

ATHENS COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ATCO BEACON SCHOOL FACILITIES MAINTENANCE PASSION WORKS PERSONNELPLUS SERVICE AND SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION TRANSPORTATION ATHENS COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ATCO BEACON SCHOOL FACILITIES MAINTENANCE PASSION WORKS PERSONNELPLUS SERVICE AND SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION TRANSPORTATION ATHENS COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ATCO BEACON SCHOOL FACILITIES MAINTENANCE PASSION WORKS PERSONNELPLUS SERVICE AND SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION TRANSPORTATION ATHENS COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ATCO BEACON SCHOOL FACILITIES MAINTENANCE PASSION WORKS PERSONNELPLUS SERVICE AND SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION TRANSPORTATION ATHENS COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ATCO BEACON SCHOOL FACILITIES MAINTENANCE PASSION WORKS PERSONNELPLUS SERVICE AND SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION TRANSPORTATION ATHENS COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ATCO BEACON SCHOOL FACILITIES MAINTENANCE PASSION WORKS PERSONNELPLUS SERVICE AND SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION TRANSPORTATION

Newsline



The Athens County Community Singers perform for the holidays at The Market on State

The Sweet Sounds of ACCS



The Athens County Community Singers (ACCS), a non-profit organization, is a “choir for all voices”, those with and without disabilities. Formed in 2013, founder and director, Stephanie H. Morris, MM, MT-BC, and Neurologic Music Therapist wanted a community-based group in Athens County. Before its formation, many individuals with disabilities had never had an opportunity to perform; however, with the creation of the choir many are now able to fulfill their dream of belonging to a performance group and give back to their community.

This unique group rehearses at two different day habilitation programs in Athens. The choir year runs from September to December and February to June. On Wednesday mornings, there is a rehearsal at Community Connections on Columbus Road from 9:30 – 10:15. On Thursday afternoons, the rehearsal is located at ATCO and is from 1:00 – 1:45. Anyone is welcome at either rehearsal.

When performance time rolls around, the two different groups come together to perform. Currently the choir has 34 members and welcomes volunteers to assist choir members who need assistance in rehearsal and/or performance.

Choir members have said that this group means a great deal to them and is a wonderful social outlet where they get together with their friends. Some of them volunteer to sing solos and/or duets with fellow choir members and recently, several choir members have assisted others when volunteers were not available.

Lately, the choir received a generous grant from the Athens Rotary Foundation who donated funds to purchase ukuleles and Orff-Schulwerk instruments. The choir performs a variety of music and will sometimes re-write songs to fit the occasion.



Annual Christmas Concert performance

Just this year, Stephanie started a choir at the Beacon School. She wanted to provide a feeder program for the adult program, but also offer a way for those who leave school services to transition into the community through participation in the choir. This transitional group will give students receiving school services the opportunity to experience being a part of a choir and then upon graduation, participate with confidence in the adult program.

If you would like more information about joining ACCS or being a volunteer, contact Stephanie at Stephanie@ohiomt.com.

MARCH IS DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH!

What's Your Story?

In February, Mark Cullison, Director of Adult Services for ACBDD, will obtain Resolutions from Mayor Steve Patterson and the Athens County Commissioners that recognize March as Disabilities Awareness Month in both the city of Athens and Athens County.

Ohio Public Images (OPI) announced this year's theme as "What's Your Story". This encouraged the Athens County Board of DD to share our stories with one another and the community. Each day in March, ACBDD will release a story on its website and Facebook page about a person with a disability living in our community, an advocate for those we support, or a person working in the field. We encourage you all to share these stories as much as possible, so we can get our message out!

In addition to the stories we publish, we've also teamed up with The Athens News to promote Disabilities Awareness Month and the "What's Your Story" campaign. Be sure to grab a copy of the March 10th edition of The Athens News, because the annual ACBDD insert will be inside with lots of information about the people and services that make ACBDD great!

The most fun way to celebrate Disabilities Awareness Month is to join the ACBDD community at the annual Disabilities Awareness Festival. This year's festivities will take place March 15th at the Athens Community Center.

2016 DISABILITIES AWARENESS FESTIVAL

TUESDAY,
MARCH 15, 2016

ATHENS
COMMUNITY
CENTER

6 - 8:30PM

BRING YOUR FRIENDS.
BRING YOUR FAMILY.

BE PART OF THE STORY.

New Employees

Jona Moberg is the new Job Developer at *PersonnelPlus*. She attended high school in



Albuquerque, NM and attended the University of New Mexico. She also received a degree in history at Ohio University in 2013. Jona has been involved with Survivor Advocacy and other volunteer services, including helping to

identify victims of human trafficking. She is married to Chris, a Marketing Professor at OU, and has two children; Kevin, a freshman at OU, and Claire, a freshman at Athens High School. Jona brings a tremendous amount of experience, knowledge and community connections – welcome her to our team!



