that they give ongoing presentations to the seniors on relevant health topics.

## Transportation



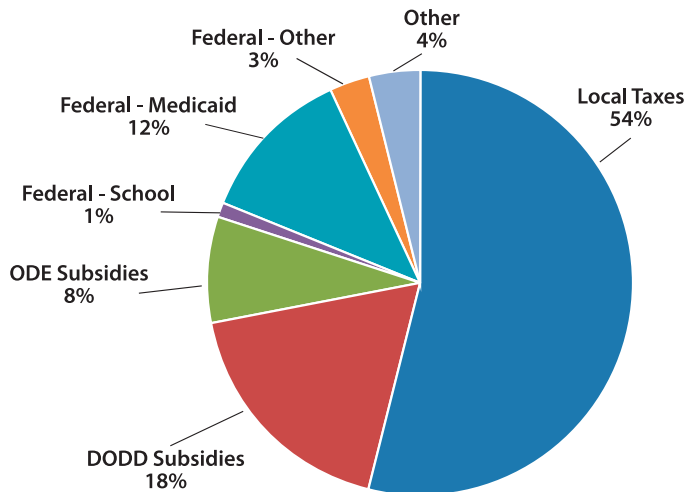
The ACBDD Transportation Department maintains six regular bus routes and three van routes, which travel 509 square miles throughout Athens County, to transport individuals with disabilities to ATCO, Beacon School, PersonnelPlus, and Passion

Works. Our fleet of vehicles, which includes 9 buses, 8 vans and 3 cars, traveled 232,000 miles in 2013 and used in excess of 26,000 gallons of fuel. Individuals were transported an approximate total of 84,000 miles in 2013 for Community Employment and 18,000 miles for Community Recreation in 2013.

The Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities is also partnering with Hocking, Athens, Perry Community Action Program (HAPCAP). The Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities has provided funding and vehicles which has enabled the Athens Mobility Coordinator to secure funding for such programs as the GoBus and Athens On Demand Transit. The goal of this partnership is to establish an Athens County Transportation System to provide transportation throughout Athens County.

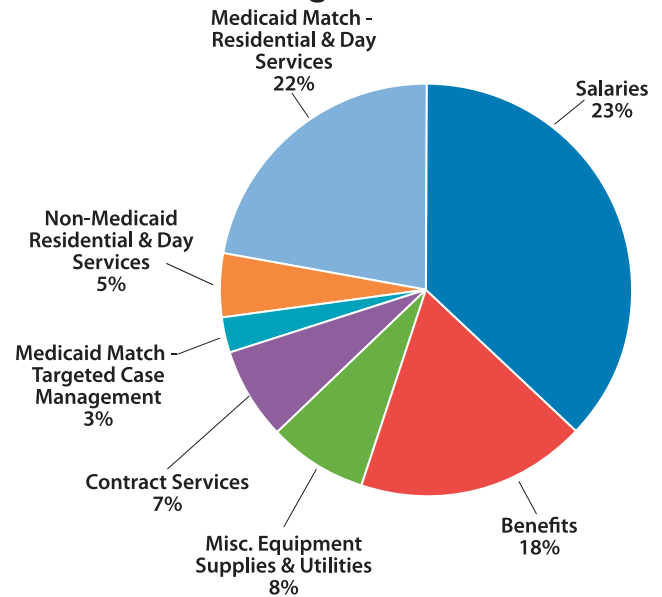
*[athenscbdd.org](http://athenscbdd.org)*

## 2013 Revenue Sources



**2013 Revenues = \$8,672,105**

## 2013 Program Costs



**2013 Expenditures = \$9,894,669**

## Collaborative Community Partners

ACBDD provides funding to partnering agencies that provide residential staff, day program services, and transportation.

The largest area of service need for our population is residential services. ACBDD is required by Ohio law to arrange for and fund residential services in the form of paid-staff supervision when families can no longer provide residential support. Twelve agencies are available in the county to provide these services, such as HAVAR, Sech-Kar, Buckeye Community Services, RHDD and ResCare. In addition, 45 independent providers (not employed by an agency) are available to provide similar in-home support. These agencies and independent providers provide residential staffing support for approximately 195 individuals through ACBDD and federal funding.

A wide variety of adult day services are available in Athens County. In addition to Atco, there are six agencies serving 102 adults in similar adult day programs including HAVAR's Building Bridges, the Sech-Kar Studio, RHDD's Alternatives, Echoing Meadows' Community Connections, Goodwill Industries and Expanding Your Horizons.

Many collaborative relationships exist between ACBDD and a multitude of generous agencies and individual volunteers. The ACBDD works closely with Help Me Grow, Athens County Family & Children First Council, Athens County Children's Services, Ohio University, and Hocking College, to name a few. In addition, the Hocking, Athens, Perry Community Action Program (HAPCAP) has partnered with ACBDD to significantly expand transportation services to persons with disabilities via their On-Demand Transit Program. These collaborations are but a snapshot of our community partners.

## Thank You

The Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Athens County community for more than 50 years of tremendous support for our programs and the individuals we serve. Together, with our community partners, we have provided services to help children and adults with developmental disabilities to learn, grow and experience inclusive, rewarding and productive lives.



801 West Union Street • Athens, Ohio 45701 • 740-594-3539 • [athenscbdd.org](http://athenscbdd.org)