Don Turner, the newest job trainer at *PersonnelPlus*, is a graduate of Ohio State University and has had a career in in service and education. At ARC, a division of the Franklin County Board of DD, Don developed adaptive equipment that enabled individuals with disabilities to perform job-

related tasks in the workshop. He also helped people get back to work after being injured on the job while employed at the Bureau of Worker's Comp. There, he put adaptations in place to prevent recurrence of injury. Don has been married for almost 35 years and has two children.

Cale Hagen has also joined the team at *PersonnelPlus* after many years of experience in the field of DD. Having worked as a Program Manager, Community Employment Specialist and Support Services Specialist, Cale brings a tremendous amount of experience to the Integrated Outcomes Coordinator position. Cale graduated from Ohio University with a bachelor's degree in



Health Administration. He is the proud father of two girls who are active in sports, 4H, and church youth groups. Cale is a NASCAR fan who travels to Bristol Motor Speedway and

camps in his fully decorated NASCAR camper.

New Board Members

Rebecca Miller is the Director of College and Community Partnerships for the College of Health Sciences and Professions at Ohio University. She graduated from Athens High



School, and then completed her undergraduate and Master's degrees from Ohio University. She has spent most of her career working in child advocacy, specifically in regard to child abuse and neglect

and related issues, and has a passion for advocating for those who cannot speak up for themselves. She also teaches students at OU about working in the social service field. Rebecca is married and has two daughters. As a family, they enjoy traveling, board games, and watching movies.



G. Jason Jolley, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of Economic Development and directs the Master of Public Administration program at Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs. His academic research and teaching focuses on

economic development, public finance, and public-private partnerships. He holds a Ph.D. in public administration from North Carolina State University. He and his wife, Heather, are parents to three children, including two children with autism. His oldest daughter attends Beacon School. In his spare time, Jason enjoys watching college sports, hunting, and playing with his children.



Director of Facilities and Transportation, Butch Withem, and Staff.

Thank you to Superintendent Kevin Davis and the entire management team for providing, preparing, and serving a very delicious holiday breakfast.

The Leadership Team wanted to express their appreciation to all employees of ACBDD for their hard work and dedication. They came in (super early) to prepare the meals and stayed all morning serving well-deserving employees!

ACBDD staff enjoyed eggs, toast, pancakes, and sausage *along with a few things for the sweet tooth in all of us.* It was great to have staff from all departments across ACBDD to come together at the holidays and enjoy great food... *and great company.*



A special **THANKS** to the Facilities Department for keeping our parking lots and walkways clear during the big snowfall!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Mark Shrivvers	February 11 th
Audra Harrison	February 22 nd
Jordan Pepper	February 25 th
Ron Tinkham	February 25 th
Jerry Swackhamer	March 3 rd
Kevin Davis	March 3 rd
Jona Moberg	March 5 th
Stephen Patton	March 5 th
Suzanne Perry	March 6 th
Jeff Dolman	March 11 th
Lyn Justice	March 12 th
Tami Harter	March 20 th
Karen Blane	March 22 nd
Mallory Valentour	April 5 th
Kathleen Carlson	April 11 th
Maryanne Smathers	April 14 th
Freda Balch	April 24 th
David Stafford	April 24 th
Susan Weaver	April 26 th

*This is the year
I will be
stronger, braver
kinder AND
unstoppable
this year
I will be
FIERCE*

HAPPY WORK ANNIVERSARY!

Sue Orth (2/1)	14 Years
Sandy Conner-Bridgeman (2/11)	13 Years
Julie Jones (2/17)	1 Year
Clayton Ray (2/19)	3 Years
Jacqueline White (3/3)	14 Years
Emily Wilson (3/30)	18 Years
Beth Graham (4/3)	10 Years
Barb North-Moss (4/6)	1 Year
Kris Dunlap (4/11)	6 Years
Stephanie Howell (4/14)	8 Years
Jamie Hart (4/20)	1 Year
Mary Howell (4/25)	3 Years

A New Image for ACBDD

As the ACBDD works towards developing a strategic plan, updating its core values, and aligning them with refreshed vision and mission statements, Superintendent Kevin Davis felt it was time for a fresh image altogether.

In December 2015 ACBDD staff, individuals served, and community members were invited to share ideas for a new logo. The entries were shared with Board Members at the January 26th meeting, and those appearing here were the top choices.

The Leadership Team and the Board would like staff, stakeholders, clients and community members to vote on their favorite. Keep in mind that colors and other details can be changed, and if there are things you like about two, it may be possible to blend two ideas into one. ***We just need to hear from you!***

Send your vote for Option 1, Option 2, or Option 3 (and any suggestions) to showell@athensbdd.org on or before **Friday, February 5th**. We will take your votes and any other suggestions into consideration, and then develop the idea into a new logo for ACBDD!

Thanks to everyone who participated in this project. Your ideas and work are greatly appreciated!

